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Sustainable grazing systems benefit environment and producer pocketbooks

By Mark Parker

For Terry Gompert, partnering with nature to provide livestock grazing solutions means good stewardship and social responsibility as well as optimizing profitability.

Speaking to more than 130 people gathered for the annual Kansas Graziers' Association Winter Conference in Assaria, on January 17, the Holistic Management International certified instructor encouraged producers to adhere to grazing basics while exploring creative practices which lead to sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits.

For Gompert, who is also a University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension educator, it begins with the cowherd. The functional cow, he said, proves herself within a given herd and environment.

"You won't know the functional cow in your herd until she's had 10 calves," Gompert asserted. "She's the one who's survived your place and your management. She's not necessarily pretty but she'll have a timely calf every year with no extra special care."

Once that cow has been identified, Gompert suggested, producers should retain her offspring, both male and female. Another important characteristic of a functional cow, he said, is that she is "forage friendly" rather than having been selected for performance on a concentrate-based diet.

"Operators who make the most profit use the least processed feed," Gompert said. "It is a must to let the cow harvest as much (of her diet) as possible."

Other characteristics of the functional cow, according to Gompert, is that she is easy fleshing, low stress, low to moderate in milk production, feminine in her conformation and has coloring which is appropriate for her environment.

Noting that he believes the cows in many herds have gotten too large, Gompert acknowledged that, "just because a cow is small doesn't mean she's good, either."

High volume milk producers, however, are clearly not a good idea, he stressed.

"Milk is antagonistic to profit because the high-producing cow is harder to maintain," he said. "You want the calf to grow



Holistic International Certified Educator and UNL Extension Educator Terry Gompert, right, talks with producers at the recent Kansas Graziers' Association Winter Conference in Assaria

from forages, not from a high volume of milk. Cows that give less milk, but milk that is high in fat, are much better but we have not done a good job of identifying those cows."

To provide an economical diet for the cow herd, Gompert strongly advised that graziers strive to extend the grazing season. Grazing cool and warm season forages at the proper time and using a little creativity to fill in the gaps, he said, can keep harvested forages to a minimum

"There are all kinds of alternatives," said Gompert, who is also a cattleman. "The opportunities are amazing."

Suggesting that beef producers utilize what they have and manage for what they want, he noted that some of his favorite alternatives include strip grazing corn; spring-

planted turnips and oats, and skip-row corn with fall turnips as well as summer and winter annuals. In his own operation, Gompert has also grazed other brassicaceous plants such as radishes, kale, rape and rutabaga.

In order to make the most of any forage, Gompert is an advocate of multi-paddock, intensively managed grazing. One of the most common problems he sees with such systems, however, is that developing more paddocks often leads to developing more individual herds.

"We end up using them for convenience sake and the result is that some part of our land is being over-grazed all the time," he said. "Combine your herds. High density, high impact grazing gives the forage more rest and a lot of healing (of abused land) can take place."

Relying on high stock density for short grazing periods, Gompert emphasized, better utilizes existing forages as well as providing more time for pastures to recover and attain a higher level of productivity. He cited several cases in which extremely high stock density was employed to graze out unwanted forages, such as musk thistle, with the eventual result being a more desirable mix of forage plants.

To facilitate intensive grazing systems, Gompert said that farmers and ranchers themselves have developed "ingenious ways" to make cattle and fence moving easier. Tools such as gates on timers, portable water tanks, mini-trucks rigged to drive under fences, four-wheelers adapted for carrying posts and spooling wire and other techniques can enable producers to better utilize their grazing resources, he suggested.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension educator touched on a myriad of practices he's seen that have helped livestock producers make money. In addition to endorsing Bud Williams marketing schools, his list of money-makers included keyline soil building by using a Yeoman plow; "Bud Box" working pen design; the use of a lead steer to aid in cattle moving; windrow grazing under hot wires; nose rings for weaning calves; controlled bale "grazing" as an alternative to hauling hay bales off of fields; and networking with other producers to gain ideas.

Looking to the future, Gompert said that the current turbulent economic times will create many opportunities. "Be ready," he urged cattlemen.

Gompert believes low-cost producers and grass-based agriculture will be among the big winners and that society in general will benefit through increased soil quality, better quality food and an improved environment.

In striving to achieve these goals, the educator told the Kansas graziers that everything they do has an impact on the land and on their quality of life. He suggested that

Continued on page 16

Wheat expert suggests yield-boosting strategies during No-Till on the Plains

By Bill Speigel

Agronomist Phil Needham has made a living helping wheat farmers in the United States achieve yields approaching the European average of 100 bushels per acre, or more. A native of England, Needham has developed a consulting business in Kentucky. He spoke about many of these high-yield strategies at the No-Till on the Plains Winter Conference in Salina Jan. 27-28.

Not all farmers are ready to incorporate Needham's strategies on their farms. But Needham says Kansas farmers could boost yields by 10 or 20 bushels per acre by addressing a few often overlooked details.

"It's all about minimizing or eliminating weak links. When a farmer says he is doing everything correctly, I often can find uniformity problems, find weeds, insects, diseases, and many other yield-limiting problems. I can stand there and say if you eliminate that



In a matter of months producers will return to the fields to harvest another crop. Paying attention to little details makes a big difference in yields according to consultant Phil Needham. (Photo ©Andy Stanton)

problem you get a few bushels here and there," Needham explains. "Based upon my trials, I could come up with some pretty good numbers that relate to a lot of bushels. In a lot of examples, I can assemble 10-20 bushels they've left on the table."

Obtaining uniform emergence, he says, is a good start.

"Uniformity is something simple, which frequently doesn't cost any money to address. For example, if any producer wants to no-till wheat into crop residue, they've got to spread their previous crop residue evenly. A lot of people fall short in that they cannot spread residue, and thus have stand and emergence problems," Needham explains.

Achieving optimum planting populations, he adds, is another aspect of uniform crop emergence.

"When I talk to producers in Kansas and ask what seed rate they use, they say 60, 80, 90 pounds per acre. They may have reasons to select that seed rate. I'll ask, them, 'do you adjust by planting date, variety or seed size?' The answer is, 'probably not.'"

"Depending on year and variety, the number of seeds per pound can range from 12-20,000. If you plant two varieties, one 12K and one 15K, if you plant 90 pounds, you have 20-30% difference in the number of seeds per pound. I work with a number of producers as an agronomist and one of the first things we do is set our seeding rate of pounds per yard or acre, depending on the variety we're seeding, seeding date, whether or not it is no-till or wheat after wheat or wheat after soybeans. Seeding the right number of seeds is a good

start," he explains. "Some people fall over at the starting gate with that."

Needham says farmers should obtain soil tests and pay attention to where deficiencies may occur.

"Some guys are doing a better job than others," he acknowledges. "Generally speaking, there are some opportunities with fertility. Maybe a field is deficient in micronutrients such as zinc for example, or major nutrients, such as phosphorous. Getting phosphorous placed in the row, for example, is a good strategy."

Once the crop is in the ground and established, farmers need to consider nitrogen fertilizer strategies. Should farmers apply all the nitrogen at once, or split-apply and have two applications?

Finally, management of the growing crop is key.

"We need to manage weeds and knock them out early so they don't compete with the crop. And we need to keep foliar diseases

out. There are some guys that lost 20-30 bushels because they didn't use fungicide, or didn't apply at the right stage of development or use the right nozzles," he says.



Over the Barn Gate

By Beth Gaines-Riffel

It would seem that that producers interested in the no-till approach to crop production across the Midwest are as diligent and determined as the U.S. Postal Service. The arrival of snow, sleet ice or the dark of night could not prevent farmers from making their way to Salina for the annual No-Till on the Plains winter conference. Now in the 13th year, the group was originally dubbed the Kansas Crop Residue Man-

agement Alliance, but as executive director Brian Lindley noted in his opening comments to the group of nearly 1,200 paid registrants — “It’s much bigger than just Kansas.”

And he’s right. He also struck the mark about the size of the no-till movement.

As I’ve attended most of these events through the years, missing out on a couple only due to baby duty, it

has been interesting to watch the group grow and evolve. And I do believe they have evolved.

It always is interesting to listen to producers chatter about the approaches they are taking with their cropping system. They expound on their challenges with the hopes that someone else has met a similar stumbling block and can enlighten the struggling producer of a method or approach that solves the problem at hand,

whether it is an agronomic yield-limiting challenge or maybe one with machinery conundrums.

Looking at the lineup of speakers it got me to thinking how all-encompassing of an industry that we really are in. There are few other industries that combine the financial, biological, chemical, mechanical and engineering areas nearly simultaneously.

Phil Needham spoke to the group on the challenges of wheat residue in a no-till system and as he progressed through his presentation, while he didn’t necessarily talk about the financial aspect, the whole goal of the process was to increase yield, which hopefully would increase profit. But in order to increase the yield, producers needed a good understanding of soil science and what it takes to get a good, and in his mind ultimately uniform stand of wheat. Once a good stand is established, by having the residue evenly spread across the width of the header behind the combine, it is important that the planting equipment move enough residue, without moving too much soil, in order that the temperature increases and good, vigorous emergence occurs while placing appropriate amounts of fertilizer in the specific location in order that the new seedling gets as much of the benefit as possible.

And while at first blush, the process of establishing a field of wheat might not

seem so difficult, if one really focuses on the job at hand the difference between profit and loss is made in the little details, which was the point that I believe Needham was trying to express.

In many operations, there is always room for improvement and most of us usually could use a little reminder now and then.

