

Wholesale U.S. fertilizer prices beginning to fall

By Tracy Grondine

After increasing for six consecutive years, U.S. fertilizer prices are finally beginning to fall at the wholesale level, according to a report by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

"Up until very recently, fertilizer prices were astronomical at both the wholesale and retail level," said AFBF senior economist Terry Franci. "Fertilizer producers were clearly reacting to record commodity prices, and companies priced their products accordingly."

Now that prices for corn, soybeans and other commodities have declined 50 percent or more from summer peaks, wholesale prices for fertilizer are dropping as well, but retail prices have yet to fall. Franci said the wholesale fertilizer price drop began about two months ago, generally after the time farmers applied fall fertilizer to their crops.

Wholesale prices for anhydrous ammonia in the Corn Belt have declined from the \$1,000-per-ton-plus range to the \$500 range. Urea has dropped from the mid-\$800 range to the mid-\$300 range. Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) has declined from \$1,100 to \$600 per ton. The decline in potash prices has been less notable, dropping from a little over \$900 per ton to slightly over \$800.

"The reasons for the decline involve much more than just crop prices. Natural gas prices have declined from more than \$11 per million BTUs (1,000 cubic feet) to around \$6 per million BTUs. Natural gas is the primary input utilized to manufacture anhydrous ammonia and typically accounts for 80 percent to 90 percent of all

input costs," Franci explained in AFBF's December Market Update report.

"Anhydrous ammonia in turn is the basic feedstock for nearly all the other nitrogen fertilizers. So the cost of production of the entire nitrogen complex has waned considerably. There are similar declines in phosphate production and lower sulfur and phosphate rock prices."

Potash prices appear to be retreating much slower, if at all, because more than 90 percent of the potash used in this country is imported, mostly from Canada but also from some European and former Soviet Union countries. Potash prices are therefore more affected by changes in the value of the dollar, which has declined recently, meaning that it makes imports more expensive.

Franci said fertilizer dealers with large, high-priced inventories could be in a difficult position this spring due to indications by farmers that they plan to plant less fertilizer-intensive crops, such as corn and cotton and plant more soybeans which don't use nitrogen at all, and as legumes actually add nitrogen to the ground.

To compete, fertilizer dealers will have to "cost average their prices down" by averaging their current high priced inventories with lower-priced future inventories, Franci said. "Farmers would be well-advised to hold off their spring purchases for as long as possible. The inherent danger in such a strategy is that a spring rush may cause supply bottlenecks. However, nitrogen products can be applied to row crops in the form of side dressing later in the spring," Franci said.

Tight feeder supplies the issue in 2009

By Miranda Reiman

Cattle feeders' number one concern was feed inputs. Not any more, says Mike Sands, Informa Economics.

The market analyst predicts corn will not stay as low as \$3 per bushel for long, but the new trading levels for corn may be of little consequence compared to the declining feeder calf supply.

"I'd argue that the biggest challenges cattle feeders will face over the next few years are going to be sourcing feeder cattle and economically utilizing excess feedlot capacity," he told producers at Feeding Quality Forums in North Platte, Neb., and Amarillo, Texas, last month. The meetings were co-sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health, Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), Feedlot magazine and Land O' Lakes Purina Feed.

Cow herd returns have fallen from \$180 per head in 2005 to just a few dollars in 2008.

"Typically, changes in profitability have about a two-year lag effect in the size of the cow herd, so the slowdown in returns in 2007 and 2008 will continue to impact the size of the beef cow herd as we go into 2009 and 2010," Sands said.

This past summer, cow slaughter hung around 20% above a year earlier, suggesting about 700,000 cows were taken out of the nation's cow herd during the calendar year. That reduction could extend into the next few years, bringing total cutbacks to a million head.

"Well, if we don't raise our own feeders, why not just import them from Canada?" he asked. "We've been fairly aggressive in doing that in the past, but they're under the same kind of economic pressures we are and reducing the size of their cow herds as well."

He estimates the industry is peaking seasonally at 80% feeding capacity right now and he expects that number to dip to under 70% by late spring or summer.

"It's going to be real tough for a lot of cattle feeders to maintain profitable operations with capacity utilization rates slipping that low," he says. This could lead to changes, including shifts to dairy or beef heifer developing, more specialized backgrounding yards and more consolidation.

Feed prices are actually the good news.



Supply and demand forces will be in play as fewer stocker head of cattle are available in the market place. A decrease in all livestock populations will lessen the demand for feed grains in the near future.

"I think we've made a huge step toward working that big price shock through the industry," Sands said. "A significant portion of the adjustment to higher values has probably been accomplished."

The industry has adapted and draws on next year's grain production are going to be less. Smaller cattle, hog and chicken populations will bring feed use down.

"I'm not sure it's ever happened that we've cut every major species at the same time," he said.

Ethanol accounted for 4 billion bu. of a 12-billion-bu. crop, or nearly a third of corn use, during the last growing season, but that could even decrease somewhat.

"At the present time we are producing ethanol in excess of the mandates, so those numbers could be paired back a little bit in 2009," Sands said, noting that's a short-term relief.

Last summer's skyrocketing corn prices, coupled with the collapse in crude oil and gasoline prices, has eroded ethanol margins.

"That may slow down the rate of build-out in ethanol production, but in no way, shape or form, do I think we're going to be rolling back the clock," he said.

Sands expects 2009 corn production to go up, because of both planted acres and yield improvements. Exports have also slowed, especially as the U.S. dollar increased in worth the latter part of this year, picking up about 20% of its lost value from earlier months.

This all seems to pressure corn prices downward, yet Sands said it does not mean long-term prices will "bust" from the new, higher base level.

"Carryover stocks are building, but

they are still small," he said. "They are going to stay tight enough and usage levels are going to stay high enough that volatility is still going to be the name of the game."

The worldwide demand for feed and food continues to increase, as places like China, India, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore continue to grow in wealth.

"In the past two or three years, we've probably added about a billion people to the worldwide middle class," Sands said. "That demand on resources is not going away."

The economics favor higher retail beef prices and strong beef demand, despite the U.S. recession and worldwide economic slowdown, he predicted.

"I keep hearing that we're in a recession, and isn't that negative for beef demand? Historically, no," he said.

Beef consumption will get smaller, but mainly because we're going to produce less.

"People are going to talk about eroding beef demand — and that is still a risk — but historically, that's concentrated in the foodservice industry while retail demand increases. Taken together, beef demand during recessions does not fare badly," Sands explained.

To hold or grow that line over time, producers need to keep supplying consumers with the type of beef they've continued to crave.

"Over the past couple of years, we've gotten used to a certain level of quality in the industry — more Choice cattle in the slaughter mix," he said. "I don't think consumers are ready to compromise that. They're going to want to see grading continue to increase."

Financial meltdown slowing wind-power boom

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP) — Grain farmer Mike Doyle has grown to love the big, spindly wind turbines that rise from his central Illinois prairie.

Their blades, many more than 100 feet, cut the wind with a low, rhythmic whooshing noise. Not too long ago, he admired a rainbow arching over them.

Doyle's a little embarrassed when he describes the scene, but he's sincere. "If that wasn't the most beautiful sight I've ever seen."

The money's not bad either.

Doyle is paid just over \$35,000 a month for the seven wind turbines in his

soybean and corn fields. Those turbines and thousands others across the Midwest the past few years were part of an unprecedented build-out for the wind-power industry.

That expansion is now drastically slowing as financing dries up for many projects because of the global economic crisis. Companies that bankrolled much of the boom — the insurer AIG, now-bankrupt financial service company Lehman Brothers and Wachovia Corp. — are among the meltdown's biggest losers.

"There's definitely a lot of, obviously, upheaval," said Ric O'Connell, a renew-

able energy consultant with Black & Veatch Corp., an Overland Park, Kan.-based engineering and construction company. "I would definitely think in 2009 there are going to be projects that are going to be delayed."

Already some developers are scaling back.

Noble Environmental Power, an Essex, Conn.-based developer with projects from Maine to Michigan, Wyoming and Texas, said last month it is cutting back development next year and laying off workers.

Florida Power and Light, another major developer, has said it will slow down in 2009, too.

And last month oil tycoon

T. Boone Pickens famously delayed his massive Texas wind-farm plans, alternately blaming a lack of financing and declining petroleum prices.

The country's wind-power capacity has increased by 500 percent in the past 10 years, to just over 21,000 megawatts, according to the American Wind Industry Association. A one-megawatt wind turbine can generate enough electricity in a year to power up to 300 homes for a year.

Even now, there are 86 wind-farm projects under construction around the country, the association said. Fifty-seven are in the

windy states in country's midsection from Texas to the Dakotas, Minnesota and Illinois.

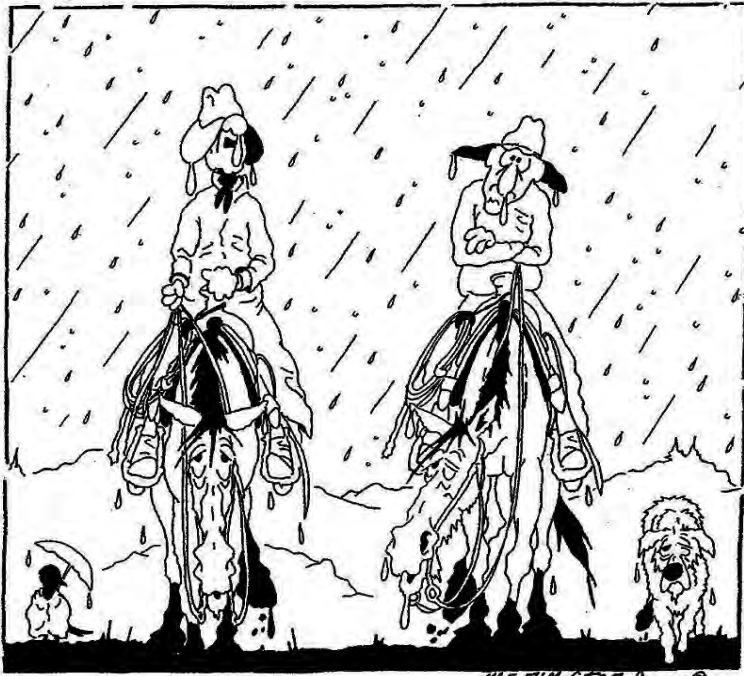
About 60 percent of the new capacity has been built since the beginning of 2005 and driven by factors ranging from renewable energy to, until recently, high oil and natural gas prices.

But the most important of those factors are federal tax credits and state mandates requiring that some power be generated by sources such as wind or the sun.

The mandates, which exist in 28 states, are responsible for about two-thirds of the market for

Continued on page 3

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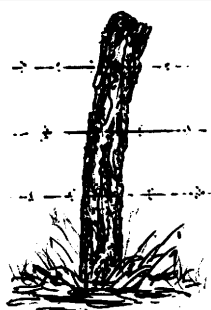
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The Learning Post

By Gordon Morrison
Concordia Rancher and
Former Agriculture Educator

Priming The Pump

Recently, while reading devotions, I came across a comment and a reference to "Desert Pete" that triggered some thoughts in my mind and that became the genesis of this story.

An old cowboy was on his third day in crossing the desert. In the heat of summer, the sun was beating down without mercy on him and his horse Duke. He looked for a tree or even a bush to find shade from the sun's rays, but there was none. He would even settle for a big rock, but all around him as far as he could see was sand and more sand. He tipped his canteen high to get the last drop of water. He knew his situation was getting very serious when his horses began looking gaunt and was taking faltering steps.

The cowboy's destination was a prospector's cabin, where a well with cold, clear water was waiting for him. He shaded his eyes from the sun, looking for even the faintest outline of the cabin. Only the mountains on the far horizon were seen. As the sun was setting, he decided he had better travel at night and he would walk to save Duke's strength. He pulled the saddle off, the one he had won at a rodeo, and left it in the sand.

The clear night was full of brilliant stars, shining as though unaware of a tiring cowboy and his spent horse. With a little study, he located the North Star, his guide of the night. When the first red glow of the rising sun appeared, the cowboy, even with frequent rests, had made better progress than when traveling in the heat of the day. As more light announced the approach of another hot day, he again intently scanned the landscape to the west, hoping to see the outline of a shack. There was something on the horizon. "Oh God, let it be the cabin." With new hope, a burst of energy entered the cowboy and his mount. With luck, they could be splashing in clear cool water before noon. With a goal in view, he traveled the distance quickly.

He stumbled into the cabin and immediately located the old pitcher pump sitting above the hand-dug well. His red and swollen eyes focused upon a paper resting on the pump which read, "You'll find some water in a bucket on the shelf. Do not drink it but use it to prime the pump." He found the bucket with the murky, warm water and his aching body pleaded with him to go ahead and drink it. Then his befuddled brain said he should not but must prime the pump.

He reasoned on whether to drink it or to pour it into an old pump in hopes it would enable the pump to bring up water? To drink it meant to take in water for certain but to prime the pump with it was "iffy" and could be for naught if the well should be dry. It was a decision of life or death, and he decided to prime the pump. When soaked with water, the dry, cracked and shrunken leathers in the pump would swell and create a seal so that air could be pumped out, causing a vacuum. He poured all the water into the pump; and with each stroke of the pump handle, water began to dribble into the spout. More and faster strokes of the handle brought more water. At first the stream of water was meager, rusty, and faltering; but as the leathers swelled and sealed, in time the stream was full, cool, and life-giving. The cowboy's prayer and faith produced evidence with a pail of sparkling cool water. He was spared to live another day, to work another year or perhaps years, to love and laugh and enjoy all he deemed dear to him.

We all have this choice — to settle for a mere bucket of warm, murky, rusty water which would be a sure thing or we could give part of what we possess in faith that we will receive buckets of cool refreshing water that will sustain us and give us life abundantly. In 2009, we will have opportunities to share with those in need; and perhaps we may even be the poured-out water that will prime their pumps to help them survive hard times.



