

# GRASS & GRAIN

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## USDA report shows decline of corn acres and soybean stocks

In its monthly projection of field corn supply and demand, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided revised production projections due to weather issues in several corn production states. Corn production for 2009 is projected at 11.9 billion bushels, down 155 million from last month's projection yet still the third-largest on record.

The national average yield is projected at 153.4 bushels per acre, 2 bushels lower because of continued planting delays through late May that reduced yield prospects, especially for the eastern Corn Belt.

"We are not surprised to see the slightly decreased projection, given the many reports from our members about delayed planting in states such as Illinois and Indiana," said National Corn Growers Association President Bob Dickey. "As in 2008, we hope that the final production number will beat current expectations. Last year, the final crop harvest was more than 300 million bushels above the June projection and the final ending stocks increased by nearly 1 billion bushels."

Early planting in the western Corn Belt and improved crop conditions from last year at this time, as reported in the June 8 Crop Progress, are expected to partly offset the poor start to this year's crop in other parts of the country. Corn supplies are projected at 13.6 million bushels, down 190 million bushels from 2008.

The USDA reported that crop planting was virtually complete and that 87 percent of the crop has emerged. Also, crop conditions were reported to be better than 2008, with 69 percent of the 2009 crop rated good or excellent, compared to 60 percent in 2008.

Projected feed and residual use for the 2009 crop is reduced 100 million bushels this month based on lower projections for red meat and poultry production and lower expected residual use with the lower corn yield. Total use is projected at 12.5 billion bushels. Ending stocks are

*Continued on page 3*

## After four decades, Giles to retire

By **Beth Gaines-Riffel**,  
Editor

April 14, 1969. What is this date? It was the launch of a new, different and industrious career for Peggy Giles as she came to work for Dean Coughenour at Ag Press in the commercial printing division. At that time the firm was located in Aggieville. And now, four decades later, Giles is set to retire from the business.

"I don't really know where the time went," Giles said in announcing her retirement. "It doesn't really feel like it has been forty years."

Peggy is the familiar voice that many of the G&G auctioneer-customers have come to rely on for getting their upcoming auctions properly promoted in the paper.

### The beginning

Giles recalled that when she first came to work for Coughenour, she really didn't know much about the printing business or Grass and Grain.

"I was working at Bob's Steakhouse," she recalled. "Each Monday, Dean, Alex Goldberger and Jon Brake would come in for lunch. I'd

have their table set up and ready to go."

And it was her service that caught Coughenour's attention.

"When hiring someone, I look for someone who moves quickly and is industrious," he noted. "She was working two jobs, so I knew that she had potential."

While she didn't know much about commercial printing when she was hired, she was more than willing to learn.

Peggy noted that her early responsibilities included putting together the advertising flyer for Gibson's.

"I had no idea that you had to cut out all those little boxes," she said, joking that since she didn't go to kindergarten, she learned her cutting skills at Ag Press.

She was also required to type up the many bull sale catalogs that were printed each year.

"We had to type up all those pedigrees by hand," she explained. "It took a lot of hours." She also noted that it took much time on weekends, typing up the listings that the sale barns wanted to include in their ad the next week.

Through the years her job



Peggy Giles proofreads an advertisement for an upcoming auction being placed in G&G. After 40 years, she's moving on into retirement. Auctioneers from around the region have come to rely on Peggy to help them promote their auctions.

responsibilities shifted from the commercial printing part of the company to working on Grass & Grain, laying out the paper, placing the advertisements and doing the

initial production steps in order that the paper could be printed each week.

When Ag Press moved to

*Continued on page 3*

## Kansas farm income in 2008 rose second straight year

By **Mary Lou Peter**

It may seem like a distant memory amid the current U.S. and global economic struggles, but strong crop prices boosted many Kansas farmers' net income last year for the second year in a row.

In its annual summary, the Kansas Farm Management Association revealed that average net farm income for 1,452 KFMA member farms was \$123,397 — up 7.3 percent from an average

\$115,035 in 2007 and well above the \$46,593 average for 2006. "Crop prices were higher (in 2008)," said Kevin Herbel, KFMA administrator, adding that growing conditions for wheat were better last year than they were in 2007, when a freeze cut production, particularly in central Kansas. KFMA reports net income on an accrual basis — adjusted for any inventory changes between the beginning and end of the year. They represent the return on the farmer's labor, management and investment in the operation. Herbel emphasized that the KFMA data is a barometer of Kansas agriculture statewide — not a definitive picture of every operation. In fact, about 16 percent of the KFMA member farms had negative net farm income last year. That was generally tied to their type of enterprise, timing of purchases or timing of sales. Plenty of factors were working against farmers last year, said Michael Langemeier, agricultural economist with Kansas State University Research and Extension. For example, total farm expenses increased about 18 percent with the largest increases in fertilizer (up 35 percent) plus

herbicide and insecticide (up 34 percent). Seed costs were up 12 percent. Gas, fuel and oil were up more than 30 percent. Other machinery and equipment expenses also increased, with a 16 percent increase in total repair expense and a 9 percent increase in depreciation. But, lower interest rates led to a 5 percent decrease to \$21,791 per farm in interest expense for 2008.

Just as in 2007, livestock operations bore the brunt of the price and cost volatility that weighed on net income. As in the previous year, livestock producers were hit with high feed costs and lower livestock prices, Langemeier said. In turn, average net farm income for operations primarily in the cattle backgrounding business was a negative \$10,355 and for cowherd operations, just \$32,674. "This was the third year in a row that there was negative net income for backgrounding cattle on the farm," Herbel said.

In contrast, those whose main business was irrigated cash crops had an average net income of \$230,850 last year — down from \$280,585 the previous year. Dryland crop enterprises averaged \$142,603 in net farm in-

come, according to the KFMA data, which was up from \$120,594 for the year earlier.

In addition to the disparity between livestock and crop enterprises, regional disparities emerged, too, Herbel said. While average net farm income for the state increased from 2007 to 2008, profitability as measured by the operating profit margin decreased. The average operating profit margin for KFMA farms in 2008 was 20.1 percent, down about 2 percent from the pre-

vious year's. The farms' higher value of farm production levels (an increase of 15 percent) was offset by their 18 percent increase in total farm expenses.

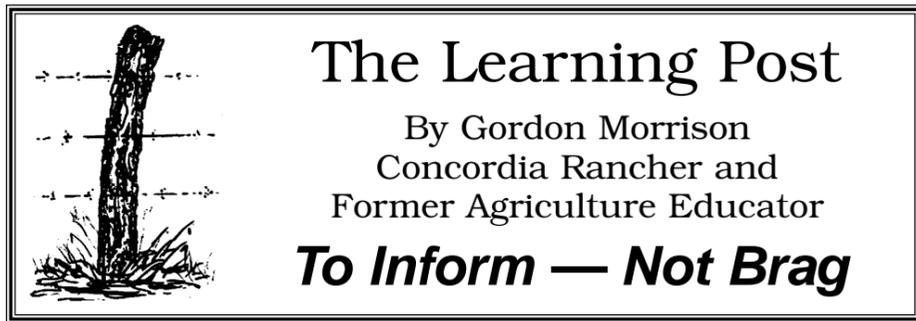
As part of that, average net farm income for the producers in northwest Kansas last year was \$150,935, while the farms in north central Kansas came in at \$101,573. Northeast Kansas operations posted an average net farm income of \$115,877, the southwest region was at \$81,546, south central Kansas farms aver-

aged \$133,778 and southeast Kansas was at \$132,962. Even at \$150,935, the net farm income figure for northwest Kansas producers was a sizeable drop from 2007's net of \$233,000. The decline was partly due to decreased yields on irrigated crops and increased costs of production, Herbel noted. More information about the KFMA and its "2008 Summary and Analysis" is available on the K-State Research and Extension agricultural economics website (<http://www.agmanager.info/kfma>).

### KFMA 2008 data snapshot

The Kansas Farm Management Association, based in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University, recently released its "2008 Executive Summary." The data show an array of average numbers calculated from last year's records for 1,452 KFMA member farms. Some of data included:

- Average accrual net farm income: \$123,397
- Average livestock value of production: \$55,130
- Value of farm production: \$471,145
- Cash operating expense, less interest: \$293,981
- Interest expense: \$21,791
- Total farm expense: \$347,748
- Gross crop value/crop acre: \$340.05
- Crop production costs/crop acre: \$197.21
- Machinery investment/crop acre: \$151.75
- Machinery costs/crop acre: \$69.67
- Total family living expense: \$53,620



## The Learning Post

By Gordon Morrison  
Concordia Rancher and  
Former Agriculture Educator  
**To Inform — Not Brag**

A much-needed rain is now falling on our 1175 acres of mostly grass that is all inclusive and is debt-free. I am going to talk about how this ranch came about, thinking that perhaps it will give some of you hope that your dream of acquiring a ranch or some land can come about even though the prospects seem to have been evading you. For us, it has been very much a "God thing", so we cannot boast but may offer some sound advice.

First, be sure that you really want to ranch or farm. It requires a lot of hard work, perseverance, sacrificing, luck, and a partner that has the same dream as you do. I'll use a list and stay in sequence. This is how it worked for May and me.

1. This first step is most important. Pray to know that your will is in alignment with God's will.

2. Be sure your dream of having a ranch or farm is real and lasting, even when adversity hits and you become weary.

3. Begin to acquire a nest egg for a down payment. The first payment required of us was only \$10,000, which made the contract binding.