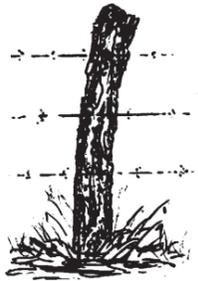
But that being said, there is also a certain degree of satisfaction that one should take in a job done well — because farmers and ranchers making their living in a complex and difficult industry.

Doing homework with the kids the other evening I reached a moment of frus-

tration when one responded that they wouldn’t ever use the material being taught in “real life.” I was quick to give an example of how I had used that particular skill just recently and assuredly if they wanted to become part of the business at some point, they’d need to be able to do the calculation quickly and accurately. Thankfully, that response bought me a little bit of time that evening.

But as I took in the sessions at No-Till, looking around the rooms, it became clear that no matter the age, education does continue.

That’s all for now. I’ll chat with you next week, Over the Barn Gate!”



The Learning Post

By Gordon Morrison
Concordia Rancher and
Former Agriculture Educator

Plug The Hole In The Fence

To learn more about the state of Louisiana, I have been studying the atlas and referring to an encyclopedia. I have been to the southern part of the state twice, in the New Orleans area, and I know the elevation is low. In fact, the highest point in the state is only 535 feet above sea level. When I was there, I observed that in some of the cemeteries, coffins are placed above ground because the ground water is so high that buried coffins could move up out of the ground.

What is so astounding to me about this part of the country is the Mississippi River Delta, which extends into the Gulf of Mexico about 95 miles with a four-lane highway that follows the bank of the river. The water table is extremely high and the delta soil is a rich black alluvium (water-deposited soil) which is excellent for growing truck garden crops and fruits. This delta grows about a mile every 16 years. Question: Where does all this rich soil come from? It is topsoil that erodes from cultivated fields. The Missouri River, which is sometimes called the Big Muddy, gets its color from the soil washing off the fields and into the tributaries.

Fields with deep topsoil are a delight to farm. Seeds emerge easily since there is little clay to cause crusting. When this layer of topsoil erodes, it leaves a field with just the subsoil, which is tough and not as fertile. Being aware of this problem created by erosion, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service encouraged farmers years ago to build terraces and waterways through a cost-sharing program. It was an outstanding accomplishment as most fields in this country were protected by terraces wherever they were needed. Erosion of precious topsoil was pretty much stopped.

As a member of the Soil Conservation District Board, I know that we are getting reports that since we have gone from a drought mode to above normal rainfall, erosion has crept back in and many terraces are breaking over. Why are they not protecting fields from erosion as they once did?

This little story illustrates a point I want to make. A man was resting on the river bank when he heard a cry for help. Looking up, he saw a person floundering in the water. Being a good swimmer, he dived in and pulled a man to shore and re-

vived him. Soon he heard another plea for help. Again, he rescued another drowning man. After pulling five persons out of the river, he decided to walk upstream to see what the problem was. About a half mile up, he saw a dam with a fence around it; however, there was a hole in the fence, and people were slipping through and sliding down the slippery bank into the river. Within a few minutes, he had repaired the hole, stopping the flow of people that needed to be pulled out of the water.

Instead of having to repair terraces that are breaking over and causing gullies, let’s “walk upstream” to determine what is causing the breakdown. Could it be the big tillage implements that are running over the terraces, leveling them and causing them to break over? I would guess that stressed farmers, having to cover a lot of ground quickly, especially between rains, feel they must move over the ground, regardless of the terraces that have been controlling the erosion. Consequently, big machinery may be leveling the terraces, especially the point row areas. While perhaps less of a challenge to control, smaller implements can also do damage to terraces when improperly used.

How do we fix the hole in the fence? Soil conservationists are technicians who are quite capable with a rod and level but may feel inadequate to play the role of teacher. However, farmer operators and hired men may need to be taught or re-taught how to work the ground with 40- and even 60-foot equipment without destroying the terraces. These terraces were built at a big cost and had been doing a good job of helping the runoff to walk off the fields. Perhaps workshops should be offered, where better methods of handling terraces could be explained and demonstrated.

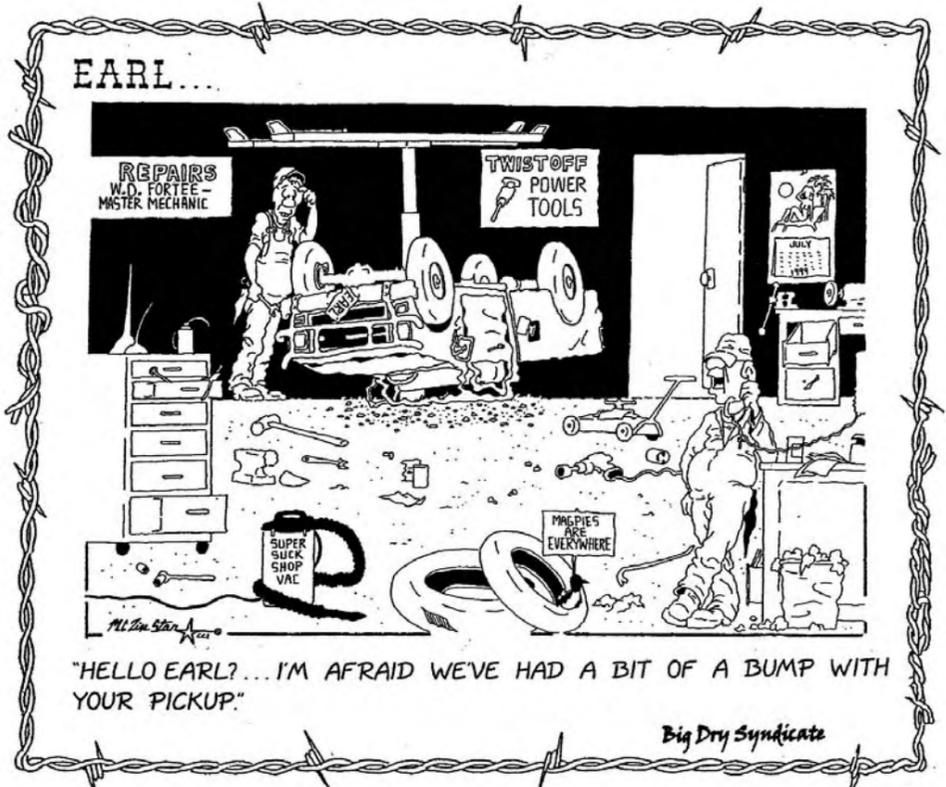
There is great concern about this problem of terraces breaking over and allowing erosion to take place. To help correct this situation, there has been discussion on requirements that terraces be upgraded when necessary to function as they should; otherwise the farm would not be in compliance and thus not eligible for any government payments one could receive through the farm services agency. Who will teach how to farm with terraces and thus fix the hole in the fence?

COW POKES®

By Ace Reid



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Market drop has ranchers feeling down

DENVER (AP) — Like many ranchers and farmers, R.J. Jolly spent heavily over the past year to fatten his calves and put in crops.

Soaring fuel prices made it far more expensive to do everything from buying fertilizer to running equipment to plow his fields between Kit Carson and Seibert on the Colorado plains.

None of that mattered so much when food prices hovered near peak levels.

But then the global financial crisis hit, hammering the commodities markets almost overnight.

While gasoline prices have come down, the price of diesel fuel used by farmers and ranchers remains high.

Even buying seed has become prohibitively expensive because of the high prices being fetched for new disease-resistant offerings.

"I've never gotten my head kicked in quite this hard," said Jolly, one of the thousands of ranchers participating in the annual National Western Stock Show in Denver. "We got hung out to dry. We're going to take a pretty big licking," he said.

Jolly and his brother — their family has been in the business since the 1800s — decided to sell some of the calves they had pastured, while sending the rest to a feedlot to fatten them for sale later.

They entered into some contracts to protect themselves against falling prices but they hadn't completely hedged against what turned out to be a sharp reversal of fortunes.

Live cattle were bringing \$1.01 a pound at the time. The price has since dropped to 86 cents.

On an animal that weighs about 1,400 pounds when it gets to market, that's a huge price difference even for a rancher with only a few hundred head of cattle.

"The market just kept going down," Jolly said. "We're probably looking at a loss for the year."

Longtime rancher Charles Klaseen is among those kicking himself for not selling all his calves before the market plunge.

His operation in Crawford unloaded about half of them by video auction around Labor Day. It held

off on the rest because Klaseen thought bidders weren't willing to pay enough.

Then the bottom fell out. "We probably lost 30-40 percent of our value by waiting," said Klaseen, who has spent his life ranching.

Klaseen counts himself among the fortunate ranchers who have been in business long enough to own their land.

New entrants typically have to borrow heavily to lease acreage and buy supplies, making the money back when they go to market — if prices hold up.

Only a bit of relief is expected in 2009.

"We're still looking at market prices which are much lower than they were in 2008," said Tom Lipetzky, division of markets director at the Colorado Department of Agriculture. "Costs are still high, and that's going to squeeze profit margins."

After record cash receipts of about \$7.6 billion in 2007, 2008 net farm income in Colorado was expected to drop to \$968 million from its high of \$1.5 billion the year before, accord-

ing to the University of Colorado's 2009 Business Economic Outlook.

The forecast said net farm income in 2009 is expected to remain on par with 2008.

Also in the mix: competition from overseas and consumers cutting back on purchases during a recession.

