

GRASS & GRAIN

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National Barn Preservation meeting coming to region

By Paula Glover

Restoring and preserving barns illustrates the saying "We save what we love," said Darrel Zimmerman, who moved a barn to his property in De Soto, east of Lawrence in order to preserve it and continue its use.

It is that labor of love and respect for the memory of those who originally built the barns that will be honored in the National Barn Alliance Conference in Atchison on June 10-12.

"Farms and barns are an important part of our heritage, and tourism attraction," said Sally Hatcher, one of the founding members of the Kansas Barn Alliance. She grew up on a farm in Michigan with a barn that dated prior to the Civil War and where her family still holds family reunions. She knows the value of preserving old barns.

"Preserving rural cultural assets is not a priority in Kansas like it is in the Upper Great Lakes and New England," she said. Because farmers are practical people who need structures on their property that they can use, part of the National Barn Alliance Conference will focus on re-purposing the old or restored barns with uses such as heritage breeds and grass fed beef, pork and chickens; a session on specialty lambs; cheese making and then a session on how to market family farm products.

Another feature of the meeting will be information on dating the age of a barn through dendrochronology, or examining the tree rings and determining when the trees used were harvested.

The conference is preceded by a Timber Frame Barn Repair Workshop on June 6-10, featuring the Trillium Dell Timberworks. It will be a hands-on barn repair workshop in rural Doniphan County near Troy. For more information on the workshop and the conference, go to www.kansasbarnalliance.org

The Zimmerman barn, Zimmermans Kill



Barn enthusiasts from around the country will gather this summer to discuss methods and reasons for preserving old barns. This one was featured on the Kansas Barn Alliance tour last summer in north central Kansas. It is an example of a Sears Barn that has been preserved.

(photo by Tom Parker)

Creek Farm, which has been in the family since 1880, is used for a variety of meetings, a summer farmer's market and a pumpkin festival, along with hosting meetings of various local civic groups.

In 2000, Zimmerman hired the help of some Amish neighbors moving and renovating the barn.

"It was like a bunch of old guys playing with oversized Lincoln logs," he joked. "The barn was in such a terrible state you could stand inside at night and see the stars." Fortunately, they were able to reuse the framing. One of the more interesting aspects of the restoration for Zimmerman was realizing that originally it was all built by hand.

"They didn't have any skill saws and power tools," he said.

For Andy Clements, rebuilding his great-grandfather's barn, the W.P. Symms Barn, has been a 16-year process that is still continuing. The area is called the Oakland Valley Six because of the corporation that runs the farm — six siblings.

"It is difficult to remodel barn — lot of things you need to do," Clements said. Work on the roof began in 1994 and just last year the family completed siding and painting, so that some work has been done for the entire 16 years.

"It doesn't make financial sense to do this; we could have built modern barns for a

fraction of the cost, but we are doing it because the family connection and historic preservation is important," he said. "The barn was designed by farmers, not using top-of-the-line materials, and the fact this barn is around 120 years later would probably be surprising to them."

The farm has been in his family since 1854. The barn is a Midwest Three Portal barn, designed by Clements' grandfather as a variation on a standard design and was built in 1898. It features doors on both sides and a loft where loose hay was put in. There was room for 11 teams of horses. The barn is 150 feet by 50 feet and four stories high.

Participants in the National Barn Conference will have lunch at the W.P. Symms Barn, during a tour of six barns in Doniphan County.

"The really fun part of the conference is going to the barns," Susie Haver said, "and learning about timbers and joists and roof lines. Almost everybody no matter where they grew up has a memory of a barn. The visits are good at fostering memories and things they haven't thought of."

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Program registration discount offered

For Grass and Grain readers, the 'early bird' registration fee has been extended until May 20. Download a registration form, from www.kansasbarnalliance.org and write Grass and Grain at the top. Organizers will honor the early bird rate which is as follows: Members of Kansas Barn Alliance, National Barn Alliance, or the Missouri barn preservation group is only \$95. If the registrant is not a member, the registration is \$125.