4. Timeliness is essential. At the time we were ready, land prices were depressed. We began watching for land for sale that was located close by and were able to purchase 535 acres of grass in 1988 for just under \$100,000. I believe it was God's timing for us.

5. The land was acquired at a time when we both were close to retirement and soon would begin drawing pensions from a total of 76 years of teaching; we had good health and strength to improve on the land.

6. Basically, the pasture land was productive but needed some care such as thistle and cedar control, rebuilding of ponds, and upgrading the fences. There were no improvements on the land. What we have added was done when we could afford to do so.

7. We had a banker that believed in us and could see our dream with us. At times we were much overextended. In the mid 1990s an adjacent quarter was offered to me to purchase. I had refused the same quarter a year or two earlier because I didn't feel ready to expand, so my neighbor sold it to another man. After two years, the new owner moved to another state, and called to see if I would buy this pasture. This time I accepted the offer. Then, within just a few months I received a call from the owner of two more quarters that adjoined our land, offering to sell them to me. I wondered if this was God's timing and planning for us. We agreed to

buy the additional land and realized we were going from just a pasture to a ranch. In the meantime, we had purchased a house to be moved to the country and were committed to the costs of all that goes with it, including remodeling and expanding it. We were so overextended that May used credit card companies to our advantage in order to make farm payments. She took advantage of their low promotional rates of interest and was careful to make payments on these credit cards on time. (that is very important) to avoid paying high rates of interest. When offered a loan by one company with a zero interest rate for twelve months, she borrowed \$12,000 interest free. When the calves were sold, we paid it off. Now we use a credit card only for a matter of convenience and pay it off monthly.

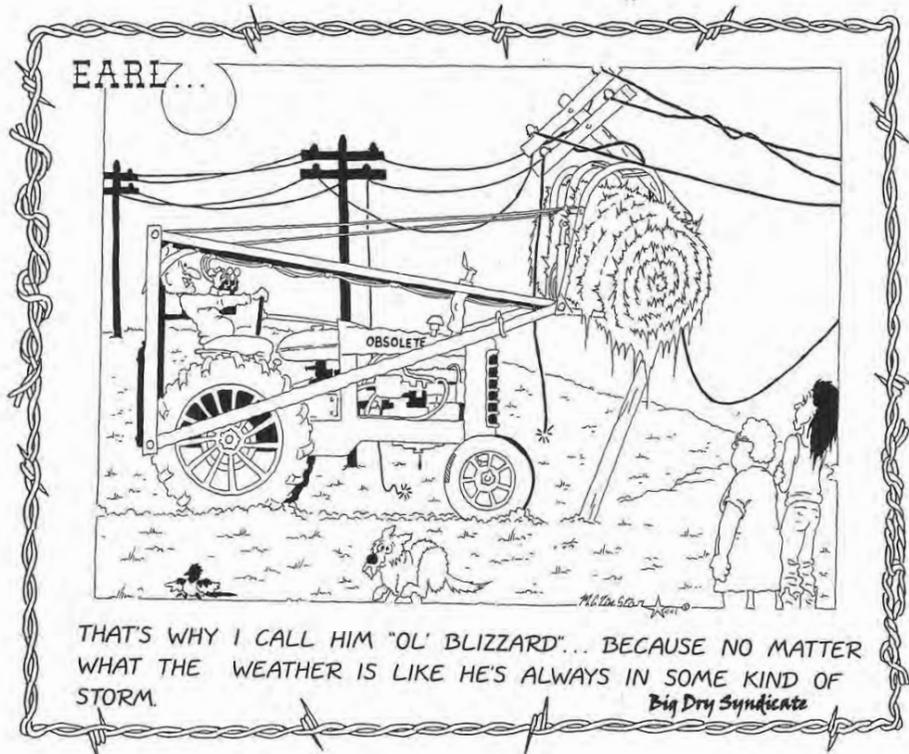
8. Our first purchase of land helped us to pay for the three additional pastures we acquired later. When calves were cheap, we bought 200 excellent black heifers weighing around 500 pounds. In time, they became our cow herd, moving us from a mongrel herd to one of youth and quality.

9. When these cows were eight years old, we sold them as bred cows and paid off our indebtedness. I was 76 and wanted to slow down but did keep 32 of the culls, which became my pets. The remainder of these were sold when I was 80.

10. About two and a half years ago, we acquired another quarter, one I had been leasing and was now for sale. The other land helped us to pay for this purchase quickly. The first quarter is the hardest to pay for.

11. I will sue a term that I think is vital for most who want to accumulate or grow in equity; that word is "functional." Our ranch is not a showplace with impressive looking buildings, corrals, or white vinyl fences. Our corrals function very well for handling cattle if they are not too wild. The shop serves its purpose if someone will only put the tools back and sweep it occasionally. I am simply stating that while the ranch is not perfect, it does what it is intended to do. I personally would rather buy another piece of land than to spend money to impress. Yet, when I get ready to do an operation, I want to be able to do it quickly and efficiently, which requires facilities that are adequate and functional.

I have discussed some things that are quite personal to encourage some of you to continue to dream, plan, and work together even in these frustrating and uncertain times.



## Over the Barn Gate

By Beth Gaines-Riffel

Time flies when you are having fun. Many have said this phrase from time to time — when a fun activity is too soon finished. Or, perhaps, when it seems like only a few days had passed, in the case of starting children out in kindergarten, only to realize that twelve intervening years have gone by. The same could be said about co-workers.

It doesn't seem possible that I've been working on the pages of G&G for nearly fifteen years. But what is more amazing to me that Peggy Giles, who started with the commercial printing side of Ag Press the year I was born, has now provided her expertise to the company for four decades.

In this day and age, such loyalty is seldom found. In fact, the rosters of businesses that remain viable and profitable for this extended period of time isn't very common either.

When we celebrated the 50th anniversary of G&G a few years ago, I noted that she has been a fixture in the business, which elicited a few chuckles from Peggy herself. But, when I re-read that story about how the paper has grown and evolved and continued to serve the ag and auction community, I think that is a fitting statement.

Peggy has been a stable and reliable contact for many folks to advertise their businesses and promote their auctions through the years. Folks came to know that Peggy would get their items in the paper, making sure that the information was correct and accurate.

And that's just how she works, and I for one have learned a lot from her through the years, which I will forever be grateful.

In many offices, and for that matter life situations, that one must work along side those individuals who complain, bellyache and continually grumble about the job that must be done — or the circumstances that they've been handed. And, I think most folks would agree that these individuals can quickly work on one's nerves. I count my blessings daily that Peggy was never one of those people. While we didn't always agree — she made her point and we put the next edition together and looked forward to the next paper and the next deadline that was always quickly approaching.

In preparing for her departure at the end of the month, we've shifted some staff responsibilities to cover the jobs Peggy has done so well for so long. It won't be easy, by any stretch. In fact, I'm sure that the next several weeks are going to be downright stressful. But, somehow, somehow we'll manage.

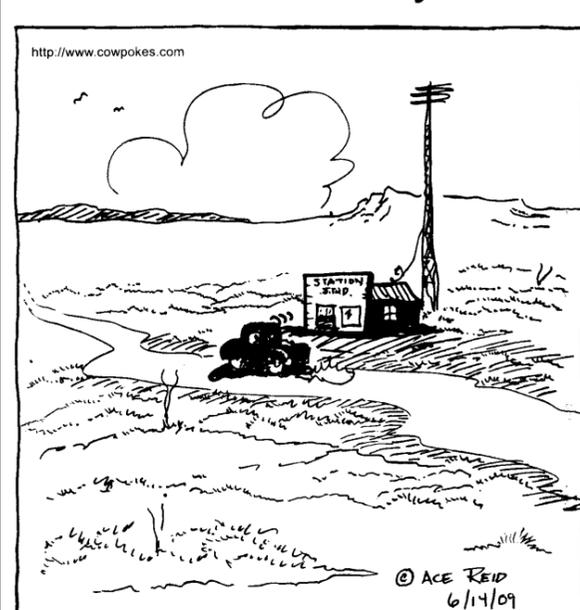
I'm horrible at goodbyes, and certainly will be sentimental on her last day, because I for one, am going to miss her sorely. Maybe, just maybe, I'm a little jealous of the time that she'll now get to spend with her daughter, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, garden and friends. But I also know, after a 40-year career, it's time well earned. Good luck Peggy. We'll miss you.

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

**No obstacles fell in his way that seemed to him insurmountable. He might be defeated, as he sometimes was, but he shrank from no hardship through impatience, he fled from no danger through cowardice.**

— J. P. Morgan  
about Napoleon  
Bonaparte

## COW POKES® By Ace Reid



"Wul the station manager said everybody knows it's gonna be hot and dry, so he fired the weatherman!"



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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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## Giles to retire June 26

Continued from page 1

the current facility on Yuma, she pointed out that the light tables for the production department were all on the second floor, giving them much more room to move about and put the paper together.

As years passed she began to help provide more customer service; she also began to assist lead G&G salesman, Goldberger, making calls in the country.

"I would drive him around to his customers," she said. "We'd go around on Fridays."

And it was from this time spent meeting with customers and gaining understanding on what advertisers expected that Giles developed her skills and began to sell ad inches to various auctioneers.

Coughenour credits her attention to detail and her customer-service oriented approach as reasons for her success and her customer's strong loyalty to G&G.

Auctions has long been a strong component of the paper. "It wasn't unusual for us to have 60 or more auctions in the paper," she recalled.