"There's no question that this has been an unprecedented set of challenges for agriculture," said Steve Davies, head of Colorado State University's Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. "But even in tough times, people have to eat."

The higher end of the food chain — organics and specialty products, for instance — could suffer as people lose their jobs and rein in their budgets.

"The families that are

marketing their high-end products directly to consumers are going to be harmed by the downturn in incomes," predicted James Pritchett, an associate professor specializing in agriculture at CSU.

That's the wild card for Gina Elliott, part of a two-family, Boulder-based operation specializing in all-natural beef.

"It is more expensive, and people that used to be able to afford it maybe can't right now," said Elliott, who handles sales for Colorado's Best Beef Co.

So far, demand for the company's custom-cut beef remains strong because repeat customers see the roughly \$700 outlay for one-quarter of a cow "as a reasonable price to put good beef in the freezer."

Organic vegetable grow-

ers and beef producers, such as the owners of Kersey-based Monroe Organic Farms, also remain hopeful that loyal customers will stick with them during the downturn.

"We get the feeling from the years of experience we've had that food is the last thing people start cutting back on," farm owner Jacquie Monroe said.

Still, the eternal optimism of farmers remains intact.

"My father told me if you decide to go into the farming business you will never get rich but you will never go hungry," said Bob Sakata, a produce farmer in Brighton.

"We'll be able to overcome this temporary recession. I'm confident. You just have to be a realist. Don't overinvest and don't overspend."

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 — 10:00 AM

To be held at the American Legion hall, located at 506 Washington St. in CONCORDIA, KANSAS

740 ACRES REPUBLIC & CLOUD CO. LAND

TRACT I
155 ACRES CLOUD CO. LAND
LOCATION OF REAL ESTATE: 3 miles North (on #81 Highway to Vale Rd.) of Concordia, Ks.
LEGAL DESCR.: The SE 1/4 of 9-5-3 West of the 6th P.M., Cloud Co., Kansas.
GENERAL DESCR.: 155 A. w/103.4 NHEL, nearly level cropland & 55 A. pasture w/pond &

good fences. There is an old rock house & shed on this property.
BASE ACRES: 75.2 A. wheat, 23.1 A. milo, .2 A. corn & 4.1 A. soybeans.
2008 FSA PAYMENT: \$1,965.00.
TAXES: \$1,074.38
POSSESSION: On all land March 1, 2009, all cropland is open for spring crops.

RICHARD E. MORGAN — SELLER

TRACT II
150 ACRES CLOUD CO. LAND
LOCATION OF REAL ESTATE: 3 1/2 miles North (on #81 Highway) of Concordia, Ks. (adjoins Tract I on North).
LEGAL DESCR.: The NE 1/4 (except cemetery) of 9-5-3 W. of the 6th P.M., Cloud Co., Kansas.

GENERAL DESCR.: Three bedroom, 2 story, wood frame, modern house w/water well, 54'x84' metal pole shed and pole cattle shed, 26' x40' 3 car garage, old barn & steel shed w/approx. 5 acres located on a good gravel road.

Note: Tracts V & VI will be offered as separate units, then will be combined & will sell in the manner producing the highest bid. Survey furnished by seller if tracts sell separately.

GENERAL DESCR.: 150 A. w/119.65 A. nearly level to rolling cropland, 5.5 A. waste & waterways w/old rock house & barn, 24.9 A. pasture, (all cropland planted to wheat).
BASE ACRES: 88.4 A. wheat; 27 A. milo; 2 A. beans & .3 A. corn.
2008 FSA PAYMENT: \$2,293.00.
TAXES: \$1,082.92

TRACT VI
143 ACRES REPUBLIC CO. LAND
LOCATION OF REAL ESTATE: 6 miles North (on #81 Hwy) and 1 1/2 miles West (on Xavier Rd) of Concordia, Ks.

LEGAL DESCR.: The W 1/2 of the NE 1/4 7 the E 1/2 of the NW 1/4 in 31-4-3 W. of the 6th P.M., Republic Co., Ks., except a tract of 15 A. in the NE corner

GENERAL DESCR.: Approx. 143 A. w/68.6 A. rolling, terraced cropland & approx. 70 A. pasture w/Rural Water pasture drop, good to fair fences, approx. 3A. waterways & waste.

BASE ACRES: 40.3 A. wheat; 20.6 A. milo; .3 A. oats; 3.1 A. soybeans; All cropland is planted to wheat.

2008 FSA PAYMENTS: \$956.00.

TAXES: \$802.00.

POSSESSION: On Karl Morgan Estate land: On all land planted to wheat, after the 2009 wheat harvest, or August 1, 2009, whichever occurs first, on all other land, houses & buildings, March 1, 2009.

TERMS: On All Real Estate: 20% of purchase price down on day of auction, balance due on or before March 20, 2009, in the form of certified funds, upon delivery of clear & merchantable title. Title insurance will be used paid 1/2 by Sellers and 1/2 by Purchaser. Sellers will pay all of the 2008 Real Estate Taxes, purchaser will pay 2009 Real Estate Taxes. Purchaser will receive \$55.00 per Acre on all crop land planted to wheat from Karl Morgan Estate August 1, 2009.

NOTE: Make your financial arrangements & plan to attend the auction. For inspection or information call Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate. All statements made at the auction will take precedence over all advertising material. Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate represents the Sellers as Agents. Prospective purchasers must be pre-approved or provide bank letter approving financing commitment, prior to day of auction to be eligible to bid.

TRACT III
135 ACRES CLOUD CO. LAND
LOCATION OF REAL ESTATE: 4 miles North (on #81 Highway to Wagon Rd.) of Concordia, Ks.

LEGAL DESCR.: The SE 1/4 of 4-5-3 except an approx. 11 A. tract w/house, buildings & highway West of the 6th P.M., Cloud Co., Ks.

GENERAL DESCR.: A tract of approx. 130 A. w/80 A. level to rolling cropland, 1.8 A. waterways & 47 A. pasture w/good fences. (All cropland planted to wheat).

BASE ACRES: 88.4 A. wheat, 19 A. milo, .2 A. corn, 2 A. soybeans.

2008 FSA PAYMENT: \$1,616.00.

TAXES: \$2,077.82; (Includes house & land).

TRACT IV
153 ACRES, REPUBLIC COUNTY LAND
LOCATION OF REAL ESTATE: 3 1/2 miles East (on #148 Hwy) and 1 1/4 miles North (on 130th Rd.) of Norway, Ks.

LEGAL DESCR.: The SE 1/4 of 12-4-4 (except a tract of approx. 5 A. including house & buildings on East side) West of the 6th P.M. Republic Co., Ks.

GENERAL DESCR.: A tract of approx. 153 A. w/114 A. nearly level cropland, 38 A. pasture & grass. All cropland is planted to wheat.
Base Acres: 61.6 A. wheat; 31.4 A. milo; .5 A. oats; 4.8 A. soybeans.

2008 FSA PAYMENT: \$1,460.00; Taxes: \$2,120.80; (Includes house, buildings & land).

TRACT V
REPUBLIC COUNTY HOUSE & ACREAGE
LOCATION OF REAL ESTATE: Adjoins tract IV.
LEGAL DESCR.: A tract of approx. 5 A. on the East side of the SE 1/4 of 12-4-4 W. of the 6th P.M., Republic Co., Ks.: includes house and buildings.

KARL MORGAN ESTATE
KARLA MORGAN, EXECUTOR — SELLERS
Scott Condray, Attorney, Concordia, Ks.

AUCTION CONDUCTED BY
LARRY LAGASSE AUCTION & REAL ESTATE
CONCORDIA, KS.

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AUCTIONEERS

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ASSOC. REAL ESTATE BROKER
PH: 785-262-1185

MACHINERY AUCTION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 — 2:00 PM

1 mile south of BELLEVILLE KANSAS on Bell Lane

Directions: 1 mile south of Belleville Ks on Bell Lane. From the corner of Hwy 36 and Bell Lane (Dollar General) go one mile south.

1981 AC Gleaner L2, big engine, hydro, LG222643H new sieves, chaffer hillside idler new engine 3 years approx. 2000 hours on engine; 1983 IH Planter, 6 Row with 900 series updates, trash wheel 2 Corn drums Milo, Bean; 1983 Crust Buster Drill, 24'; 1983 IH #496 Disk, 25'; 1984 JD Field Cultivator, 34' 1010 Model; 1981 24' Wheat Header excellent shape; 1981 JD 6 Row Crop Head Bish Head converter; 1978 AC 6 Row Corn Head; 1990 JD 4555

Tractor; cab, duals, wheel-weights, good rubber, 3 hyd ports, 6286 Hrs, SNRW4555-POO4285; IH #47 Baler, wire tie; 15' V-blade; IH Hay Rake; 1973 GMC 6500 w/Bed/Hoist, 16' cam & rollers new runs good 42,756 miles; 1962 Ford Truck, 1 1/2 Doesn't run; 1963 Chevy C/60 w/Bed& Hoist, 16' newer 327 117k; 1974 Ford LN 750 w/Bed/Hoist, 22' with roll tarp piston & rings, AT 5 speed, runs good 53,740 miles; Vermeer Baler 605B; 6-16 IH 510 Auto Trip Steerable

plow; 3 pt Rotary Hoe; 5' Rotary Mower; 2- 16-8"s drills; 2 drill Hitch; Pump Jack; Sunbeam Electric Trimmer; 6" 42" Bin Auger w/engine; Nobile Flextime Field Cultivator/ springtooth 30'; Landol Chisel Plow 14'; A & L electric Drill Fill Auger; 300 gal stand & tank; 1974 300 series JD Lawn tractor with mower & tiller, no engine; 1982 Honda Odyssey ATV running when parked; 5 hp 4 wheel go cart; 1977 AC Gleaner Combine, parts.

