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Many harvesters not going to Okla., Texas

HUTCHINSON (AP) — Drought and a freeze have hurt the wheat crop in Oklahoma and Texas, cutting down on work for custom harvesters from Kansas who make a living off following the trail of ripening wheat.

In Texas, drought already had damaged wheat fields before farmers received another setback — the late-season freeze. The state's producers will harvest only a third of its wheat fields, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Officials estimate Oklahoma's crop will be cut in half.

Pam Shmidl, operations manager of Hutchinson-based U.S. Custom Harvesters Inc., an association of professional harvesters, said the crop damage has meant less work for people who travel around the states cutting wheat.

"A lot of the harvesters, their first stops are gone. There is just nothing there," Shmidl said. "I talked to one of the guys who is cutting down there. He said you might be cutting along and have 60-bushel-an-acre wheat, then it might be 5 or 10."

"If it averages 25 or 30 - that would be an overall awesome crop down there," she added.

In Oklahoma, 63 percent of the crop was rated as poor or very poor last week. Texas' report released last week showed the state's crop as 73 percent poor or very poor.

Larry Schroeder's convoy of custom harvesting equipment would be making it way down to Texas about now. The Inman man said it's the first time since he took up the profession 20 years ago that he won't make it to Texas or Oklahoma.

"Yes, it will hit (my bottom line)," Schroeder said.

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Motivation man Moya



National FFA President Paul Moya was in Manhattan last week to help with the Kansas State FFA convention. A native of New Mexico, he is a sophomore in business at Notre Dame University. He presented two motivational workshops prior to the start of convention that were standing-room only.

Members feted for year's work

By Beth Gaines-Riffel, Editor

Manhattan has been a sea of blue and gold corduroy this past week as the members of the Kansas FFA gathered on the campus of Kansas State University for their annual meeting.

According to Dalton Henry, spokesman for the association, over 1,600 FFA members and guests from across Kansas will take part in banquets, workshops and awards ceremonies as well as being motivated by a bevy of motivational speakers. One special treat was having New Mexico FFA member Paul Moya, who is in the midst of his year of service as the National FFA president, attend this year's convention. In addition to conducting leadership workshops for Kansas FFA members, he also ad-

Continued on page 3

Association shows way to increase ranch profits with productive cows

By Beth Gaines-Riffel, Editor

Sure, farm and ranch families love the lifestyle. The satisfaction of taking care of resources by judicious use of grasslands and protecting water sources. There is a wonderment felt when watching a wobbly-legged calf search and find his first meal at his mother's side, not to mention the swell of pride when a uniform bunch of steers fill a bunk-line feeder, only weeks away from harvest. But aside from all the intangibles that go along with the cattle industry that keep many emotionally engaged in the business, one also has to take a hard look at the

bottom line of the profit statement and determine how the operation is doing from a financial perspective.

The American Hereford Association several years ago, recognized that while there was great tradition in their breed, they believed there was something more that they could bring to the table. Joining up with a well-known Angus ranch, Circle A with headquarters in Iberia, Mo. they set out to prove that a Hereford influenced heifer brings a lot of value to ranch families.

Recently Jack Ward, director of breed improvement and Craig Huffhines, executive vice president of the Hereford association, hosted a tour across Kansas highlighting various industry partners — Hereford seedstock breeders, cow/calf producers, feeding operations and retail outlets to discuss the findings of this multi-year study.

Ward noted that most livestock owners recognize the boost in performance that heterosis, or a simple cross of two purebred animals, can bring, but the association wanted to verify and prove the value that heterosis from a Hereford influenced female has to offer.

In 2007, the study was kicked off when Circle A Ranch AI-bred 600 commercial Angus cows to 10 Hereford bulls with the goal of comparing the best of its Angus herd to the best of the Hereford-Angus cross. The



AHA's Jack Ward, left and Mark Akin, Circle A Ranch general manager, visit about the heterosis project as some of the black-baldie females graze in the background.

control group included progeny from three proven Angus sires. The average expected progeny differences (EPDs) of the Angus sires would place them in the top 30% of the Angus breed for birth weight and top 20% of the breed for weaning weight. All of the cows and resulting calves were commingled and managed the same.

When the data was analyzed and interpreted by Dan Moser, Kansas State University associate professor of genetics, and Vern Pierce, University of Missouri associate professor of agricultural economics the results did indeed show a benefit.

Ranchers who used these type of females could have a \$51 bonus per year — or \$514 over a ten year period

— the equivalent of an extra calf over the life of the cow.

"It is giving more working capital and needing less reliance on financing," Ward said of the results. "We are doing more with less."

Economic models predicted that if replacement females are retained over a period of 10 years, Hereford-sired females will generate a 20% advantage in herd size for the same relative cost versus the straight Angus commercial cows because of increased fertility and longevity.

The Hereford-cross calves showed the advantage from birth. Average birth weight for the Hereford-sired calves was 72 lb., 3 lb. heavier than the Angus sires, but still desirable and

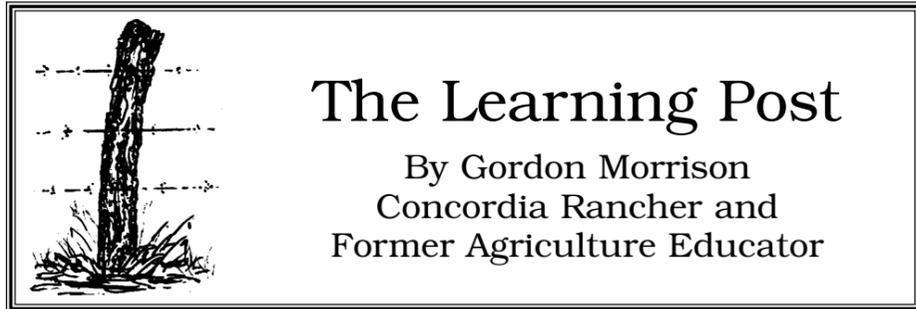
nearly ideal for commercial operations, according to Moser. At weaning those Hereford-sired calves were 11.9 lb. heavier than the Angus-sired calves, despite the Angus sires ranking in the top 20% of their breed for weaning weight EPD. After being weaned, a portion of the steers were fed at Circle A's feedlot in Huntsville, Mo., where the Hereford-cross steers out-gained the Angus by about .15 lb. per day. While both breed groups were similar for fat thickness, the Hereford-sired steers had about 13 more lb. of carcass weight and about three-quarters of an inch more rib-eye area.

Heifer calves were developed and bred at Circle A's Lineville, Iowa, ranch. The Hereford-sired heifers

showed th boasted a 7 percent advantage in conception rate over the Angus heifers.

Seventy-five of the bred heifers were sold at Circle A's annual production sale and averaged \$110 more per head than their commercial Angus counterparts. Maternal traits and the effect on birth and weaning weights of the calves will continue to be measured as the retained heifers calve and re-breed. A

Pierce says, "The bottom line is if a rancher with Angus-based cows uses Hereford bulls compared to using Angus bulls and gets the same response as we had in this study, he will have improved cash flow, increased herd size and more calves to sell over a 10-year period."



The Learning Post

By Gordon Morrison
Concordia Rancher and
Former Agriculture Educator

Message From A Grandson

The cows with their babies are coming to the ranch for their six-month grazing season. As they come off the truck and into the corral, care is taken to see that they are paired up. For a few days they are kept in the 80-acre pasture next to the house so they can be easily observed to see if any baby is being neglected or has not found its mother to nurse. Six months later, at the end of October, the situation is just the opposite. This is the weaning period, when the calves are separated from their mothers and must learn to exist without a mother's care and nurturing.

In last week's column I mentioned that we had attended graduations during the previous weekend for our grandchildren, four of whom were over eighteen years of age. Two of them just graduated from high school and are making plans to leave the home nest to attend college. The weaning period has begun. Most kids are ready to be on their own, but some are insecure and stay very close to Dad and Mom for years, hesitant to break the close bonds.

My grandson Clay, who lived with us for a while during his teenage years and whom I often wrote about or mentioned in my column, is now 29. He is definitely weaned — has a B.S. degree in animal science from KSU, is married, and is now working for Caterpillar at Wamego as their quality control person. He sent me a short article, entitled "My Own Thoughts," which I am including in today's column as I believe it is pretty good thinking. The following is his message.

"It is quite interesting to be alive in this day and age. Things are much different than what they appeared to be in the old movies. Today we struggle with rules, regulations, people saying what should and should not be happening and an overwhelming feeling of 'What do I do now?'"

"The beginnings of our great nation rested on the shoulders of the pioneers, people that would think outside the box, folks who wondered what else was out there, and people that had a strong drive to succeed. This kind of thinking is what gave birth to many of our businesses. They would start out with a product

or service that people needed. Through hard work and smart decisions, they would watch their business grow into a successful enterprise. Today, many of these businesses have grown to become large operations. It is truly awe-inspiring to see someone with an idea work and toil over it, and then have it grow into something that becomes a blessing for all that are involved with it.

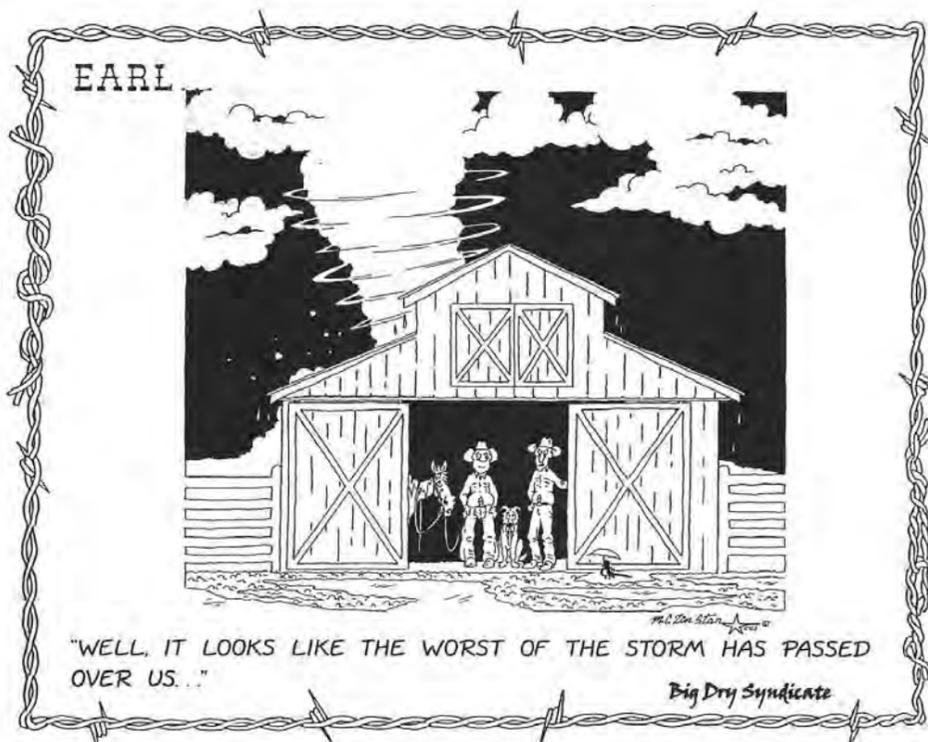
"As with any coin, there is a reverse side to this ideology as well. Some businesses have been successful, have grown, and with the help of poor decisions have soured. Whether it is through greed, poor timing or risky behavior, they have withered on the vine of prosperity. It seems shameful to me that these companies would have the audacity to expect anyone to 'bail' them out. If a rancher that owns several hundred head of cattle had some that were beginning to show signs of poor performance, what should he do about it? From a business aspect, it would be wise to cull these critters so the ones that were performing well didn't have to pull the weight of both animals.