There have been many changes in the paper busi-

ness during the four decades that Peggy as worked for G&G. The advances in technology meant computerizing the layouts and billing.

"It was a challenge, and it meant that we couldn't do last-minute changes as easily," she said of the upgrade.

But as the business has changed, much has remained the same. The customer is a priority.

"A lot of my customers have also become my friends," she said. "I'm going to really miss working with some of them."

To further illustrate the number of clients and friends she has collected over the years, one only has to look at her annual Christmas letter she sends from G&G. There are well over 275 individuals and businesses that she includes in her mailing.

But as one chapter closes, another opens up. With more time available, she intends to do some traveling around the region, spend time with her daughter, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren in addition to working in her yard and garden.

Peggy's last day with G&G/Ag Press will be on Friday, June 26. "I'm really excited about the future."

## USDA report shows stocks of soybeans dropped

Continued from page 1

projected at 1.1 billion bushels, down 55 million from last month and 510 million below the 2008/09 projection. The 2009 marketing-year average farm price is projected to range from \$3.90 to \$4.70 per bushel, up 20 cents on both ends of the range.

Another revelation in the crop report released this week showed that there is significant change in the soybean stocks. Due to increased domestic soybean crushings and higher projected exports, the Agriculture Department reduced U.S. soybean stocks by 20 million bushels, from 130 million bushels to 110 million bushels. Terry Francl, senior economist with the

American Farm Bureau Federation, sees the potential for even lower U.S. soybean stocks due to improved exports.

"Many analysts were expecting an even bigger drop in soybean stocks due to strong crushing demand and a robust export picture, but the USDA estimate is pretty much in line with what I expected," Francl said "However, by the time the crop year ends on Aug. 31, I would expect projected soybean exports to increase another 20 million to 30 million bushels."

The latest WASDE report made no adjustment to soybean yields, holding the number at trend line projections.

"This appears to be a similar planting season as last year, where the average U.S. soybean yield came in three bushels below the current trend yield of 42.6 bushels per acre," Francl said.

As expected, USDA reduced the projected new crop corn yield by two bushels per acre, to 153.4 bushels, due to delayed planting in the eastern Corn Belt, Francl said. No adjust-

ments were made to either projected corn or soybean planted acreage for 2009. These adjustments won't be made until USDA publishes 2009 planted acreage on June 30.

"Many market analysts are expecting a 3-million-acre reduction in 2009 corn plantings, with nearly all of that acreage being shifted into soybeans, so concerns about acreage will continue to influence the market until the end of June," Francl said.

USDA's detailed report on 2009 acreage will be released June 31.

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# AUCTION

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20 — 10:00 A.M.**  
**BROWN AUCTION PAVILION, 2323 N. JACKSON JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS**

**FURNITURE, APPLIANCES & COMPUTER:** Expanding Dining Table w/4 Padded Chairs, Lighted China Cabinet, Dinette Table w/2 Chairs, Matching Coffee & Lamp Tables, Glass Top Coffee Table w/2 Matching Lamp Stands, Glass Top Sofa Table, 2-Roll Top Desks, 2-Book Cases, 2-Recliners, Sofa, Loveseat, Lacrosse Hide-A-Bed Loveseat, 4 Drawer Stand, 3 Tier Shelf, Student Desk, Curio Cabinet, King Size Bedroom Set (Bed, Triple Dresser, 5 Drawer Chest & 2 End Tables), Brass Plated Coat Rack, Storage Magazine Rack, Folding Chairs, 2 Drawer Wooden File Cabinet, Electric Banquet lamp, Alabaster Base Table Lamp, Floor & Table Lamps, Soundesign Stereo Set, Magnavox Big Screen TV, Sanyo 12" Color TV, RCA 19" TV, TV Cart, Magnavox DVD Player, Sharp Microwave, Whirlpool Ceramic Top Range, Kenmore Side by Side Refrigerator, Signature 13.3 Upright Freezer, Kenmore "Elite" Washer & Dryer, Compaq Presario P3-60 CPU w/Phillips Monitor & Dell Keyboard,

**COINS, JEWELRY, GLASSWARE & COLLECTIBLES:** (Coins sell at 10:00 AM followed by the Jewelry) Morgan Dollars (1879, 1880, 1881, 1881-O, 1881-S, 1882, 1884-O, 1885-O, 2-1886, 1887, 3-1889, 1890, 1892-O, 1899-O, 1921, 1921-S, 1922-P, Wheat Pennies, 27-Kennedy Halves In Book, Whitman Classics Coin Books (125-1946 - Roosevelt Dimes, 1856-1909 2-Flying Eagles Cents & 39 Indian Head Cents, 194 Lincoln Cents 1909 -, 15-Lincoln Memorial

Cents 1959 -, 32 Mercury Dimes 1916-1945, 96-Jefferson Nickels 1938 - 98-Washington Quarters 1932 -, 22-Franklin Half Dollars 1948-1963, Book O Foreign Coins, Set Of Olympic Coins, The Gold Nations Gold Stamp Issue Book, Peace Dollar Necklace, 14K Ladies Amethyst Ring, 14K Mans Cluster Diamond Ring, 18K White Gold Wedding Set, 14K Man's & Woman's Matching Bands, 10K Ladies Cluster Diamond Ring, 14K Ladies Cluster Diamond Ring, 10K White Gold Mans Ring, 10K Gold Jade Ladies Ring, **Several Gold Bracelets & Rings**, Small Silver Turquoise Ring, Man's & Ladies Matching Elgin Wrist Watches, Ladies Elgin Wrist Watch, Lucerne Ladies Wrist Watch, 15J Illinois Pocket Watch, Westclox Pocket Ben, Costume Jewelry, Fenton Vases & Baskets, Shannon Crystal, Hand Cut Lead Crystal Stemware, Belleck China, Royal Dalton Porcelain, Designers Collection "Gretchen" Figurine, Pressed Glass Vases & Candy Dishes, Norman Rockwell Cups, Collector Plates, Longaberger (Soup Tureen, Butter Bowl, Spooner, Trivet & Baking Dish), Mikasa China, Japanese China, Bear Cookie Jar, Longchamp Crystal Tumblers, German Steins & Mugs, German Wine Server, Wildlife Figurines, SW Native American Pottery, Bossun Heads (Artful Dodger & Deck Hand), International Silver Co. Wine Goblets (NIB), German Collector Forks, Jean-Claude Nichole Bronze Flatware w/Case, Grandfather Clock,

German Kundo Anniversary Clock, Quartz Cuckoo Clock, Copper Pan Clock, Concrete Pig Door Stop, Quilts, Comforters, Fancy Work & Linens, Heidelberg Tapestry, Pictures, CI Tea Kettle, Oldcraftsman Electric Guitar, Lots Of Records (German & American), German Magazines, Volksmarch Walking Stick,

**TOOLS & MISCELLANEOUS:** Craftsman 21" Self Propelled Gas Lawn Mower, Yard Man 20" Gas Lawn Mower, B&D Cordless String Trimmer, Tool Box, 6' Wooden Step Ladder, 26" Step Stool, Pick Axe, Shop Broom, Garden Hose, Extension Cords, Jumper Cables, Vacuum Cleaners (2-Dirt Devil's, Panasonic, Fuller Brush, Hoover), Paper Shredder, Stylehouse Doctors Scale, Sewing Basket, Nesco 6 Qt Electric Roaster Oven, Kenmore Food Grinder, Oster Juice Extractor, Oster Regency Kitchen Center, GE Deluxe Food Chopper, George Foreman Grill, Kitchen Aid Coffee Maker, T-Fal (Pots, Pans, & Safety Fryer), Calphalon Sauce Pan, CI Cottage Collection Pans, Corning Ware Baking Dishes, Kitchen Utensils, Fire Place Set, Tea Towels, Dish Cloths, Hand Towels, Wash Cloths, VCR Tapes, Luggage, Storage Box, Cooler, Copper Planters, Lots Of Artificial Plants, Patio Set w/Umbrella, Lawn Chairs, Yard Art (Dutch Windmill, Frog, Rabbits, Sea Horses & Sea Horses Bird Bath), AND MANY MORE ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST.

**TERMS:** Cash, check or Credit Card. Not responsible for accidents. Lunch available.

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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:  
 Kansas National Guard Armory  
 101 Armory Rd., Smith Center, KS 66967**

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:  
 The Grand Hotel  
 124 S. Main St., Medicine Lodge, KS 67104**

**Phone: 1-866-975-4799**  
**E-Mail: [info@mweservices.com](mailto:info@mweservices.com)**  
**200 E. Iron Ave. Salina, KS 67401**




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**GRASS & GRAIN** Our Daily Bread  
\*\*\*\*\* By G&G Area Cooks \*\*\*\*\*

**Summery salad submitted by Hogue is winner**

Kathy Hogue of Topeka/ Alma thinks this make-ahead summer salad is almost a meal by itself. "Serve deviled eggs on the side followed by a plate of cookies and go sit on the porch for a spell."