Annual dues are \$30 and can be paid online for either KBA or NBA.

Production crew films area youth for upcoming Farm Bureau TV campaign

By Tom Parker

After narrowly avoiding a deer (and later that morning, a turkey), a small convoy of vehicles turned into a gravelled lane somewhere east of Clay Center and slowly cruised past a stately limestone house. Beyond, where the lane ended, stood two barns, one brightly decorated in an Americana theme. The place looked occupied but deserted.

"Are we at the right place?" asked Dug Raines.

"We were supposed to turn at a K-State mailbox," his assistant, Jac Chesson, said. "I thought I saw a Chiefs mailbox."

"Nice place," said Lynne Hayes, eyeing the well-tended lawn sprinkled with bursts of flowers.

Nobody was home. After a few minutes of head-scratching, a vehicle turned into the drive and coasted to a stop. Hayes, a production agent from Kansas City, walked over to talk to the driver. After a moment, she turned and told the others, "Wrong place."

It was an inauspicious start to a two-day filming that spanned four counties in north-central Kansas, but perhaps not unexpected. For the most part the convoy consisted of residents of the larger urban centers of the state and this was their first time to the area. Plus, the accuracy of their dash-mounted GPS units was good but certainly not perfect.

The group was in Clay County on Saturday, April 24, as part of a production crew hired by the Kansas Farm Bureau for a new series of television commercials to be aired this fall.



Ashley Stewart, shown here with her brother, Ryan, was one of several young people chosen to be included in an upcoming Kansas Farm Bureau ad campaign. Stewart, daughter of Rod and Kannelle Stewart, was filmed working her sheep on her family's farm north of Washington. Dug Raines manned the video camera with Jac Chesson on audio.

Members included Raines, co-owner of Dugout Productions, Kansas City; Chesson, an audio technician also from Kansas City; Hayes, owner of Lynne Hayes Writing and Production, Shawnee Mission; and John Shostak, Director of Marketing for the Kansas Farm Bu-

reau, Manhattan. Assisting them for the two-day shoot was John Forshee, extension agent for the River Valley Extension District, Clay Center.

Shostak said the ad campaign was partly a response to offset negative misinformation spread by certain an-

imal-rights groups as well as to educate the public about the importance of agriculture in daily life. It was also to bring a younger generation into the Kansas Farm Bureau's educational outreach, something that until now had been somewhat lacking.

"We've done commer-

cial showing grandparents, parents and kids," he said, "but this time we wanted to focus strictly on the fourth generation."

It was the fifth such filming undertaken by the KFB, he said. The campaign, which started two years ago, centered on the topic of animal care and respect as practiced daily by producers across the state. By singling out individuals, Shostak said, the storyline would be deeply personal while still part of a larger whole.

Forshee, along with various ag teachers, was instrumental in finding the young people who would be the focus of the shoot. Individuals were interviewed on the telephone prior to filming and chosen based on their ability to express themselves as representatives of a new generation of livestock managers. That interaction between animal production and young person was the centerpiece of the filming.

The selection process wasn't easy, Forshee said. Washington County High School ag teacher John Kern, who narrowed down the candidates for his area, agreed.

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Over the Barn Gate

By Beth Gaines-Riffel

They're everywhere! They're everywhere! No, I'm not talking about a discovery of ants or an explosion of school children onto a sun-drenched playground but rather pickups and stock trailers. Last week as I drove across the heart of the Flint Hills — making my way from Marion County, south to El Dorado and then east across Greenwood and Woodson counties I don't know how many trailers that I passed — either loaded with cattle headed to grass or a caravan of empty ones — obviously returning from the task.

I know as I waited to turn onto Highway 54 at El Dorado there were at least six trailers that passed by. All headed north and all empty. I'm reasonably certain that somewhere on a beautifully green, recently burned patch of native grass, there are some very happy cows. Who says that happy cows come from California? Far as I'm concerned,

they are right at home in the Flint Hills.