"The very basis of capitalism is that the ones that play it smart would grow and become prosperous. If some didn't perform well, they would be replaced by the ones that did. From a 'common' person's point of view, it is a sickening feeling to see a poor performing company's top executives getting bonuses that would amount to more than I would make in a lifetime. Why do we continue to reward these people (with our money) for making foolish decisions? Why should we have to pay for their greed?"

"It is too bad that the rules now aren't the same as they were 150 years ago. Work hard, respect others and always help the people that are willing to help themselves. Maybe at the end of all this turmoil, the common people will find their voice again. What they will have to say will be something worth listening to. It is the greatness of this country that allows me the freedom to share these thoughts with you. Let's hope that we will always have this freedom. Without our freedoms and accomplishments, we would not be the 'Greatest Country on Earth.'"

Trials, temptations, disappointments — all these are helps instead of hindrances, if one uses them rightly. They not only test the fibre of a character, but strengthen it. Every conquered temptation represents a new fund of moral energy. Every trial endured and weathered in the right spirit makes a soul nobler and stronger than it was before.

— James Buckham



Over the Barn Gate

By Beth Gaines-Riffel

As I sat out on the back porch this past week relishing the cool evening I couldn't help but enjoy the fresh, sweet smell of the recently-baled alfalfa hay that had been placed just to the north of our home. I breathed deeply, savoring the aroma, the way most folks enjoy the scent of steaks on the grill. Ahh... life is good, I thought.

You know, too often we get caught up in the frenetic pace of life — between farm and home — and miss the opportunity to enjoy those little moments. We get too caught up in the worries about what might be coming down the pike for agriculture — from developing a strategy to derail the latest HSUS campaign or stewing over what some regulatory agency might do to "us" next or how we might be asked to provide further safeguards for natural resources — and fail to enjoy the ride.

While I don't mean to downplay the importance of these activities — and I personally think that the agriculture industry needs to be more proactive in the arena of public influence — they can sometimes be a bit overwhelming and take the joy out of everyday life.

I had the great opportunity to attend some of the Kansas FFA state convention here in Manhattan last week and I will tell you it was just what the doctor ordered.

These young people are talented and possess an enthusiasm for agriculture that is inspiring.

Watching the presentations about the top Supervised Agriculture Experiences (SAEs) I couldn't help but be a little envious of the sheer pride and joy that these young people had for what they had accomplished. Sure, some had struggles — which probably were more educational than those programs that came together easily — but you could readily identify the satisfaction that these young people had experienced.

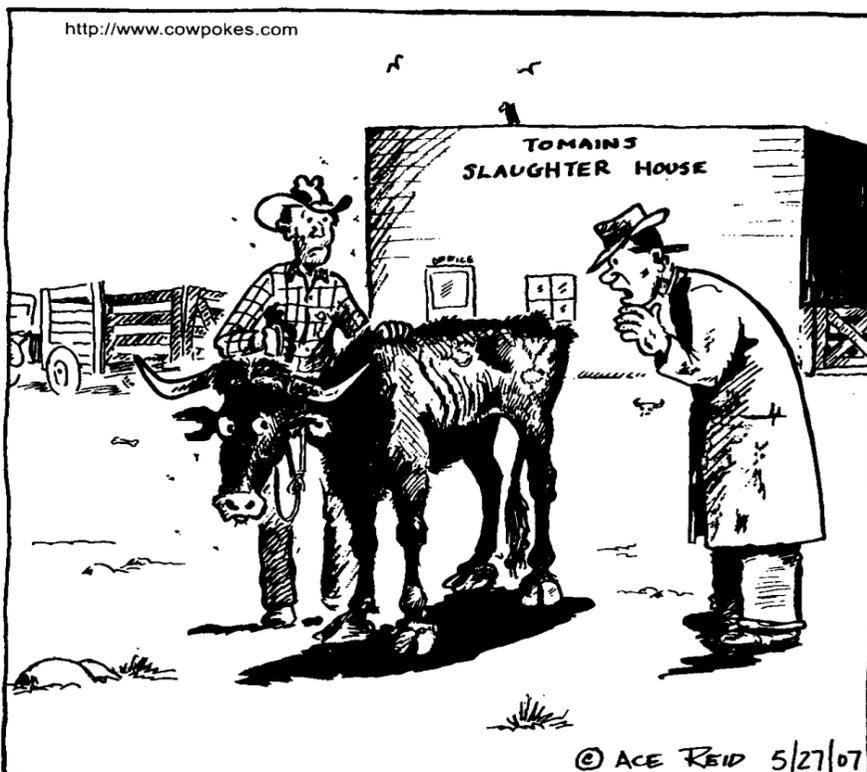
Many of these young people approached challenges head-on, nearly fearless. They were excited to try some new approach or experiment with different applications. I was fascinated as I looked at some of the science-based displays and chapter scrapbooks.

Yes, soon enough the pressures of an agricultural life will weigh heavy on their shoulders — but for now they are revealing in excitement for the future. While many of our readers are alumni of the program, we need to look back from time to time and remember what that excitement and anticipation and hope for the future feels like. Just something to think about.

I'll chat with you next week, "Over the Barn Gate!"

COW POKES®

By Ace Reid



"Naw, she ain't choice beef! In fact, I'd have to up grade her to git her to grade poor!"

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785-539-7558

Fax 785-539-2679

Editor — Beth J. Gaines-Riffel
gandgeditor@agpress.com

— Advertising Staff —
Steve Reichert Peggy Giles
Frank J. Buchman
agpress2@agpress.com

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BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Ty Murray — The Cross-Over Cowboy

It's been a long time since I've seen a real cowboy walk into the urban world spotlight and take it by storm! Not since Ben Johnson, Wilford Brimley, Nolan Ryan and Mac Baldrige, could I have pointed and said, "He's one of us."

Grandma Teddie watches Wheel of Fortune every weekday on Channel 9. Three months ago Dancing With The Stars began airing

Harvest

Continued from page 11

"You need all the stops, from the beginning to the end, for this to work."

He said his normal first customer, on farmland near Waco, Texas, lost most of his crop and plans to cut the remaining wheat with his own equipment.

The crop is rated better in Kansas, the nation's largest wheat-producing state. The Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service estimated bushels to be down just 4 percent from a year ago. Kansas was spared much of the freeze damage because the wheat wasn't far enough along.

after Wheel of Fortune. I was cleaning up the dishes when I heard the MC read the list of 13 celebrity contestants. I didn't recognize a single soul until he said, "Ty Murray."

Ty Murray? Seven-time World Champion Cowboy in the PRCA? Co-founder of the PBR? The man who said "Rodeo is not a hobby. If you want a hobby, collect stamps!" On Dancing with the Stars? It's like they introduced Chuck Norris tating doilies with Martha Stewart!

Watching Ty and his professional dance instructor-partner was always an experience. I would not pretend that I, or the majority of watchers, would have had the stamina, persistence and humility to attempt a 13-week contest that was so grueling. Had one of the terrorists been a contestant, by the third week he would have been begging, "Take me back to Guantanamo!"

Each week they had to learn the steps, slides, moves and lifts of a different dance; from the Mambo, Sambo, Rhombo and Tombo to the Paso Doble and Quickstep... which I actually thought was a disease.

Amongst the moments of

anguish and wincing, he would hit the mark or ride the wave and the crowd would cheer! We cowboys in the audience across the country rode with him on his weekly choreographed roller coaster ride. We voted for him by the millions as show after show he remained standing with the winners. As I watched his weekly torture and survival, over and over I knew, we cowboys all knew, that when the chips were down he's the man we'd want on our side.

There was only one time I doubted. It was when the choreographers included a dance move where his partner got down on her hands and knees bucking... and he climbed on, threw his arm back... never mind, I shouldn't have brought it up.

Out of 13 competitors he came within three of winning the whole thing! He left with his dignity intact, his fan base gigantified and his friends proud. And he did it all in good humor. In his own words, "Teaching me how to dance is like trying to teach a blind man how to paint!"

I couldn't have said it better.

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Kansas FFA meets

Continued from page 11

dressed the main convention.

Henry noted that there are now 165 active chapters across Kansas. The three newest chapters, Fairfield FFA, Healy FFA and Western Plains FFA were presented their charters during the convention.

Top programs will be recognized, new officers elected and Stars of Kansas will be revealed. More results will be included in the second section of this edition.



Megan Fink, Randolph, showed the champion owned and bred and owned heifer at the recent Kansas Jr. Charolais Show held in Belleville. Kevin Jensen, Courtland, served as judge for the 75 head show.



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FURNITURE

Quarter sawn oak table, 2 leaves, 4 oak chairs; quarter sawn oak & leather sofa; 2 quarter sawn chairs, leather bottoms; parlor tables; Victorian parlor chair, hand carved walnut; wicker plant stands; 2 step back kitchen cabinets; Victorian bench cast, iron legs; walnut bible table; Jenny Lind style double bed; many lamps; new maroon sofa, love seat, chair & ottoman; electric

organ; china cabinet; Bentwood hutch; chest of drawers; dresser; end tables; maple hutch; dining table & 4 chairs; glass top table & 4 chairs; tall glass top table & 4 chairs.