**SOUTHWEST CORNBREAD SALAD**

- 6-ounce package Mexican cornbread mix
- 4 ounces Ranch buttermilk salad dressing mix or 16 ounces bottled
- Small head Romaine lettuce
- 2 large tomatoes, chopped
- 15-ounce can black beans, drained
- 15-ounce can mexicorn, drained
- 8 ounces shredded four Mexican cheeses
- 5 slices cooked/crumbled bacon
- 5 green onions (optional)

Prepare cornbread (I use Hudson Mill) according to directions. Cool and crumble. Prepare dressing and refrigerate. In a 9-by-13-inch glass dish layer: cornbread, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, rinsed and drained beans, corn, Mexican cheeses and bacon (I do not use green onions). Top with half of dressing and repeat layers. Cover and chill at least 2 hours.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mary Rogers, Topeka:

**LAYERED SALAD**

- 6 cups sliced romaine lettuce
- 1/2 pound grape tomatoes, halved
- 4 cups shredded cooked chicken
- 2 ripe avocados, peeled & diced
- 1 large red onion, peeled & sliced
- 1 cup chunky blue cheese dressing
- 6 slices cooked bacon, crumbled

Place lettuce in the bottom of a glass salad bowl or trifle dish. Pack down slightly. On top of the lettuce neatly layer tomatoes, chicken, avocados, red onion. Press down lightly to compress. Spread with dressing. Refrigerate at least 1 hour then sprinkle with bacon just before serving.

Sandy Hill, Eskridge:

**LEMONADE DESSERT**

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 3/4 cup cold butter
- 3/4 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 gallon vanilla ice cream, softened
- 12-ounce can frozen pink lemonade concentrate, thawed

In a small bowl combine flour and brown sugar; cut in butter until crumbly. Stir in pecans. Spread in a single

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at 325 degrees for 20 minutes.

Optional: Frosting and/or chopped peanuts  
\*\*\*\*\*

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:  
**PEACH PUNCH**

- 3 cups water
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3-ounce package peach gelatin
- 29-ounce can peach slices in light syrup
- (4) 11.3-ounce cans peach nectar
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- (8) 10-ounce bottles ginger ale

In a large saucepan combine water, sugar and gelatin. Bring to boiling, stirring to dissolve. Place undrained peach slices in blender. Cover and blend until smooth. In a large bowl combine gelatin mixture, pureed peaches, peach nectar and lemon juice. Divide peach mixture among four 1-quart containers. Cover and freeze overnight or until firm. Mixture can be frozen up to 3 months. Use as many containers as needed to continue with directions below. To serve, place one or more containers at room temperature for 1 hour. Break in chunks with a large fork. Place in punch bowl or pitcher. Stir in 2 bottles of ginger ale per container of peach mixture until slushy.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thelma Baldock, Delphos  
**ONE BOWL BROWNIES**

- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup canola oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup cocoa
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Using blender on medium, mix well. Oil a 7x11 inch pan. Bake in 350-degree oven for 20 to 25 minutes. You may sprinkle nuts on top before baking if you aren't counting calories.

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- 16 1/2-ounce package prepared sugar cookie dough
- Filling:
- 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
  - 7-ounce jar marshmallow cream
  - 1 teaspoon Spice Islands® 100% Pure Bourbon Vanilla Extract
- Fruit & Glaze:
- 1/2 cup sugar
  - 1 tablespoon Argo Corn Starch
  - 1/2 cup orange juice
  - 1/4 cup water
  - 2 tablespoons lemon juice
  - Dash of salt
  - 2-3 cups assorted cut-up fresh fruit

To make crust: Press cookie dough into ungreased 12-inch pizza pan. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 15 minutes until done, but still soft. Cool. To make filling, mix filling ingredients in a medium bowl with an electric mixer until thoroughly combined. Spread over crust. To make Fruit & Glaze: Combine sugar and corn starch in a small

saucepan until well mixed. Add orange juice, water, lemon juice and salt. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Boil for 1 minute. Remove from heat. Cool 20 minutes in the refrigerator. Slice fresh fruit and arrange on cream filling. Drizzle with glaze and chill at least 30 minutes.

**Glazed Fresh Strawberry Pie**

- Cookie Crust:
- 1 1/2 cups crushed shortbread cookies
  - 1/3 cup butter, melted
  - 1/4 cup chopped almonds
- Filling:
- 2 pints (about 2 pounds) strawberries, hulled
  - 1/3 cup water
  - 1 cup sugar
  - 2 tablespoons Argo Corn Starch
  - 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
  - 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Whipped topping (optional)
- To make cookie crust:

Mix all crust ingredients. Press into a 9-inch pie pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 minutes or until lightly browned. To make filling: Mash (or puree) enough strawberries to equal 1 cup; add water. Combine sugar and corn starch in small saucepan. Stir in mashed strawberries. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and comes to a full boil (15 to 20 minutes). Boil 1 minute; remove from heat. Stir in almond extract and salt. Cool 10 minutes. Fill cooled crust with remaining whole strawberries; pour cooked strawberry mixture over berries. Refrigerate at least 3 hours. Garnish with whipped topping, if desired. A baked 9-inch pie crust may be substituted for the cookie crust.

For more recipes, visit [www.argostarch.com](http://www.argostarch.com).

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# Researcher finds few true Kansas foods, but many ethnic influences

As rare books librarian at Kansas State University, Roger Adams sees plenty of cuisine in the pages of Hale Library's cookery collection.

Out of curiosity, the Kentucky native began asking Kansans about their own signature cuisine. He usually heard about foods like steak that weren't unique to Kansas or dishes like chicken friend steak that claim origins elsewhere.

"Kansas is flatter than a pancake when it comes a cuisine or a dish that you could say is uniquely Kansan," Adams said. "You've got to get off the main roads. Anybody driving through Kansas at 70 mph on Interstate 70 would come away from Kansas and say, 'It's just like everywhere else.' If they have the time to get off the Interstate and travel a little way in and see some of the older towns, I think they would be really surprised."

Inspired by Alton Brown's television show "Feasting on Asphalt," Adams decided to hit the road, visiting Kansas communities that had strong ties to their ethnic origins. He presented his research in April at the joint conference of the National Popular Culture and American Culture associations.

One of Adams' stops was Cuba, a historically Czech town, where he sampled the Cuba Cash Store's home-

made bologna and a loose barley sausage, jiternice, which is pronounced like "ethernet say." Two doors down, the store's owners have a restaurant called Two Doors Down, where Adams tried Czech pastries called kolatches. More than just sampling the food, Adams got a taste of the towns he visited, too.

"The kolatches were just coming out of the oven when I got there, and I'm not joking when I say 10 seconds after being introduced the owner is handing me one," Adams said. "The folks in Cuba are so genuinely nice. They're very tied to their Czech heritage. People just broke out into speaking Czech there in the restaurant."

Adams also visited Lindsborg, a town popular with regional tourists wanting to explore its Swedish roots. Adams said that because of Lindsborg's ties to tourism, its restaurants didn't have the type of authentic ethnic food he found in other communities. Yet the local grocery store, Scott's, has an entire aisle devoted to imported Swedish foods, as well as homemade Swedish bread, ostekake — a custard made with a cow's gastric juice — and potato sausage.

"What's fascinating about the potato sausage, having talked with historians there, is that it is an authentic item," Adams said. "It's something people in that

community have been eating since it was founded. Imagine taking a culture and people who are heavily rooted in fishing and plopping them in 19th-century Kansas. What happens to their cuisine? Locals who have gone back to Sweden and told me that finding potato sausage in modern-day Sweden is difficult because it's seen as 'poor people food.'"

In Marion County, Adams explored the culinary contributions of Mennonites who came from Russia via Belgium and Germany, as well as those who came directly from Germany and Switzerland. Although their descendants have given up a lot of their ethnic foods, Adams, whose wife is from the area, said that sausages are still popular, as is a traditional Mennonite bread.

"I can't ever remember having a family meal where

there wasn't zwiebach," he said.

Adams also visited Garden City, whose most recent immigrants from southeast Asia are changing the culinary landscape, as did immigrants from Mexico beginning more than 100 years ago. With Mexican grocery stores, bakeries and restaurants, Adams said that their impact on the cuisine can't be overlooked.

"The restaurants run the gamut from very Americanized to ones where recent immigrants are eating," Adams said. "I think people would be really surprised to find that a good number of Mexican dishes are also fish-based. I'll be curious to see if, like Lindsborg, folks in Garden City will give up these dishes in favor of more easily acquired foods."

Adams said that although language is one of the first

things to go when people assimilate, food is one of the last vestiges of cultural identity that immigrants are willing to give up. He said that his research demonstrates the importance of preserving immigrant cultures through food.

"Food traditions go away in bits and pieces," Adams said. "As we become more like every place else, I think it's incredibly important that communities, families and individuals resist the globalization of their diets and

stick with the foods that they grew up eating, that they enjoy, and to share them with other people."

One way that people are turning to local food, Adams said, is through the success of microbrewed beers, citing Tallgrass Brewing Co. in Manhattan as an example.

"I encourage people to not only eat local foods but to drink locally as well," Adams said. "Maybe in a few years we'll say that the distinctive Kansas product is actually a drink."

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# Summer fun can be had close to home

**By Beth Gaines-Riffel**  
Summer brings opportunities to get out and explore those things that are literally right in your own backyard. Many are small attractions, but have unique appeal or historical significance.

Now that you've decided to go exploring on a daytrip, there are a few suggestions to make the most of your outing.

Where to go? Sometimes not having a destination is good; that is when you're seeking an adventure. However, if you have somewhat of an idea where you're going, then you will have somewhat of an idea what to expect; weather, traffic, etc. All of these things may be a big influence as to the qual-

ity of your trip. So think (even just for a few minutes) as to where exactly you want to go.