Auctioneers Note: This is a small sale with only large items. Most of these items were shedded and all are well taken care of. There are no small items be on time. cash or a good check accepted.

Additional pics and information available at www.kslandco.com

SELLERS: KENNETH AND JOAN BRZON
kjbrzon@att.net
For more information contact



Mark Uhlik
Agent /Auctioneer
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GRASS & GRAIN Our Daily Bread

***** By G&G Area Cooks *****

Jack Boyle, Vermillion, Wins Recipe Contest And Prize In Grass & Grain

Winner Jack Boyle, Vermillion: "So easy for a man to make! Very good."

KANSAS SUNFLOWER POTATOES

- 2-pound package hashbrown potatoes, thawed
- 1/4 cup margarine or butter
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 pint sour cream
- 8-ounce package grated cheddar cheese
- 2 cups crushed cornflakes
- 1/4 cup sunflower seeds

Mix all ingredients together except the butter (or margarine), cornflakes and sunflower seeds. Place in casserole dish and cover with the crushed cornflakes and drizzle with butter (or margarine). Sprinkle sunflower seeds on top. Bake covered for 1 hour at 350 degrees. To brown, remove cover for 15 minutes.

Lori Siebenneicher, Hebron, Neb.: "This recipe is very fast and easy to fix. Also very tasty on these cold and blustery winter days."

CHICKEN POT PIE

- 2- to 3-pound deli roast chicken, shredded or chopped
- 10 3/4-ounce can cream of mushroom soup with roasted garlic
- 16-ounce package frozen mixed vegetables, thawed
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 12-ounce tube refrigerated dinner rolls

Mix together chicken, soup, vegetables and celery. Spoon into a lightly greased 9-by-9-inch baking pan. Separate and flatten rolls; place on top of mixture. Bake for 25 minutes at 350 degrees or until bubbly and rolls are golden. Serves 4.

Nancy Hurlbut, Sylvan Grove:

HAMBURGER JUMBLE

- 1 pound ground beef
- 2 cups uncooked noodles

- 1 can tomatoes
 - 2 cups shredded cabbage
 - 1 cup sliced raw carrots
 - 1 can cream of vegetable soup or any cream soup
 - Onion
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Slightly brown beef and onion. Spoon into 2-quart baking dish. Stir in other ingredients. Cover and bake 40 minutes at 350 degrees or until noodles and vegetables are tender.

Carolyn McCaull, Keyes, Okla.:

SUMMER SALAD

- 3-oz. package tapioca pudding
- 3-ounce package vanilla instant pudding
- 3-ounce package orange gelatin
- 2 cups liquid (see below)
- 11-ounce can mandarin oranges
- 8-ounce can crushed pineapple
- 8-ounce container whipped topping

Drain juice from oranges and pineapple into measuring cup. Mix with water to make 2 cups. Heat to a boil. Combine liquid with pudding mixes and gelatin. Cook until thick, stirring constantly. Cool. Fold in whipped topping, oranges and pineapple. Chill.

Sandra Norris, Abilene: "I found this recipe in the American Profile supplement from the Abilene Reflector Chronicle. It comes in every Friday paper."

OATMEAL CAKE WITH BROILED TOPPING

- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 9-by-13-inch cake pan. To prepare cake, pour 1 1/4 cups boiling water over oats in a bowl. Let stand 20 minutes. Cream butter and sugars with a mixer. Add oats and mix well. Add eggs and vanilla and mix well. Sift together flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. Add to oat mixture and mix well. Pour into prepared pan. Bake 30-35 minutes.

Topping:

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 cup shredded sweetened coconut

Preheat broiler. To prepare topping, combine all topping ingredients in a medium bowl and mix well. Spread evenly over warm cake and place cake under broiler, 2 inches from heat source. Broil until lightly browned, 1 to 1 1/2 minutes. Cool on a wire rack. Serves 12.

Kathy Hogue of Topeka/Alma, "occasionally sneaks in an ingredient that has clucked in a previous life rather than mooed. This is a

quick cold weather supper that can be double for a large family."

E-Z CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

- 10 ounces enchilada sauce
- 10 ounces cream of chicken soup
- 4.5 ounces green chiles
- 4 chicken thighs
- 1 cup Mexican cheese
- 4 flour tortillas (8-inch)
- 1 cup picante sauce
- 2 cups Mexican cheese

Boil chicken for 30 minutes; cool, debone and chop. Grease an 8-by-11-inch glass baking dish. Pour 1/3 can enchilada sauce in dish. Mix half can soup, chiles, chicken and 1 cup Mexican cheese. Spread down center of tortillas and roll. Place at an angle in dish. Mix remaining sauce and soup and pour over top. Spoon picante sauce on each roll and cover with 2 cups Mexican cheese. Bake uncovered at 320 degrees for 30 minutes.

Gin Fox, Holton: BARBECUED MEATBALLS

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 small can evaporated milk
- 1 cup quick cook oats
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

- 3/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon chili powder

Mix all ingredients together and shape into walnut-size meatballs. Place in a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. No need to brown first.

Sauce:

- 1 cup ketchup
 - 3/4 cup brown sugar
 - 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
 - 1/4 cup chopped onion
 - 1 teaspoon liquid smoke
- Mix and pour over meatballs. Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees.

Shirley Deiser, Kanopolis:

JALAPENO CHEESE SPREAD

- 8 ounces sharp cheddar cheese (2 cups at room temperature)
 - (2) 3-ounce packages cream cheese, softened
 - 7 1/2-ounce can chopped tomatoes & jalapeno peppers
 - 1 tablespoon ground cumin
 - 1 teaspoon garlic powder
 - 1/8 teaspoon hot pepper sauce or to taste
- In a medium bowl beat cheeses until well blended. Slowly beat in tomatoes, peppers and seasonings until well blended. Keep refrigerated up to 1 week. Makes 2 1/2 cups.

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Sandy Hill, Eskridge: "This is not too sweet."

CORN MUFFIN CHURROS

Vegetable oil, for frying (about 6 cups)
8.5-ounce box corn muffin mix
1 1/2 cups flour
1/3 cup sugar plus more for sprinkling
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 teaspoons cinnamon
2 large eggs
1 teaspoon finely grated orange zest
2/3 cup buttermilk

Heat 3 inches of oil in a large deep skillet until a deep-fry thermometer registers 340 degrees. Combine the muffin mix, flour, sugar, baking powder and 1 teaspoon cinnamon in a bowl. Stir in the eggs, orange zest and buttermilk and whisk until combined. Transfer half the batter to a pastry bag fitted with a large star tip (no. 844) and pipe 4-inch long churros into the oil, about four at a time. If you don't have a bag you can spoon the batter into the oil in lines. Fry until golden, about 15 seconds per side, turning once. Remove with a slotted spoon to drain on paper towels. Repeat with the remaining batter. Combine the remaining 1 teaspoon cinnamon with sugar to taste and sprinkle over the churros. Serve warm with melted chocolate sauce. Makes about 2 dozen.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh: **CHOCOLATE POUND CAKE**

3 cups cake flour
1/2 cup cocoa
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup shortening
1/2 cup butter
3 cups sugar
5 eggs
1 cup milk
1 tablespoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease a tube pan. Whisk flour, cocoa, baking powder and salt. Cream shortening and butter in a bowl. Beat in sugar. Add

eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add flour mixture alternately with milk and vanilla until well blended. Pour batter into pan. Bake for 1 hour and 10 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes then cool on wire rack.

A recipe which appeared in the Jan. 6, 2009 issue of Grass & Grain submitted by Kay Spoo, Frankfort was missing an ingredient. The recipe is being printed in its entirety.

MARINATED PORK TENDERLOIN SANDWICHES

1 whole pork tenderloin (1 pound)
1/2 cup soy sauce
1/4 cup packed brown sugar
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
2 minced garlic cloves
24 small dinner or Parker House rolls

In a shallow 1 1/2-quart glass baking dish mix soy sauce, brown sugar, vegetable oil, ginger, mustard and cloves (reserve 1/4 cup marinade). Place tenderloin in dish; turn to coat surface. Cover and refrigerate for 12 hours or overnight, turning several times; drain. Wrap tenderloin tightly in foil and place in shallow roasting pan. Bake in a 375-degree

oven until meat thermometer reads 160 degrees. Let stand for 10 minutes. Carve in thin slices. Combine reserved marinade and 1 cup water. Heat in chafing dish; add pork slices. Serve with rolls.

Marcia Emig, Goodland: **MANDARIN DELIGHT**

18.5-ounce box white cake mix
11-ounce can mandarin oranges
3 egg whites
1/2 cup vegetable oil
Frosting:
9 ounces whipped topping
15 1/4-ounce can crushed pineapple in own juice
3.5-ounce package instant vanilla pudding mix
1 cup flaked coconut

Combine all ingredients and mix for 2 minutes at medium speed. Pour into a greased and floured 9-by-13-inch baking pan. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until done. Cool in pan 10 minutes. Remove from pan to wire rack and cool. Transfer to serving platter. For frosting, combine all ingredients in a bowl, reserving 1/2 cup coconut. Mix well. Frost top and sides and sprinkle with remaining coconut on top of cake. Store in refrigerator. Serves 12.