Over the Barn Gate

By Beth Gaines-Riffel

Year-end. It reminds me sometimes of a melodrama. Sometimes the year comes with a "big finish" that leaves you sitting on the edge of your seat, not wanting the production to end. Other times, it kind of slips away and leaves you wondering why you spent good money for a ticket. For me personally, this year was kind of in-between.

There are moments in the past year that are certainly worth looking back to and remembering; good growing conditions in most regions, stellar prices (if one took advantage of them) and improving international trade conditions. But with the good, there also came the bad.

One cannot deny that the wide swings in the commodity market have made many producers a little edgy. I've heard more than one marketing specialist advise producers to develop a plan that shows at what price point the expenses are covered, including a margin of profit, and to sell as those thresholds are met — because the window of opportunity may only be open for a very short period of time. I've also heard them comment that these are unprecedented times — ones that don't have much history to compare them to.

Who would have ever predicted that crude would plummet to a four-year low in the 40-dollar range? I certainly didn't. And the scenario — from record-high prices for corn to record-lows for crude has put a real squeeze on the biofuels industry. The number of plants that have been put on hold — or which may file bankruptcy in the coming months — will be harmful for many rural economies.

The financial crisis currently under way is without question taking a toll on all Americans and that doesn't exclude the rural hamlets. While I believe that here in farm country we are positioned to better withstand the storm, there is no doubt some rain that is going to fall and farm families need to be cautious about how the current situation really comes into play.

But even with the bad can come some

good. As bad as commodity prices that have dropped like a rock might be for the dirt farmer, it has given cattlemen and livestock producers opportunity for more reasonable feed costs, which has been a long time in coming. Report from the feeding industry indicate that the losses per head have been substantial and most if not all the blame can be squarely laid on high-priced corn.

Former generations have long known the benefit of an umbrella, or a rainy day fund. It is evident in the number of farming families that have continued to operate through the generations — surviving the crisis of the era — the Dust Bowl, the Great Depression, the energy crisis of the '70s, the credit crisis of the '80s and the financial crunch that we are now in. Some luck, a lot of pluck and a plan made the survival possible.

Looking to the new year, I'm optimistic about the challenges that lie ahead. A new administration, including a new Secretary of Agriculture will be worth watching. Many regions have had good moisture through the late fall, setting up for a strong growing season for the spring-planted crops provided they can get planted in a timely fashion, and the news that fertilizer prices on the wholesale market is beginning to drop, which is important for producer's profitability due to the current commodity-price outlook.

The New Year's resolution approach is a little bit overdone, but I know the importance of writing down some goals and setting a course for achieving them is important and can be an effective motivational tool for farm businesses. As much as I dislike the lofty, "pie-in-the-sky" approach to resolutions, a few well-thought-out goals and a vision for the coming year is a good plan.

So as I bring 2008 to a close in the pages of Grass & Grain, I'll wish you and yours the very best in the coming year. That's all for now. I'll chat with you later, "Over the Barn Gate!"

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Current economic situation hampering wind investment throughout country

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wind energy, according to Hans Detweiler, director of state policy for the American Wind Energy Association.

And the tax credits generate much of the money to build.

Firms like AIG, Lehman and Wachovia helped finance many projects by taking short-term ownership in exchange for the credits to help offset their own income.

Those three were among the biggest investors in the industry. Now, AIG is trying to survive the financial meltdown, Wachovia is being bought by Citigroup and Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy this year before being sold.

Even healthier compa-

nies that have helped finance the wind boom are being weighed down by the economy, meaning they aren't making as much money so they don't need the tax credits, said Peter Maloney, chief editor at Platts Global Power Report, an energy-industry magazine.

The investment money flowing into the wind-energy business flattened this year for the first time in several years, at about \$5.5 billion dollars, said industry analyst Joshua Magee of Emerging Energy Research.

And J.P. Morgan, another of those major investors, is predicting that flow will fall by more than 20 percent in 2009, to about \$4 billion.

The projects most in jeopardy are those that are

in their infancy — the ones in which developers were looking for sites and financing when the economic tsunami started.

"If you're talking about a project that's planning to enter construction in 2009, there has been a very slow deal flow ... since the financial crisis began," said Magee, adding that situation for many smaller developers is "fairly dire."

No one tracks just how many projects are in the development stages, between planning and building, but industry analysts say there are many.

One company, Chicago-based Midwest Wind Energy has one project under construction in Illinois and another it hopes to start building next year, presi-

dent and founder Stefan Noe said.

He's optimistic that those and other projects will happen, in part because the company works with a financially healthy subsidiary of Edison International, the utility giant, to finance its projects.

And, with President-elect Obama pledging financial support for renewable energy, Noe thinks wind power could be on the verge of significant growth, but only if the country's faltering economy doesn't get in the way.

"If there's any concern I have, it's that the capital markets don't open up quickly enough, because there are certainly plenty of projects in development," he said. "Eventually, those

markets need to free up for anybody to continue to successfully develop these projects because they are capital intensive."

Illinois has at least a dozen or so projects that haven't started construction. The state is the country's eighth biggest wind-power producer with 11 wind farms generating about 744 megawatts of power, according to the Wind Energy Association.

Texas is tops, with 6,300 megawatts of existing capacity spread over dozens of wind farms.

Farms that are built mean mini windfalls for land owners like Doyle, and for local governments.

McLean County, where Doyle lives, will be paid \$288,000 next year in taxes

for the turbines, county administrator John Zeunik said.

"Then obviously for the school districts, there's more," he said.

That money may be harder to come by as building slows.

But O'Connel, from Black & Veatch, is optimistic that the hurdles will be worked out, but not necessarily in the next year. The companies that were pushing wind-energy development, he said, are no longer able to do so.

"Some of those financial institutions have gone bankrupt," he said, "and none of those people are making money."

"So it's going to be much more difficult to get financing in 2009."

Factors in play in cattle industry

At recent Feeding Quality Forums, economist Mike Sands laid out key factors that will "dominate" the feeding industry in the months ahead:

1. Foreign demand for commodities will maintain upward pressure on prices, despite the worldwide economic slowdown.
2. Feed costs will remain volatile and high in relation to cattle and beef prices.
3. Sourcing feeder cattle and using feedlot capacity will be an increasing challenge for feedlot managers.
4. Consolidation in feedlot size and geographic shifts in cattle feeding will continue to strain the industry.
5. The large out-front futures price premiums, due to aggressive commodity fund buying, will be less disruptive to cattle feeders' risk management efforts.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

97 ACRES IN SHAWNEE COUNTY, KS
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MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009 — 7:00 PM

AUCTION SITE: Lawyer's Title of Topeka, 5715 SW 21st. St., TOPEKA, KS 66614. Located just East of I-470 Exit on SW 21st Street South side of road. Parking and entrance at rear of building.

LOCATION: 3 miles straight South of Heartland Park on Topeka Blvd. to SW 97th. Follow 97th 1/2 mile West to Jordan Rd., then 3/4 mile South through Wakarusa, KS to SW 103rd, then 1 mile West to Stewart Rd., then 1/2 mile South to NE corner of property. (Stay on blacktop from SW 97th Southwesterly to Stewart and 109th).

DESCRIPTION: 97 acres +/- with 25 acres +/- nice hayable brome meadow, 72 acres +/- pasture with trees and brush, great wildlife habitat. SW 109th is blacktop and runs along South side with Stewart Rd. running along East side. Small creek runs along West of property. There is an old homestead with pole barn, chicken coop, 1 car garage, steel bin, upright silo, two non-potable wells and a small pond. Property has perimeter and interior fencing which appears to be in fair to good condition. There is a 2 acre tract at the corner of Stewart and 109th that is NOT included.

LEGAL: A tract in the SW 1/4 of 35-13-15 consisting of 97 acres more or less. Taxes \$336.92.

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This is a public conference for anyone interested in livestock grazing, hay production/utilization or buying/selling of Kansas grass and hay products.

This conference is jointly sponsored by the Kansas Forage and Grassland Council and K-State Research and Extension.

- Registration: 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. call 620-431-1530 (Karen) or kwalters@oznet.ksu.edu
- Cost: \$40.00* pre-registration, \$60.00 at the door by Thursday, January 8, 2009
- To Register: Return the attached registration form,

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- 2) Conference lunch and breaks
- 3) Conference proceedings
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Registration - Please reply no later than January 8, 2009 • Pre-registration \$40.00 - At the door \$60.00
Registration includes proceedings, noon meal, breaks, 2009 KFGC membership and coupon book

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40 Angus str & hfrs, weaned, 2 rds shots, 550-650 lbs.
40 choice reputation blk str, weaned Oct. 15th, 3 rds shots, 625-775 lbs.
38 blk str & hfrs, green, weaned August, 600-700 lbs.
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50 choice blk 1st calf heifers, bred to LBW Angus bulls. Bulls turned in May 20.

From all of us at the Manhattan Commission Co. we would like to wish everyone a Very Happy New Year!

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Lynn Burgess, Lyons:
**HOLIDAY
FRUIT CASSEROLE**
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup prunes
1/2 cup dried peaches
1/2 cup dried apricots
1 apple
1 stick cinnamon
2 quarts water
1 cup sugar (Splenda or Stevia can be substituted)
1/2 cup minute tapioca

Soak prunes, peaches and apricots. Combine ingredients and add to a large saucepan. Cook, stirring occasionally, for about an hour or until fruit is tender.

Mary Rogers, Topeka:
BACON, HAM & EGG HASH
4 slices bacon
2 1/2 cups peeled & chopped potatoes
1 cup coarsely chopped cooked ham
5 eggs
Oil
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese

In a skillet cook bacon until crisp. Remove bacon from skillet reserving drippings in skillet. Drain bacon on paper towels and crumble; set aside. Add potatoes to reserved drippings in skillet. Add oil, if needed. Cook, uncovered, over medium heat for 10 minutes or until potatoes are almost tender and browned, turning. Add ham and cook 5 minutes or until potatoes are tender, stirring gently. In a bowl combine eggs, salt and pepper. Pour egg mixture over potato-ham mixture. Cook without stirring until egg mixture begins to set on the bottom and around the edge. Using a spatula, lift and

fold the partially cooked egg mixture so that the uncooked portion flows underneath. Continue cooking until egg mixture is cooked through but is still glossy and moist. Sprinkle with cheese and reserved bacon. Remove from heat. Cover and let stand for 1-2 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
**RASPBERRY
CRANBERRY DESSERT**
(2) 3-ounce packages raspberry gelatin
2 cups boiling water
16-oz. can cranberry sauce
10-ounce package frozen sweetened raspberries
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 cup sour cream
1 cup frozen whipped topping

In a bowl dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Add cranberry sauce, raspberries and lemon juice. Beat on low speed until combined. Pour into a 3-quart dish and refrigerate for 8 hours or more. Just before serving place the sour cream in a bowl. Fold in the whipped topping and spread over gelatin.

The following are leftover from the Holiday contest:

Mary Arents, Clay Center:
"I got this recipe off the Manhattan radio station in 1958 and it is one I have made for holiday meals."

**POTATO ROLLS OR
DOUGHNUTS**
1 1/2 cups scalded milk
1/3 cup oleo
2 teaspoons salt
1/2 cup sugar
1 cup mashed potatoes, plain
5 to 5 1/2 cups flour
2 well-beaten eggs
2 packages yeast in 1/4 cup warm water
Mix milk (hot), oleo, salt

and sugar; add potatoes and cool. Add some flour and mix well. Add eggs, yeast and rest of flour. Mix well and put out on floured board to finish. Grease bowl and put bread in and turn to top. Put on stove in warm area to rise double. Make into rolls or doughnuts and let rise. Bake at 350 degrees for about 20 minutes.

Lori Siebenneicher, Hebron, Neb.:
BUFFALO SHRIMP DIP
8 ounces cream cheese
Small bottle of hot sauce
1 lb. cooked shrimp, chopped
10-ounce bag of shredded jack cheese
Cream together cream cheese and hot sauce. Add shrimp and cheese. Put into a casserole dish and bake in a 350-degree oven until bubbly. Serve with scoop chips.

NOTE: Recipe can also be made with crab meat or shredded chicken.

Kristie Dressman, Frankfort:
**PISTACHIO
ORANGE ASPARAGUS**
2 lbs. fresh asparagus, trimmed
6 tablespoons chopped pistachios
3/4 cup butter
1/4 cup orange juice
2 tablespoons grated orange peel
Dash pepper

In a saucepan, bring 1 inch of water to a boil. Place asparagus in a steamer basket over water; cover and steam for 5 minutes or until crisp-tender and drain. Place asparagus on a serving platter and keep warm. In a skillet over medium heat cook pistachios in butter for 3 to 4 minutes or until lightly browned. Add orange juice and peel; heat through. Pour

over asparagus. Sprinkle with pepper.

Noel Miller, Maple Hill
**PEANUT BUTTER
POPCORN**
1/2 cup honey
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
2 quarts popped popcorn
Garnish: Seasonal candy-coated chocolates or any chopped candy for fun, texture & color

Combine honey and sugar over medium heat; bring to a rolling boil. Remove from heat and add vanilla and peanut butter. Drizzle over popped popcorn; toss to mix. Stir in chocolates or candies. Pour onto waxed paper and cool completely. Makes about 2 quarts. Enjoy!

Carole Monahan, Blaine:
CRUNCHY TOAST STICKS
4 slices white bread, toasted
1/3 cup cornflake crumbs
1/4 cup grated Romano cheese
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/3 cup butter or oleo, melted
Remove crust from toast slices. Cut each slice into 4 long sticks. Combine cornflake crumbs with cheese. Mix onion and garlic powder with butter. Roll each toast stick first in butter then in cornflake-cheese mixture. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake in a 400-degree oven for about 5 minutes or until crisp.