Getting there sometimes is easier with the aid of a map. Kansas Atlas & Gazetteer, which can be purchased from a number of local discount stores, is a good reference and includes detailed county roads in addition to the state and federal highway options. Even if you don't ever look at it, a map is one item you should always keep in your car. Getting lost is fun, but not when you're ready to go home.

Emergency supplies are always a plus when heading out on the spur of the moment. You don't need to pack up so much that you

could live in your car for weeks, but it's not a bad idea to always carry jumper cables and a first aid kit. These items really should be around whether you're on a trip to the mall, or to the mountains.

How much time do you want to spend? Come to a conclusion as to when you'd like to be home, and know that you can go at least half that time before turning around and heading home. Do you want to be home for dinner? Ball games to catch? These things may be considerations.

Got cash? Who wants to be driving in circles looking for an ATM machine in an unfamiliar town, and which may not be available in many small villages. You

don't want to carry a wad of dough on a nice daytrip to hike the prairie, but an extra \$20 or so wouldn't hurt, especially if you decide that you want to stop at the local soda fountain.

Are they open? Have you seen National Lampoon's Vacation? The one where the Griswolds travel across the United States only to find that Wallyworld, their final destination theme park, was closed. No matter

where you're going, it's not a bad idea to call ahead and confirm one way or another. In some small towns, a sporadic operations schedule isn't unusual.

How about a lunch? Assuming you'll be gone the better part of the day, odds are you will get hungry. Do you want to find a little out of the way place to grab some grub? That always adds some good memories to a trip. Or, do you want to save some money and pack a lunch? If you're going somewhere off the

beaten path buying lunch there may not always be an option.

Road Conditions. Depending on the time of year, road conditions may or may not be an issue. Good backroads can become muddy bogs in a short time. Be sure to consider this.

The Kansas Sampler Foundation has some great suggestions of places to visit in Kansas — some located far off the beaten path but well worth the effort to get there. Their website is [www.kansassampler.org](http://www.kansassampler.org).

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# Horsin' Around

By Don Coldsmith



## The New Pickup

When I'm out around the state I meet a lot of people. Many of them tell me stories, which is great, because that's my thing. No writer could make up stuff like that which really happens. Especially, I think, to people who are in the livestock business, in farming, or who have kids. Or, of course, all of the above. Teachers deal with kids, too, and have some pretty good stories.

So, I pickup up stories everywhere. I can't honestly recall where I heard this one. I jotted some notes, set them aside, and they surfaced again recently. So, whoever gave this one, thanks!

The family had just bought a brand new pickup, which is always a really ex-

citing time. There is a period when it stands gleaming and pristine, and a source of pride for the whole family. It's kept clean and uncluttered, even, for a little while. At least until the first scratch or ding.

Now, any farm or ranch pickup is going to receive that first damage. It may be years before the next, or may not, but it's the first one that we remember. Sort of like the first scuff on a pair of new boots.

In this case, however, it was more than a scuff. It happened only days after they brought the pickup home. They were working cattle, and an old cow decided that the source of all her problems was that shiny new monster over there. She did an effective job on

one of the doors. Not quite enough to total the door, apparently, though maybe so. (I'm not sure of my notes, here).

In any case, the new or repaired and straightened door had to be repainted. Once again, the new pickup sat gleaming with pride out by the barn.

But there are apparently mysterious qualities about automotive paints and finishes. For one thing, they attract runaway shopping carts. There's another factor there, too, a time factor. This attractive force begins to fade in a year or so (Did you ever see a shop-

ping cart hit an old car?).

Brand new paint on a vehicle, though, possesses the most powerful of attractive forces. Apparently, not only to shopping carts, but to horses. The family in this story looked over at the renovated pickup to see one of their horses calmly chewing off the new paint.

It recalled to me an incident a lot of years ago when we first moved into our present home. The pond up behind the house had some pretty good bass, and a friend asked to bring his kids out to do a little fishing. I wouldn't be home, but that was okay, I told him.

That pond is only a stone's throw from the house, and I assumed that he'd park in the yard and walk up there. Instead he drove through the gate and parked at the pond. That was okay, of course. He'd shut the gate like a responsible guest.

A little later, as they were fishing, he glanced up to see a couple of our horses happily chewing the paint off the trunk of his new Cadillac. (I've never really understood why his fishing car was his new Caddy, through.)

In my limited research on the subject, however, I have developed the theory that new automotive finishes attract not only shopping carts and horses, but buffalo. Some friends, a number of years ago, bought a young buffalo heifer, and turned her out with their cattle.

When "Rosalie" delivered her first crossbred calf, the were understandably eager to see it. They drove out into the pasture in their

brand new pickup. It was not a good move.

We saw the remains a couple of days later. When a buffalo and a pickup truck disagree, the pickup is the loser. At least, based on that incident. The vehicle was all but totaled. Both headlights, the grill, dents along the body... Major dents... Radiator punctured and drained. Apparently they had been fortunate just to be able to drive it back to the house.

No one was hurt, and they gained a healthy respect for Rosalie's right to raise her calf in any way she saw fit. She did produce many more, over the years, but the pickup was not so lucky.

See you down the road.

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Hey Neighbor

# For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

## Trail Ride Leader's Family Farm Has Had Horses Since 1883

His land has been in the family name since 1883, and horses have always been a key part of the farm.

"My grandpa William brought a team here from Ohio in 1883, bought 100 acres, and farmed it with horses," explained Don Cress, 90, who continues to farm that land south of Council Grove in Morris County.

"My first real memory of horses was when I'd ride with my uncle on the horse-drawn mower when I was five years old. I'd go to sleep and fall off, and he'd stop to pick me up," Cress reflected.

Horses were the only power on the farm as he was growing up, yet as Cress was involved in the transition to tractors, he always had horses. "Instead of getting out of horses in my retirement years, I became more involved with them," related Cress, who's perhaps best known for organizing the annual Santa Fe Trail Rides for two decades.

At the kitchen table in the farm home where he and his wife, Doris, have lived all of their 67 years of married life, Cress quoted dates and happenings of his forefathers and himself, almost like they had just occurred.

"This farm was actually part of the Kaw Reservation that was released when the Indians went to Oklahoma," Cress related. "Our family name is only the second one on the deed."

His dad was five years old when the family with three girls and eight boys moved into the Flint Hills. "The Cress name has been here continually since then," added Cress, whose mother passed away when he was two days old. A sister died shortly after, and a sister with no farm interests went to Washington state upon marriage.

"I feel fortunate that I've been able to buy out the heirs and own this farm that's been in my family so long," commented Cress,

who has 440 acres, "mostly in pasture, native bluestem and tame grasses in the bottoms." It's on Spring Creek, which runs into Four Mile Creek, he described.

The one-room brick Big John School was three miles from home for Cress, who then lived with his aunt and uncle.

"I had to cross two railroad tracks and a creek, but the bay gelding called Bob always took care of me riding to and from school," Cress confirmed. "I had a canvas bag that I carried on my saddle. It had corn in the bottom for my horse and my lunch was on top."

When he was 12 years old, Cress was put in charge of driving a pair of mules on the walking cultivator. "That team was broke to a 'T,' and I'd just kick my shoes off and go barefoot in the fresh dirt that turned up, but my dad put an end to that. I wouldn't have thought it was so much fun if one of those shovels dropped on my foot," Cress agreed.

Then living with his dad, who had remarried, Cress was soon operating all of the horse-drawn equipment, including the mower, rake, roller and curler.

When it was time for high

school, a neighbor initially provided Cress a ride in his car, but when that young man graduated, Cress started riding a gray family horse the five miles to and from classes. "I was about the only one who still rode a horse to high school. A lot of kids in the country didn't even go to high school in those days," Cress qualified.

There was cowboy in his blood, and many a day was spent helping farmers and ranchers gather cattle. "Prices got so low in '34, that the government was buying mature cattle for \$18 a head, and \$10 for calves," Cress recalled "I helped drive a lot of cattle into town for

loading out of the railroad stockyards."

After graduation in 1936, Cress spent four years working for other farmers. "It was really dry that first year, and a lot of the ground was in wheat," he remembered. "I drove a team of smooth-mouthed mules, who were practically foolproof. We bundled the wheat and put it on a 12-foot short truck to be hauled up north of town for threshing."

With a knack for stacking hay from an early age, Cress was typically called upon to do that job with a team and a couple of different implements both when working with his family and for other farmers.

Although his dad never did switch to tractor power for farming, Cress bought a used tractor and a line of two-row equipment when he started farming on his own. It was then when Cress also acquired a mare that became the foundation of the spotted horses he's had for the past 70 years.

"I bought a sorrel and white spotted mare called Dixie as a four-year-old," Cress told. "She was pretty

well broke, but the mare had a habit of trying to get away when she was being mounted. I took a long line and pulled her over backwards, and she didn't ever try that again."

A young stallion got in with the mare, bred her, and she raised a spotted filly, first of many in the five generations of Dixie's line that Cress has owned, trained and used.

Among the stallions mated to his mares were the Remount stallion Billy, owned by E.C. Roberts of Strong City; one owned by Fawn Burnett; a Palomino owned by Jim Parker, Parkerville; Paint Horses owned by W.E. Dugan of Alta Vista and Jerry Shivers of Council Grove; and a bay Quarter Horse owned by Jack Gieswein, Wilsey.

"The spotted gene was really strong, and no matter what stallion Dixie, her daughters or the following generations were mated to,

we'd always get a spotted foal," Cress evaluated. "I didn't breed the mares every year. I liked to give them a break."