Marlene Swisher, Reading:

OVERNIGHT COFFEE CAKE

3/4 cup butter
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup sour cream
3/4 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
3 tablespoons milk
Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine the flour, baking soda, nutmeg and salt; add to the creamed mixture alternately with sour cream. Pour into a greased 9-by-13-by-2-inch dish. Combine the brown sugar, nuts and cinnamon; sprinkle over coffee cake. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes. Combine powdered sugar and milk. Drizzle over cake.

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Mary Rogers, Topeka: **STIR-FRIED BROCCOLI**

1 tablespoon oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
6 cups fresh broccoli florets
2 cups thinly sliced carrots
1/4 cup water
1 tablespoon soy sauce

In a large skillet heat oil

over medium high heat. Add garlic and cook for 1 minute. Add broccoli, carrots and water. Cover and cook for 4 to 5 minutes or until crisp-tender. Uncover and stir in soy sauce and cook, stirring frequently, for 1 minute. Serve immediately.

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 *Grandma's Minestrone Soup*

From Sandy Hill, Eskridge

FEBRUARY "Our Daily Bread" Recipe Contest Prize

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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.
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See last week's Grass & Grain for complete listing.

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Hey Neighbor For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

Apprenticeship Intensifies Horsemanship While Building Human Relations

Education is the key to success, whatever the endeavor.

Apprenticeship opportunities are not typically available in the horse industry. However, giving an inexperienced horse enthusiast the chance to learn from a seasoned, knowledgeable horseman is beneficial to speed up and improve the learning process.

"All I've ever wanted to do was to be a cowboy, and my apprenticeship with Craig Cameron was the best thing I've done in my life," emphasized Paul Osgood, Cedar Point native.

"My ability and knowledge of handling and riding horses has really improved, and I've also learned so much about working with people, all kinds of them," continued Osgood, who last fall completed 14 months of training with Cameron.

Now headquartered near Gardner in a partnership training business with Lee Hart, Osgood, 19, was at the recent Topeka Farm Show visiting with Cameron, who was in a return appearance there presenting horsemanship clinics.

"Paul is a really hard worker who was very willing to learn. He has a great love of the cowboy life and will

sure help keep that tradition alive," credited Cameron. "His work ethic is just outstanding. Paul grew up physically and mentally, and has become an outstanding horseman."

"It was really the experience of a lifetime traveling all over the country, working with so many horses and meeting so many great people," Osgood informed. "I got to meet and pick the minds of Al Dunning, Mark Chestnut, Ty Murray, Jim Sharp and several other top horsemen and cowboys."

While his dad, Lawrence, has been employed by various Flint Hills ranches over the years, Osgood was often at his side when horseback work needed to be done. "My first horse was one my Dad had been using. He's a big stocking-legged, blaze-face sorrel gelding called Blazer,

who's a year older than I am," Osgood reflected.

Crediting his dad as an idol and inspiration for his love of working with horses, Osgood also anxiously talked about working closely with Bud Higgs and (Lee) Hart.

"They are both such great all-around hands," Osgood insisted. "I had started a couple of colts, and I was always pulling on them so much. Yet, all of Bud's horses rode like they had power steering. They'd stop, back up and turn, almost automatically. That's the way I wanted my horses to ride, and Bud even supported the idea that I go work with a clinician."

When Cameron conducted a clinic at Elmdale, Osgood became acquainted with him, and then again visited with the trainer at the EquiFest in Wichita.



Paul Osgood, Cedar Point native now headquartered near Gardner, hauled his own sorrel three-year-old gelding to a number of the horsemanship clinics he assisted with during his apprenticeship with prominent clinician Craig Cameron.

"We talked about me having an apprenticeship with him, and I went down to his ranch at Bluff Dale, Texas,"

Osgood recalled. "Then Craig said I could have the position with him if I wanted it."

Nothing is free, and the agreement was that, even though Osgood was working for Cameron, he had to pay

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for his education. "I actually paid Craig to work for him for three months, and after that he started paying me," Osgood explained.

The Texas-based operation includes about 400 acres, and Osgood performed general ranch and choring duties along with working horses.

"I had the investment of my time and labor before I got to ride," Osgood said. Then Cameron gradually worked him into riding horses at the ranch, starting young horses and eventually mounting horses at clinics.

Cameron has been conducting the clinics, thousands of them scheduled by his wife Dalene, for more than 20 years throughout the United States and in foreign countries. "I'm not sure how

many clinics he presented while I was with him, but we were in at least 15 states, somewhere different all of the time," Osgood verified.

Although a number of the sessions were in Texas, Osgood traveled the nation's width and depth for the clinics, often flying with Cameron. A highlight clinic for Osgood was assisting Cameron at the prestigious American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio.

Reflecting on his experiences, Osgood evaluated, "Training horses is a lot like training a dog, or even teaching children. They must be told what to do and then rewarded for doing right. Each must have discipline and know what is expected of them before they can do it." With him, Os-

good's Blue Heeler pup, Daisy, is in the early stages of training.

Eyes generally tell one what a horse is thinking, according to Osgood. "Their eyes, head, ears and body movements all reflect their attitude," he claimed.

It is often contended that horses are "easier to speed up than slow down," and Osgood generally agrees with that philosophy.

"However, a horse does have to move in order to turn and to know how to stop," he maintained. "There are exercises one can use to help collect an active horse, and those horses have to be turned loose, too, when they do relax. One can't just continue to pull on their mouth and head, or they'll learn to take a hold of the bit like a race horse."

Balance of the rider helps the horse's action and movement, as well. "Horses pay attention to everything their riders do," Osgood offered. "When his rider isn't balanced, the horse knows and will not perform to its potential."

Although many owners expect horses to be trained in 30 to 90 days, Osgood admitted, "A person can get certain horses riding, stopping and turning well in that time, but it takes several years to get the majority of horses to the point that they're really broke in all situations."

Of the hundreds of untrained horses Osgood mounted during his apprenticeship, only one dumped him to the ground, and that wasn't a fair match for either horse or rider.

"We were playing horseback football, and I was riding a horse that was quite a ways along in his training," Osgood noted. "When that blue ball came

through the air, he thought it was going to get him, and he exploded. As I was getting up, he looked at me wondering what I was doing on the ground. I got right back on, and he was fine."

Initially Osgood had intended to spend a year with Cameron, but ended up staying longer. His replacement was to be another young Kansan, who decided the work was too hard for him after just a few days in the position. A Montana youth has now been assisting Cameron for a couple of

months and was at Topeka with him.

While Osgood, who has a younger sister and brother at home, considered enrollment in college this semester, he and Hart had previously talked about forming a training partnership. "We have facilities leased near Paola and have a number of horses in training," Osgood remarked.

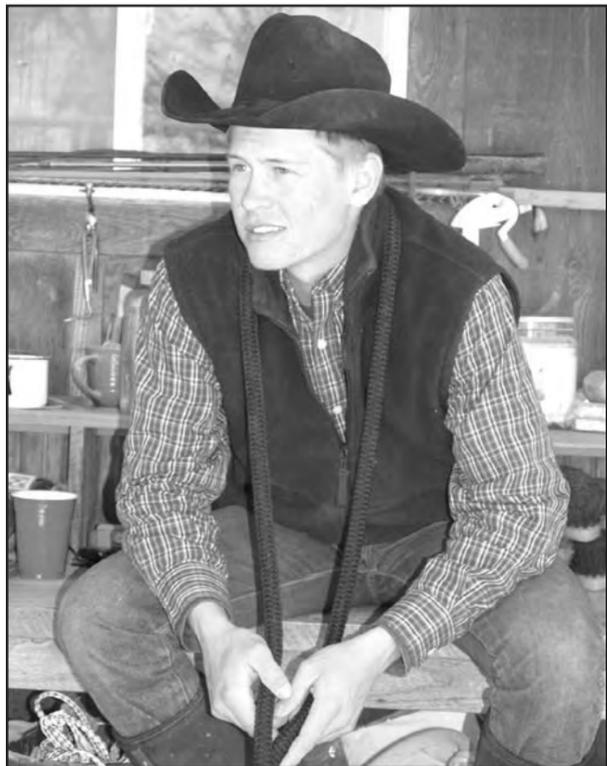
Plans include expanding their clientele and also participating in ranch rodeos. "I have been on a few ranch rodeo teams in the past, and

Lee intends to have a team at a lot of rodeos this year," Osgood related.

Having done some saddle bronc riding prior to his internship with Cameron, Osgood looks forward to pursuing that rodeo sport. "I sure would like to make the International Professional Rodeo Association Finals within the next couple of years," he indicated.

An accomplished roper as well, Osgood has done considerable pasture doctoring and has competed in

Continued on page 8



Not only did Paul Osgood expand his horse knowledge, but clinician Craig Cameron insisted that the Cedar Point native matured physically and mentally while developing human relations skills during his 14-month internship.

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Where have all the customers gone?

Some small business owners may be wondering if the current economic crisis is causing consumers to be more conservative in their spending, explaining the recent dip in sales.

Although the current economic crisis may be a cause, Kathy Macomber, a business development specialist with University of Missouri Extension, says business owners should also consider the increasing impact of the Internet.

"Whether or not you have a website or market on-line, your customers are using the internet for shopping, price comparisons and stock availability," said Macomber.

Nielson Online conducted a survey in November 2008 which showed the Top 10 Reasons to Shop Online. The number one reason was the ability to shop 24 hours a day. The number two reason was to "save time" and third was to "avoid crowds" followed closely by "saves gas." Other top reasons included "sales/discounts," "low prices," "comparison shopping," "selection," "available product information," and "items in stock."