It struck me, though, that this is the time when the frenetic pace of spring farming and ranching activity also tends to wear pretty thin on farm families who find that their to-do list has gotten considerably longer. It's been a pretty open spring, and not one that has been plagued with on-going bouts of moisture, thus the corn crop has gone in fairly smoothly in most areas. Nevertheless, when the tractors begin to run and the grass begins to grow farm-folk feel the pressure to get the task at hand completed — and that can make for some very long hours.

There are those ever-present challenges that are bound to create a little stress along the way — such as a broken disc opener or leaking seed tube on the planter, a blown tire on a stock trailer loaded with cattle or running out of fly tags before all the calves are worked. All hazards and frustrations of a day's work on the farm.

As we go about our spring business, I hope that you take the time and don't get too busy to remember to work safely. Accidents do happen, and they are just that — accidents. But a few preventative

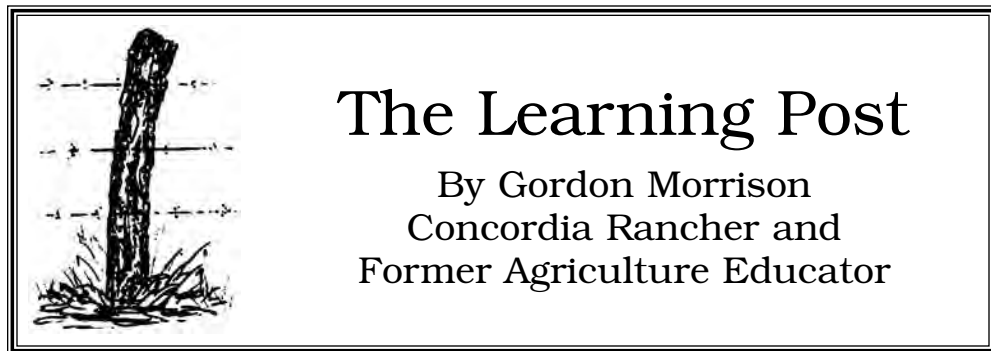
measures and not taking risky "short cuts" go a long ways toward helping to ensure a safe and productive season.

We can't forget to teach our youngsters how the task is to be done safely either. I read news reports of a tragic ATV accident in Rice County that took the life of a child. My heart goes out to the family as they deal with that loss. It was also a tragic reminder that we need to consider the age of the children that are working alongside adults in many farming operations.

Make sure that the tasks they are given are appropriate for their age. I know that I have been tempted to give my oldest jobs that he probably wasn't quite ready for — in part because he's always been around and lended a helping hand and observed what needed to be done. That and he's a big, strong kid. Although he's now 14, he's been able to do a lot of work — and for that I'm thankful. It also requires a regular briefing of the safety rules, to which he's liable to reply, "I know, Mom!"

So as you keep up the pace of the May farming madness, be safe out there.

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



The Learning Post

By Gordon Morrison
Concordia Rancher and
Former Agriculture Educator

Cattle On The Move

Big cattle trucks are on the roll again, moving cattle to grass. It all began when the days became longer and warmer after a harsh, cold, and wet winter. For some time the cattlemen had been counting their bales of hay and the days left before they could turn out to grass, which would greatly reduce their chore time and wintering expense.

Our pastures now have black cows, hauled in by truck, with white calves by their sides, grazing on lush early, cool-season grasses. Old Buck, our blue heeler, now has something to do; watch the cows as he lies by the house in the sun. You can tell boredom has left him, for he now has a job to do, controlling those cows from the yard. Although they give him no cause or excuse to bother them, he still takes an interest in watching them whenever he is not sleeping. At 12, he is equivalent in age to an 84-year-old person and is one of my best friends.