Married in 1941, the couple has three married children, Don and Carol, who both live at Olathe, and Lynn at Topeka. They have seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Cress had a sideline business as an insurance agent for many years and has now retired from that profession as well.

Mostly the Cress horses were used for cattle work for his own operation and others in the area. "I started out with a cattle grazing program, then had up to 65 stock cows at one point, and have been grassing stockers for the past several years," Cress said. "This is the first year that I don't have cattle of my own. I have leased the grass out."

Their children were heavily involved in 4-H club

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## REAL ESTATE AUCTION

MONDAY, JULY 6 — 7:00 PM  
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**PROPERTY AND AUCTION LOCATION:** At the farmstead located from Harveyville, KS., go 1 mile west on Hwy 31 to the county blacktop road, then 2 1/2 miles south to Wilmington Rd., then 1/2 mile east to the corner of Oxteam and Wilmington Roads OR from the west edge of Burlingame, KS on Hwy. 31, go 6 miles on Hwy 31, then 6/10 mile south and 4/10 mile west on Santa Fe Rd., then 1/10 mile north and 1/2 mile west on Wilmington Rd. to 10361 Oxteam Rd., Burlingame, KS 64431

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This property consists of mostly clean native grass pasture with some wildlife habitat on the SW side. There is a large hedge row on the west side, 2 ponds in the pasture for water and the old Santa Fe Trail was said to have ran across part of this property. The farmstead includes an older 2 story home, which needs major remodeling, a 24' X 30' wood pole strongbarn tin garage with concrete floor, and a smaller, old barn. Farmstead sells in "AS IS" condition. The yard area has 2 larger maple trees, 2 crab apple trees, 4 young pine trees and various other bushes. This property is serviced by Lyon County Electric Co. and Burlingame Rural Water Dist. # 8. There is a 500 gal. propane tank which stays with the property. If you are looking for your own place in the country, come take a look at this property.

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Built to specifications of a stagecoach displayed in the Smithsonian Institution, Don Cress and his neighbors on Four Mile Creek south of Council Grove built this stagecoach which Cress drove with his spotted horses Crystal and J.B. in parades and other special events over a wide area for many years.

work, but they didn't ever participate in the horse project. "We still had the horses for them and then their families as well as friends to ride," Cress noted.

Actually, Cress can't recall all of the names of the mares that he's continued with in his spotted line, but there were Dixie, Ginger, Pepper, Sugar and Crystal, for sure. The names Crystal and J.B. come into the conversation most frequently, because they were the ones which became the most important to Cress in driving and riding over the past three decades.

"I started driving them together up the road, and when I turned around, I took turns riding them home," Cress detailed. "I rigged up breaking carts and trained them to drive both single and as a team."

Before long, he acquired a surrey and made a fringed top for it to drive the horses single and as a team. "I was driving them in parades and other events, when we decided to start an annual ride on the Santa Fe Trail," stated Cress, who was instrumental in forming the Heart

of the Flint Hills Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association.

"Our first ride was in 1987, and it just continued to grow from there," Cress indicated. "We'd try to go a different part of the old Santa Fe Trail every year, but we'd always end up at Council Grove for the Wah-Shun-Gah Days Parade."

The most memorable ride was in 1992, when the largest group ever with 110 participants started at Fort Larned and rode for 10 days. "Trail riding was still a fairly new deal then, and it attracted lots of attention," Cress professed.

While he did sometimes drive a horse single on the trail, Cress originally used the team to pull a rubber-wheeled covered wagon, which is still sitting in his farm yard.

"I was then fortunate to buy a real Bain box wagon and got some real bows for the cover," Cress shared. "It's just about like the one my grandfather would have had when they came here."

Involved in the American Agriculture Movement when it traveled to Washington, D.C., Cress was impressed by

a stagecoach while visiting the Smithsonian Institute. "I took pictures of it, and even got the plans to build one of my own," Cress declared. "It was a real chore, but with my neighbors, we built our own stagecoach to exact specifications."

Hitched to his spotted team, the stagecoach with Cress on the lines was a popular attraction over a wide area.

"We hauled Santa Claus in the shotgun seat position of the stagecoach and led the first Lawrence Christmas Parade in 1993," Cress elaborated. "We also gave stagecoach rides at many events, including the Kansas Angus Convention at Wichita one time."

A four-horse hitch, owned by other horsemen, was hooked to the stagecoach when Cress provided it for a "Real West" movie filmed at the Hollenberg Pony Express Station. "We hauled the stagecoach all over the state, actually," Cress pointed out. "We'd generally pull a trailer with the stagecoach on it behind the stock trailer loaded with our horses."

His stagecoach was sold at Kingman several years ago for \$13,000. Cress has the surrey and real covered wagon in storage on the farm, although it's been a few years since they've been hooked.

During his years traveling the Santa Fe Trail, Cress got an inkling of what travelers would have encountered a century and a half ago. "Wagon ruts are still visible along the trail in many places. They must have really been deep to remain in the pastures all of this time," Cress speculated.

Two special projects for Cress during his Santa Fe Trail leadership were the Wilmington School near Burlingame and the old native stone barn built east of Council Grove in 1871.

"The Wilmington School is all that's left of the Wilmington town site in Wabaunsee County, and it's been donated to the Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association," Cress reviewed. "The build-

ing has been restored and is used for special events of the group."

Constructed by Seth Hays, a storekeeper and early citizen of Council Grove, the 40x76-foot two-story horse barn was deteriorating with a leaking roof and walls falling down.

"It was a major effort, but the barn has now been recognized as a National Historic Landmark," Cress critiqued. "We re-roofed the structure and had the walls restored. There's still more work to do, but the barn is included on tours of Council Grove."

Cress has also used his horses hosting sightseers around the community's historical sites and in numerous weddings and celebrations. He has even portrayed Kit Carson, close relative of Daniel Boone, because Carson was in the area during his life's adventures.

After nearly two decades of leadership in the Santa Fe Trail Association, Cress has stepped down and turned the reins over to his followers. A special plaque was recently presented to him for his many years of dedication to the group.

Carol Ritzer of Lyndon

now serves as president of the Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter. "We have two short rides scheduled so far, but we won't be going for a weeklong ride like we used to," she remarked. "The first ride was at the end of May, and the next one will be June 26-27-28." Ritzer can be contacted for information at 785-828-3739.

Serving as grand marshal of a saddle club parade last year, Cress doesn't ride or drive horses these days. However, a spotted horse called Corky, who goes back to the original Dixie, still roams the pasture behind the Cress home.

Remembering when broke horses sold for as low as \$10 a head when he was a youth, Cress has seen a wide range in horse values during his lifetime.

"The numbers have really brought horse prices down again now, but it has a lot to do with no slaughter market," he contended. "People don't ride and use horses like they did when I was growing up, but there is a need for recreation horses."

"I think the trail rides are going to still be popular, because people like to get out in the country away from the city life," Cress concluded.

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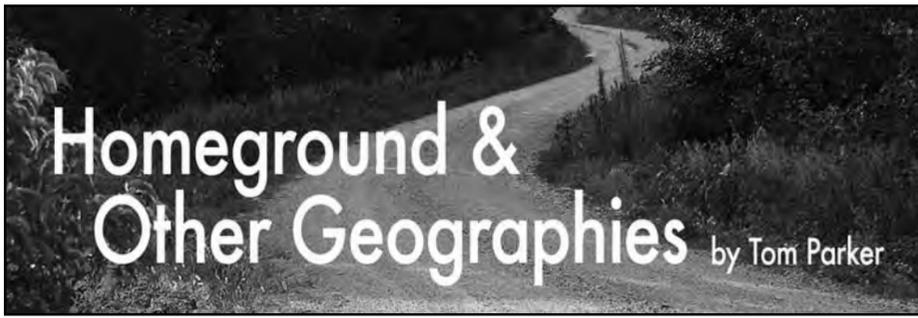
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# Homeground & Other Geographies by Tom Parker

## Bottom-dollar accounting

Rising sun to the east, storm clouds to the west, and here in between a rabbit dances across grass luminous with a thousand pinpricks of light, each miniature droplet a complete universe of starlight and troposphere, forests of grass towering like sequoias into a curved aqueous field the color of turquoise. From the porch railing I watch the morning unfold as if on a vast orchestrated stage, the rabbit fading to the wings, the chitter of chimney swifts darting overhead, patches of clover busy with cabbage whites and a lone spangled fritillary, the raucous gobble of turkeys along the unseen railroad tracks, a catbird's mew, a rumble of thunder.

It's hard to feel broke when staring at such bounty, but lately I've been feeling the pinch of a tightening budget and struggling to measure our place

against the broader scope of a generalized recession or depression or whatever it is we are embroiled in. A recent article in the New York Times said that while the average American has barely been touched by the worsening economy, the perception of impending financial disaster makes them feel like things are worse than they are. I think the real measure of economic health lies in how hard we take getting an unexpected bill in the mail, especially one of high numeric value. When my homeowner's insurance premium arrived yesterday showing a 30 percent increase, I felt gutted like a fish.

Sometimes my wants exceed my means, and this clearly was a reality check. What really bothered me was that the amount was only half the cost of a camera lens I have the hots for. I've never been good at

math but the perspective was crystal clear, if not utterly depressing, so in my most nonchalant manner I held out my hand and opened it to the heavens in a symbolic act of letting go of my dream. But of course it doesn't work that way, and suddenly wanted it even more.