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Kay Spoo, Frankfort: "Two or three Christmases ago we had a potluck meal and gift exchange at work. One of my co-workers brought this recipe and there was no doubt in my mind that it would also be a hit a home!"
CINNAMON CHEESECAKE
2 cans crescent rolls
(2) 8-oz. packages cream cheese
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 tablespoons cinnamon
1/2 cup butter or margarine
Spread out one can of crescent rolls on bottom of a 9-by-13-inch pan. Mix 1 cup sugar with softened cream cheese and spread on crescent rolls. Place other can of crescent rolls on top of cream cheese. Mix 1/2 cup sugar with cinnamon. Sprinkle on top. Melt butter and drizzle over top of cinnamon-sugar mixture. Bake for 25 minutes at 350 degrees.

Free Online Recipe

Included as part of Grass & Grain's website is a "Free Weekly Recipe." You need not be a subscriber to view this recipe. Go to:
www.grassandgrain.com
and at the bottom left click on Our Daily Bread Free Weekly Recipe.

Some recipes will be selected from submissions received from area cooks while others may be suggested favorites. You may also share the recipe with friends and family by clicking on the "email page" button.

*This week's recipe is
Sour Cream Potato Soup
from Sandy Hill, Eskridge*

DECEMBER 29 & JANUARY "Our Daily Bread" Recipe Contest Prize 4-PIECE PREP BOWL SET



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2. Be sure your name, address and phone number are on the entry. Please include a street address with your recipe entries. A post office box number is not sufficient for prize delivery. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.
3. Send it to: Woman's Page Editor, Grass & Grain, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505.
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SATURDAY, JANUARY 10 — 10:00 A.M.

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& mahogany bed; mahogany tea table; marble top Oriental table; wash stands; walnut floor mirror; Victorian dresser; wicker chase lounge; wicker dressing table; wicker rocker; wicker floor lamp; corner shelf; 4 pc water fall bedroom set; 3 pc Drexel queen bedroom set; twin bed; cedar chest; curio cabinets; occasional chairs; oak stool; quilt rack; medicine cabinets; Persian & American rugs; assortment hanging light fixtures; large collection pictures; what not shelves; wicker doll buggy; collectable dolls; doll dishes; ladder ironing board; floor model radio; oak cigarette stand; records; table lamps; dresser lamps; floor lamps; large selection Victorian lamp shades; wall mirrors; clocks; marbles; belt buckles; purses; scarfs; hats; hat dis-

play stands; hair receivers; trinet boxes; powder boxes; dresser sets; quilts; linens; Saris; lap robes; valentines; post cards; viewer cards; dental tools; military patches, buttons, pins & hats; car tags; assortment toys; train cars & track; smoking pipes; pipe display case; tobacco tins; buggy wheel jack; kitchen step ladders; barb wire; antique tools; oil cans; insulators; fruit jars; antique price guides; cash register; 9 display cases floor & counter; 3 tier glass display on rollers; wood gallery shelves; shop tables; oak interior doors; screen doors; oak drawers; oak table leaves; 2 computers; printers; office supplies; rolls stretch wrap; refrigerator; luggage; towel warmer; bench grinder; assortment of other collectibles.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 — 10:00 A.M.

Large collection glass inc.: Fostoria, Cambridge, Orrefors, Crystal; Mary Gregory; Cranberry; signed Art Glass; carnival glass; Blue Willow dishes; Wedgewood plates; Jewell T dishes; cups & saucers; Weller, Van Briggie, Roseville & USA pottery; Capi D Monte pieces;

pitcher & bowl sets; salt cellars; crocks; jugs; silver ware sets; silver serving pieces; Tom Clark Gnomes (very large selection); Precious Moments; Miss Marthos; Yesterdays Child; Madona's; Angels; Religious statues; rosarys; medals; crosses; salt & pepper shakers;

collectable eggs; Christmas ornaments; aluminum Christmas tree; soda fountain glasses, dishes & bottles; liquor containers; beer steins & mugs; Indian baskets; Indian pottery; dog collection; bird collection; cookie jars; assortment of other glass.

Note: Canyon Hills was a very quality antique & collectable shop. They closed in September after many years in business. Friday night we will sell jewelry. Saturday will be collectibles, furniture and buggy. Sunday will be glass and figurines. All 3 auctions will be very large. Check our web site for pictures at www.thummelauction.com.

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California will host BIF symposium

Sacramento, Calif., will provide the backdrop for the 2009 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Research Symposium and Annual Meeting April 30-May 3. The California Cattlemen's Association and the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association will host the event, themed "Beef Rush '09."

Registration opens at noon Wednesday, April 29.

Events Thursday include the East Tour, the opening reception and the biennial National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) Symposium.

Families can participate in the Family/Spouse Tour Friday as meeting attendees attend the general sessions in the morning and committee meetings in the afternoon. Friday evening features a dinner and reception at the Railroad Museum.

Saturday morning's general sessions will be followed by presentation of BIF awards, including the commercial and seedstock producer of the year awards, along with lunch and a luncheon speaker.

The meeting portion of Beef Rush '09 will wrap up with committee meetings Saturday afternoon.

Participants can stay Sunday for the West Tour.

General meeting registration is \$295 if received by April 3 and includes all sessions, breakfasts, noon meals/receptions, the railroad dinner and proceedings. Spouse registration is \$250, and student registration is \$90 if received by April 3. Tours are an additional fee of \$70 each. Single-day and single-event registrations are also available.

The Sheraton Grand Hotel at 1230 J St. in Sacramento will serve as the headquarters hotel. Book your reservation before April 3 to receive the group rate of \$139.99 per night. The hotel phone number is 916-447-1700.

Visit www.bifconference.com for a link to more information about the 2009 conference, including online registration. The site currently features coverage of last year's meeting, but will be converting to the 2009 site soon.

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Annual soybean program to be held next week in Topeka

Soybean producers will meet in Topeka, Wednesday, January 7 for the Kansas Soybean Expo sponsored by the Kansas Soybean Commission and Kansas Soybean Association. The annual event is held in conjunction with the Topeka Farm Show.

Registration for the one day event begins at 8:30 a.m. with the program scheduled from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Speakers will report the latest research in production, biodiesel, aquaculture and discuss other marketing opportunities.

Mitch Holthus, Voice of the Chiefs, will be the keynote speaker addressing the "Renaissance Revolution — Soybean Producers — Are You In?" during the morning session. Holthus will also be the luncheon emcee.

Other scheduled speakers on this year's program include Johnny Dodson, American Soybean Association President Steve Howell, National Biodiesel Board; Kansas Senator Steve Morris; David Wright, North Central Soybean Research Program; Brent Babb, U.S. Soybean Export Council and Kansas State University researchers.

Yield contest results and other awards will be presented during the noon luncheon. The Kansas Soybean Association will also conduct its annual business meeting. A complete program and registration can be found at www.kansassoybeans.org.

For additional information, contact the Kansas Soybean Association at (800) 328-7390.

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Website offers guidance for those facing financial crunch

"I could be laid off in a few months, cutting our household income by half. What should we do if we can't pay the bills?"

That's a good question to be asking now, before unpaid bills and an empty bank account are staring you in the face. When someone loses a job, the emotional impact can cause just as many problems as financial ones: Fear and uncertainty can slow decision-making and affect your judgment. So, it's wise to take a few steps today to plan for the worst, just in case.

A good place to start is <http://www.eXtension.org>, a website that brings together experts from land-grant universities from across the nation on a variety of topics, including family finance. You'll find lots of information on "Managing Money in Tough Times." In particular, "Deciding Which Bills to Pay First" (http://www.extension.org/pages/Deciding_Which_Bills_to_Pay_First) offers great advice, including:

Gather the facts. Know what you make and what you owe, and how much money is needed to cover your family's essential monthly living expenses. Determine if you have assets you can sell or if you have items you can return that would erase your debt on them. The website offers a

one-page form to download and print to list all of your creditors, including the interest rate you're paying and the balance owed on each debt to give you an at-a-glance look at how much you owe.

Determine which of your creditors need to be paid first. To do this, you'll need to ask yourself several questions, including what affects your family's health and security the most (usually the mortgage or rent, utilities, food, transportation, and medical insurance); what you'll lose if certain bills are not paid (your home, car, furniture, appliances, other items?); what interest rates you are paying on your debts; and how your credit record will be affected. Decide on a repayment plan. The website offers a number of tools that can help, including a link to PowerPay (<https://powerpay.org>). This free, protected site allows you to input information (creditor, amount owed, interest rate)

for all of your debts and helps determine a repayment plan that will save you the most money in interest charges.

As soon as you realize you'll have trouble paying the bills, set up a realistic household budget and figure out what you can pay to creditors. Then don't hesitate to contact your creditors to explain your situation. The website offers advice for those conversations, including a sample letter you can personalize to mail or use as a guideline for person-to-person conversations.

A credit counselor could be a big help in your situation. To find a reputable one, contact American Consumer Credit Counseling at 1-800-769-3571 or see the National Foundation for Credit Counseling website at: <http://www.nfcc.org>. The counseling service is free, but a nominal fee may be charged when the service prepares a debt repayment plan for you.

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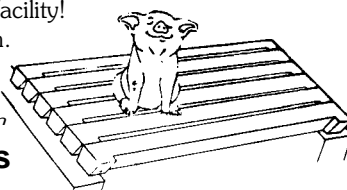
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Scholarship to be offered

R-Tech Tool and Machine Inc. has established an endowed scholarship fund with the Wamego Community Foundation. The first scholarship, which will be awarded in 2009, will be worth approximately \$250 and will be available to a Wamego High School graduating senior.

"We established the fund with the Foundation to assist students of Wamego High School further their education in the field of metal fabrication," said Doug Routh, owner of R-Tech, "which includes welding, machine tool, tool and die, and CAD-CAM technology. These are all areas of expertise that R-Tech—as well as other manufacturing companies in the state—look for when hiring employees."

Routh, who founded R-Tech in July 1993, is a 1981

graduate of Salina Area Technical College, where he studied Machine Tool Technology.

"I strongly believe in helping our youth further their education, especially in the area of vocational schooling," Routh continued, "as that is where I received my training. R-Tech now operates one of the largest machining centers of its kind in the United States, which speaks volumes about the vocational training I received."

According to René Eichem, executive director of the Foundation, people in metal fabrication professions can be assured of excellent job security in today's high tech, global economy.

"Since graduates in the machine tool trades are in high demand, the incomes can range from \$18,000 to

\$60,000 per year," Eichem said, "with Tool and Die Makers at the top end. Since most of these skilled trades require people to create tooling or finished product using advanced technology and their own creativity, these professions can be both personally and economically rewarding."

"We are thrilled that R-Tech Tool and Machines has established an endowed scholarship with the Foundation," Eichem said. "Because endowed funds exist in perpetuity, R-Tech has effectively ensured that at least one scholarship will be given to a student every year—for eternity."

For more information about the R-Tech Tool and Machine Scholarship Fund, visit the Foundation website at www.thewcf.org. For more information about R-Tech, visit www.rtechtools.com.

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Ron has an extensive agricultural background with an emphasis in purebred cattle. A 1991 graduate of Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science with a Business Option. Ron is currently associated with Intervet/Schering Plough as a Senior Territory Manager. He and his wife Lynne are parents of two children and own Express Employment Professionals and R&L Angus in Westmoreland, Kansas.

Ron is actively involved in local 4-H activities, the Kansas Angus Association (Purebred Director at Large), Kansas Livestock Association (Animal Health Committee), American Angus Association, Pottawatomie Extension Executive Board Member.

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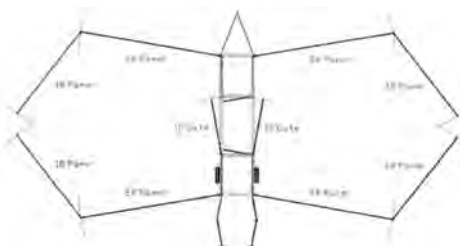
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Kansas Hay Market Report

Ground alfalfa movement: Southwest/South Central Tonnage: 11,077/5,198 Last week: 11,437/4,822 Last year: 14,940/4,915 Hay trade moderate. Demand strong for alfalfa pellets, moderate for dairy, stock cow and grinding alfalfa, and prairie hay. Milder temperatures and dry weather are predicted for the next several days. Some areas have reported an increase in alfalfa usage for protein where by-product sources especially wet distillers grain is in short supply. If you have hay for sale or pasture to rent or need hay or grazing, use the services of the Hay and Pasture Exchange website: www.kfb.org/hayandpasture/default.htm

Southwest Kansas: Dairy and grinding alfalfa steady. Movement moderate to active. Alfalfa: Horse, small square, 210.00-250.00 (the best hay is all gone); Dairy, Supreme 185.00-210.00, mostly 200.00, Premium 170.00-185.00, Good 150.00-175.00. Utility-Fair grinding alfalfa shipped in 125.00-150.00, at the edge of the field, 150.00 to mostly 160.00. Ground-on-the-truck 172.00-175.00. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots and dairies, 165.00-190.00, contracts to 195.00. The week of 12/15-20, 11,077T grinding alfalfa and 2,090T of dairy alfalfa were delivered. Straw, good large bales 55.00-60.00. Sudan/Cane large bales 70.00- 85.00. Milo stalks in large bales 60.00-65.00.

South Central Kansas: Dairy and grinding alfalfa and alfalfa pellets steady. Movement moderate. Alfalfa: Horse, small square 200.00-230.00, an instance 285.00, mid or large square 185.00; Dairy, Supreme 185.00-200.00; Premium, 170.00-185.00, Good 145.00-170.00. Utility-Fair grinding alfalfa at the edge of the field 100.00- 130.00. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots 130.00-150.00, an instance 155.00. The week of 12/15-20, 5,198T of grinding alfalfa and 847T of dairy alfalfa were delivered. Alfalfa pellets: Sun Cured 15% protein 180.00-195.00; Sun Cured 17% 185.00-205.00; Dehydrated 15% 220.00 and 17% 240.00. Straw, good large bales 55.00-60.00. Milo stalks, large bales 55.00-60.00. Corn-stalks, large bales 50.00. Cane/Sudan large bales 70.00.