GLASSWARE & COLLECTIBLES

Salt & peppers; cream & sugars; nesters; sewing items; buttons; marbles; pipes; purses; toys; leather suede child's cowboy outfit; toy guns in original package; wicker doll buggy; crystal wall sconce; nice collection of books; silverware; souvenir spoons; early 1900's Emporia, KS postcards; Gone with the Wind Hurricane kerosene lamp; kerosene lamps; Carnival items; linens &

fancy work; approx. 50 Precious Moments; Longaberger baskets; ceiling kerosene brass lamp; camel back trunk; lots of pictures & prints including Victorian Kittens, The Doctor, Lone Wolf, water colors, oils, etc.; dolls including story book, porcelain, composition, celluloid & cloth; Carnival glass; Cobalt Blue; Fenton; Roseville; Van Briggles; Blue Willow china; blue & white chamber; large platters; Franciscan Desert Rose; jadeite; Ruby Red; Occupied Japan; Hoosier coffee, tea, spice jars; blown glass; wall pockets; vanity items; hand painted china; silver plated elegant punch bowl.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

VAN

1991 Dodge van with handicap side lift; pickup topper for small truck.

PRIMITIVES & COLLECTIBLES

Wooden butter churn; sifters; ice tongs; butter paddles; metal bread box; Blue band crocks and more crocks; rug beaters; choppers; cookie cutters; old license plates; German enamelware "SAL" box; storage cabinets; metal chimney cabinets; enamel pan, etc.; wooden crates; railroad items; dump rake; walking plow; many other primitives.

SHOWCASE & STORE FIXTURES

12 ft. oak glass top showca-

case; 4 - 7 ft. tall by 4 ft. glass front showcases, very nice; 8 ft. x 7 ft. country store display; slant back glass showcases; 100 ft. of lattice wall dividers; computers, printers and sales program Nova credit card machine.

TOOLS & MISC.

Iron patio furniture; barn cupola; stone wheel grinder; old, rack & large iron wheels; signs; DeWalt radial arm saw; jointer; hammers; saws; wrenches; sockets; chop saw; shovels; racks; lawn tools; shop vac; drill press; belt sander.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: After 7 years the Lucky U Antique Mall has decided to liquidate its inventory and real estate along with items from an estate just purchased in Kansas City. The owners want to thank their customers that have made this a very profitable business over the years, but they need more time for family and the cherished times in life. Sales tax will be collected unless a photo copy of your sales tax exemption certificate to be kept by the auction company is presented. No exceptions. Many more items not listed.

For pictures go to www.hallgrenauctions.com

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PUBLIC LAND AUCTION

June 26-27, 2009

860 Acres in Smith County, KS • June 26, 2009 - 1:00 PM

Four tracts of land in Smith County, Kansas totaling 860 Acres of excellent hunting and farm land. 5,000 Sq Ft former car dealership building in Smith Center, KS. Nearly new one bedroom log cabin located on 240 acres. Tremendous view overlooking a creek. Live water through much of the property. CRP with maintained walk-strips.

Seller: Albert Riederer, Chapter 11 Trustee for Brooke Corporation
United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Kansas

June 26 Smith County Auction Location:
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Smith County Auction: A 10% buyer's premium will be added to the final bid to establish the purchase price.

1,315 Acres in Barber County, KS - Sun City Ranch

June 27, 2009 - 1:00 PM

Auction of an existing 1,315 acre cattle grazing, farming and hunting operation. Offered in two tracts of 515 & 800 acres. Properties are located in Barber County, Kansas. The tracts are located south of Sun City, Kansas about 2 miles south of US Highway 160.

These lands have a proven history of outstanding wildlife production and genetics. The land can be used for grazing, crop production and for recreational use. This is a chance to own one of the premier tracts of land left in one of the most popular hunting areas in Kansas. The Red Hills area has a reputation for trophy deer and large populations of wild turkeys.

With considerable investment, each tract has been improved with underground watering systems (5,000 to 16,000 LF of pipeline each) and stock tanks.

All land is in Wind Power Class 4 rated area, Wind Power Density of 200 - 250 at 10 meters & 400 - 500 at 50 meters, Wind Speed 12.5mph - 13.4mph at 10 meters & 15.7mph - 16.8mph at 50 meters. Each property includes some farm land for production or feed plots.

This is some of the best grass land for cattle grazing in the area.

Seller: J.T. Marsh Ranch, Inc.
June 27 Sun City Ranch Auction Location:
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***** By G&G Area Cooks *****

Kellee Rogers, Topeka, Wins Recipe Contest And Prize For The Week

Winner Kellee Rogers, Topeka:
SAUSAGE WITH PEPPERS & PASTA

- 3 cups rigatoni pasta, uncooked
- 1 pound Italian sausage, sliced
- 1 red bell pepper, coarsely chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, coarsely chopped
- 1 yellow bell pepper, coarsely chopped
- 14 1/2-ounce can Italian-style diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella-parmesan cheese blend
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese

Cook pasta as directed. Cook sausage in large skillet on medium heat for 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Add peppers and cook 7 minutes or until sausage is done and peppers are crisp-tender. Stir in tomatoes and cook 2 minutes or until heated through, stirring occasionally. Drain pasta. Add the sausage mixture with shredded cheese and mix well. Top with parmesan.

Sandra Norris, Abilene:
CHICKEN BREAKFAST PIE

- 2- to 3-pound frying or stewing chicken, cut in serving pieces
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped celery
- 1 to 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 medium potatoes, sliced
- Pepper to taste
- 3 to 4 tablespoons flour
- Pastry for 1-crust pie

Simmer chicken with half of onion and a few celery tops in enough water to almost cover. Season with salt and cook until tender. Remove chicken; cook potatoes, pepper and remaining onion in broth until tender. Remove chicken from bones and cut meat. Add meat to broth and thicken with flour mixed with cold water. Pour into 2-quart casserole or baking dish and top with pie crust. Seal edges to dish. Make large gashes in top of crust

and bake in a 350-degree oven for about 30 minutes. Yield: 6 to 8 servings.

Janet Jehle, Baldwin City: "This goes together so quickly and is a family favorite. Enjoy."

BROWNIES

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2/3 cup canola oil
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup nuts, optional

Mix together well. Use canola oil to grease a 7-by-11-inch aluminum pan. Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees.

Sandy Hill, Eskridge:
ALMOND BROWNIES

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 eggs
- 16-ounce can chocolate syrup

- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Frosting:
 1 cup (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
 8-ounce carton frozen whipped topping, thawed & divided

- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 cup chopped almonds

In a large bowl cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in chocolate syrup and extract. Combine flour and salt; gradually add to chocolate mixture. Pour into a greased 9-by-13-inch baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack. For frosting, in a microwave-safe bowl melt chocolate chips and 1 cup whipped topping; stir until smooth. Cool. Fold in extract and remaining whipped topping. Spread over cooled brownies. Sprinkle with almonds. Store in the refrigerator. Yields 3 dozen.

Mary Rogers, Topeka:
CHICKEN & ASPARAGUS BAKE

- 1/2 pound fresh asparagus
- 1/4 cup butter
- 8-ounce package sliced fresh mushrooms
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 1/4 cup flour
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 8-ounce carton whipping cream
- 1/2 cup shredded parmesan cheese, divided
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 1/2 cups chopped cooked chicken
- 8-ounce package medium egg noodles, cooked

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cut asparagus into 2-inch pieces. Snap off tough

ends. In skillet melt butter. Sauté asparagus, mushrooms and green onions and cook for 5 minutes. Whisk in flour until smooth. Cook, stirring occasionally for 1 minute. Gradually stir in broth and cream. Cook for 10 minutes stirring occasionally. Add 1/4 cup cheese and remaining ingredients; stir. Spoon mixture into a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Top with remaining 1/4 cup cheese. Bake for 35 minutes or until hot and bubbly.

Karen Allen, Dunlap:
QUICK COBBLER

- 1/2 stick butter
- 1 can pie filling (any kind)
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

Melt butter in a 9-inch pie plate. Dump in pie filling. Mix together remaining ingredients and pour over pie filling. Bake at 350 degrees until crust is brown and filling is bubbling (20 to 30 minutes).

Millie Conger, Tecumseh, shares the remaining recipes:
BANANA BREAD

- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup mashed very ripe bananas

- 1 tablespoon grated orange peel
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 cup coconut
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour bottom only of a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan. In a bowl mix flour, soda and salt. In another bowl beat butter and sugar with mixer. Beat in eggs, bananas and peel. In another bowl mix milk, vanilla and almond. Beat milk mixture alternately with flour mixture into butter mixture, beating thoroughly on low speed after each addition. Stir in coconut and nuts. Pour batter into pan and bake 60 to 70 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes on cooling rack. Remove from pan and cool completely.

RED POTATO CASSEROLE

- 16 small unpeeled potatoes
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 1/2 cup crumbled cooked bacon
- 1 cup sour cream

Place potatoes in a pan and cover with water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and cook for 15 to 20 minutes or until tender; drain. Mash potatoes with milk, butter, pepper and salt. Transfer to a greased 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with 1 cup cheese and bacon. Dollop with sour cream and sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes or until cheese is melted.

CRUNCHY TURKEY SALAD

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 3 tablespoons white vinegar
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon poppy seeds
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 large head bibb lettuce
- 2 cups diced cooked chicken
- 3 scallions, sliced
- 1 cup sliced almonds
- 1 cup chow mein noodles

In a bowl whisk olive oil, vinegar, sugar, poppy seeds and pepper; set aside. Chop lettuce and transfer to a bowl. Add turkey, scallions, almonds and noodles. Toss with dressing and serve immediately.

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several motorcycles for parts; large assortment of motorcycle engines for Suzuki & Kawasaki motorcycles; Yamaha 750 V motor; 305, 327 & 350 engines; large assortment Chev parts; John Deere 145 B lawn mower; American Classic model 1277 pellet gun; Hawkins 50 cal black powder gun; Savage model 10 22; Daisy model 111 BB gun; 1980's beer signs & advertising (Keystone, Bud); pool table lights; JD Precision no 2, 3 & 4 tractors; 9' fiberglass garage door.

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

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Practice Proper Food Safety When Grilling



LINCOLN, Neb. — Rising temperatures outdoors means grilling, and it's time to bring out grilling supplies and all the essential foods. But whether grilling by the comfort of a home or away at a park, remember to practice proper food safety, said Julie Albrecht, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension food specialist.

One of the most important things to watch out for, she said, is cross-contamination.

"It's easy to contaminate with raw meats that have juices," Albrecht said. "Don't cross-contaminate them with ready-to-eat foods that you don't cook."