I grew up in the Flint Hills in the late 1930s and into the 1940s. The big pastures and ranches there often depended on Texas cattle to graze their grass. The Texas cattlemen liked the arrangement; their stocker cattle would come to grass thin and bony in the spring and leave in the fall with big, heavy bodies. The Texans insisted on five provisions from the Kansas ranchers:

1. The pastures would be burned off in the early spring.

2. They wanted their cattle on the grass early, ahead of the fast growth. They preferred that the cattle keep ahead of the grass, not allowing it to get tall and mature.

3. At the end of the season in October, when they took their cattle out, they wanted every critter accounted for, either the critter or its brand. If one had died, the cowboys were to find the dead animal and cut its brand off to show the owners.

4. These cattle often came off the open range, where brush grew. The cattle had seldom seen a man on a horse, so they could be pretty wild. They asked the cowboys to handle their cattle quietly with no yelling or chousing to make the spooky cattle stampede and leave the country.

5. They insisted that ponds or windmills be adequately spaced so the cattle would not have to walk long distances for a drink.

These wild Texas cattle would arrive by train to be unloaded, usually at the edge of town into tight corrals. From there the cowboys would drive them to rented pastures, often several miles away. The local cowboys took pride in being chosen, along with their fine ponies, to herd these spooky cattle from the edge of town onto country roads that might or might not be fenced.

Many stories have been told of how they lost control of the herd of wild steers. For example, white sheets flapping on a clothesline were enough to spook the herd. Some of the cowboys were hired to ride herd on the cattle during the summer — counting them, doctoring those that needed it, keeping the fences up, salting them, and cutting brands off any that died. In October, the cowboys of the town would again gather the now grass-fat steers that had tamed down somewhat and move them down the country roads to the railroad loading pens. It was always a tense time until the last critter was inside and the gate shut.

Today, cattle are still on the move in the spring and in the fall but they are more docile and usually are driven into corrals and loading chutes right at the edge of the pastures. Instead of the long cattle drives with all the uncertainties, they are loaded into smelly 18-wheeler cattle trucks or stock trailers that haul them to their destination with little chance for a stampede. The cowboy is often replaced with a farmer on a seldom ridden horse or maybe a four-wheeler, perhaps even wearing tennis shoes and cap instead of boots and hat. The rare professional cowboy is called on less often and only in emergency cases.

The Wild West has tamed down a lot with the use of big cattle trucks, trailers, and loading chutes; but even so, cattle are on the move, and this can pull at the rusty instincts of wanting to be a cowboy.



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By Ace Reid



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Commercial to feature area youth

Continued from page 1

"There were at least two dozen young people who would fit the bill," Kern said. "It wasn't an easy decision."

Filming took place at the fairgrounds in Washington and Cloud counties plus at the homes of four young people. Saturday's filming took place in Washington County, starting with livestock judging at the fairgrounds followed by in-depth shooting of the individuals working with their animals. Ashley Stewart, daughter of Rod and Kannelle Stewart, and Keenan Penning, son of Chuck and Theresa Penning, all of rural Washington, were the

subject of the first day's shoot. Cody Jensen, son of Kirk and Stephanie Jensen, rural Washington, was also filmed at the fairgrounds.

The following day the crew traveled through Clay, Cloud and Ottawa counties to the homes of Whitney Bohnenblust, daughter of Jay and Brenda Bohnenblust, of rural Clay County, and Lauren Forshee, daughter of David and Stacey, rural Ottawa County. Kelli Jackson, daughter of Ron and Janis, was filmed at the Cloud County fairgrounds.

Hayes said the filming went well and that the young people were "exceptional."

The parents of the

teenagers should be extremely proud of their kids in the way they handled themselves on camera as well as during the onslaught of interview questions, some which required multiple takes, she said.

"Their hospitality and willingness to welcome us into their lives and homes touched us deeply," she said. "It's an experience we'll never forget."

The sentiment was shared by Rod Stewart, father of Ashley. "It was an incredible experience for Ashley and all of us," he said. "It was definitely exciting."

The commercials are scheduled to air on television this fall.

Barns

Continued from page 1

"I've always been interested in barns and I live on a farm," said Haver, current president of the Kansas Barn Alliance. Her father rebuilt barn on the family property, near Concordia, and she is grateful she asked her father to tell the story of the barn. The family now has a party room in the barn, in memory of her father.