"To learn what your potential customer learns about your business, con-

sider using a search engine on your company name. Even if you don't have a website, you will likely see a map link and quite possibly some customer reviews of your store and products," said Macomber.

She recommends reading any reviews and comments. If there is misinformation, add your own comments correcting the errors. Do not be defensive or critical, and thoughtfully consider whether there are changes you could make to prevent the continued misperception.

"It is also a good idea to take a look at your top ten products and services. Then do a search on them to see what your customers are finding for price comparisons. Your loyal customers may take you off their shopping list before you ever knew you were on," said Macomber. When looking at the combined price and shipping costs, is your pricing attractive? Do you add sufficient value, through customer service and knowledgeable staff to justify a higher price?

One simple and inexpensive way to give yourself a web presence is to create a blog (weblog).

There are many free services, such as Blogger or Blogspot with simple templates. Do a search on blogs and read a few to get a flavor for the frequency of posts and the quality of information.

"Blogs should not be a solicitation or advertising, but can demonstrate your expertise and can subtly communicate information on your business. Providing information consumers value and building a reputation as an expert in your area can build readership," said Macomber.

Macomber also says to not underestimate the simple strategy of surveying customers informally as they visit your business, or more formally with direct mail or email.

"Are they spending less with you than they historically have? What would it take to earn more of their business? The top ten list is a good start for the questions to ask in order to understand what your customers value most," said Macomber.

For more information on this or other business related topics, contact Macomber in MU Extension Center in Barton County at (417) 682-3579.

For The Love Of Horses *cont.*

Continued from page 7

a number of arena team ropings. He is becoming more proficient in roping horses and is continuing to work on the hoolihan loop for head catches. "I have entertained the idea of competition tie-down roping in the future," Osgood expressed.

Perfection maneuvers of his mounts are expected by Osgood, but competing in horse shows on a regular basis doesn't really interest him. "I want my horse to rein easily, but I'd prefer he have a real job to do working on the ranch and with cattle, instead of just in an arena trying to convince a judge how good we are," Osgood revealed.

However, he is interested in participating at special competitions on occasion, such as the Haythorn futurities.

Osgood would like to one day enter the Extreme

Cowboy Association events which are being planned by Cameron throughout the country. One such contest is scheduled at the EquiFest in Wichita, February 13-15. "This really excites me, and I'd also like to be in some of those colt breaking competitions that are being conducted," Osgood stated.

Additionally, presenting breaking and horsemanship clinics similar to those of Cameron are on the horizon. "Another big thing I found out while working with Craig is that many horse owners really need help, and many of them are willing to learn if given the chance."

Although he's seen the big city lights, Osgood's heart has remained close to the Flint Hills. "I'll always want to train and produce top quality horses. I'd probably be satisfied with a life as a working ranch cowboy."

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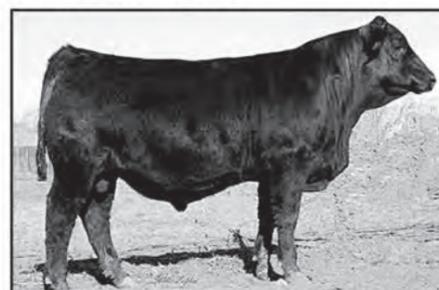
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Kansas Farmers Union elects officers

It will be an experienced team leading the Kansas Farmers Union in 2009. Delegates to the organization's state convention held Jan. 9-10 in Hutchinson have voiced their support of recent board action by returning a full slate of incumbents to the board of directors.

Donn Teske, Wheaton, was elected to his ninth term as president of the organization. Teske and his wife, Kathy, operate a crop and beef farm in north central Kansas which has been certified organic on the cropping enterprises since 2002. He currently serves on the national Farmers Union Board of Directors and has been involved on a number of national-level Farmers Union committees. In addition to participating in Farmers Union fly-ins to Washington D.C., he has also been called on to testify before House committees regarding rural health care options and energy and global warming. Teske also is on the board of the Midwest Agency, the corporate entity for the Kansas and Nebraska Farmers Union Insurance Companies. He serves on the executive committee of the Kansas Rural Center and was appointed in 2008 to the Kansas Wind Working Group. Other involvements have included serving on the state advisory committee for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (S.A.R.E.) program through Kansas State University Extension and the Ogal-

ala Commons Board. He is a member of the Kansas Organic Producers Association.

Daryl Larson, McPherson, was elected to his second term as vice president. Larson and his wife, Velita, operate a diversified dryland grain and cow/calf operation in partnership with his brother. He is a third-generation farmer in McPherson County. Larson currently serves as the McPherson County Farmers Union president. He has participated in national Farmers Union fly-ins. Other involvements include serving on the board of the Kansas Cattleman's Association.

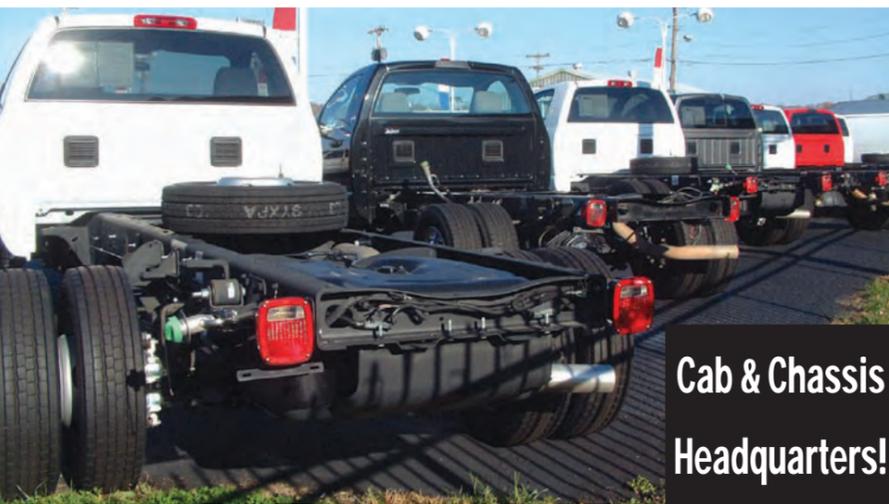
Those elected to the board of directors include: John Fairbanks, Onaga, representing district three in northeast Kansas; LaVern Potuzak, Agenda, representing district four in north central Kansas; Linda Hessman, Dodge City, representing district six in southwest Kansas; Herb Bartel, Hillsboro, representing district seven in south central Kansas; and Raymond Fowler, Emporia, representing district eight in southeast Kansas. The board position for district five, which includes counties in northwest Kansas, was not filled as the district did not have a quorum for its nominating caucus. That position will be filled by appointment at the next board of director's meeting.



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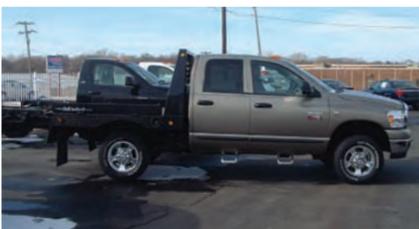


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Experts indicate Missouri continues losing prairie chickens

LOCKWOOD, Mo. (AP) — Mike Theurer remembers that when he was a youngster, prairie chickens were abundant on the native grasslands around the family farm.

"I know there was 100 within three or four miles," he said, describing several populations. "I'm pretty sure there was 50 by my house in the 1960s."

"I am going to say that 10 years ago, there were 30. Four or five years ago, I'll say, there were 20," said Theurer, who is now 59.

So far, he's seen fewer than a dozen this year. His observation is borne out by state studies of the greater prairie chicken in

Missouri that show the birds are declining steadily.

"There were around 3,000 birds in the late 1980s; there were about 1,000 in the 1990s," said Max Alleger, leader of the prairie chicken recovery effort for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Statewide, the estimate is now around 400 to 500 birds, he said.

"They are continuing to decline at a rapid rate," Alleger said. "We are probably within a decade of losing the birds if we don't take ... action."

As one of those steps, Alleger and others are promoting a new state-federal program that will compensate

landowners who set aside cropland to develop habitat for prairie chickens.

The initiative is similar to other U.S. Department of Agriculture set-aside programs that pay farmers not to plant crops on lands that are highly erodible, or that could serve as a buffer for streams or as wildlife habitat. That program, Alleger said, was expanded last year to include prairie chicken restoration efforts in Missouri and in other states.

The government payments, over a 15-year contract, would come just as farmers are negotiating operating loans for next spring's planting, said Joe Horner, a University of Missouri Extension economist. Sign-ups are through local USDA Farm Service Agency offices.

"With all the banks tightening up on credit, this is an opportunity for some people to rent some of their worst (land) in exchange for a nice solid income," Horner said. The program is limited to designated areas in 11 Missouri counties, including Barton, Dade, Jasper, Lawrence and Vernon.

"It is not available on a whole-county basis," Alleger said. "It's not a lump-sum, upfront payment. It's

an annual payment."

Landowners must pledge a minimum of 20 acres to develop habitat for the birds, restoring native or other cool-season grasses. Some help may be available for removing trees more than 10 feet tall. Payments are calculated on a county-by-county formula, and will be around \$65 an acre, Alleger said.

"That's fairly competitive with 2008 cash rental rates," Alleger said. "Landowners really are key to the process. We realize they can't give up productive land for nothing."

Alleger said lack of suit-

able ground cover for nesting females is one thing that most limits the proliferation of the prairie chicken in Missouri.