Ready-to-eat foods could include salads, fruits and vegetables. Be careful not to cross-contaminate different types of meat. Albrecht said people should also remember not to put cooked meat on the same plate that was used to transport raw meat because that could contaminate the food.

Getting the temperature right is important. Hamburger and pork chops should be cooked internally to 160 degrees Fahrenheit, while poultry needs to be cooked to 165 degrees. Steaks need a different internal temperature depending on preference.

"The other thing is letting food sit out too long in the temperature danger zone," Albrecht said. "Don't leave food out for more than two hours at room temperature. Especially in 90-degree weather, don't let food sit out for more than an hour."



Hot foods must be kept hot and cold foods need to be kept cold to prevent the spread of microorganisms. This can be accomplished with a slow cooker and an ice chest containing ice or frozen bottles of water.

Eating food outside a home, such as a picnic or grillout at a park, can be more difficult. Albrecht said cleaning supplies, such as hot water and soap, should be brought along to clean utensils, surfaces and the grill. Turning a grill up will burn a lot of residue off it, but it could lead to ash getting into food. Bring a brush to get that residue off. Also, consider bringing a tablecloth to cover an outdoor picnic table.

Don't plan on packing a lot of warm food for a picnic, Albrecht said. With no real way to maintain heat at a park, the only real option is to keep warm food in a slow cooker and bring it along tightly sealed.

"Don't prepare too much," Albrecht said. "If you're not maintaining the heat, you'll have to discard the food. If you do have a way to keep it hot or have a kettle to cook over a grill, that's good. Otherwise, get it put into a cooler as soon as possible."

As always, she said, bring soap and water for dishes and to wash hands whenever food is cooked. Moist towelettes work well to bring along for a picnic.

Eat, Drink And Be Happily Hydrated

By Roberta Schwartz Wennik, MS, RD

(NAPSA) — Did you know that 55 to 75 percent of your total body weight is water? That amounts to about 10 to 12 gallons. Just like your car's gas tank, your body's water tank needs constant refilling. On average, 80 percent of your body's daily fill-up comes from beverages, with the remainder of your water needs coming from foods, especially fruits and vegetables.

Foods For Hydration	
Fruits	Vegetables
Listed from most to least water.	
Strawberries	Cucumber
Watermelon	Lettuce
Grapefruit	Celery
Cantaloupe	Tomato
Peach	Summer squash
Pineapple	Cauliflower
Orange	Mushrooms
Raspberries	Spinach
Apple	Cabbage
Pear	Broccoli
Grapes	Green beans
Cherries	Carrots

It's really easy to stay hydrated. There's always tap water; however, it may not always be accessible or taste good. I recommend to my clients that they keep a high-quality bottle of water on hand at all times, and

there are some great options to choose from. One option, Vitaminwater10, contains natural sweeteners, very minimal calories (only 10 calories per serving), and on top of that, it contains natural flavors and colors found in fruits and vegetables. It's also a convenient way to hydrate as it contains some of the essential nutrients we need throughout the day (Vitaminwater10 has four B vitamins, 100 percent DV for vitamin C, electrolytes, etc.).

Your mother was right when she said "eat your fruits and vegetables," but for more reasons than you might think. With most produce containing lots of water, eating plenty of fruits and vegetables will help to keep you hydrated. Also, let's not forget about all the great nutritional value you get, such as antioxidants, vitamins, minerals and fiber. Check out the table to see which fruits and vegetables contain the most water.

Roberta Schwartz Wennik, MS, RD, is president of Health-Pro, a nutrition consulting firm in Seattle, Wash. She can be reached through her website at www.advantagediets.com.

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

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 Strawberry Shortcake from Helen Miller, Topeka.

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Auction to be held at the Holton Livestock Exchange located 1/2 mile East of HOLTON, KS on Highway 16.

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TERMS: Possession day of closing on or before July 16, 2009, unless additional time is needed to provide marketable title. Taxes for 2009 will be prorated to date of closing based on the 2008 taxes. Seller responsible for all taxes prior to 2009. Owner's policy of title insurance cost to be split between buyer and seller 50-50. Non-refundable \$25,000 earnest deposit due day of sale. Buyer to sign real estate contract day of sale, balance in certified funds at closing.

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AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 6 — 10:00 AM

Due to health concerns the following sells 2 miles North of LYNDON, KS. on Hwy. 75, then 3 1/2 miles East on Hwy. 268, then 1 3/8 miles North on S. Croco Rd. (thru Vassar, KS), then 1 blk. East on Oak Hill Rd., 1 Blk. North on Sunset Dr. (Pomona Heights Subdivision on Lake Pomona).

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Quality figures into the cattle price equation

By Miranda Reiman

Feeders bid on cattle by penciling out the highest price they can pay and still maintain a shot at profit. Packers need a certain number of cattle harvested through their plants, bought at a particular price, to stay afloat.

That cost/sales formula follows beef as it continues toward consumers.

Distributors have buying equations down to a science. They must be responsive to supply and demand, because they want to make money but their customers must thrive, too.

"On the front side we're very strategic," says Ron Becker, president of Stock Yards, a business unit of U.S. Foodservice, Inc. The Phoenix, Ariz., distributor watches historical trends, anticipating beef sales so it can forward contract with packers.

"We keep our salespeople on top of what the markets are doing," he says. That lets them keep customers updated. We're constantly coaching on things, like in a tough economy it's a bad time to lower your quality."

Sticking with top-quality beef means diners are treated to something special and will make a return visit the next time they spend those shrinking discretionary dollars.

"We're giving customers information so they don't get too focused on trying to save five cents a pound by lowering quality, which could hurt their customer's chances of making a return visit," Becker says. Input cost and sales price only make up part of the profit picture. Any producer who has sold on the grid understands the value of yield, or cutability. That concept is vital to distributors.

"Our job is to merchandise as much of that product as we possibly can," Becker says, but there is fat and other trim. Since a tenderloin is not a perfect cylinder, but tapers at both ends, for example, it takes strategy to get uniformity.

"I'm not taking the whole tenderloin and cutting it end

to end in 4-oz. portions. That would produce very inconsistent steaks," he says. Instead they'll market the smaller filets together and the center-cut filets together.

"A 1,300-pound animal will give you about 13 lb., or 1%, of tenderloins," says Mark Polzer, Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) vice president. "After you trim it down, take the tail, silver skin and strap off, you're left with roughly 6 lb. of actual steak product."

Those are significant yield losses, and there are similar issues with strip loins and ribeyes.

"That's where the price goes from 85 cents on the hoof, to \$5 boneless in the bag to \$14 portion-cut in a vacuum sealed package to the restaurant," Polzer explains. For example, buying a 13-lb. strip loin at \$5/lb. from the packer, a distributor then cuts it and ends up with 7.8 lb. Dividing that initial cost by 7.8 lb. shows an actual product cost of \$8.33/lb.

"Then there is so much overhead and labor involved. As a result, you end up with a pretty substantial cost," he says.

Restaurants pay for those services and the expertise in managing yield.

"They're not paying twice as much because they're going to throw away half the product," Becker says, noting they are able to market the "leftovers" from those cuts, too.

"That's critically important to our profitability," he says. "Any good meat company is doing everything they can to maximize yield."

Restaurants also consider cost and the marketplace when setting prices.

"First and foremost, we look at competitive constraints," says Rick Cassara, owner of John Q's, in Cleveland, Ohio. "I can't sell a steak for \$40 when the guy down the street is selling the same steak for \$25. We're trying to keep in tune with what the market will bear."

The analysis includes target demographics and food-service category, Polzer says, citing five main classes of fine-dining, casual-dining, family-casual, quick-casual, and quick-service restaurants.

"That dictates your pricing structure and to some extent what types of items you purchase," he says.

John Q's is in the upper tier, and the price, service and quality of ambiance then trends downward within each category.

The clientele at Cassara's downtown, fine-dining establishment come from the hotels and businesses in the district.

"We start with the cost of the plate and what we need to mark it up to cover wages and other things," he says, noting the aim is for an overall food cost of 36% to 37%. So if an item is \$30 on the menu, the raw materials

probably cost around \$11. The vast majority of that input price comes from the center-of-the-plate item, or the protein.

"We add approximately \$2 for the cost of other items, including bread and butter, the potato or vegetable and salad," Cassara says.

That overall percentage is a balancing act, he notes, because beef items are typically the higher food cost.

"It would not be proportionate, or I'd end up running \$50 entrees for steaks that just wouldn't sell," he says. To counter increases there, beverages are generally marked up to a greater degree.

Polzer encourages businesses to take higher food costs on beef, as Cassara does, because they can still make more gross profit. If a \$3 chicken item is priced at

\$9 (or 3 times the cost), there is \$6 gross profit. If a beef item is \$5 and listed on the menu as \$12, there's less mark up but still more profit.

"That strategy would encourage sales of the higher profit item," he says, "plus, satisfaction is generally greater with beef."

Food cost tends to be highest at fine dining restaurants and lowest at "fast food joints" which typically run at 50%. "They'd have a higher volume go through and the overhead as percentage of sales would be significantly lower for a quick-service restaurant," Polzer says.

Tile versus carpet, fiberglass booths versus upholstered chairs and hundreds of other details highlight the reason for variability.

"All of those factors con-

tribute to the cost of that ambiance," Polzer says.

No matter where it's served, beef can be one of the highest value items and hardest to predict.

"We're buying and selling fresh seafood every day," Becker says. "That makes staying on the market fairly simple. Beef, however, is much more complex because we age many of our products for more than 30 days. That means we have to be very strategic with today's purchases in order to be on the market next month and provide our customers with attractive pricing."

Restaurants have to be creative when prices are volatile.

"I can't change my menu prices every time beef prices go up," Cassara says.



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Instead John Q's tries to feature less expensive items like short ribs or flat iron steaks.

"I'm worried about getting into an inflationary period where you have to evaluate it often," he says. "I remember the late '70s and early '80s where inflation caused us to have to print menus every other month because of pricing."

In the current economic environment, Cassara is holding prices but offering specials.

"We're looking at things like a \$30 fixed-price meal, where you get an appetizer, entrée with the starch or vegetable and then a dessert, and people seem to like that," he says. "We're trying to build loyalty."

He is not backing away from quality, even though it costs more.

"I've never had a Certified Angus Beef® steak come back because it was tough; maybe over-cooked or under cooked, but never because it was a bad product," Cassara says. "That's why we'll use it and we're willing to pay more for the ultra-consistency."

Becker says Stock Yards has been able to maintain sales during this period and he credits a similar approach.