"By being part of the Barn Alliance, you come away with a really solid understanding of barns and appreciation for them," Haver said. "It's just fun to hang out with people who enjoy barns."



Auctioneer Jim Birdwell visited with Howard Fehlman prior to the start of Ohlde's Basic Blacks production sale last month in Marysville. Fehlman fitted the bulls for the sale.

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Oak claw foot curved glass china cabinet (old & nice); Walnut wardrobe with beveled mirror, carving & matching 4-drawer dresser with glass top displays & folding mirror (very unique); Oak parlor table with large ball & claw feet; antique French Provincial sofa (nice); 3-section modern corner display cabinet (very nice); roll front kitchen cabinet with granite top; Oak buffet; Lift chair; Maple hutch, dining table & 6 chairs; 2 4-drawer chests; Duncan Phyfe dropleaf table; 2 rocking chairs; antique buffet with beveled mirror; 37" flat screen TV's; King size bed; 2 jewelry armoires; marble top coffee table; Oak parlor table; desk; futon; side chair; camel saddle; marble top stand; Oak stand; hall table; small Kenmore freezer; 15' upright deep freezer; living room chair; magazine stand; bar; floor lamp; 3-drawer file cabinet; 3 bookshelves; office chair; Oak chairs; console sewing machine; 2 portable TV's; record/tape player; portable TV/VCR player; TV stand; coffee & end tables; footlocker/trunk; dehumidifier; Sharp microwave; folding chairs; stools; lawn chairs; commercial hair dryer; Seth Thomas mantel clock; Austria Lemonade

pitcher; Wm Rogers silverplate in case; set of 12 white with silver trim china; etched pitchers; handpainted hatpin holder; figurines; Anniversary clock; crystal stemware; green opalescent bowl & 2 vases; German lace ballerina figurine; 25 cups & saucers; German punch set; 20pcs Delft; approximately 55 bells; mantel clock; table lamp with leaded shade; large wood ship; etched glass; pewter figurine; Lefton tea set; pressed glass creamer & sugar; crystal bowls & dishes; butter dishes; set of swan salt dips; 3 gallon Red Wing crock; berry set; carousel horse music box; salt dips; thimbles; etched glass decanter; green stemware; pressed glass goblets; handpainted plates; toothpick holders; sandwich plate; Luckey Strike tin; 2 milk cans; Paul Storie pottery; wood carved pieces; cast iron kettle; copper coal hod; sad irons; vases; Ruby Red & other glass trays; Noah's Ark figurine; antique picture frames; blue/white chamber pot; 1982 Royals autographed ball; covered turkey; Religious figurines; red glass; tablecloths, linen, fancy work; quilt; Oak framed mirror; opalescent compote; approximately 20 decanter including Willie Wildcat; candleholders;

lots vintage costume jewelry- charm bracelet (sterling); sapphire earrings; philagree butterfly; rhinestones; pins; earrings; brooches; bracelets; necklaces; beads; watches; cuff links; cameo; Black Hills gold; tie tacks; 8 belt buckles; cigarette holder; Pony Boy cap gun; Zippo 60th Anniversary lighter; stereo components; small safe; Kirby Generation 3 vacuum; radio; books; glasses; bowls; measuring cups; canisters; Corningware; baking dishes; pie & cake pans; mixing bowls; Corelle dishes; teapots; platter; kitchen utensils; pots; pans; silverware; jewelry box; Holiday decorations; globe; several modern cast iron toys; VCR tapes; bread machine; variety of small kitchen appliances; hat rack; Bissell upright carpet shampooer; stereo set; DVD player & DVD's; invalid commode; folding table; card table; hamper; ironing board; microwave; slide projector; coolers; pressure cooker; electric roaster & stand; Tupperware; fruit jars; luggage; records; towels; walker; pet carrier; miscellaneous tools; miscellaneous tools; lots very nice clean items!