Southeast Kansas: Alfalfa, brome and prairie hay steady. Movement slow to moderate. Alfalfa: Horse and goat, 180.00-200.00. Dairy alfalfa, Premium-Supreme 175.00-185.00, Good 130.00-150.00, Fair 130.00. Bluestem: Good, small squares 90.00-110.00, mostly 100.00, mid and large squares 80.00-90.00, an instance 110.00, large rounds 50.00-60.00, Mulch, large round 45.00 to mostly 50.00. Brome: Good, Small square 100.00-110.00, mid and large squares 85.00-100.00, large round 50.00- 70.00.

Northwest Kansas: Dairy and grinding alfalfa steady. Movement moderate. Alfalfa: Horse, small square 200.00-250.00. Dairy, Premium-Supreme 175.00-185.00, Good 165.00, Fair 120.00-135.00. Utility-Fair grinding alfalfa at the edge of the field 100.00- 110.00; Ground and delivered to feedlots and dairies 130.00-140.00. Milo stalks Large bales 55.00-65.00.

North Central-Northeast Kansas: Dairy and grinding alfalfa, prairie hay and brome steady. Movement slow to moderate. Alfalfa: Horse small square 200.00, Mid square 165.00-185.00; Dairy, Supreme 170.00-200.00, Premium 160.00-180.00, Fair-Good 130.00-150.00. Utility- Fair grinding alfalfa at the

edge of the field, 70.00-90.00, alfalfa ground-on-the-truck 90.00-110.00. Grass hay: Bluestem small square, Good 100.00, Mid square 70.00-85.00, large rounds 50.00-60.00, some 20.00-40.00/large round delivered. Brome: Good, small square, 100.00-130.00, Mid squares, 90.00-120.00, large round, 50.00-75.00, fair 40.00-50.00, some 20.00-45.00/large round delivered. Straw small square 3.00-3.50/bale, large bales 50.00-55.00/T.

***Prices are dollars per ton and FOB unless otherwise noted. Dairy alfalfa prices are for mid and large squares unless otherwise noted. Horse hay is in small squares unless otherwise noted. Prices are from the most recent sales.

*RFV calculated using the Wis/Minn formula. **TDN calculated using the Western formula. Quantitative factors are approximate, and many factors can affect feeding value. Values based on 100% dry matter (TDN showing both 100% & 90%). Guidelines are to be used with visual appearance and intent of sale (usage).

The Kansas Hay Market Report is provided by the Kansas Department of Agriculture with technical oversight from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service.



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Secretary Schafer announces 2009 DCP signup

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer today said that enrollment for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres will begin Dec. 22 both online and at local USDA service centers and will continue until June 1, 2009.

Producers are urged to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up; however, producers can visit any USDA Service Center or their administratively assigned center to complete their 2009 DCP contract.

The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service saves producers time, reduces paperwork and speeds up contract processing at USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. It is available to all producers who are eligible to participate in the DCP Program and can be accessed at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp>. To access the service, producers must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification. USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments

based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 2008. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price for each covered commodity and peanuts equals the direct payment rate plus the higher of the national average market price received by farmers during the 12-month marketing year or the national average loan rate.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. Producers may first enroll in the DCP Program, elect to receive advance direct payments and then later modify their enroll-

ment to include the ACRE program or they may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in Spring 2009. The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on State revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For the 2009 crop, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2007 and 2008 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the state ACRE guarantee and the State revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the State expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive

ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced

by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on

the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

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Ag econ professor recognized

Michael Boland, a professor of agricultural economics at Kansas State University, is a 2008 regional winner of an Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences Award.

The awards program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

The award recognizes a select group of college and university teachers who excel at teaching, make a positive impact on student learning, and influence other teachers by example.

Two national winners of the honor were selected, while Boland was one of six regional winners. Fred Cholick, dean of K-State's College of Agriculture, said the university has now had

nine winners of the prestigious award, second only to the University of Illinois.

"Michael Boland is very deserving of this honor for his work in the classroom and for working to expand the global understanding of his students through experiential learning experiences," Cholick said. "Dr. Boland has taught or lectured in more than 30 countries across the world and has led five international agribusiness study tours in Central and South America and in Australia and New Zealand."

A K-State faculty member since 1996, Boland specializes in agribusiness management and teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses in agribusiness strategy and an international agribusiness course in conjunction with a study tour.

Boland has been recognized for his teaching nationally, by the university and by his college. His honors include serving as co-chair in 2003-04 of the National Food and Agribusiness Management Education Commission, which was created by the Department of Agriculture to conduct a national study on undergraduate and graduate agribusiness programs and recommend future curriculum areas.

He is now serving as chair of the International Agribusiness Task Force, which has been funded by

the Department of Agriculture to analyze ways of integrating international competitiveness in undergraduate programs.

Boland was named K-State's 2005-2006 Coffman Chair for University Distinguished Teaching Scholars; received the David J. Mugler Outstanding Teaching Award from the K-State College of Agriculture in 2003; and was the recipient of a K-State Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 2001.

At K-State, Boland also serves as associate director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center and has co-

authored more than 20 case studies on cooperatives.

Boland earned a bachelor's in business administration from the University of St. Thomas, where he graduated cum laude. He

earned a master's in agricultural education from the University of Minnesota at St. Paul, and a master's and a doctorate in agricultural economics from Purdue University.

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AUCTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3 — 9:30 AM

Sterl Hall, 619 N. Rogers — ABILENE, KANSAS

ANTIQUES/COLLECTIBLES: APPROX. 11:00 AM: No. 398 cherry wood globe, Wernicke 3 section stack bookcase, D10-4; Greek key Kero finger lamp; swan TV lamp; marigold Carnival glass basket weave basket; glass basket; salt dips; 3 pc. crystal console set; large rose bowl; 1993 Goebel glass powder dish; pr. cut etch crystal candlesticks; star cut pitcher and 5 glasses; Delfite egg plate; 2 color Pyrex bowls; wines; blue glass birds; other glassware; 4 place set Ben Seibel Impromptu Iroquois rose pattern; 12 place setting "Petite Bouquet" Signature china, lg. set; Delft vase; old porcelain German and Bavarian; Talmage, KS souv. plate; sterling sugar cube tongs and pickle fork; sterling Alaska totem pole spoon; old silver-plate serving spoons; coin silver spoon; set Golden replica stamps with 1st day issue covers; LP records; John Deere operation, care and repair book, 2nd edition; leaded glass green fan; blonde Lane cedar chest; other antiques and collectibles.

HOUSEHOLD (9:30 AM): Sentrina Kirby upright vacuum cleaner with attachments; Bissell Featherweight 110v upright vacuum; Panasonic canister vacuum with power head; stainless Gold Star microwave; Eden Pure Gen 3 Model 110v elect. heater with remote control, VG; Living Air air purifier; Whirlpool dehumidifier, 2 yrs. old; humidifier; Rada cutlery set, brand new; Cutco knife set; set Amway stainless cookware including pie pans and cookie sheets; Corningware and Corelle cookware; lg. pressure cooker; 8 pl. set Oneida stainless flatware; microwave cookware; Bunn coffee maker; small kitchen appliances; other kitchenwares; Brother WP 5900 MDS word processor; fax machine; 20" Megatron color TV; RCA VCR; Air Force song clock;

TOOLS & MOWER: (10:30 AM): Craftsman 13 1/2 hp. riding lawn mower with 40" front auger snow blower and weather cover; 19" Lawn Boy elect. start self propelled mower, VG; Yard Machine rear tine roto tiller, good; Advantis propane gas BBQ grill; 18 ft. alum. extension ladder; 5 ft. alum. ladder; pr. car ramps; 2 mechanics tool chests with base cabinets filled with tools; drill bit index; hand power tools; Ace 10" table saw with stand; woodworking clamps; saw horses; paint stick rolling paint system; aluminum scoop shovel; wheelbarrow; post driver and digger; hand garden tools; many extension cords; 2 wheel dolly; 3 - 32 gal. rolling trash cans; many tools; hardware and misc.

APPLIANCES & FURNITURE: (APPROX. 1:00 PM): Whirlpool side-by-side 20 cf. refrig., almond; Whirlpool commercial quality 12 cycle super cap. washer, 2 yrs. old; Whirlpool HD lg. cap. elect. dryer; Amana self cleaning elect. range; curved glass oak curio corner cabinet, repro; Tell City oval maple dining table and 6 chairs; Tell City Young Republic solid maple china hutch; maple headboard queen size bed with 2 yr. old Restonic mattress; lg. wood corner computer desk; 2 dr. pantry cabinet, custom made; white wood kitchen cupboard; microwave stand cabinet; other furniture; many nice quality items.

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TERMS: Cash or good check with proper ID. Statements made day of auction takes precedence over all printed matter.

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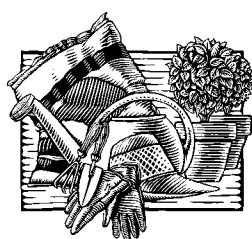
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Yard & Garden Tips

By Gregg Eyestone

Christmas Tree Recycling

Recently, I witnessed the unwrapping of a gift and the box was more interesting to the recipient than the gift. I get the same feeling each year when the Christmas tree is unwrapped and I am left with the bare tree. There are many possible uses for the barren tree.

Most Christmas trees

have dense branching which makes for good bird shelter. You can prop the tree up for a formal look or lay it on its side. The green color in the needles will last well into spring so not to distract from the landscape. It can serve as the birdseed holder or as a protected lay-over.

If plant shelter is more to your liking, you can limb off all the side branches. These short limbs can be placed over plants to shelter them this winter. As the needles fall from the branches, they will compost and become fertilizer for your desired plants. This is nature's way of chipping the tree

into useable mulch. A chipper could be used to speed up the process.

Christmas trees normally have a straight trunk. This trunk can be used as a stake for plants to climb on. If you don't cut the attacked limbs off clean at the trunk, the little stubs can be good attachments to support the desired plant.

Our tree normally gets used eventually for kindling. You could use it in a wood stove or fireplace. Beware that it will throw sparks. I use our tree to start the brush pile outside.

Whole trees can be sunk to the bottom of a pond to create fish habitat. The pond owner needs to be consenting.

A heavy object is tied to the tree. Otherwise, the tree will float.

Communities generally have a drop off for trees. Manhattan's site is Long's Park on 17th and Yuma street. A resident can take their tree to the transfer station or old dump at 1881 Henton Road. The transfer station phone number is 785-565-6290.

If you would like additional information on a horticulture topic, please contact Gregg Eyestone at the Riley County office of K-State Research and Extension. Gregg may be contacted by calling 537-6350 or stopping by 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan or e-mail: geyeston@ksu.edu and at www.riley.ksu.edu

Grape and wine council to meet January 8

The Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council will meet to discuss current issues at 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at in the fourth floor meeting room at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 109 SW 9th Street, in Topeka.

Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky formed the Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council to advise him on marketing, regulatory, research and legislative issues important to the industry.

Individuals who would like to attend the meeting should contact Ginger Patterson at (785) 296-3902.

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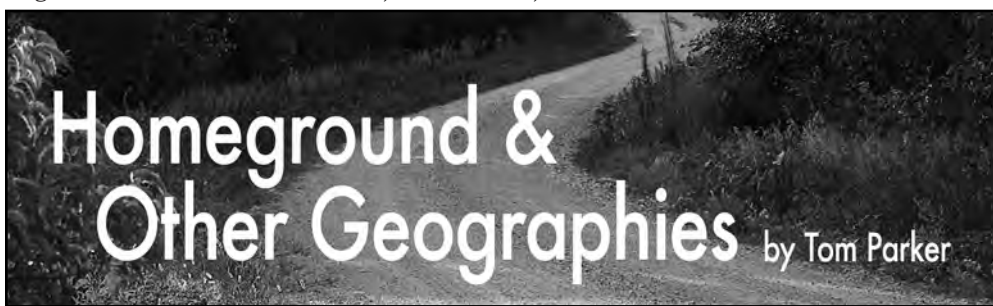
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The winter of our discontent

If it seemed that winter was a long time coming, that it dallied and kept to itself with an uncharacteristic shyness as if to grant us forgetful humans time to get our affairs in order, to batten down the hatches as it were, then more's the pity we didn't recognize the gift that it was. Instead, we jabbered about its absence in the coffee shops and cafes, we questioned its impending arrival as though it were a train set to roll into the station at such-and-such a time and not a second later, we appraised the heavens and the Weather Channel for portends, and in the end dared to hope, perhaps our biggest weakness and failing. And then winter came.

It's always this way, at least for me, a blossoming sense of dread beginning about the middle of September that deepens with each passing week, even as the trees shed themselves of

their leaves and the grasses turn brittle and sere and the sky burns with its own blue fire seen at no other season, a last gasp before the coming cold leaches whatever mute color remains. I fret over the promise of exorbitant heating bills and the concomitant frigid drafts weaving through our century-old home, worry about having to drive on treacherous roads (even while the roads remain open and clear!), shiver over the possibility of more ice storms such as last year's which taught us what it means to be stranded and alone, and then have heart palpitations as well as a sense of childish delight when the first snowflakes whiten the air. Some might call it a classic case of schizophrenia but it must be remembered that Chicken Little was more right than he was wrong.

Maybe this fear is from an upbringing in New Mexi-

co, where winter was something we watched dance on the mountains, something that touched us but only in passing. Or there might be more to it, some darker meaning I've yet to unearth, but I sense is has something to do with losing control. Heat I understand; cold is another beast, one that ravens and rattles the doors and sneaks in uninvited. As

long as the electricity is thrumming through the wires we consider ourselves somehow protected, above nature, but as we well know those wires are fragile indeed. One severed strand and the artificiality of our position is manifest.