"We want to be known as the company that has fantastic product quality and consistent workmanship that our customers can count on," he says.

That's not so different from the quality focus among producers who want repeat buyers for their calves, or feedlots hoping to attract relatively higher bids from packers.

Use caution with 'organic' insecticides too, says Upham

A persistent myth in gardening circles is that "organic" insecticides are safe to use, especially compared to using the commonly available synthetic pesticides. After all, the botanicals' active ingredients come from things already found in nature.

"Nothing is that simple, even in nature. Botanical insecticides have both advantages and disadvantages. But, they wouldn't work if they weren't poisons," said Ward Upham, Kansas State University Research and Extension horticulturist.

One hazardous "organic" lost its EPA certification in the 1990s, yet many gardening books and websites still list it as a botanical alternative for homeowners, Upham said. Nico-

tine sulfate had been on the market since the early 1900s. Despite its popularity and effectiveness, however, nicotine sulfate proved to be in excess of four times more toxic to mammals than the widely used synthetic pesticide known as Sevin.

"Fortunately, the majority of long-known botanicals aren't that toxic to mammals," he said. "To stay healthy, though, people still need to follow the products' label directions exactly. This includes, for example, avoiding skin contact and wearing a mask when applying rotenone or sabadilla."

Since nicotine sulfate went off the market, most botanicals aren't very toxic to plants, either, he added. Reading label directions is the best way to

learn that insecticidal soaps can harm some ornamental plants and that several natural products can harm birds or wipe out a lake's fish.

There are other benefits and drawbacks with botanical insecticides, Upham said.

"For one thing, these products tend to rapidly stop insect feeding — although the insects may take hours or even days to die. Botanicals usually degrade quickly, too, which reduces the risk

for non-target organisms and the environment," he said. "This may also be why target insects haven't developed any resistance."

The flip side, however, is that these products tend to provide little, if any, residual control. So, users must aim for precise timing and/or frequent applications, Upham said, "which could get a little expensive, given that botanicals tend to cost more and be less easily available than the synthet

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FARM EQUIPMENT — (Sells at Approx. 1:00): 2005 Case IH — MXU 135 Tractor, Cab & Air, Power Shift, 3 pt. 540/1,000 PTO — Long Axles, w/LX156 Front Loader w/Forks, Joystick, Only 750 Hours "Like New" 1968 JD 3020 D, Tractor, 3 pt. Dual Hyd. 540/1,000 PTO w/JD 148 Front Loader, Approx 5,500 Hours.; 3 pt. Quick Hitch; JD 435 Round Baler, String Tie, Shredded; 300 gal. Sprayer w/Cart & 32 ft. Boom; Lily Rotary 15 ft. 3 pt.; Bush Hog, 3 pt. Post Hole Digger — 15" & 9" Bits; BMB — 3 pt. 48" Finish Mower; Bush Hog — 15 ft. Bat Wing Rotary Mower — 540 PTO; Case 4x16 Semi-Mount Plow; Case 12 ft. Wheel Disc; IHC 14 ft. Field Cultivator; Mound Ridge Springtooth; IHC 18 ft. Seedbed Conditioner, Hyd. Fold; IHC 183 6-Row Cultivator 3 pt. w/Rolling Fender; HD-10 "Shaver" Hyd. Post Driver, 3 pt.; Portable Log Splitter (Needs Repair).

VEHICLES & TRAILERS: 2001 Chevrolet 2500 PU, 4 WD, Auto V-8, Air & Power, Club Cub, GN Ball & Brake Control-Only 65,271 miles; WW GN 6'20" Stock Trailer; 32 ft. GN "Orange Ox" Hay Trailer; 4-Wheel Pipe Trailer; "Feed King" Portable Creep Feeder w/Fence; Large "Honey Wagon" — Needs Pump Repair.

ANTIQUE/COLLECTIBLES: Line Shaft w/Wood Pulley; "Hall & Brown" Wood Working Machine, Belt Drive Table Saw; Lathe w/Wood Bed — Belt Driven; "American Saw Mill" Surface Sander, Belt Driven; American Bank Saw-36 in. — Belt Driven; 2 — Platform Scales; Deer Antlers & Cow Heads; 2 — Hay Forks; 3 — Hay Trolleys; P&O Planter, Canton, Ill.; McCormick Binder; Lots of Other Unique Items.

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By Val Farmer

Rural Life

How teens learn to take initiative

Now that summer is here, have you heard, "I'm bored," or "There is nothing to do." If so, you probably have a 13-year-old at home or a 14- or 15-year old for that matter. What there is to do, like work, is artfully avoided as unworthy of their delicate hands. Their idea of getting involved in something is a pilgrimage to the local video store.

How do young people learn to occupy themselves? Or better yet, to motivate

themselves toward a challenging and worthwhile goal? How can they generate their own sparks of excitement and become absorbed in something demanding?

Psychologist Reed Larson, at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill, summarized research on how youths learn to take initiative. Larson identifies three main ingredients that are crucial to learn initiative:

1. Intrinsic motivation — wanting to do an activity and being invested in it. This is linked to the ability to make decisions for oneself.

2. Concentration — staying with and thinking through and completing a complex challenge.

3. Sustained effort — maintaining one's attention on a deliberate course of action over time.

Do children learn initiative at school? School demands concentration and

provides challenges but, by and large, too much of the decision-making is in the hands of teachers and school authorities.

Do children learn initiative in their leisure activities? Teens are highly motivated to be with their friends and make their own choices. However, a large portion of this time is spent watching TV, talking and hanging out. Except for

learning social skills such as negotiating relationships, time is not usually spent in challenging or complex activities.

Do children learn initiative from sports? Sometimes. It happens when coaches encourage youth to develop their own skills relative to personal improvement, encourage the development of talent through practice and technical in-

struction, and when young people persist in their training because they experience sports as fun.

However, the strict rules of the game and the crucial role of the coach in making decisions preempt individual initiative and motivation. Also, when the emphasis in sports is on competition, winning, public recognition, and performance, the intrinsic motiva-

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GUNS: Winchester 1897 12 ga. L02623; Winchester 1300 Ranger 20 ga., No. 12348385; Mossberg 20 ga. No. 436092; J.C. Higgins 12 ga.; S.A.C.M. 1935 A revolver No. 2202A; Marlin 22 cal. 60 No. 10352090; Western Field Mo. 31, 22 cal.

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tion may be lost.

Do children learn initiative from hobbies, music and arts? These activities have potential for intrinsic motivation, concentration and sustained effort. The gains may not be as great because of a lack of structure and fewer opportunities for collaborative decision-making with other youth.

Structured voluntary activities. Larson says the ideal setting for teens to take initiative is in activities that are voluntary and have some structure. He includes extra-curricular school activities, community activities organized by adults, or structured activities that youth organize on their own. The best organizations in the study were youth-based and shared these characteristics:

1. After initial adult involvement, the motivation, direction and goals came from the participants themselves. Decision-making,

even the success or failure of an enterprise was left in the hands of the youth. They had true responsibility.

2. Youth had to deal with real-world limitations and problems and subjected themselves to outside evaluation.

3. There was enough time so that all stages of a project, production or performance could unfold. This involved planning, practice, rehearsal, performance or achievement of the goal. They had to deal with setbacks, obstacles, and emerging challenges.

The benefits of youth activities. Researchers found participation in high school extracurricular activities lead to more involvement in voluntary associations at age 30 and higher occupational attainment 24 years later. Other findings include:

Participation in structured youth activities in 10th grade predicted posi-

tive changes in GPA between the 10th and 12th grades.

Participation in extracurricular and community activities produced positive changes in self-concept, schoolwork and educational and occupational aspirations from 10th to 12th grades.

Adventure programs in wilderness settings such as Outward Bound positively affected adolescent attributes such as independence, self-efficacy, assertiveness, and decision-making. These effects grew in size in the 25 months following the program.

Why does it happen? Teens feel more alive, awake and open to experiences during these types of activities. Their thinking becomes more global and integrated. Their language, instead of the passive and self-defensive orientation typical of bored youth, becomes goal-directed and full

of cause and effect analysis.

Leaders and older members model a different way of thinking and speaking. Teens develop skills for implementing plans, for directing and regulating activities over time. They learn to take a variety of roles and adapt to the perspective of others. They learn to think strategically.

Teens are socialized into group norms and identity. Service activities provided youth with a way to identify with the community and to enlarge their association with other youth and adult leaders. They learn teamwork and coordination. They gain a vision of public service and community life.

Teens learn the emotional skills to overcome setbacks, obstacles and to deal with disappointment. They transfer skills of creating order, meaning and direction when encountering challenges to other parts of their lives.

Larson rates opportunities for personal growth through youth activities right up with the influence of families, churches, schools, and peers. Hats off to the adults that staff these activities and provide the structure and guidance to make them successful. It is no wonder parents make huge sacrifices to connect their children with extra-curricular and summer programs.

For more information on teens, visit Val Farmer's website at www.valfarmer.com.

Val Farmer's book, "To Have and To Hold," makes a perfect gift for June brides and engaged couples. You can purchase it for the bridal season price of \$10.00.

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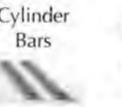
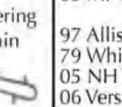
Val Farmer is a clinical psychologist specializing in family business consultation and mediation with farm families. He lives in Wildwood, Missouri and can be contacted through his website.

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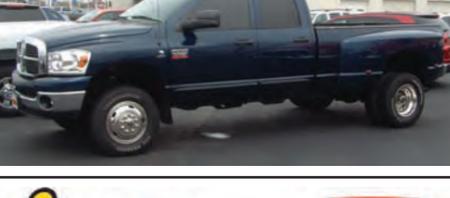
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"I was always fascinated by the Roman riders and trick ropers, even more than I was impressed by the other contestants, when I went to rodeos," insisted Max Reynolds of Lexington, Neb.

"My heroes were Roman rider Leon Adams and trick roper J.W. Stoker. I'd read everything I could in Western Horseman and other stories about the contract performers. I had a scrapbook filled with pictures and clippings," continued Reynolds, now an internationally renowned Western entertainer.

In the living quarters of his horse trailer/travel home, Reynolds reviewed growing up near Arapahoe, Colo., and the road to Roman riding,

trick roping, pistol spinning and shooting and bullwhip artistry around the world.

He was parked outside the entry gate at the Abbyville rodeo grounds where dozens of cowboys and cowgirls were participating in the morning slack for the annual Abbyville Frontier Days Rodeo scheduled for the next two evenings.