Too often when locked in the throes of feverish consumeristic lust I forget what I already have. This applies to tangible objects as well as the esoteric which encompasses most of existence. The real question of life might not be "Is this all there is?" but "How much do I need?" A column by column accounting of the latter would certainly contain fewer entries than the former, a fact that I sometimes lose sight of.

Lately the news has been dire with wars and natural disasters springing up like toxic mushrooms

all across the planet, and yet here I am with the sun at my back and the song of a thrasher yammering away from the thicket. I've been thinking a lot about our upcoming 35th wedding anniversary and the impending birth of a granddaughter, and of how when an interviewer asked me why I traded mountainous Colorado for an empty quarter most people consider merely a point between departure and destination, I replied that I had found a refuge, a sacred place, and how the idea grounded me to a set of values far more intrinsic than the bottom dollar or cash flow.

What amazes me is how readily I forget. Sweeping the yard with the binoculars, I pick out a swirl of iridescent long-legged flies above the broken fang of the hackberry, the harlequin mask of a bobwhite quail peering from the thicket, the small green globules of the season's first tomatoes, the chestnut flanks of the neighbor's horse glowing in the misty light, a flicker hammering away at a dead snag. The brome is deep and waving in a cool breeze drawn from a distant Gulf. On this bright clear morning my ledger registers riches beyond my wildest imagining. Sometimes I just need to do the math.

## KFMA, K-MAR-105 work with Kansas farm families

The Kansas Farm Management Association, a part of Kansas State University Research and Extension, is one of the largest farm management programs in the United States, according to KFMA administrator Kevin Herbel.

Twenty agricultural economists, who are faculty members in K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics, comprise the KFMA's professional staff. The economists work cooperatively with the association's members, providing production and financial management information for Kansas farm families to use in decision making.

Helping each KFMA member with individualized, research-based information is the program's primary goal, Herbel said. Through on-farm visits, whole-farm analyses, enterprise analyses, and other educational programs, the KFMA economists assist producers in:

Developing sound farm accounting systems; Improving decision making; Comparing with the performance of similar farms; and Integrating tax planning, marketing and asset investment strategies.

The K-MAR-105 Association is a non-profit educational corporation associated with the Kansas Farm Management Association, as well as K-State. K-MAR-105 serves as the central information processing unit for the six regional associations in the KFMA program. The data banks it maintains not only inform KFMA members but also are used extensively (and anonymously) for Department of Agricultural Economics Research and Extension activities.

The KFMA program has been working with Kansas producers since 1931. The K-MAR-105 Association has been providing financial accounting systems and financial performance benchmarks to agricultural producers since 1968.

More information about K-MAR-105 and the KFMA is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.agmanager.info/kfma>.

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# GRASS & GRAIN Auction Sales Scheduled

check out the on-line schedule at [www.grassandgrain.com](http://www.grassandgrain.com)

June 16 — Real Estate, furniture, appliances, household, guns, sports items, hand, garden tools & misc. at Manhattan for Harold McDowell Estate. Auctioneers: Vern Gannon 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 20 — Real Estate, furniture, household, collectibles, hand & garden tools, glassware & misc. at Topeka for Aletha Bevins. Auctioneers: Vern Gannon Auctions.

June 20 — Old & collectible, shop & misc. at Newton for James & Doris Miller. Auctioneers: Auction Specialists.

June 20 — Real Estate, antiques & household at Wathena for Isabel Sparks Estate. Auctioneers: Greg Boos Auctions.

June 20 — Furniture, appliances, computer, coins, jewelry, glassware & collectibles, tools & misc. at Junction City for Hildegard T. Carsno Estate. Auctioneers: Brown RE & Auctions.

June 22 — Furniture, appliances, china, glassware, household, shop tools, guns & misc. at Manhattan for Eunice Bohgren Estate. Auctioneers: Vern Gannon Auctions.

June 23 — Real Estate at Westmoreland for Landon Overkamp. Auctioneers: Vern Gannon Auctions.

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

June 25 — Commercial property at Wamego for Wilford & Donna Simmer. Auctioneers: Gannon Auctions.

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

June 27 — Vehicles, Sat. TV & computer, office equip., decorator items, furniture & household at Abilene for Lynn Anderson. Auctioneers: Reynolds, Mugler & Geist Auctions.

June 27 — Antiques, collectibles, household, misc. at Clay Center for John & Cenith Cowing. Auctioneers: Kretz, Hauserman, Bloom Auction Service.

June 27 — Antiques, household & tools at Salina for Ray & Leilla Kubitschke Estates. Auctioneers: Bob Thummel Auctions.

June 27 — Tractors, vehicles, machinery, tools, camper, boat, fishing, guns, collectibles, household at Eudora for Robert E. Miller Estate. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

June 27 — Real Estate, tractors, pickup, machinery, trailers, hand guns, long guns, shop & tools & concrete tools at LaCygne for Jerry & Jamie Chambers. Auctioneers: Marty Read Auctions & Crown Realty.

June 28 — Antiques, collectibles & furniture at Salina. Auctioneers: Bob Thummel Auctions.

July 6 — Real Estate-Wabaunsee Co. at Harveyville for Mildred (Robertson) Haney. Auctioneers: Cline Realty & Auctions.

July 11 — Antiques, collectibles, household, misc. at Clay Center for John & Cenith Cowing. Auctioneers: Kretz, Hauserman, Bloom Auction Service.

July 13 — Real Estate at Alma. Auctioneers: Murray Auctions & Realty.

July 13 — Osborne Co. farmland at Osborne for Randall K. Miller Rev. Living Trust. Auctioneers: Wolters 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, collectibles & furniture at Council Grove. Auctioneers: Hallgren Auctions.

August 1 — Consignment Auction at Lyndon for Harley Gerdes.

August 1 — Household, an-

tiques, furniture & collectibles at Manhattan for Elsie Bammes. Auctioneers: Ivan Seele & Fred Nelson.

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

August 15 — Farm machinery auction at Delia for Bob & Ann Macha. Auctioneers: Harris Auctions.

August 22 — Tools, household goods, antiques, misc. at Clay Center for Carl Swenson. Auctioneers: Kretz, Hauserman, Bloom Auction Service.

August 31 — Farm machinery & misc. S. of Abilene for Gene & Cindy Hoffman. 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.

## USDA and NASA launch 4-H flag into space with shuttle

USDA's National 4-H Headquarters and NASA sent the 4-H flag, depicting the familiar 4-H Clover, into space aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour on June 13, 2009, as part of the STS-127 mission.

"The inclusion of the 4-H flag on this mission is reflective of the commitment 4-H has to building young leaders in science, engineering and technology," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "As the global economy expands, these leaders will strengthen the United States' global competitiveness and leadership in these fields."

The STS-127 mission will deliver the final components of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Kibo laboratory to the International Space Station. The 16-day mission will include five spacewalks and the installation of two platforms outside of the Japanese module.

Azeem Ahmed, 17, who is an avid space enthusiast and 4-H member from Alabama and President of the Alabama 4-H Council, made the original request to NASA to have the flag flown with a future space shuttle mission.

"4-H is more than green and white — it is a collage," Ahmed said. "It is agriculture and it's also healthy living, leadership and citizenship and science, engineering and technology. Science, engineering and technology is one of the missions of 4-H, and by flying a 4-H flag into space, I hope we shine a new light on 4-H."

Ahmed has been a 4-H member for seven years. He has participated in a variety of leadership and science, engineer and technology programs on the state and national level and wants people to see 4-H as he and thousands of other youth do.

The 4-H Youth Development Program began at the start of the 20th century to help rural youth gain technical and leadership skills. More than 100 years later, the organization continues to promote positive youth development in the areas of citizenship; healthy living and science; engineering; and technology.

According to a two-year study in New York, young people who participate in 4-H clubs do better in school, are more motivated to help others, develop skills in leadership, public speaking, self-esteem, communication and planning and make lasting friendships.

National 4-H Headquarters, has set the goal of preparing one million new young people to excel in science, engineering and technology (SET) by 2013.

## AUCTION SATURDAY, JUNE 20 — 9:00 AM

1101 East Broadway — NEWTON, KANSAS

**OLD & COLLECTIBLE**  
Hull Little Red Riding Hood No. 967 cookie jar; telephones from the 20's-30' & 40's incl.: Western elec., Candlestick, tinners, Dispatchers scissor phone; porcelain signs; beer signs & lights incl.: Schlitz, Coors, Strohs, Olympia Gold Light Brite, Michelob, Schmidt, Miller Light, Coors Lite pool table light; Bud tapper handles w/sleeves; Busch Lite tappers; milk bottles; Linden pendulum wall clock; several old toys; wood boxes incl. 7-Up; Canada Dry; Peters High Velocity; Libbys; metal lunch box; many coll. cans & boxes; egg basket; wash boards; parking meters; unusual Perfection water cooler, pat. 1904; wicker baby buggy; Hesston toys inc.: 980 tractor; pickup; semi; Hesston buckles 75-95; Hesston lapel pins; Hesston child's 88-95; railroad S&L buckles; HCWA buckles; Southwestern Bell buckles; Santa Fe buckles; Santa Fe Marx train; bedside pendulum clock; old bottles; ice tongs; Hubley school bus; Griswold No. 866 lamb cake mold in box; 45 records; Coors cowboy pictures, 1981-82 on, undated; grape press; sausage stuffer; buggy seat; Omega Race video machine; Asteroids Deluxe video machine; Little Luxart library books; Roy Rogers Daisy BB gun; Mossberg 22 cal. bolt ax. rifle Mod. 46 ma; buck saws; hay knife; old tags; old pop bottles; pitcher pump; burr mill; 3 burner kerosene stove; many other items.