Other shortcomings are evident daily, from the ice-caked roads that never melt to the subzero wind raking down from the north like razors. This sunless gloaming, this Arctic cold, is exactly what I dreaded, the fulfillment of my worst expectations. And yet after that initial foreboding there comes a lull, sparked perhaps by nothing more than a grudging acceptance and the dawning recognition of a place of naked beauty, a land stripped bare to its

base essentials, its bones and tendons, its heart.

The solstice came and went. Winter settled down with an iron grip, and with it a perpetual twilight where the sun was a half-remembered dream. But staring out the window, half-captive, cabin-bound, I saw the gray silent woods and recalled a winter day when I set off through a blizzard and moved wraithlike through drifts deeper than my knees until I entered the shelter of trees. The roar of the wind softened and faded as I moved deeper into the forest, and at last broke out into the rocky path of the creek where a new noise intruded, faint at first but gaining strength the closer I came to the old trestle bridge. Beneath a sheet of ice three

inches thick water still bubbled, a sensuous sound almost like laughter or children playing. A sound like summer. I raised one heavy boot and brought it down with a wet crack and again until the surface fractured and broke apart. Through an open lead a few luminous sprigs of watercress weaved and floated in the current, so incongruously green they dazzled the eye, a reminder of summer in winter's stronghold. If I laughed at the sight, only the crows heard.

And it's always this way, too, a dawning recollection of the terrible and fragile beauty of winter, and that the solstice is past, that the days are getting longer. That the water still flows.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH COW SALE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH PRE-VACC SALE

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH MID WINTER
CLASSIC HORSE SALE PREVIEW**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH
MID WINTER CLASSIC HORSE SALE**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH
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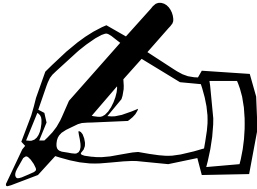
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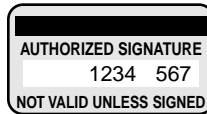
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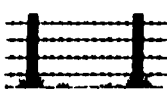


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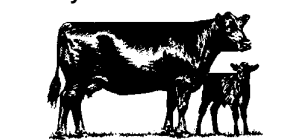
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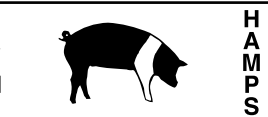
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1999 BOBCAT 873 2400 hrs, recent service, \$14,000. 785-878-3482.

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COMBINES
2001 Case IH 2388
2005 Case IH 2208 cornhead

TRACTORS
New Case IH MX215
New Case IH DX31
1966 IH 806 D w/DuAl loader
1966 JD 2510

HAY EQUIPMENT
2005 Case IH 1020, 30' flex head w/air reel
H&S 12 wheel carted rake
New Hesston 5556A rd. baler w/net
New Hesston 2270 MoCo NH 851 rd. baler
1980 JD 510 rd. baler
Hesston 6610 swather, salvage

MISCELLANEOUS
Farmhand 1140 mounts only for TW Ford
KMW 1760 loader
New Brown 7' tandem disc
New Brown 460 tree cutter
New Brown 672 tree cutter
7 1/2' high volume buckets, fits JD 640 loader

CONSIGNEE EQUIPMENT
IH 4-16 plow, 2 pt. hitch
Mayrath 8x33 elec. drive auger







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SUPERIOR, NEBRASKA

FARM EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

1991 New Holland swather, 14 ft., Model 116
C-2 Allis Chalmers combine, 18 foot header
1991 New Holland round baler

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MACHINERY**OUR 58th YEAR
NEW TRACTORS**

2009 JD 7830, Coming In
2008 JD 7230
2008 JD 7430
2008 JD 7330

USED TRACTORS

2005 JD 7420 MFWD
2002 JD 7510 MFWD
1997 JD 7610, 2WD
1995 JD 8100 MFWD

COMBINES

2007 JD 9660
2007 JD 625
1998 JD 893
JD 218R
2007 JD 893

**NEW EQUIPMENT
SPECIALS**

2009 JD 1590, drill
2008 JD 568 rd. baler
JD 741 SL
JD 741 NSL
Bison 300 XHD 3 pt. blades

HAY EQUIPMENT

1999 NH 1475 14' MoCo
New big bale forks
2007 JD 568

USED EQUIPMENT

2007 JD 1990, 30' CCS
2007 JD 1770 NTComing
2000 JD 1518 shredder

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Seneca, Kansas**

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JD 494-1280, 7000, plate and
plateless

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Onaga, KS 785-857-3257

**INTL 3414 utility tractor with
loader, needs lots of repair,
\$975; Richardson high dump si-
lage wagon, \$1,975. Roeder Im-
plement, Seneca, KS. 785-336-
6103.**

**1970 JD 4020 diesel dual hy-
draulics, syncro-range 25 kw,
onan PTO generator. 785-926-
4713.**

**JOHN DEERE 4010 tractor
with JD 148 loader 7' bucket,
power beyond and joystick. 785-
336-3140.**

SALVAGE COMBINES

ALLIS N7-6, L2, L, M, G, F2,
F, CII, All; JD 8820, 7720,
7700, 6600, 4400, 3300, 105,
95, 55; MF 860, 760, 750, 510,
410; IH 1680, 1480, 1460,
915, 815, 715, 503, 403; NH
TR70-85, 1400, 995, 985, 975.

SALVAGE TRACTORS

ALLIS 7000-7080, 220, 210,
190XT; D17-19; JD 84-8630,
7520, 6030, 5020, 4630, 4430,
4020, 3020, 720, 730; CASE
1470, 1370, 1270, 1200, 1070,
930, 400; IH 1568, 1466,
1256, 1066, 1026, 806; FORD
4-5-6-8-9000; MF 2745, 1155,
1100, 90, 85; OLIVER 2150;
MM G1000; WH2-150, 4-150.

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.....Coming In
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Phillipsburg, KS 785-543-2118

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AC 7040
White 6000, 6 row
2000 Case IH RS 561
Hesston 1340 MoCo
JD 4850

'95 Gleaner R72

**Kuhlman Impl.**

LINN, KANSAS
785-348-5547 Days

MACHINERY**USED TRACTORS**

'05 Case IH MXM130 Value
MFD w/loader, 585 hrs.
'05 Case IH MXM130 MFD,
2200 hrs.
'98 Case IH 8930 2WD, 3800
hrs.
'91 Case IH 7120, 2WD, 4450
hrs.
'89 Case IH 7120 MFD w/load-
er, 6150 hrs.
'84 Massey 294 MFD w/loader
'77 Case 1410
IH 3788
'76 JD 2240 w/loader, 1465
hrs.
'72 IH 966 w/cab

MISCELLANEOUS

Power guide axle off Case
2366
'02 Case IH 2388, 2000 sep.
hrs., 4WD
'93 Case IH 1666 combine,
sharp
'91 Case IH 1640, 3300 hrs.
Case IH 1054 cornhead
'01 JD 2700 disk ripper
'95 GP 36' solid stand
'04 Case IH DCX131 disk,
MoCo

'05 Case IH RBX562 rd. baler
'91 Case IH 8450 rd. baler
'88 JD 920 flex head
Case IH 1044 cornhead
Case IH 1020, 15' head
'96 Case IH 1020, 30' flex
'98 DMI Tgm2 F.C., 44.5'
'99 Case IH 5400 no-til drill
2 - Case IH 5100 drills, tan-
dem hitch
'98 Case IH 955 12 row, fold-
ing
Case IH 900 12 row, folding
IH 800 12 row 30' semi mount
IH 800, 8 row 30, trailing
Hiniker 5000 cult., 8x30 folding
Hiniker 5000 cult., 8x36
Orthman 613 super sweep 12
row, 30 no-til cult., loaded
JD 1010 field cultivator, 28'
Case IH 183 6 row 30
Krause 1592 disk, 21'

SALVAGE

'80 NH TR-75 combine
IH 1440, 1460 & 1660 com-
bines

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Truck & Tractor
ROSSVILLE, KANSAS
785-584-6195**

- White 140, cab & air
- White 2-88, cab & air, WL-42 loader
- Oliver 1750, gas w/TA26 ldr.
- IHC 720, 4x18 plow
- Oliver 565, 4x16 plow
- 1655 Oliver gas w/Freeman ldr.
- White 5100 6 row planter
- White 120, cab & air
- White 4-150
- JD 653A crop head

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785-562-8470

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& ATTACHMENTS**

New Gehl 6640, joy stick con-
trols, fully equipped
2004 Gehl 6640 cab AC, heat,
2 spd., 1400 hrs.
'03 Gehl 4835 SXT, 750 hrs.
'07 Gehl 4840E, 1500 hrs.
'99 Gehl 4635, 2000 hrs.
CEA pallet forks, tooth bars
Used Lowe 40C hi flow trnchr
New Mensch, manure scrprs
Lowe hydr. post hole digger
M&M 12' tree shear w/sprayer
Brush grapples
Worksaver Bale forks

NEW EQUIPMENT

H&S 170 grinder mxr
Meyer 7500 all purpose
spreader, rear discharge
New Bush Hog 6' rot. mower
H&S 14 wheel hi-cap rakes
Cimmaron 12 wheel rake

USED EQUIPMENT

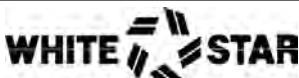
Gehl 170MX grinder, mixer
H&S 10 wheel carted rake
Gehl 1870 rd. baler

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2006 S220 open, 475 hrs.....
.....\$25,500
2006 S300 C, H & A, 30 hrs.....
.....\$39,500
2000 Case 1845C, 760 hrs.,
very clean\$18,500
1995 Case 1845C\$15,000
2007 S185 hi-flo, open, 250
hrs.....\$25,500
1978 JD 4440 QR tractor
w/260 SL loader.....\$28,000
1983 Bobcat 443, 1750 hrs.....
.....\$7,500
2005 T250 open, joystick, 480
hrs.....\$34,500

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316-734-9351.**

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2007 Case-IH Maxxum 125 MFD,
562 hrs.
2006 Case-IH MX215 MFD, 875
2006 Case-IH MX245, MFD, 710
2006 Case-IH MX210 MFD, 325
2005 Case-IH JX95 MFD w/ldr.,
630 hrs.
2005 Case-IH MX255, MFD,
3292 hrs.
2005 Case-IH MX210 MFD, 5088
2005 Case-IH MXU125 MFD,
558 hrs.
2005 Case-IH MX285 MFD, 2962
2005 Case-IH DX55, MFD with
loader, 91 hrs.
2004 Case-IH MXM120 MFD,
3370 hrs.
2004 Case-IH MX255 MFD 930
2003 Case-IH MX230 MFD, 4698
1998 Case-IH 8950 MFD, 3336
1998 Case-IH 8940 MFD, 4604
1997 Case-IH 8930 MFD, 5130
1997 Case-IH 5230 MFD, 4985
1996 Case-IH 7230 MFD, 5400
1995 Case-IH 5230 2WD, 2318
1994 Case-IH 7220 MFD, 5010
1994 Case-IH 5230 MFD w/ldr.,
5600 hrs.
1992 Case-IH 5250 MFD w/ldr.,
3353 hrs.
1992 Case-IH 7150 MFD, 7984
1991 Case-IH 7120 MFD, 6166
1991 Case-IH 5130 2WD, 6950
1991Case-IH 7120 MFD, 6166
1989 Case-IH 7110 2WD, 6366
1989 CIH 685, 3825 hrs.
1988 Case-IH 7120 2WD, 5851
1984 Case-IH 2394 2WD, 7328
1981 IH 3288 2WD, w/ldr., 8377
1980 IH 1086 2WD
1978 IH 986 2WD, 5772 hrs.
1996 NH 7740, 4977 hrs.
2001 JD 4300, 1400 hrs.
1983 Ford TW35, 2WD, 4623
2002 Agco DT200 MFD, 1187

COMBINES

(3) 2008 Case-IH 2588, 1000 hrs.
2007 Case-IH 2588, 518 hrs.
2007 Case-IH 2588, 356 hrs.
2007 Case-IH 2588, 700 hrs.
2006 Case-IH 2388, 769 hrs.
2005 Case-IH 2377, 1487 hrs.
2005 CIH 2388, 517 hrs.
2005 Case-IH 2388, 661 hrs.
2005 Case-IH 2388, 598 hrs.
2005 Case-IH 2388, 810 hrs.
2000 Case-IH 2388, 2794 hrs.
1999 Case-IH 2388, 2277 hrs.
1994 Case-IH 1688, 3696 hrs.
1990 Case-IH 1660, 4289 hrs.
1990 Case-IH 1680, 3200 hrs.
1981 IH 1460
1981 IH 1440, 2830 hrs.
1976 IH 815, 3191 hrs.
2000 Gleaner R62, 3288 hrs.
1987 Gleaner R60, 3023 hrs.
1977 Gleaner F2
Gleaner R62
Gleaner R52, 1578 hrs.
1999 JD 9510, 2550 hrs.
1991 NH TR86, 3532 hrs.
1981 MF 860, 1707 hrs.