Reynolds was the featured western entertainment at the rodeo, the first of ten rodeos he has contracted over the next three months, including the annual Bennington Rodeo, June 4-5-6.

Continuing to fill open summer dates, the talented cowboy will then be part of the European Pro Rodeo Tour, coordinated by Bronc Rumford, performing his acts in 18 cities of six foreign countries later this year.

Known as one of the most difficult stunts to perform, Roman riding gets its name

from the teams of horses used on chariots in ancient Rome. Showmen now stand balanced on a pair of horses as they move in unison, often at a fast gallop or run.

"After I'd been to a rodeo, I'd go home and practice Roman riding on a couple of our ranch horses," Reynolds remembered. "Of course, I didn't have any fancy saddles; I'd just ride bareback with my bare feet."

These practice sessions were "totally out behind the barn," where his mom couldn't see him, because she wouldn't have allowed her son to try such a dangerous endeavor. "After a long time, I got so I could gallop the horses around when I was on their backs, and then started jumping them over two stacked hay bales," reminisced Reynolds.



Matching white horses Pecos and Domingo are ridden Roman style by Max Reynolds in a choreographed serpentine which includes straddling burning stakes and jumping through a hoop of fire. Starting as a teenager, Reynolds is now world renowned for his Roman riding acts.

When Reynolds decided to let his mom watch him Roman ride the first time, he said, "She almost had a heart attack, but it was already too late then to do anything about it."

Contending that he "always had a rope in his hand," Reynolds also started practicing the rope tricks performed at rodeos he attended. "There wasn't much way to learn then, but I'd study anything I could find

to figure out how to do some simple tricks," he admitted. "I finally got so I was able to do a simple spin and just kept adding on to that."

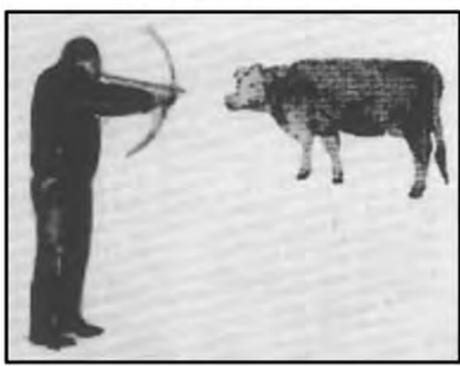
A Western Horseman advertisement for a semi-retired team of Roman riding horses at Neosho, Mo., caught the then 15-year-old

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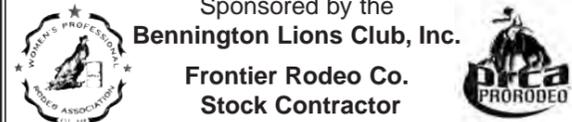
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Reynolds' attention, and he convinced his parents to go look at them.

"The bay and white geldings called Duke and Don were just perfect, and we bought them," Reynolds reflected. "Those horses were absolutely foolproof, and just what I wanted and needed. They were 13 and 14 years old when I got them, and I used them into their early 20s."

With his Roman riding team and limited trick roping skills, the teenager went on the summer circuit with Rumford Rodeo Company of Abbyville.

"My folks wouldn't think of me leaving home for the summer, until they knew who I would be traveling with," Reynolds claimed. "But, after they met Floyd and Lola Rumford, they willingly consented."

Going to more than 30 rodeos with well over twice that many performances, Reynolds' future career was set. Of course, he had an education to finish, before it could become fulltime.

Always athletically inclined, Reynolds was the quarterback of his eight-man football team and a guard on the basketball team before graduating in his high school class of six.

He was also a competitive calf roper and team roper at rodeos, and became a member of the rodeo team at Colorado State University.

"I tried bulldogging, but I just wasn't big enough," realized the extremely fit Reynolds, who's now 5'10" and weighs 150 pounds. "I've never weighed over 165 pounds."

Continuing to entertain at rodeos, Reynolds was always trying to improve his acts. "I spent time with Leon Adams in Oklahoma working on my riding and went to Texas and stayed with J.W. Stoker, who taught me a lot more about trick roping," Reynolds credited.

"I'm 56, and I'm still working at it," professed Reynolds, who moved to Nebraska 31 years ago, where he and his wife, Cathy, have their ranch.

"I ride a lot of colts and frequently help other ranchers with their cattle operations. Anything to do with horses and cattle, I'm involved with," declared Reynolds, who has continued to rope at rodeos and jackpots. "I sold my own rope horses, but my neighbors have top horses I can use whenever I need them."

An entertainer's card in the Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association was acquired in 1976, and Reynolds has spent a good portion of each year performing at professional rodeos around the world.

"Of all the good things that have happened, one of the best is being able to perform several times with both of my initial heroes: Leon Adams and J.W. Stoker," Reynolds assured.

In addition to his rodeo performances, Reynolds has been involved in Wild West Shows, performing in Canada; Helsinki, Finland; Paris, France; and Venezuela.

"I am part of the Great American Wild West Show Tours," Reynolds remarked. "We've done a Wild West Show at the National Western Livestock Show in Denver for 12 years."

Typically, Reynolds portrays Buffalo Bill in those shows, and he clarified that is the reason he wears his hair so long, like the original showman did a century ago. "I do have to wear a false mustache and goatee," he pointed out. "Actually, I have lots of different parts in the Wild West Shows."

"I also portray Wyatt Earp and have to take off the goatee. Sometimes, I'll have more than one costume on at a time, and take one off the top to be ready for the next act," the entertainer described. "I also do several acts as myself: Max Reynolds. I'm just liable to be anybody."

Pistol spinning and shooting as well as acts with a bullwhip are now an important part of Reynolds' performances.

"I started working on those acts in the early '90s after we did one of the Wild West tours overseas. I learned more about shooting hand guns and started practicing that along with twirling the pistols," related Reynolds, who had no experiences with revolvers prior to that. "I have hunted game all my life, but it was always with a long gun."

Learning how to pop a bull whip and do a complete act took many hours at the "school of hard knocks," or one might contend "school of scars," before Reynolds had it per-

fect for today's performances.

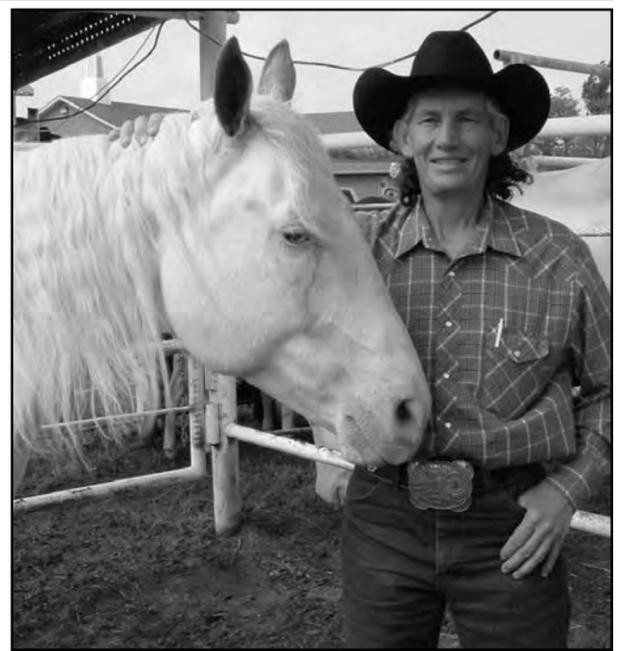
Horses are the main part of his shows, and Reynolds has been fortunate to own several excellent performers. "I had one of my top horses, Rio, put down a couple of years ago. He was 24 years old and a high-schooled trick horse that worked well in a lot of areas," Reynolds credited.

At Abbyville, Reynolds had the three main horses now used in his shows. They include a matching pair of solid white Paint geldings, Pecos, 14, and Domingo, 9, used for Roman riding, and also for trick roping.

A 12-year-old black and white Paint named Jazz is used for the bullwhip and mounted shooting act. "I have one back-up horse at home," he added.

Training of the horses has been done by Reynolds personally. "I don't have any finished trick horses now, but they will all bow," he noted. "I worked on Jazz rearing, but he liked it too

Continued on page 12



Max Reynolds, Lexington, Neb., is behind the chutes with one of his Roman riding horses, Domingo, during the morning slack at the Abbyville Frontier Days Rodeo. He presented his Roman riding and trick roping acts at the two evening rodeo performances. Entertaining professionally since he was 15 years old, Reynolds will take his acts on the European Pro Rodeo Tour to 18 cities in six foreign countries later this year.

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AUCTION

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 — 12:30 PM

As I have moved to a care facility, the following sells about 2 Blks. South of the Post Office in VASSAR, KS.

REAL ESTATE: Three bedroom, 1 bath, 1 1/2 story home in good condition with many extras. Selling at 12:30 PM.

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Whirlpool elec. cook stove; GE microwave; GE auto washer; Kenmore elec. dryer; Kenmore 23 chest freezer; 4 chest of drawers; Jenny Lind bed; chrome dinette set; 4 sad irons; ringer washer, old; several room & area rugs; 6 galvanized buckets; metal sprinkle can; antique chest of drawers; antique blanket chest; oak child's chair; Craftsman II riding mower; enamel baby bath tub; approx. 18 quilts or quilt tops; some costume jewelry; several enamel pots & pans; antique wooden high chair; selection of Pyrex pie & cake pans; assortment of table clothes, linen, embroidered items; patterns; lots of material, etc.; selection of what nots; pictures & frames; pots; pans; silverware, etc.

NOTE: Should be many collectible and unusual items, plus lots of cloth and some surprises. Most are in good condition, come early and enjoy the auction. Many, many other items.

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AUCTION

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 — 1:00 PM

At the farm, 19660 Seawall Road, 5 1/2 miles north of Randolph to Prairie Rock Road, then 1 mile west to Seawall Road, the 1/2 mile north.

AUTOMOBILE (Sells at 2:00):
1999 Chevrolet Camaro coupe, T-top, V-6, 5 speed, silver, 97,000 miles.

FURNITURE, APPLIANCES & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS: Dark oak king size bed, triple dresser & armoire; pine full size bed, triple dresser & chest on chest; large oak roll top desk; oak curio cabinet; sofa; harvest table & 6 chairs; 2 - bar chairs; pine chest & end table; glass top round kitchen table & 4 chairs; glass top coffee table; Kitchen Aid refrigerator, top freezer; Kenmore 30 in. electric stove; file cabinets; patio furniture; cookware; drafting table and board; many other household items.