The ideal nesting area would have native prairie grasses between 6 and 17 inches tall, so any land set aside for the chickens would have to be grazed or high-mowed periodically by the landowner as part of the contract.

Such habitat also would benefit bobwhite quail and other species.

Alleger said the state is working to build core areas of prairie habitat in conjunction with partner

groups such as the Missouri Prairie Foundation and The Nature Conservancy. Some of those core areas are being built around the Shawnee Trail Conservation Area in Barton County, Bushwhacker Lake Conservation Area in Vernon and Barton counties, and Prairie State Park in Barton County.

"These are highly mobile birds," Alleger said. "We think they need 4,000 to 5,000 acres of good nesting and brood-rearing cover on a 10,000-acre landscape, and that's hard to find in Missouri. We have tried to identify the last, best landscapes."

Kansas Farmers Union selects delegates to national convention

Delegates to the Kansas Farmers Union annual convention, held Jan. 9-10 in Hutchinson, have selected voting delegates to the Farmers Union National Convention.

Representing Kansas at the convention will be Herb Bartel, Hillsboro; Tom Giessel, Larned; and Jared Whitcomb, Elmdale. Selected as alternates to the convention are Daryl Larson, McPherson, and Mary Howell, Frankfort. An additional voting delegate will be appointed from the Kansas Farmers Union Board of Directors. Linda Hessman, KFU board of director member from Dodge City, serves on the national Farmers Union policy committee and will be attending as a member of that committee. Kansas Farmers Union President Donn Teske will also be a voting delegate by virtue of his office.

The 2009 Farmers Union convention will be held March 8-10 in Arlington, Va.

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Plants need moisture during the winter months

Most gardeners do not give a second thought to turning on the hose or sprinkler to water their gardens during the hot summer months. However, when the cold winter wind is blowing, gardeners may not think about watering their gardens.

The lack of adequate soil moisture can damage plants during the cold winter months, said David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension consumer horticulture specialist.

"Dry soil coupled with strong winter winds can cause a lot of damage to plants. It's important to keep in mind that all plants, especially narrowleaf and broadleaf evergreens use water even during the winter months," Hillock said.

When there is little or no soil moisture present, plants become dehydrated and shriveled and it is more likely that root damage also will occur.

If the local weather is calling for a dry cold front, there is no snow cover, and temperature is above 40 degrees Fahrenheit, water the landscape at least 24 hours in advance of the front.

"A sunny day on moist soil will warm the soil and

root area," he said. "This will help reduce the amount of time the roots will be exposed to cold temperatures. Keep in mind that moisture must be available below the frost line or frozen soil. If moisture isn't present in soil pore spaces before it freezes, moisture is pulled from plant roots to form ice crystals. This results in desiccated roots and often is referred to as 'winter kill.'"

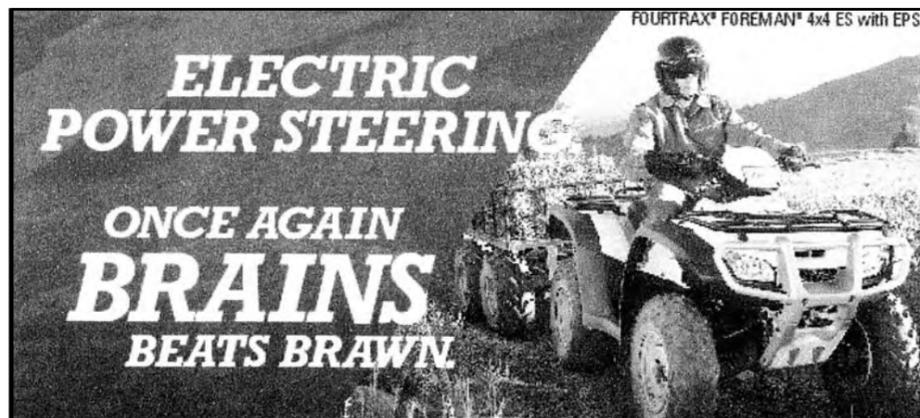
Gardening enthusiasts should not run sprinklers during a hard freeze. Ice

forming on some plants could result in some serious damage. In addition, water run-off will freeze and create a hazardous situation with icy sidewalks. The run-off water also could end up in the street and cause icy conditions for drivers. While it is important to keep plants adequately hydrated, too much water also can cause problems. Cold, wet soils can lead to rotting roots. Soils with more than enough moisture also may encourage winter weeds to

germinate and flourish.

Hillock suggests watering monthly when the air temperature is above freezing and early enough in the day to allow the water to soak into the soil before nightfall. Apply enough water to moisten the top six to eight inches of the soil.

"Make sure you water plants growing in above ground planters, as well as those plants located under the eaves of the home," he said. "These plants often receive little natural precipitation."



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Friday, February 6

12:00	Trade Show Opens/Silent Auction
12:30-1:30	Markets, Speculatory Effects
1:35-2:20	Gary Sides, Pfizer Nutritionist, The Big Pic.
2:30-3:00	Break/Trade Show
3:00-4:00	Dr. Fred Cholick, Kansas State University Dean of Agriculture, National Bio & Agro-Defense Facility
4:15-5:30	Donn Teske, Carbon Credits
5:30-6:30	Social Hour/Trade Show
6:30-9:30	Banquet/Live Heifer Auction/Keynote Speaker Max Thornsberry, R-CALF USA President Guest Speaker: Senator Tim Huelskamp

Saturday February 7

8:00	Trade Show Opens
8:30-9:30	Dr. Dan Thomson, Kansas State University College of Vet Medicine Professor of Clinical Sciences, Cattle Processing and Animal Welfare
9:45-10:30	Deborah White, Food Marketing Institute, Retail Marketing Trends
10:30-11:00	Break/Trade Show
11:00-11:45	Gary Fike, Certified Angus Beef, Producer Marketing Trends
11:45-1:30	Luncheon/Beef Auction/Saddle Auction
1:30-2:30	Radio Personality, Derry Brownfield, Common Sense
2:30-3:00	Break/Trade Show
3:00-3:15	Daimaur Steak House, Owner & Executive Chef Jason Cao, Japanese Cooking Demo
3:15-3:30	Computer/Email Tutorial
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Scholarship program gives seven K-State students real-world valuable experience

Cargill Meat Solutions recently awarded a total of \$6,300 in scholarship funds to seven current Kansas State University students. The students also were invited to gain hands-on experience at Cargill facilities through the third annual "Genuinely Better" Scholarship Program. The program is a part of the Cargill Meat Solutions sponsorship of the Kansas FFA Foundation.

The "Genuinely Better" Scholarship Program awards scholarships to college juniors and seniors who are actively involved in improving their school, community and the agricultural industry. The scholarship recipients completed their job shadowing experience Jan. 5-8.

During their visit, they spent time at Cargill Meat Solutions' headquarters in Wichita, in addition to traveling to various Cargill business operations around the state.

Recipients of the scholarships are Ashley Guenther, a junior in agricultural economics and agricultural journalism and communications from Ottawa; Rebecca Tokach, a senior in animal science and industry from St. Anthony, N.D.; Kyle Baker, a senior in animal science and industry from Burden; Leann Spinden, a senior in agricultural education from Burns; Shawn Turner, a senior in agricultural education from Ottawa; Jon

Schmidt, a senior in agricultural technology management from Minneapolis; and Nathan Parson, a junior in animal science and industry from Hutchinson.

While visiting Cargill Meat Solutions, the students met with leaders from each business unit, visited the research and development facility, and traveled to the company's beef packing facility in Dodge City and the Cargill Grain and Oilseed Crush and Refinery Plants in Wichita.

Scholarship recipient Shawn Turner said the experience made him better understand the breadth of Cargill, which will help him apply real life exam-

ples to the high school students he plans to teach after he receives his college degree.

"By touring all of the different facilities, it was neat to see how broad the company of Cargill is," Turner said. "Before, I associated Cargill with beef or pork, but after this experience it opened my eyes to see the breadth of Cargill. I think it's critical for consumers and agricultural educators to be able to explain exactly where our food comes from and know that our food is safe."

Turner said he plans to use the knowledge he gained from this experience in the classroom.

"It's going to help when I'm teaching because I have even more real-life examples now to make

agricultural topics applicable for my future students. As an educator, you can stand up and talk about cows and wheat all day, but it means nothing if you can't apply it any further than that. Now, I can show them a soybean and explain how it becomes a bottle of salad dressing," said Turner.

John Niemann, chair of the Kansas FFA Foundation Board of Trustees and vice president, beef pricing, sales and business management for Cargill Meat Solutions, said the program has demonstrated

how Cargill's support of the Kansas FFA Foundation directly helps both students and the company.

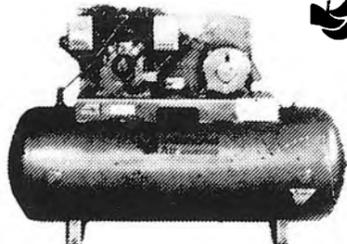
"Our partnership with the Kansas FFA Foundation helps create various leadership and personal development opportunities for Kansas agricultural college students," Niemann said. "The Genuinely Better scholarship program helps exceptional students continue their education and provides interaction with industry leadership, while allowing Cargill to educate future leaders about our company."