PLANTERS

2005 Case-IH 1200, 12 RN
w/liq. fert.
Case-IH 1200 16RN w/liq. fert.
Case-IH 900 8RN w/liq. fert.
Case-IH 900 16 RN, rear fold

MACHINERY

JD 630 32' disk w/22' frmts
.....\$16,500
'95 GP 2N 3010 no till 30' drill
w/1/2 width disconnect.....
.....\$22,500
'93 GP 2N 3000 no till 30' drill
w/marker\$17,500
C/IH 8590 4x4 baler, recond....
.....\$28,750
C/IH 3900 HP 24 1/2' disk.....
.....\$12,500
C/IH RS 561 baler.....\$8,750
'96 JD 893 knife rolls...\$15,500
IH 560 spreader.....\$4,750
JD 750 no till w/seeder\$15,750
JD 2800 onland 7 btm plow
.....\$3,850
'85 JD 4650 2wd, PS, 3600
hrs.....\$36,500
'97 925 flex.....\$6,250
'92 JD 9370.....\$7,750
Bale King 3010 bale process-
or.....\$8,850
JD 9600, 3400S hrs.\$36,500
Duetz Allis 6265, 4WD, C/A.....
.....\$14,500
Sunflower 6432, 36' soil condi-
tioner\$13,500
Sunflower 1431 25' disk\$8,500
IH 5488, motor weak.....\$6,750
JD 3600 11 btm flex plow.....
.....\$8,500
JD 260 ldr.....\$3,200

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BJM 900 feed mixer wagon
with scales, always shedded; al-
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Case-IH 900 12 RN w/liq. fert.
Case-IH 950 12 RN, front fold
Case-IH 950 16RN w/liq. fert.
Case-IH 950 8RN w/liq. fert.
Case-IH 955 12 RN w/dry fert.
Case-IH 955 18RN, front fold
IH 800 12 RN w/liq. fert.
JD 1760 12RN w/liq. fert.
1999 Kinze 2000 8RN w/liq.
fert.
Kinze 2000 6RN w/liq. fert.
2007 Kinze 3000 8RN w/dry
fert.

2002 Kinze 3600 ,12/23
1996 White 6122, 12RN
1996 White 6300, 12/13
White 6342, 12/13

DISCS

IH 490, 25'
Case-IH 596, 23'
Case-IH 3950, 33'
Krause 2420 22"11"

SKID LOADERS

2006 Gehl 6640E, 800 hrs.
2002 Gehl LS46355X, 1340 hrs.
1983 Gehl SL4510, 1900 hrs.
Bob Cat 863, 1195 hrs.
2000 JD 260, 860 hrs.

FRONT END LOADERS

2004 Quicke 770
GB 760
2007 Westendorf XTA-400
1999 Farmhand 258
Farmhand XL945

HEADERS

FLEX
3 - Case-IH 1020, 20'
2 - Case-IH 1020, 22 1/2'
5 - Case-IH 1020, 25'
2 - Case-IH 1020, 30'
JD 930, 30'
JD 925, 25'
1979 IH 820, 20'
1988 Gleaner Series III, 20'
RIGID
JD 920, 20'
Case-IH 1010, 30'
Case-IH 1010, 22 1/2'
IH 810, 20'
1993 Gleaner Series III, 27'

CORNHEADS

2 - Case 883, 8RN
3 - Case-IH 1083, 8 row
2 - IH 983, 8 row
IH 863, 6 row
Gleaner 6RN
Gleaner 6 row wide
MISCELLANEOUS
1999 Gehl 8335 feed wagon
Harsh No. 290 mixer wagon
Gehl MX170 grinder mixer
Knight 3375 mixer wagon
Kelly Ryan 5x12 feed wagon
2000 Bestway FPII, 1060
Bestway FPIII, 1000 ga. spryr
2006 Bestway FP III, 1280
Several used rotary cutters

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14 ga. & 1/8" floor plate

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2 3/8", 2 7/8", 3 1/2", 4 1/2",
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01 NH TM 115 2wd ldr \$41000
01 NH TM 115 2wd .. \$32900
00 CIH MX 135 2wd ldr \$44500
77 JD 4430 \$15500
96 CIH 7210 mfd ldr .. \$42500
98 CIH 8920 mfd ldr .. \$65000
06 CIH STX 450 \$169900
00 9370 Quadtrac .. \$95000
82 Case 4490 4wd .. \$10500
97 Mass 8120 mfd ldr .. \$46000
99 NH TV 140 ldr .. \$58500
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77 JD 4

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Ford TW35-2.....\$26,500

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'05 Agco 5546A, 300 bales \$24,500

'02 Hesston 4790 w/ accum. \$68,500

Hesston 856 rd. baler.\$15,000

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Hesston 4755, coming in.....\$40,000

Hesston 565 A.....\$9,000

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Landoll 33' till-oll

USED HAY & FORAGE EQUIPMENT

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JD 435 rd. baler

JD 2280 wind rower

H&S 16 wheel hi-cap. rake

JD 4895 windrower w/16' sickle

JD 567 mega wide w/wrap

1996 NH 664 round baler

USED DRILLS & PLANTERS

JD 450 21x7.5

2 - GP 24'

JD 1250 6 row

1986 GP 30' 2 section 10"

Double time hitch

USED COMBINES

JD 925 flex

JD 920 flex head

USED TRACTORS

JD 3020 gas w/loader

JD 4430 QR

JD 7230 MFD w/740 loader

JD 4440 QR

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JD 740 loader w/joy stick

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JD 1508 rotary cutter

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White 6144 PFA w/WB M110 loader.....Coming In

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2005 Versatile 2210 Genesis MFD, 1100 hrs., exc. cond., super steer\$99,000

Agco ST 47A hydrostat, low hrs\$17,900

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Woods batwing mowers in stock

Woods rotary cutters in stock

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1997 Hesston 1360 15' disc mower cond.....\$13,900

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2005 Chevy Colorado LS, ext. cab, 1 owner

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2005 Ford F-150 XLT ext. cab, 4x4, 40K

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2004 Ford F150 XLT, super crew, 4x4

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1999 Buick Century ... \$4,500

1999 Mazda B2500, 1 owner

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'07 JD 9760 Hillco.....\$225,000

'06 JD 9760 Hillco.....\$186,500

'07 JD 9660 Hillco.....\$218,000

'90 CIH 1680.....\$32,500

'88 CIH 1660.....\$17,500

'89 JD 9500.....\$30,000

'82 JD 6620 SH.....\$10,000

'86 CIH 1680 4WD.....\$18,000

23 flex headers - JD, CIH, NH

2 JD 1293 cornheads

12 JD 893 cornheads

2 JD 843 cornheads

3 JD 643 cornheads

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'07 JD 1790 16/31.....\$97,500

'06 JD 1790 16/31.....\$96,500

'06 JD 1790 16/31.....\$93,500

'05 JD 1790 16/31.....\$88,000

'06 Kinze 16/31.....\$72,500

'06 Kinze 16/31.....\$75,000

'05 Kinze 16/31.....\$71,000

'04 Kinze 16/31.....\$76,500

'98 JD 1770 16RN.....\$38,000

'05 JD 1790 12/23.....\$69,500

'05 JD 1760 12RN.....\$34,000

'04 JD 1760 12RN.....\$38,000

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Hey Neighbor

For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

**Winter Stress Increases Chance
of Pneumonia In Horses**

Horses are most susceptible to pneumonia during the winter.

"Pneumonia is an inflammation of the horse's lungs and is usually due to a bacterial infection," explained Dr. Melissa R. Mazan, in the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, North Grafton, Mass.

Because horses are typically more confined where there is lower air quality, along with highly varying weather conditions, and other environmental issues, the risk of pneumonia increases from November through March. However, pneumonia can occur at any time when the risk factors are right for development.

"Most horses get pneumonia by inhaling bacteria, which are often normal inhabitants of the upper airways," Mazan said. "The lungs are usually able to clear the bacteria rapidly, but if the horse has a depressed immune system or has taken in a large dose of bacteria, lung infection can develop."

The most commonly involved bacteria are streptococcus species that are gram positive, which refers to the type of cell wall. "We often find a variety of gram negative bacteria, which are bacteria that have a thin cell wall and carry endotoxins as well," Mazan clarified.

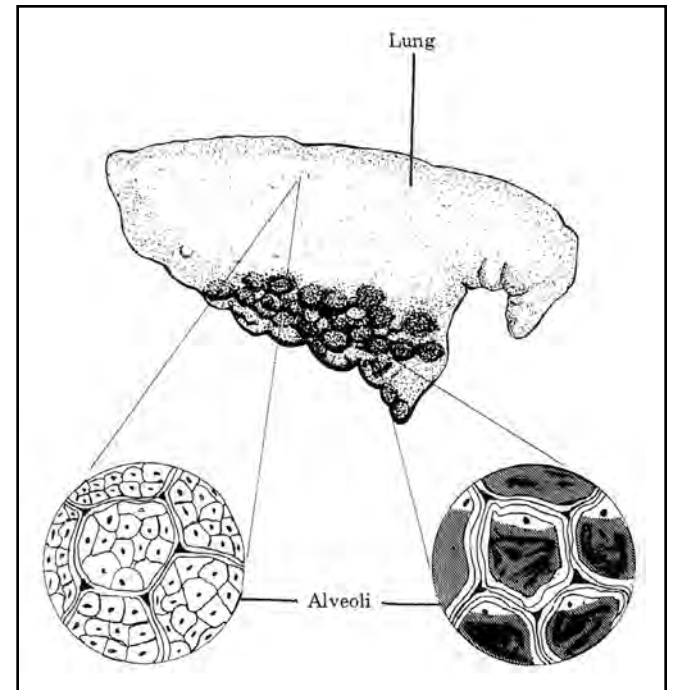
Among many factors leading to bacterial pneumonia is a recent viral upper respiratory infection, moderate to severe exercise or overtraining, long-distance transport, overcrowded barns, esophageal obstruction causing choking, smoke inhalation and prolonged cold stress, such as exposure to cold rain, snow and wind.

A common misconception for many years was that pneumonia in horses developed from a head cold. "This often led to mistreatment, which impaired the respiratory system's ability to clear bacteria, thus making it easier for pneumonia to become established," Mazan pointed out.

Outward signs which may be an indication of pneumonia are rapid and/or difficulty breathing, fever, nasal discharge, poor appetite, weight loss, decreased exercise tolerance, dullness, putrid breath, enlarged nodes under the horse's jaw or a cough with chewing and swallowing.

Complication from another weakening disease is often a cause of pneumonia. In young horses, the ailment is generally acute, but in older horses it tends to be chronic and progressive.

"Horses have a tremendous



This microscopic view of the alveoli in the lung shows a normal cell on the left and one filled with exudates, indicating pneumonia, on the right.

dous respiratory reserve, so pneumonia may be well established by the time an owner sees the signs," Mazan warned. "Severe heaves, a non-infectious cause of respiratory difficulty, may have many of the same signs as pneumonia, but the treatments are very different."

Several procedures are usually required to diagnose pneumonia. After studying the horse's medical history, a veterinarian will conduct a physical examination including listening with a stethoscope and tapping on the chest wall.

Additionally, blood will be taken to look for infection and to check the chemistry profile. Ultrasounds of the lungs might be taken along with a lung fluid culture and observation of the windpipe and breathing tubes.

"It is important to pursue a diagnosis and treatment promptly, so that the horse has the best chance of recovery," Mazan advised.

Horses diagnosed with pneumonia should be separated from any others, and the remaining horses should be examined for cases in early stages.

"Antibiotic therapy is necessary in order to treat pneumonia," Mazan insisted. "It's best to start out with a broad-spectrum antibiotic that is likely to kill streptococcal species of bacteria. Antibiotic must be changed if culture results warrant."

Length of treatment will vary with severity of pneumonia, ranging from a week to four weeks or longer.

If pneumonia occurs during cold weather, the affected horse should be placed in clean, warm, well-ventilated, but draft-free quarters. In hot and humid areas, air-conditioned stalls will remove humidity and reduce heat

stress.

"Body temperature should be taken daily and should be in the 99 to 100 degree range," Mazan confirmed. "The horse should be monitored for an increase in coughing or nasal discharge, whether his appetite is good, and if he looks bright and alert."

An ailing horse should be encouraged to eat, with plentiful fresh water and light, nourishing food. "It is extremely important that owners follow all instructions for antibiotic treatment," Mazan emphasized. "The horse is likely to look and feel better long before the infection is completely cleared.

"If antibiotic treatment is stopped too early, the infection will recur, and may be more difficult to cure the second time," Mazan stressed.

Six to eight weeks should be allowed for recovery, with more rest time allowed after that before return to work. "Whenever possible, don't tie your horse's head up when hauling and avoid hay bags," Mazan suggested.

Recovery is signaled by a normal body temperature and respiration rate, an improved appetite and increased alertness, but it takes months for the lungs to return to normal, if ever.

"When a horse is brought back into training, it should be done gradually and slowly. It will take time to get back to the same level of fitness that he had prior to the pneumonia," Mazan summarized.

"Although most horses maintain their level of fitness about five weeks, recovery from pneumonia takes longer, typically from eight to 12 weeks to get a horse back into top condition," the veterinarian concluded.

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USDA enacts changes to federal programs

With the publication of an interim final regulation in the Federal Register, the United States Department of Agriculture announced changes to both Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) qualifications, program payment limitations, and direct attribution for Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs, which became effective in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill.

Public comments on this interim final rule must be submitted to the Department within 30 days of the date of publication.

"Changes to program participation rules and qualifying income requirements will make farm program payments more defensible to America's taxpayers," Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer said.

For commodity and disaster programs, the AGI limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million AGI from all sources to a three-year average non-farm AGI of \$500,000 such that a person or entity shall not be eligible for such programs if the non-farm AGI exceeds \$500,000. Also, under the new regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from farm income in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

The definition of income derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations was expanded to include, among other items, such items as the packing, storing and transporting of agricultural commodities;

production of livestock products; farm-based production of renewable bio-energy; and in some instances, the providing of operational inputs to farmers, ranchers and foresters.

For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million remains eligible for conservation programs only if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

Program payments are limited by direct attribution to individuals or entities. A legal entity is defined as an entity created under federal or state law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the individual, both directly and indirectly. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation. States, local governments, political subdivisions, and other agencies were eligible for payments prior to enactment of the 2008 act. The 2008 act and this rule make such jurisdictions ineligible for payments unless such payments are earned on state-owned land and are used to sup-

port public schools. Payments under this exception are limited to \$500,000 annually; the limitation is waived for a State that has a population of less than 1.5 million.

Individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits. To be "actively engaged in farming," the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination.

Under rules in effect since 1988, not every member of an entity had to contribute active personal labor or management. The interim final rule requires each partner, stockholder, or member with an ownership interest to make a contribution of active personal labor or active personal management. The contribution must be regular and substantial, and document-

ed as well as separate and distinct from any other member's contribution. The rule limits the ability of passive stockholders to continue to realize benefits from the entity.

Under the interim final rule, the addition of individuals or entities to an existing operation to qualify for additional payments is more restrictive than under previous regulations. The prior rule in effect since 1988 said the acquisition of new cropland to the farming operation of at least 20 percent qualifies for the increase of an unlimited number of new persons and/or legal entities as eligible for payment.

The rule changes the 20-percent increase requirement from cropland to base acres and only allows for the addition of one new person to the operation. However, based on the magnitude and complexity of the change in the farming operation, the State FSA Office may approve additional persons or legal entities for payment in the farming operation.



UPCOMING AUCTIONS



EQUIPMENT INTERNET ONLY AUCTION
BIDDING CLOSES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 | 10 A.M.

1980 Gehl skid steer, 1988 Nissan Pulsar, 28' Crustbuster drill, 15' Sunflower undercutter with pickers, 1997 Ford E Super Duty RV cutaway, 2002 Volkswagen Jetta, 1991 Toyota pickup, 1999 Toyota Camry Solara, metal lathe and more. contact us now to sell at our upcoming equipment auction, January 28



TEXAS PLUMBING SUPPLIES INTERNET ONLY AUCTION
BIDDING CLOSSES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 | 10 A.M.

Chicago faucets, Elizabethan classics faucets, Marielle faucets, Mountain plumbing gourmet instant hot water dispenser, Alsons Brilliance contemporary faucets, Price Pfister Avalon faucets, Delta faucets, Huntington Wyndamere series faucets, and much more



RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT MULTIPLE LOCATION INTERNET ONLY AUCTION
BIDDING ENDS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 | 10 A.M.

Scotsman ice machine with bin, Hobart commercial rotisserie and warmer, Biro Sir steak tenderizer machine, three door freezer, Imperial gas fryer, commercial roller grill, commercial two shelf food warmer, large Hobart meat slicer, 48" prep station, Smokaroma Bar-B-Q Boss and much more

BID NOW AT
www.purplewave.com

FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT AUCTION
SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2009 — 11:00 AM
627 Market Street — PORTIS, KANSAS

TRACTOR: 1999 9370 Case, 2920 hrs., new heater/AC blower, 2.8Rx42 tires, SNJEE00-74804.

DOZER: 2000 Otter dozer.


COMBINE & HEADERS & HEADER TRAILERS: 1997 2188 Case combine with 30' platform, AFX rotor and heavy cage, silencer kit and 2004 update kit, 2509 engine hrs., 1979 rotor hrs., SNJJC0195186; 1986 Case 1083 cornhead, SN003042; 2 D&R header trailers.

OTHER FARM ITEMS: 2 - 500 gal. propane tanks; propane tank heater, new in box; PU side tool box; fuel tanks, 1,000 gal. with 110v pump, L 105 gal. PU, sq. 110 gal. PU; 2 wheel home-built wood trailer; oil space heater; cement mixer with elec. motor; 9370 weights and brackets; 30' milo guards; 2 Flex King 6' frogs; 9 hp. Briggs motor; 1 hole cattle water, frost free; Dempster shallow well jet pump; semi tires and rim 295R7S 22.5; hydraulic cylinder stops; new fuel nozzle; grain spreader for grain bins; 3 - 1/2 and 1 - 3/4 elec. motors.

LAWN MOWER & TRAILER: JD riding lawn mower, 345 Kawasaki twin 20 hp., hydro with 48" C deck, SNM00345-A074285; JD 2 wheel yard trailer No. 80; yard grass seeder.

Good well maintained equipment always shedded and with complete updates. For information on equipment you may call the auction company or Emery at 785-984-2258 Home or 785-984-8030 Cell. Emery and Rosalie are retiring from farming and Emery is celebrating his 75th Birthday this Day. Happy Birthday Emery. Lunch stand provided by the Osborne High School Cheerleaders.

EMERY & ROSALIE POORE
SALE CONDUCTED BY:
WOLTERS AUCTION & REALTY
Box 68, 627 Market St. • Portis, KS 67474
Phone No. Office: 785-346-2071
• Home: 785-346-2524
Toll-Free: 866-346-2071 • Cell: 785-545-7097
email: wauaction@ruraltel.net
website: www.woltersauctionandrealty.com
Col. Jim Wolters, Broker & Auctioneer
Col. Rich Fairbanks, Assisting Auctioneer



THE PETERSON LAND AUCTION
384 ACRES
Dickinson County Farmland Offered in 5 Tracts

GENERAL INFORMATION:
These tracts have been owned by the Peterson Family for many years and offer the opportunity to purchase well-located productive cropland in an area where land seldom changes hands. Take a Sunday afternoon drive and give these properties a look! Visit website for pictures and additional information.

SELLERS:
Bill Peterson and Pat Sweeney
Abilene, Kansas

FSA INFORMATION:

	Cropland Acres	Wheat Base Yield	Milo Base Yield	Soybean Base Yield
Tract 1	158.38	111.46	17.08	.45
Tract 2	56.37	6.89	5.47	.47
Tract 3	24.67	18.90	5.09	.47
Tract 4	31.68	28.58	.10	.47
Tract 5	34.89	31.48	.10	.47


The above are FSA estimates only and are not guaranteed.


TRACT #1: SW/4 and S/2 NW/4 of 33-13-2E. 158.38 acres cropland (95.31 alfalfa, 38.29 wheat and 24 broom grass), 9.54 acres waterways and approximately 61.76 acres fenced grass. A good productive upland farm with nice combination of grassland and cropland. A portion of east boundary fronts Highway 15. Predominately Irwin Class II and III soils and Climate Class IV and VI soils. 2008 taxes were \$859 based on 230.15 taxable acres.

TRACT #2: W/2 SE/4 of 33-13-2E, less tract in SW corner. 56.4 cropland acres (43.76 acres in CRP, 12.6 in wheat) 6.48 acres waterways, balance roadways and waste. CRP pays \$1,864 annually with 100% of payment to owner. Existing CRP contract expires 2017. Predominately Irwin Class III and Climate Class IV soils. 2008 taxes were \$204.08 based on 66 taxable acres.

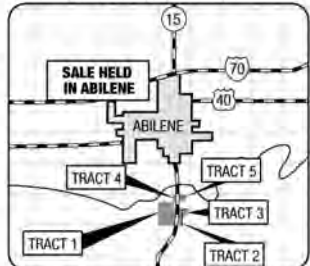
TRACT #3: 24.0 acres in NE/4 SE/4 of 33-13-2E. 22.0 acres cropland (all in wheat), 2.1 acres waterways. Predominately Irwin Class II, Irwin Class III, Geary Class III and Climate Class IV soils. 2008 taxes were \$112.26 based on 24 taxable acres.

TRACT #4: That part of the W/2 N/2 NE/4 of 33-13-2E lying west of Highway 15. 31.6 acres cropland (all in wheat). Predominately Sutphen Class II and Solomon Class III soils. 2008 taxes were \$152.67 based on 33.9 taxable acres.

SALE CONDUCTED BY:

DENNIS L. RIORDAN - BROKER-AUCTIONEER
www.riordanauction.com



FARMLAND AUCTION
Wednesday, January 7, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Sale held at Abilene Civic Center
201 NW Second, Abilene, Kansas



POSSESSION: Land selling subject to existing tenant rights of Bill Peterson and Warren Wilson Hay, Inc.

Wheat Ground: After 2009 harvest. Buyers to receive 40% of crop and pay landowner's share of fertilizer applied after sale date.


Grass and Alfalfa: At Closing.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
10% due day of sale, with balance due 2-5-2009. If for some reason title conveyance cannot be completed by 2-5-2009, buyers to pay 10% per annum interest on unpaid balance from 2-5-2009 until date sales are closed.

2008 real estate taxes and prior years paid by Seller. Title Insurance will be used with cost split equally between Buyer and Seller. All mineral rights owned sell with property. Property selling "as is" with no guarantees or warranties made by seller.

Announcements made at the auction take precedence. All information given is from sources deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Property selling subject to easements, restrictions and reservations if now existing.

ATTORNEY:
Mark Guilfoyle
Abilene, Kansas



THE CHRONISTER LAND AUCTION
335 ACRES
Dickinson County Farmland & Grassland Offered in 3 Tracts

GENERAL INFORMATION:
These farms offer an opportunity to purchase productive cropland with outstanding hunting/recreational possibilities in areas where land seldom changes hands. Tracts #2 and #3 have blacktop frontage. Visit website for pictures and survey of Tract #1.

TRACT #1: 111.1 surveyed acres in NE/4 of 17-11-2E. Approximately 50 acres cropland (all in wheat), 50 acres CRP with annual payment of \$52 per acre - contract expires 2010 with 100% of payment to owner, balance waterways and waste. Located 5 miles east and 1 mile north of Manchester, Kansas. Excellent hunting possibilities. Predominately Crete Class II soil. 2008 taxes were \$800.02 based on 108.6 taxable acres.

FSA INFORMATION:


	Cropland Acres	Wheat Base Yield	Soybean Base Yield	Sorghum Base Yield
Tract 1	108.60	54.5	1.5	16
Tract 2	141.15	84.0	40.0	19
Tract 3	55.00	21.0	13.0	19


The above are FSA estimates only and are not guaranteed.

TRACT #2: NE/4 of 11-12-2E, less two tracts. 141.15 acres cropland (all in wheat), balance waterways and waste. Bordered on north by Highway 15 and east by blacktop Jeep Road. Also includes metal hay shed in southeast corner. An excellent, well-located, productive upland farm. Predominately Crete Class II and III soils. 2008 taxes were \$1,020.14 based on 148.5 taxable acres.

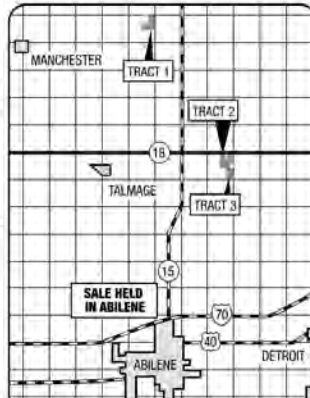
TRACT #3: E/2 SE/4 of 11-12-2E. Approximately 55 acres cropland (all in wheat), balance grass and waste. Well located farm bordered on east by blacktop Jeep Road. Predominately Crete Class II and III soils and Irwin Class III soil. 2008 taxes were \$557.52 based on 78 taxable acres.

SELLER:
Paul Chronister Revocable Trust
Abilene, Kansas

SALE CONDUCTED BY:

DENNIS L. RIORDAN - BROKER-AUCTIONEER
www.riordanauction.com



FARMLAND AUCTION
Thursday, January 8, 2009
7:30 P.M.
Sales held at Abilene Civic Center
Abilene, KS



POSSESSION: Land selling subject to existing tenant rights of Dennis Marston (Tract #1) and Steve Hoover (Tract #2 and #3).

Wheat Ground: After 2009 harvest. Buyers to receive 1/3 of crop and pay landowner's share of fertilizer applied after sale date.

Grassland and CRP: At Closing.

Hay Shed - Tract #2: At Closing.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
10% due day of sale, with balance due 2-5-2009. If for some reason title conveyance cannot be completed by 2-5-2009, buyers to pay 10% per annum interest on unpaid balance from 2-5-2009 until date sales are closed.

2008 real estate taxes and prior years paid by Seller. Title Insurance will be used with cost split equally between Buyer and Seller. All mineral rights owned sell with property. Property selling "as is" with no guarantees or warranties made by seller.

Announcements made at the auction take precedence. All information given is from sources deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Property selling subject to easements, restrictions and reservations if now existing.

Third annual Ag Expo set for Jan. 28 on SCC's Beatrice campus

A panel of experts, most of whom have ties to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, highlight the third annual Ag Management Expo of Southeast Nebraska, scheduled for Jan. 28 on Southeast Community College's Beatrice Campus.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will take place in the Truman Center on campus, located at 4771 W. Scott Road. Admission is free, and lunch will be free to the first 200 people through the doors. Agriculture-related business booths will be set up throughout the day.

The event is sponsored by the Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce and Gage County Tourism, with assistance from Monsanto and the

Nebraska Pork Producers.

Al Dutcher, Nebraska state climatologist with UNL's School of Natural Resources; Dr. Doug Jose, host of "Market Journal" and UNL Extension farm management specialist; John Hay, UNL Extension educator for energy and biofuels; and Dr. Charles Wortmann, UNL Extension soils and nutrient management specialist, will present workshops. Also speaking will be Roy Smith, also known as "Soy Roy," who will try to help attendees make sense of the grain markets.

Dutcher specializes in climate data analysis, soil moisture analysis, weather forecasting, crop/weather relationships, and drought monitoring.

Jose is host of "Market Journal" and is a professor and extension farm management specialist in UNL's Department of Agricultural Economics. His areas of interest include farm business management decision processes; risk management strategies, including crop insurance strategies, farm leasing arrangements, estate planning and business succession; financial analysis, business planning; and dairy management strategies.

Hay, biological systems engineering department and extension educator, has presented various workshops on alternative energy sources for home, farm and acreages.

Smith raises soybeans and corn and lives with his

wife Sharon on a 1,000-acre farm near Plattsmouth, Neb. He is past president of the Nebraska Soybean Association, and past vice president of the American Soybean Association. He advocates the use of seasonal price charts and the development of "farmer-friendly" marketing strategies. Smith's presentation is being sponsored by First National Bank of Omaha and Lillian Fritch Insurance.