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT & OUTDOOR ITEMS: JD LX 277AWS (all wheel steer) 48 in. converter deck lawn tractor; Toro 6.5 hp self propelled mower; Troy Bilt Pony 5 hp. garden tiller; JD 10, 2 wheel yard trailer; Glo Warm gas heater; pleasure saddle, 16 in. seat; bridles; halters; tack; saddle rack; fishing equipment; 10 - 10 ft. portable panels; horse round bale feeder; picnic table; Servis 5ft. 3 pt rotary mower; Fact 6 ft. 3 pt. blade; 10x10 dog pen; stock tanks; steel shelving; steel table; ext. ladder; power tools; hand tools; used corrugated sheeting; many other outdoor items.

ANTIQUES and COLLECTIBLES: Hand made Garcia spurs; oak & leather love seat; Wonderod by Shakespeare cane fishing pole; Queen Anne small table; lamp brackets; nail kegs; crocks; iron hooks; buggy steps; stoneware cruets; Trigger lunch box; picture of Roy Rogers & Trigger; coffee grinder; crock bowls; glass churn; kerosene lantern; old PO box oak bank; many other collectibles.

Terms: cash, check or credit card. Announcements the day of the auction take precedence over printed advertising. Lunch. (will start serving at 12:00 noon).

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For the Love of Horses . . . continued

Continued from page 11

much, so I stopped. He picks up a hanky and will rear if I ask him."

During his Roman riding act, Reynolds, in his dazzling red outfit, takes the "Silver Bullets" through a choreographed serpentine which includes straddling burning stakes and jumping through a hoop of fire.

Admitting that certain horses "have some issues," Reynolds explained that patience is the key to his training.

"I want a team of white horses, and they're not always readily available. Sometimes I've had to make do with what I had, and it's worked out well," detailed the showman, who when possible likes to buy young horses and develop them as they mature.

Although he doesn't do it in most of his shows, Reynolds has done a "four-up," with two horses in front of the pair he's mounted on, and a "six-up," with four horses in front of those he's standing on.

"Whenever you have more than two horses, you just have to forget the ones you're standing on, and concentrate on driving the ones in the lead," Reynolds informed.

While Roman riding large Brahmas was part of his idol Leon Adams' acts for many years, Reynolds has never done that. "I've stayed with horses," he asserted. Adams also trained a Roman riding

team that jumped over a large convertible, and Reynolds hasn't tried that yet either, contending, "I'm probably too old to start now."

Among Reynolds' trick roping acts is the giant cowboy's wedding ring when 50 feet of rope is spun around himself and the entire horse on which he's mounted. His two-rope routine is a combination of spinning and jumping in and out of two ropes simultaneously.

Bullwhips and six-shooters are combined into his "Shades of the Wild West" act. Reynolds rides in with the bullwhip cracking, jumps off his horse and continues popping two whips and breaking targets held by an assistant and in his own mouth. Then he shows his fancy gun handling, demonstrating complicated spins first with one gun and then two.

Again mounted, Reynolds rides at full speed around the arena shooting a series of targets, including those flying through the air, with his left and right hands and then with both hands simultaneously.

"I use replicas in the spinning act, but a 45-caliber Ruger is used for shooting. I usually load my own shells," Reynolds relayed.

For his upcoming overseas shows, Reynolds will have to check with firearms regulations in each country where he performs, before doing those acts.

He will not be taking his own horses on the tour, but rather is using the Rumford Rodeo Ranch at Abbyville as his home base this summer, and will be training a team of matching Paint horses for use in his various acts. "Those horses will be sold at the completion of the shows," he advised.

Added to Reynolds' resume are opening acts at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas and the Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo in Pocatello, Idaho, plus many other horse events, public conventions and benefit performances. "I'll frequently do about 50 performances annually, but it will be closer to 100 this year," Reynolds tallied.

A highlight of his career was providing horses and being a stunt double for Peter Coyote in the 1996 television CBS mini-series, "Buffalo Gals," starring Sam Elliott and Reba McEntire, among others.

Concerning his life, Reynolds evaluated. "It's kind of interesting how all of this came together. This is not a get-rich business, but I've had so many wonderful experiences. That's one reason I'm so excited about the foreign tour Bronc Rumford has planned this year."

Realizing that age might crimp his Roman riding at some point, Reynolds will continue performing for many years. "I'll sure be able to do some tricks with my horses along with my roping and other acts. J.W. Stoker is over 80 years old and still entertaining," Reynolds shared.

Recognizing that Western entertainment has changed at some rodeos, with clown acts, such as motorcycles, trampolines, etc., Reynolds qualified, "The younger generation sometimes doesn't have the opportunity to see truly Western entertainment."

Judging by sell-out crowds at the Wild West Shows, Reynolds is optimistic there will be a renewal of interest in that aspect of rodeos. Talk of starting a Wild West Show at Branson, Mo., is also encouraging for Reynolds.

While he likes "the gypsy life" traveling around the world presenting his shows, Reynolds would be interested in being involved in the Branson programs, if that would develop.

As the future unfolds, this real cowboy will unquestionably provide "Entertainment to the Max," just as he bills his diverse, fast-paced, colorful Western shows.



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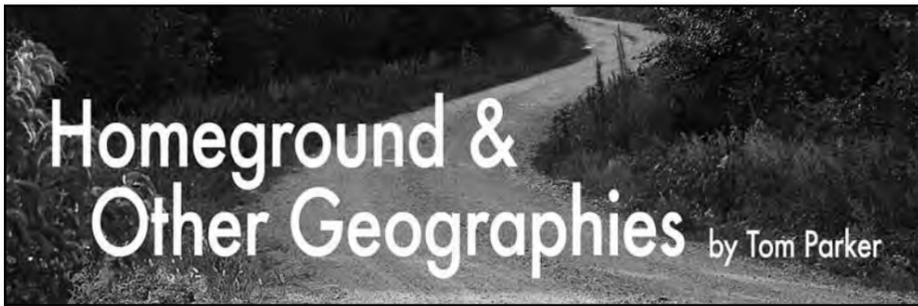
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Homeground & Other Geographies by Tom Parker

The catbird thicket and other imponderables

Afterward I wrote in my journal that the day had unfolded languorously, seductively, the humid air so thick one did not walk through it as much as one swam through it. Massive billowing cumulus clouds drifted regally past, dragging bases dark with menace while their upper reaches brushed the stratosphere to flatten out as if leveled with a giant hand. Sunlight was golden, a wan luminosity alternate with the restless march of shadows. The only pieces missing to make this prairie pastiche a mirror image of the South were tentacled arms of live oaks dripping with Spanish moss and offshore breezes redolent of the salty Gulf.

Nor had the previous week been anything less than auspicious. I'd watched my first prairie vole scamper across the lawn, and the county's first red-shouldered hawk soaring above our house, highlighted against the sun, its crescent wing panels glowing with spectral fire. We also entertained a rare montane visitor, a northern goshawk, its northbound flight too far west but just right to send me soaring with it. And then the catbird arrived.

Hardly a surprise in northeastern Kansas, yet a species as rare as the gos, at least for our yard. We were planting seeds in the garden when it flashed past, a gray robin-sized blur that disappeared into our thicket without the slightest rustle of twig or leaf.

"What was that?" Lori asked.

I studied the vegetal wall and shrugged my shoulders, and waiting heard nothing but the sharp whistle of bobwhites. And then, so faint I stooped to listen, a meeewwww.

"Catbird!" And surprised at the pleasure in my voice, but no more so than what followed.

"At last," I said smugly, "our very own catbird thicket."

"What's a catbird thicket?" "It's a, well, it's, you know," I stammered. "A catbird thicket!" As if that were explanation enough.

Under normal circumstances where I find myself at a loss for words — rarer even than an honest politician — my wife will agreeably drop the subject. Not so this time. She nailed me with her most pointed tell-me-more look and awaited my reply.

"Catbirds prefer thickets," I said. My mind whirled in a disjointed medley of half-recalled facts, suppositions and allusions. "The thicker the thicket, the happier the catbird. The phrase means the most intractable, impenetrable tangle. Which, you might notice, our thicket is."

The last was a jab at her recent comment that we ought to thin out a few

saplings and allow sunlight to brighten those shadowy recesses. Honestly, I don't know where she gets these ideas.

The catbird appeared on and off but mostly off for several days, its presence noted mainly by its soft catcry. One morning it perched atop the yard light and belted out several extensive operettas. Like its cousins the thrashers, the species is a mimic, often singing songs of other birds. Its repertoire, however, is certainly not restricted to avian harmonics. In Texas we witnessed a catbird imitate a siren, and with great effect.

Lori's expression was one of skepticism and disdain. Since I'm the official birder in our partnership she could hardly prove me wrong, and so went back to plopping little seeds into the soil without another

word. The look, though, tarried, and remained like a shadow across the sun.

When I later Googled the term it was with the expectation that the Internet would provide vindication. I was shocked beyond words to find not one hit in all of cyberspace. Not one. That was a first!

"Catbird seat" was the nearest phrase but had more to do with a James Thurber story and a familiar comment by the baseball announcer Red Barber. Some speculation alluded to the elaborate nesting seat created by the Australian bowerbird, also called a catbird. While etymologically there's no proof of its origin, scholars believe the phrase derives from a catbird's habit of sitting at the highest point to broadcast its tunes.

One factoid I learned was that the bird's Latin name means "little thicket." Not big thicket, or dense thicket, which seemed odd. All well and good, but the term "catbird thicket" remained elusive. So elusive, in fact, that I wisely let the matter drop without further fanfare or risk of humiliation. Today while watching out the window on a world gone soggy I saw a flash of movement in the thicket. Raising my binoculars, I finally located the gray form of a catbird on a low branch. Its drab coloration perfectly blended with the shadows, making it nearly invisible against that wild impregnable boscage. I was inordinately pleased.

And relishing each word, I said, "Catbird thicket. Catbird thicket."

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SMU: 1,105 as of May 13



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SMU: 3492



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check out the on-line schedule at www.grassandgrain.com

June 4 — Polaris, guns, coins, antiques, furniture & tools at Salina. Auctioneers: Omli & Associates.

June 5 — Antiques, collectibles, furniture, tools at Abilene for Dean & Betty Crane Estate. Auctioneers: Omli & Associates, Inc.

June 5 — Tractors, trucks, grain bins, trailers, welder/generator, 4 wheelers, misc. at El Dorado. Auctioneers: Sundgren Auctions.

June 5 — Real Estate, furniture, appliances, household, woodworking equipment & shop items at Galva for Irene Koehn. Auctioneers: Schmidt Auctions.