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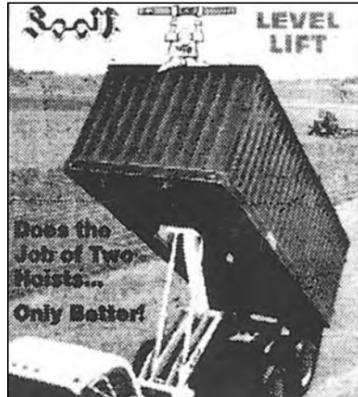
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Ballots in the mail to elect grain growers to commodity commissions

The Kansas Department of Agriculture today announced that ballots to elect commissioners to the state's five commodity commissions — corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers and wheat — are in the mail to registered voters in districts one, two and three in the western third of the state.

District one includes Cheyenne, Decatur, Graham, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman and Thomas counties.

District two includes Gove, Greeley, Lane, Logan, Ness, Scott, Trego, Wallace and Wichita counties.

District three includes Clark, Finney, Ford, Grant, Gray, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Meade, Morton, Seward, Stanton and Stevens counties.

Candidates for the Kansas Corn Commission

District one — Brian Baalman, who grows corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers and wheat in Sheridan County. Baalman currently serves as president of the Kansas Corn Growers Association and on the Kansas Corn Commission.

District two — Harvey Heier, who grows corn and wheat and raises cattle in Gove County. He currently serves on the Kansas Corn Commission, is a member of the Kansas Corn Growers Association and Kansas Farm Bureau, and has served nine years on his local co-op board.

No candidates are running for commissioner in district three.

Candidates for the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission

District one — Richard Calliham, who grows corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers and wheat in Thomas County. He has a degree from Fort Hays State University and is a member of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association and Kansas Farm Bureau. He currently serves on the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission.

District two — Greg Graff, who grows grain sorghum, corn and wheat on his family's farm in Wichita County. He is a graduate of Kansas State University and he currently serves on the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission.

No candidates are running for commissioner in district three.

Candidates for the Kansas Soybean Commission

District one, two and three — Kurt Maurath, who grows, soybeans, corn, sorghum, wheat and sunflowers

near Oakley in Logan County. He has represented the western third of Kansas on the Kansas Soybean Commission for six years, and he is on the Logan County Farm Bureau board.

Candidates for the Kansas Sunflower Commission

No candidates are running for commissioner in districts one, two or three.

Candidates for the Kansas Wheat Commission

District one — Brian Linin, who grows wheat in Sherman County. He is a graduate of Kansas State University and is a member of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

District two — Ron Suppes, who grows wheat, corn and sorghum in Lane County. He is a graduate of Fort Hays State University, and he currently serves on the Kansas Wheat Commission. He is a past chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates.

District three — Matt Overturf, who grows wheat and sorghum and raises livestock in Stanton County. He is a member of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers and is involved in his local chamber of commerce and 4-H extension council.

Eligible voters who registered before December 31, 2008, or who voted in the 2006 commission election, will

receive a ballot. Eligible voters are Kansas residents who reached age 18 before the election, have grown corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers or wheat during the last three years, and who have properly registered to vote.

Votes must be cast or postmarked by March 1. The names of candidates-elect will be announced in mid-March and the elected will take office April 1. Elected commissioners serve three-year terms.

More information is available from the Kansas Corn Commission at (785) 448-2626 or www.ksgrains.com/kcc/; the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission at (913) 294-4314 or www.ksgrainsorghum.org/; the Kansas Soybean Commission at (785) 271-1030 or www.kansassoybeans.com/; the Kansas Sunflower Commission at (785) 565-3908 or www.kssunflower.com/; the Kansas Wheat Commission at (785) 539-0255 or www.kswheat.com/; or, the Kansas Department of Agriculture at (785) 296-3556 or www.ksda.gov/kansas_agriculture/content/152.

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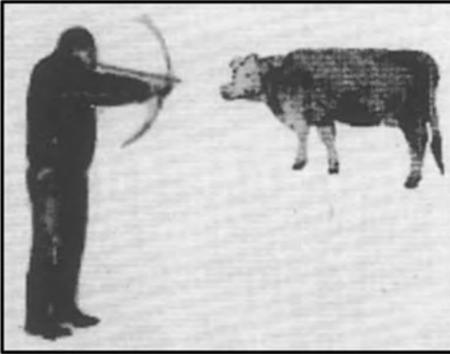
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Horsin' Around

By Don Coldsmith



Groundhog Day

When I was a pretty small kid, quite a few years ago, we were visiting relatives one winter day. This was on an old family farm near Mound Valley. My maternal grandparents were there for the day. Although Grandpa had once farmed this place, they now lived in town and an aunt and uncle were on the farm.

Grandpa always reverted to type when he was on the farm, though. He'd be in and out of the house, bringing in wood or corn cobs for the kitchen stove, or carrying

water from the well. There was no electricity or inside plumbing.

It had started to snow a little, and the ground was getting white. Grandpa came into the kitchen with an armload of wood, stamped the snow off his boots, and tossed a casual question to the three or four youngsters there by the stove.

"Ever see any red snow?"

This stopped me for only a moment. I knew my grandfather pretty well. He was a tease, but he had one in-

visible rule: He never said anything that was not completely and undeniably true.

My younger brother, not quite as sophisticated as I in Grandpa's ways, swallowed the joke whole. Hook, line and sinker. "Where?" he hollered, heading for the door. He was prevented from opening the door just in time by various female relatives. They were not anxious to have the wintry blast come through the kitchen again.

My brother, you see, had realized that Grandpa al-

ways told the truth. He didn't quite have the rest of it figured yet. He hadn't noticed that Grandpa didn't actually say there was red snow out there, but merely asked if we'd seen any.

There was another time, though, when he completely suckered me. We were at Grandpa's that time, and

had stayed overnight. Breakfast was always wonderful there. My Grandpa made big fluffy soda biscuits about two inches tall ... but that's another story. This time we were eating biscuits and comb honey, with eggs and country sausage. It was February second. We were talking about Groundhog

Day, wondering if the little critter would see his shadow, thus deferring the coming of spring by six more weeks.

I'm never quite sure how that works when February second is a partly cloudy day. What if a woodchuck on our place sees his shadow,

Continued on page 15

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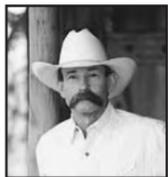
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ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Lost Weekend

In the movie Long Kiss Goodbye, Morgan Freeman's character practiced a habit of saying out loud to himself, "I'm putting my car keys on the dresser" ... on the kitchen counter" ... on the nightstand" as he laid down the object. It is a great mental mechanical memory device. It has worked for me but I don't think I would have ever thought about saying, "I'm dropping my glasses in the dog's water bucket."

Mule deer season opened on Friday. My son and I drove to Davidson Canyon. From the highway to the unimproved road we put my new purchase to the test. It is a 1997 one-ton, long-bed, long cab, four-wheel-drive diesel with 244,000 miles. It's white. We call it the Polar Bear.

Pulling a 16-foot goose-neck with three horses we squeezed by, crashed through, crawled over, scraped under and climbed up the rocky trails that would have frightened a yeti! It is my own monster truck! We stopped, unloaded the horses and rode out. Within an hour we had slid up on six does and a buck. The chase ensued. We had purposely lowered the volume on our walkie-talkies so they would only vibrate

and not spook the wildlife. As can happen, we lost contact. My son lost his walkie-talkie before he lost the buck! Tracking back was fruitless since we couldn't call it, the walkie-talkie, I mean. We'd turned off the ringer.

At lunch we took a break. "Where's your other saddle blanket?" I asked. We both agreed that he had started with two. The country was so rough there was no point goin' back to try and find it. We finished the day's hunt, loaded up and came home. It was then I discovered my keys were missing and I couldn't find my glasses!

The next day we changed country and hunted afoot. Again, we saw deer but no bucks. Back home by early afternoon I realized I couldn't find my wallet or my hunting license. Which was humiliating since the one I lost was, itself, a replacement for the original, which I had also misplaced. Cost me \$4.

Sunday I took a day trip back to Davidson Canyon with my GPS. I had the foresight to enter the location of where we had parked on Friday. Lo and behold I walked to within 10 feet from the keys! They were so grateful to be rescued they actually leaped

up into my arms! Later I found my wallet in my other pair of boots. Hunting season was over so the license didn't matter. I bought another walkie-talkie. As you might guess, one isn't much good by itself and when I cleaned out the dog's bucket ... well, you know that story.

But somewhere in the Arizona desert is a pack rat's nest or a raven's nest lined with red and black threads with a strip of fluorescent orange ribbon poking out. As to how it might have happened, I'd rather not discuss.

Conference shows ranchers the profit in grazing systems

Continued from page 1

keeping the principles of sustainable agriculture at the core of their decision-making and being open to new concepts are the keys to success.

"A tool is neither good nor bad in itself," Gompert concluded. "It's a matter of whether that tool, used at that given time, moves you toward your goal."

The Kansas Graziers' Association is a grassroots organization which links producers and promotes sustainable grazing practices. For more information on KGA, contact Mary Howell by calling 785-292-4955 or cell 785-562-8726; or by email at marshallcofair@network-splus.net.

For more information on the conference and to

review Gompert's slides, please see the Kansas Rural Center's website at www.kansasruralcenter.org.

The KGA conference was co-sponsored by the KGA; Kansas Rural Center; the Central Kansas District of K-State Research and Extension, and the Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops.



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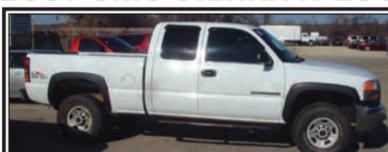
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