Wortmann, an agronomy and horticulture professor, has conducted research that will help producers implement a comprehensive manure nutrient management plan and comply with environmental regulations and meet crop needs at the same time.

Moran invites Kansans to attend his annual listening tour

Rep. Jerry Moran has announced that he will begin his 13th Annual Listening Tour this month. Each year since coming to Congress, Moran has visited communities in each of the 69 counties of the First Congressional District to learn about issues important to Kansans. This year, Moran will start the annual tour in Washington in Washington County and end the tour in Home in Marshall County.

"Each year I look forward to the opportunity to visit communities and hear from Kansans," Moran said. "I learn something from every conversation I have with the people of Kansas. I am able to learn their thoughts on issues, what is important to them and what is on people's minds. The issues I focus on and the work I do in Washington, D.C. is based on what I learn in these conversations."

Area residents are invited to meet with Moran at any of the stops. The dates and times for Moran's tour stops will be announced in the near future. The first of the tour stops will be determined based upon the upcoming voting schedule in the House of Representatives.

Visit Moran's website at www.jerrymoran.house.gov to stay up-to-date on the tour schedule.

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JANUARY 6 ★ 7 ★ 8

KANSAS EXPOCENTRE ★ ONE EXPOCENTRE DRIVE ★ TOPEKA, KS

TUESDAY 9 AM - 5 PM ★ WEDNESDAY 9 AM - 8 PM ★ THURSDAY 9 AM - 4 PM

FREE PARKING ★ FREE ADMISSION

★ FARM AND RANCH EQUIPMENT

★ KANSAS SOYBEAN EXPO 2009

"\$ KSA-*Changing with the Times* \$"

Wednesday, January, 7th 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

★ ANTIQUE TRACTORS ★ TOYS

★ PREMIERE MIDWEST AG SHOW

★ LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT

★ LAND OF OZ COWDOGS DEMOS

by John Mannebach

Tues. 11 AM & 2 PM - Wed. 11 AM & 3 PM

Thurs. 10:30 AM & 1 PM

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Feeding quality forum informs producers of challenges of beef production

More than 150 cattle feeders and allied professionals gathered at the recent Feeding Quality Forums to broaden their horizons and discuss issues related to quality beef production.

The meetings, Nov. 11 in North Platte, Neb., and Nov. 13 in Amarillo, Texas, were co-sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health, Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), Feedlot magazine and Land O' Lakes Purina Feed.

Rod Nulik, marketing manager for Purina, opened the program with an illustration of miscommunication. He encouraged open dialogue with the speakers — a request that was eagerly met when Chandler Keys, vice president of govern-

ment and industry relations for JBS Swift, took the floor.

When the Brazilian Batista family bought Swift & Company last year, it made headlines. The name was fairly unknown among producers, and Keys made an effort to acquaint forumgoers with the owners' philosophies and management style.

"At the end of the day, this is a meat family," he said. "They believe that their money will come from running packing plants efficiently and effectively; putting capital into those plants where needed and then running them harder and better than the competitors."

Keys said keeping Swift

as a viable packer is a win for the industry, and that their commitment to marketing beef is unparalleled.

"They want to compete and they want to sell beef globally," Keys said, citing interest in such markets as Italy, Russia and Africa.

International talk continued with Mike Sands, chief economist for Informa Economics, who addressed competing demand for inputs and land.

"I don't think the current run up in commodity prices is just a fad. This time around it's a little different," he said. "Over the past two or three years, we've probably added about a billion people to the worldwide middle class. That's exerting a demand on resources that I don't think is going away."

The cowherd is shrinking and feedlot capacity will continue to be a huge challenge, he said.

Speaking to the meat side of the business, Sands explained past recessions have not caused weaker beef demand and the current grading trends have increased expectations.

"The industry has gotten accustomed to a fairly high level of quality, relative to history, and they're not going to be ready to compromise," he said.

Pfizer veterinarian Robin Falkner said feeders can best reach those higher quality grades and profits by managing pathogens.

"I want to maintain performance in whatever cattle I buy," he said. "If I buy cattle that can make Certified Angus Beef ® (CAB®), I want them to make CAB. I don't want something to happen to them in my feeding or health that takes that away from them."

To maximize profit, producers must evaluate their operations to reduce disease risk before it becomes a problem.

"We don't know what the true cost of a health problem is because it impacts so many of our business decisions," Falkner said.

In North Platte, Galen Erickson, Nebraska Extension feedlot specialist, addressed the effect of corn price on yearling and calf-fed profitability.

"All things being equal, if corn price goes up, it does favor yearlings," he said. That advantage grows when distillers' grains and other cheaper feedstuffs are used, but the \$45 to \$80 boon only goes to the post-weaning owner.

"Keep in mind the feed conversion gets worse as cattle get bigger before they enter the feedlot," Erickson said. "If you're just buying a

yearling to finish, the feedlot economics may be dramatically different. As cattle get bigger, that cost of gain can really jump up."

Jason Sawyer, associate professor at Texas A & M, covered that topic in Amarillo, noting that with quality grade taken into account, producers can make more money feeding cattle to heavier weights.

The program ended with a presentation called, "What if it has all been a big FAT lie?"

Speaking at the Nebraska session, author Gary Taubes challenged current human dietary recommendations; Texas A&M meat scientist Stephen Smith did so in Amarillo.

Taubes, who wrote Good Calories, Bad Calories, said the idea that it's healthier to eat less red meat is based on suspect science.

"We started out with this simplistic hypothesis: fat raises cholesterol raises heart disease. The experts locked themselves into a perspective from the 1970s," he said. "As the science evolved, it meant the advice had to change, but if you

change the advice you're saying, 'Look we made a mistake when we told you to go on a low-fat diet 30 years ago.'"

Smith's research shows differences in beef fat. Better-marbled beef is healthier than its Select and lower-grading alternatives, for example.

More marbling means more oleic acid and less of the potentially harmful saturated and trans-fatty acids, he said. Although most external fat is trimmed in processing, that over the brisket has a much healthier profile than other trim and could be strategically included in ground beef, Smith added.

He also addressed the notion that grass-fed beef is healthier than grain-fed due to higher, but still minute amounts of omega-3 fatty acids. "Beef is simply not a reasonable source of these," Smith said, explaining that eating fish is the best way to include omega-3s in the diet.

Presentations from the event can be found online at www.cabpartners.com/events/past_events/index.php.

Conference set for January 17

The Kansas Graziers' Association (KGA) Annual Winter Grazing Conference will be held Saturday, January 17, 2009 in Assaria from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The featured speaker for the day is Terry Gompert, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Grazing Educator.

In addition to being a long-time grazing educator, Gompert manages his own herd in northeast Nebraska. Gompert is an advocate of extending the grazing season, as well as reducing input costs within a herd. Currently, Gompert is helping coordinate a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant to analyze input costs and overall profits for three types of beef production: organic grain-fed, organic grass-fed and grass-fed beef.

The topics that Gompert will address include: "The Functional Cow — picking the right cow for your system" and "Extending the grazing season — planning forages to reduce hay needs."

Additional conference sessions "Ideas that make money for the beef producer" and "Lessons learned from beef producers" are followed by an interactive session facilitated by Kansas Rural Center's Dale Kirkham and grazer Dale Strickler.

"Graziers are invited to bring ideas to share during this time. Producers benefit from sharing lessons learned on their farm or ranch," Mary Howell, KGA secretary and KRC field organizer, said.

The conference will be held at the Assaria Lutheran Church, 124 West First Street. Lunch will be served. Registration is \$25 per person, and will start at 8:30 a.m. Registration deadline is January 12. Contact Mary Howell at 785-292-4955 or e-mail her at: marshallcofair@networksplus.net.

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Larry Womacks, Fieldman

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48 lbs.	\$70.00 hd.	64 lbs.	\$86.00 hd.
52 lbs.	\$73.00 hd.	67 lbs.	\$91.00 hd.
55 lbs.	\$70.00 hd.	70 lbs.	\$88.00 hd.
61 lbs.	\$83.00 hd.	73 lbs.	\$91.00 hd.

**BIG SPECIAL YEAR END CATTLE SALE
Tuesday, Dec. 30 • 10:00 AM • 1,300 Cattle Sale
Check website for listings.**

FEEDER SALE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 2
70 blk, 750-850 45 blk, 550-700 lbs.; 60 char-x, 600-750 lbs.; 30 blk str, 700-750 lbs.; 47 red str, 700-750 lbs. Plus more by sale time.

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CONSIGN EARLY**

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Adam Grover 785-541-0432
Fieldman - Henry Borgerding 785-268-0807
Fieldman - Gene Helms 785-747-7210
BARN: 785-325-2243

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EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 2

45 mostly black steers & heifers, 600-700 lbs.

89 mix steers, 900-975 lbs.

220 mix steers, 900-1,000 lbs.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SALE ON JANUARY 16TH WITH CONSIGNMENTS ALREADY IN:

60 mix steers, 800-900 lbs.

160 mix steers, 850-950 lbs.

69 black & Charolais steers, 700-750 lbs.

More consignments pending!

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KVOE 1400 - 6:30-6:45 A.M. Thurs. & Fri.



BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Cowboyness Test

One of the hazards of being a colorful duck in the flock is that you are an easy target!

In my travels, my "cowboyness" is routinely tested. If I'm speaking at a rodeo they will graciously invite me to ride in the grand entry. It's always a good bet that I better check the cinch myself and be ready. I spoke in the auction barn at Ft. Pierre. They asked if I'd ride into the sale ring and furnished me a horse. On entering I had to duck under a door that just cleared the saddle horn. As I appeared in the ring the crowd cheered and the horse spooked! As we raced around the ring I had the horse's head pulled clear back to my crotch! On the third pass I bailed out into the auctioneer's box and you could hear the wood splinter as the horse shot under the door!

I've ridden horses in parades, through crowds, on stage, through branding fires and into hotel dining rooms! In one forced exhibition of my roping skills at a ranch rodeo, I had to

chase the steer around the arena four times before he finally stopped, exhausted in a corner where I caught him. I explained to my critics that this is representative of how we do it in real life!

When I'm doing a program I usually wear a colorful shirt and scarf with a braided scarf slide. Some might suggest that in real life "real cowboys" just tie their scarf but I wear my scarf slide in self-defense. You see, often after a show my hosts take me out for late night breakfast or a beer at the local watering hole. Occasionally a belligerent, loudmouth, had-one-too-many, troublemaker insists on physically critiquing my attire. As he approaches I can quickly jerk the scarf slide off and prevent being strangled!

Recently a well-meaning lady perused my website and emailed me calling attention to my lack of cowboy correctness. She pointed out that in one picture I was wearing batwing chaps without tapaderas, that the picture negative was reversed because it made me look left-

handed! AND, if I WAS left-handed, God forbid, that I had my rope coiled up and hung on the right side of my swells! Then she quoted Walt Woodward, famous team roper, who said that left-handed heelers should take a week off and then quit! Her criticism was well-meant, she said, and only given to help save my reputation. In defiance I wrote her that I was wearing leggin's, not batwings and that the mesquite had worn the wings off my tapaderas!

Then, alas, I realized as I took up my pencil to write the column ... with my left hand, that cowboy cartoon characters like Jake, Elmo, Earl and me aren't supposed to win.

I'd give my write arm to be ambidextrous.

KFAC, KFB to host second annual Be Ag-Wise educator training workshops

Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) and Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC) will host the second annual Be Ag-Wise educator training workshops during January and February 2009.

The workshops, which are designed especially for agriculture education presenters at the county level, will give participants the opportunity to receive training for a variety of agriculture-based, hands-on learning labs; receive resource materials; share ideas; network with others; and practice their presentation skills.

The workshops are designed to assist volunteer agriculture educators in the counties such as Coopera-

tive Extension educators, county Farm Bureau agriculture education volunteers, Conservation District managers, agricultural educators, youth presenters and teachers.

The dates and locations for the one-day workshops are: Jan. 17 in Manhattan at the Kansas Farm Bureau office, Jan. 24 in Emporia at the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland building, Feb. 21 in Colby at the Colby Community Center and Feb. 28 in Garden City at the Southwest Area Research and Extension Complex.

The theme for the 2009 workshops is "Exploring Kansas Natural Resources."

There must be a minimum of 10 participants at

each location in order to conduct a workshop. In the event that one of the workshops will not be held, participants who have signed up to attend it may attend any of the other workshops instead.

Registration fees are \$45 per person and include lunch, refreshments and resource materials. Registration forms and fees are due by Jan. 2 to the KFB Accounting and Human Resources department in Manhattan. More information and registration forms can be found on the KFAC website homepage at www.ksag-classroom.org and also on the KFB website at www.kfb.org by selecting the "programs" link and clicking on "ag education."

Regional seminar explores new lending solutions for pork producers, banking industry

The Kansas Pork Association, the Missouri Pork Association, the Nebraska Pork Producers Association, the Iowa Pork Producers Association, the National Pork Board and National Pork Producers Council teamed up to host a one-day education seminar for 25 agriculture lenders December 11, in St. Joseph, Mo.

The goal of this conference was to give lenders an overview of the current situation in the pork industry and educate them on how they can better serve their pork-producing clients.

"Because of the current economic crisis facing the pork industry, many producers are suffering financially and are having difficulty finding ways to remain in business," said KPA President-CEO Tim Stroda. "The speakers presented the severity of the situation; however, they also highlighted the reasons many pork producers are encouraged by the opportunities for profitability in the next few years."

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45 Angus-Sim cross steers & heifers, 600-650 lbs., weaned, vac.

61 Angus steers & heifers, 650-700 lbs., weaned, vac.

25 black, blackwhiteface heifers, 600-700 lbs., weaned, vac.

50 black, blackwhiteface steers & heifers, 700-800 lbs.

60 black & red cross heifers, 825-850 lbs.

65 black & red cross steers, 825-850 lbs.

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