June 6 — Collection of bikes, cars, trucks, postal baggage truck at Herington for Dale Christner. Auctioneers: Bob Kickhafer.

June 6 — Home, tractor, mower, tools, guns, household & etc. at Vassar for Jimmie Eichinger. Auctioneers: Beatty & Wischropp Auctions.

June 6 — Real Estate, truck, tractors, machinery, boat, lawn tractors, engines, furniture & household at Harveyville for Mrs. Charles (Joyce) Rodgers. Auctioneers: Vern Gannon Auctions.

June 6 — Collection of toys & toy memorabilia at Abilene for Dean & Betty Crane Estate. Auctioneers: Omli & Associates, Inc.

June 6 — Tools, antiques & collectibles, stoneware, household & misc. S. of

Blue Rapids for Mrs. Richard "Claudia" Sullivan. Auctioneers: Olmsted & Sandstrom Auctions.

June 6 — Farm equipment, vehicles, trailers, irrigation equip., sawmill, shop tools, grain bins, antiques, collectibles, hay, lawn tractors & misc. at Independence, KS for Shirley & Margaret Whitehead. Auctioneers: Larry Marshall Auctions.

June 6 — Large antique auction, furniture, collectibles at Clay Center. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service.

June 6 — Vehicles, tractors, stock trailer, mower, tools, horse tack items, antiques, primitives, collectibles at Portis for Lance Wolters, Scott Noel Estate & Area Farmers. Auctioneers: Wolters Auctions.

June 6 — Household, telescope items, antiques, golf cart, tools & misc. at Belleville for Mark Miller Estate. Auctioneers: Novak Brothers & Gieber.

June 6 — Antiques, collectibles, auto manuals, shop & tools, vehicles & accessories at Russell for Mr. & Mrs. Seth S. Louder. Auctioneers: Schremmer Auctions.

June 6 — Furniture, household, toys, pickup, Grasshopper mower & misc. at Peabody for David C. & Welma Thiessen. Auctioneers: Schmidt Auctions.

June 6 — Vehicle, mobile chair, furniture, collectibles, glassware, tools at Inman for Cecil R.

Keeler Estate. Auctioneers: Triple K Auctions.

June 6 — Trucks, tractors, cars, trailers, flatbeds, equipment, livestock equip., lawn, garden & misc. at Princeton. Auctioneers: Franklin Co. Auctions.

June 6 & 7 — Real Estate, jewelry, furniture, glassware, collectibles, primitives, showcase & store fixtures, tools & misc. at Emporia for Lucky U Antique Mall. Auctioneers: Hallgren Real Estate & Auctions LLC.

June 7 — Home, antiques, cloth items, household, mower, collectibles & etc. at Vassar for Edna Sowell. Auctioneers: Beatty & Wischropp Auctions.

June 7 — Automobile, horse equipment, household & collectibles N. of Randolph for Debra Sparke. Auctioneers: Raymond Bott, Lee Holtmeier & Luke Bott.

June 8 — Furniture, exercise equip., glassware, toys, household, lawn tractors, snow blowers, shop & yard items & misc. at Silver Lake for Wes & Sandy Dain. Auctioneers: Vern Gannon Auctions.

June 10 — Center pivot irrigation at Hoxie for Krahl Sisters. Auctioneers: Farmland Auction & Realty.

June 10 — Tractors, combine, farm equipment, trailers, trucks, vehicles, ATV's, const. equip., crane, forklift, hay equip. Online Only for Big Iron. Auctioneers: Stock Auction Co.

June 13 — Gas Hit & Miss engines at Lawrence for Mrs. Raymond (Fig) Ruby Newton. Auctioneers: Edgcomb Auctions.

June 13 — Dolls, antiques, collectibles, toys, tools & misc. at Abilene for Mrs. Ethis Leach. Auctioneers: Ron Shivers & Allyn Thompson.

June 13 — Antiques & household at Eskridge for Hazel Kemp. Auctioneers: Carey Macy & Steve Patterson.

June 13 — Household & antiques at Clay Center for Lois Sylvester. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service.

June 13 — Service station equip., office equip., power tools & inventory at Bennington for Eastside Oil Co. Auctioneers: Bacon Auctions.

June 13 — Gas engine & shop equipment, boat, vehicles at Brewster for Harold Norton Estate. Auctioneers: Nixon Auctions.

June 13 — Furniture, collectible glassware, household at Moundridge for Faye Nightingale Estate. Auctioneers: Schmidt Auctions.

June 14 — Vehicle, antiques, collectibles & furniture at Council Grove for Dele Gaston. Auctioneers: Hallgren Auctions.

June 20 — Household & large antique auction at Clay Center for Marion McCollum Estate. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service.

June 20 — Home w/land, household, antiques & collectibles S. of Waverly for Nadine Huggard. Auctioneers: Beatty & Wischropp Auctions.

June 25 — Coffey Co. land at Burlington for B.D. & Janice Simpson. Auctioneers: Stock Realty & Auctions.

June 27 — Real Estate, car, tools & furniture at Council Grove for Wilma Olson. Auctioneers: Hallgren Auctions.

July 18 — Farm machinery, tools, misc. NE of Abilene for Duane Reilly. Auctioneers: Kretz, Hauserman, Bloom Auction Service.

July 18 — After Harvest Machinery Auction at Clay Center. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service.

July 18 — Antiques, col-

lectibles & furniture at Council Grove. Auctioneers: Hallgren Auctions.

August 1 — Consignment Auction at Lyndon for Harley Gerdes.

August 8 — Tools, shop related items, household goods, antiques & misc. at Clay Center for George Urban Estate. Auctioneers: Kretz, Hauserman, Bloom Auction Service.

September 7 — 14th Annual Labor Day Consignment Auction at Lyndon for Harley Gerdes.

September 27 — 29th annual Cooper Quarter Horse sale at Emporia for Cooper Quarter Horses. Auctioneers: Carey Macy.

November 7 — Consignment Auction at Lyndon for Harley Gerdes.

November 8 — Shades of Red & White Show Calf Sale at Clay Center for Kanza Cattle & Guest Consignors.

January 1, 2010 — 25th Annual New Years Day Consignment Auction at Lyndon for Harley Gerdes.

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AUCTION

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Horsin' Around

By Don Coldsmith



Prairie Spirit

(This column was written by a young woman who was raised on a ranch in the Flint Hills. It describes a concert, "Symphony on the Prairie," held on Jane Koger's Chase County ranch on June 11, 1994. Musicians from several symphony orchestras, as far away as St. Louis were involved. Here is Dawn Gorges' reaction.)

Prairie Spirit

Perhaps the finest interval of the Symphony on the Prairie was as the orchestra swelled with the strains of Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring." For those few minutes, an indescribable peace settled over the hillside. Farmers and ranchers, clean-shaven in white shirts and hats to match, blended silently with visitors from surrounding towns and states. During those precious minutes, all was still. No one moved. Even the children were quiet. The American flag flew on the hillside and two kites soared in the sky. As the sun emerged from the haze, reflecting off the thousands of faces in the crowd, the splendor of the community and its inhabitants was heightened by the music.

Many of those in the audience are prairie dwellers, and the scene was a familiar

one. In fact the stunning vista was almost too familiar for some to appreciate. But even those who are so used to the beauty of their native land could not help but be moved by the glory of it all. The prairie is often subtle in its beauty, but on Saturday evening, it was lush, graced by hundreds of wildflowers, especially the purple wild alfalfa.

The music was fitting for the setting. The theme was All-American, highlighting American composer Aaron Copland. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1945, for "Appalachian Spring." His tune "Hoe Down" struck a familiar chord. It is the music used in the beef commercials. As the piece began, there was a ripple of recognition among the locals, and then the crowd broke out in spontaneous clapping in rhythm to the familiar theme. "America the

Beautiful" and "Home on the Range" gave way to a full celebration of heritage.

Ranching and farming is grueling business, and those who make a living at it tend to be a somber folk. Troubles are never far away. Yet for 90 minutes, cares were swept away with the music. Heavy creases in the tanned faces seemed to fade. That's the beauty of music; it frees us from our troubles for just a little while. As natives, we are all familiar with the sights and smells of the prairie. To those senses we can add the sound of the prairie, the strains for the orchestra filling the June evening with American music.

Generosity and hardiness are part of the prairie spirit, and they were an integral part of the evening. Many visitors from outside our community honored us by wearing prairie skirts and

straw hats. They were eager to talk about their awe of the beauty that is part of our everyday lives. We shared our spirit, allowing them to be a part of us for a few hours. And all of those visitors will take a little of our pioneer spirit home with them, and they will become better people because of us. During the concert we were all sons and daughters of the prairie, joined under the wide Kansas sky.

There is a word, synergy, which means that the whole is more than the sum of its separate parts. Certainly that is true of the Symphony on the Prairie. The evening was more than the orchestra, more than the five horse-drawn covered wagons, more than the thousands of people roaming the hillsides, more than the striped tents and tour buses, more than the flags and kites, sun and wildflowers. The feeling that each person took away in her or his heart will grow in memories of the prairie spring concert, a wonderful tribute to the spirit of the citizens of the Flint Hills.

(See you down the road. DC)

Consider old 'adversaries' when prepping storage facilities for wheat harvest

Now that this year's wheat crop has headed, Kansas State University entomologist Phil Sloderbeck wants producers who are getting their bins ready for wheat harvest to think about how to keep old adversaries — in other words, insects — out of the grain.

"Whether storing seed wheat or the entire wheat crop, storage areas need to be cleaned thoroughly and sprayed with an insecticide prior to filling with this year's harvest," said Sloderbeck, who is the entomology state leader with K-State Research and Extension. "This needs to be done several days prior to harvest so that the insecticide has time to work before new grain is put into the bin."

Producers should also make sure that any other grain stored on the farm is free from insect infestation prior to harvest. That reduces the chance of insects' moving from one bin to another, he said. Any infested grain should be sold, disposed of or fumigated.

Even small quantities of old grain can serve as the source of insects to infest this year's grain. If grain will be stored on the farm for more than a few weeks, producers probably will want to consider using a grain protectant to treat the grain as the bins are being filled, Sloderbeck said.

To help make producers make decisions on the type of insecticides they can use to treat bins or grain going into long-term storage, K-State entomologists have posted on the Web such resources as <http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=628>.

In addition, a publication entitled "Stored Grain Insects, Part III: Structural sprays, pest strips, protectants and surface sprays" is available at: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml2/MF917.PDF>.

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