**SHOP & MISC.**  
5'x10' enclosed tandem axle trailer; 4x8 tilt trailer; 3000 watt 8 hp. Dayton generator; Aqua Blast hi pressure hot water power washer; DeWalt power miter saw; Delta jigsaw; Milwaukee portable band saw; Milwaukee screw gun; Skill manner drill; circular saws; chainsaws; tap & die set; **LEATHER WORKING TOOLS;** appx. 600 lbs. lead; sinker molds; plumber stove plumbers torch set; hand tools; woodworking vises; lawn edger; rain trains; air bubble; hyd. jacks; 20 ft. ext. ladder; 8 ft. step ladder; paint ladders; router w/table; many fishing poles; fishing tackle; 7.5 hp. trolling motor; 9.9 hp. boat motor; Coleman lanterns & heaters; exterior phone bells; bikes; golf clubs; exercise equipment; 110 & 220 window AC units; dining set; dressers; oak desk; pool table; pressure cooker; pots & pans & other items.

**NOTE:** Cash or check with proper ID as payment. Visa and Mastercard accepted. Not responsible for theft or accidents. Announcements made sale day take precedence over printed matter. Nothing removed until settled for. Check the website for pictures.

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## FARM AUCTION

SATURDAY JUNE 27 — 10:00 A.M.

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**GUNS (ATF recommendations will apply KS residents only):** Stevens bolt-action 410 Model 59A; Harrington Richardson Topper 12 ga.; Western Auto Revelation .22 Model 100 w/Bushnell scope; Winchester Model 12-12 ga. 2 3/4 chamber; Winchester 22L Rifle Model 74; Remington Target Master .22 Rifle bolt-action Model 510; Winchester 270 Win. Model 70 w/Weaver K4 scope; Crosman 761XL Air Rifle; ammunition & misc.; Day of Auction Inspection Only on the guns!!

**COLLECTIBLES & HOUSEHOLD/MISC.:** Keen Kutter grinder; steel traps; Dempster Water pump; #3 Buckeye crock; iron wheels; Longaberger basket; costume jewelry; pocket knives; Sessions mantle clock; MG. Ward guitar; Toys: 1/16th Fordson Super Major tractor; IH, JD & Tru-Scale tractors & implements; cook books; Hull W-21-12 compote; Hull 5 1/2 vase; Canonsburg Pottery service set of eight (platters, pitcher, gravy, s/p, c/s, butter); Silesia Germany place setting; German bowl; Pyrex mixing bowls; s/p sets; pitchers; C/I skillet; kitchen primitives; numerous pressed & other glassware; Range Craft cooking set; flatware; meat slicer; small appliances; Blonde full bedroom suite; bunkbed set; chest freezer; refrigerator; electric stove; washer & dryer; pine gun cabinet; end tables; book shelves; kitchen table; chest drawers; couch w/chair; rocking chairs; linens; bedding; chenille bedspreads; sewing items; Sears sewing machine; porch swing; yard art; youth saddles; cedar shutters; many items too numerous to mention!

**CAMPER, BOAT & FISHING:** 1984 Chevy Van 30 GB 25 Cruise Master Camper fully equipped (Kohler generator, Duo-Therm AC, furnace, bathroom, stove, refrigerator, etc.); Larson Lapline 17 ft. boat w/ Johnson 85 hp. motor; MinnKota trolling motor; numerous fishing rods, reels, river poles, tackle, lanterns; fishing & hunting knives; deer antlers; etc.

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**TERMS:** 5% earnest money the day of the auction with the remainder at closing on or before Aug. 13, 2009. Title insurance and escrow fees to be shared equally. The sale is not contingent on financing and all inspections should be conducted prior to sale date at bidder's expense. Murray Auction and Realty are representatives for the seller. All information obtained from sources deemed to be reliable but not guaranteed. Statements made day of auction take precedence over printed materials.

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# BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

## Over-Prepared

When we talk about someone being 'over-prepared', we think of a person who is very thorough and able to handle all possible contingencies. It is a good habit to have especially if you are someone who regularly messes up and therefore must be ready to respond when you over-mess up! A case in point; my friend Robin qualifies as this particular trip illustrates.

He left the Coachella Valley headed west on California Hwy. 91 in his newly acquired twenty-year-old pickup. It was pulling a slightly older 16 ft. C&W stock trailer missing two rails with one new tire and two horses on board.

Traffic was heavy. A motorist passed him on the left and pointed behind. Robin looked in the side mirror to see black smoke boiling from beneath his trailer's left wheel well! As he watched, the tire exploded! Pieces of

tread and sidewall filled the air as if he had hit a land mine.

"No sweat!" he thought taking full control. "I've been here before. I've got a spare!"

It took him another hundred yards to maneuver the limping rig onto the narrow shoulder and stop. Walking sideways against the whizzing traffic he examined the naked rim. Out of his emergency supply box he extracted a Jiffy Jack and pulled the trailer up on it. 'So far, so good!' he thought, smiling. Next he popped off the hubcap and proceeded to unscrew the lug nuts with his star wrench, which wasn't so easy since the rim now spun freely.

Placing the lug nuts in the hubcap behind him, he removed the rim and attempted to put on the spare tire. It was 1 1/2 inches too tall to fit! NO PROBLEMA! He had another jack!

Once the bottle jack was in position on the frame he raised the trailer high enough to allow the spare. Holding it in place he reached behind him, accidentally kicked the hubcap and scattered lug nuts into oncoming traffic! But Murphy's Law was no match for our cowboy! Risking the fate of possum and jack rabbit, he ducked and skittered into and out of passing vehicles, recovering 5 of the 8 lug nuts which he attached the spare. In relief he lowered the jack only to discover the spare was flat! OH NO!, you say, but ... never fear! He had a pressurized can of Flat Fixer!

It aired up the tire to a pitiful 15 psi.

As Robin told me this string of pitfalls and mishaps I realized I was truly in the presence of World Class Mess Up, who had learned to compensate.

"So," I asked, "Did the 15 psi spare cause any problems, 'specially with that load?"

"No," he explained, "It pulled really good. You see," he said tapping his head with his finger indicating the wisdom of one who has learned to over-prepare. "It was just right. It matched the other three!"

# Farmers protest animal ID system at Missouri meeting

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Hundreds of Midwestern farmers called Tuesday for the federal government to scrap a national livestock identification system, saying it would fail to make food safer and intrude on private businesses.

"You guys don't know what the heck you're doing," David Hannes, a farmer from Mountain Grove near the Arkansas border, told U.S. Department of Agriculture employees at a town hall meeting.

The USDA started the National Animal Identification System in 2004 to ensure the safety of nation's meat by helping the agriculture department track down livestock during disease outbreaks. Animals are tagged, and information about them and the farms where they live are kept in a searchable database.

USDA veterinarian David Hopson said the tracking system would help officials respond to disease outbreaks more quickly because they would know where livestock are and have been. The system also will help open foreign markets to American meat products faster, he said.

"We need a good system in place to keep our U.S. livestock healthy," Hopson said.

Individual states decide whether to participate in the animal tracking program and whether to make farmers' participation voluntary or not.

A 2008 Missouri law bars the state Department of Agriculture from participating in a mandatory livestock tracking program without the explicit approval of the Legislature. Michigan became the first state in 2007 to make parts of the program mandatory by requiring radio frequency identification ear tags to be attached to cattle and dairy cows.

Tuesday's rancorous town hall meeting at a hotel in Jefferson City was sponsored by the federal agriculture department and drew producers from Arkansas, Missouri,

Illinois, Kansas and Wisconsin.

Several dozen protesters, including some farmers, stood outside the hotel, while inside, the audience greeted critics with loud cheers, standing ovations and shouts of approval.

The tracking system is "irrelevant and unnecessary," said Rhonda Perry, program director of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, which helped sponsor the protests. It will not make the nation's meat supply safer because the problems have been at the processing facilities, said Perry, who farms near Armstrong in mid-Missouri.

Others sharply criticized the USDA's competency and honesty while USDA employees sat less than 10 feet away. Numerous speakers criticized government regulations that they said make it harder for American farmers to stay in business.

Steve Willard, president of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association, said no issue has triggered as much controversy as the livestock tracking system and implementing it could be a "costly mistake" given the strong opposition.

"The country was built on a free enterprise system and that should not be interrupted," Willard said.

Of the 55 people who spoke in nearly four hours, only one pork producer endorsed the tracking system.

Brent Sandidge, who lives in rural Saline County about halfway between Kansas City and Jefferson City, noted that pork sales plummeted during the recent swine flu outbreak, even though pigs weren't spreading the disease. He warned other livestock producers that one infection that is not quickly contained could ruin their industries.

"I watched swine flu destroy our markets," Sandidge said before hecklers interrupted him and he stormed out of the hotel.

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4.6L V8, shelves, 54,000 miles.  
**\$12,995**

**2006 FORD F-250**

Crew Cab, 2WD, Lariat, Diesel, Shortbed,  
52,000 miles. **\$24,500**

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RBT90121 **\$12,995**

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high back buckets, 42,000 miles.  
**\$16,295**

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Ext. Cab, 6.0L V8, 4WD, power windows & locks  
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Reg. Cab, 6.0L 4WD, power windows & locks  
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6.7 Diesel, 6 speed, tilt, cruise,  
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