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GRASS & GRAIN Our Daily Bread

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

Carla Hajek, Tampa, Wins Grass & Grain Our Daily Bread Contest For The Week

Winner Carla Hajek, Tampa: "If you have leftover roast beef, this recipe is quick, easy and really good."

ROAST BEEF SCRAMBLE

- 3 corn tortillas (6 inches), cut into thin strips
- 4 teaspoons olive oil, divided
- 2 tablespoons chopped onion
- 5 eggs, beaten
- 1 plum tomato, diced
- 1/2 cup shredded cooked roast beef
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1/3 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese

In a large nonstick skillet, cook tortilla strips in 2 teaspoons oil for 5 minutes or until lightly golden. Add the onion and remaining oil; cook for 2 minutes longer. Add the eggs, tomato, beef, salt and pepper. Cook and stir until eggs are almost set. Sprinkle with cheese; cover and let stand for a couple minutes. Yield: 2 servings.

Lucille Wohler, Clay Center:

RHUBARB CRUNCH

- 4 cups chopped rhubarb
 - 1 1/2 cups sugar
 - 3 tablespoons flour
 - 1 1/2 cups oatmeal
 - 1 cup brown sugar
 - 3/4 cup oleo
 - 1 cup flour
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1/2 teaspoon soda
 - 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- Mix rhubarb, sugar and flour. Put in bottom of an 8-by-8-inch baking dish. Mix oatmeal, sugar, oleo, flour, salt, soda and baking powder. Press over top of rhubarb mix. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Top with whipped cream or ice cream.

Gin Fox, Holton:

ALL-IN-ONE POT SAUCY PASTA

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 onion, chopped

- 3 cups rotini pasta, uncooked (any pasta will work)
- 3 1/2 cups water
- 26-ounce jar spaghetti sauce
- 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 red pepper, chopped
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Brown meat in a large deep skillet; drain. Add onions and cook until tender. Stir in pasta, water and sauce. Bring to a boil, cover and simmer on low heat 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add vegetables and cook 5 minutes stirring frequently. Sprinkle with cheese and enjoy.

Kellee Rogers, Topeka: **STRAWBERRY SANDIES**

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 box strawberry cake mix
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/3 cup water
- 1/4 cup butter

1 large egg

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly spray baking sheets with cooking spray. Place sugar in a bowl. In a large bowl combine cake mix, flour, water, butter and egg; beat at low speed with a mixer until well blended. Using hands shape heaping tablespoonfuls of dough into balls then roll in sugar to coat. Place 2 inches apart on prepared baking sheets and pat gently to flatten. Bake for 12 to 14 minutes or until set. Cool on pans for 2 minutes. Remove to wire rack and cool completely, about 15 minutes.

Sandy Hill, Eskridge: "This is lower in calories and takes just minutes to prepare. Is rich and buttery as traditional alfredo."

EASY CHICKEN ALFREDO

- 3 ounces uncooked fettuccine
- 1/2 cup 1% cottage cheese
- 3 tablespoons evaporated milk
- 1 tablespoon butter-flavored sprinkles
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 teaspoons minced fresh parsley
- 1/8 teaspoon coarsely ground pepper
- 3/4 cup cubed cooked chicken breast
- 2 tablespoons chopped sundried tomatoes (not packed in oil)
- 1 tablespoon sliced ripe olives

Cook fettuccine according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a small food processor, combine the cottage cheese, milk, butter sprinkles and garlic. Cover and process until smooth. Transfer to a microwave-safe bowl. Stir in the Parmesan cheese, parsley and pepper. Add the chicken, tomatoes and olives. Cover and microwave on high for 2 to 3 minutes or

until heated through. Drain fettuccine and serve with chicken mixture. Yield: 2 servings.

Mary Rogers, Topeka: **BLACK BEAN & MANGO SALAD**

- 15-ounce can black beans, rinsed & drained
- 2 cups mango, diced
- 1 cup sweet red bell pepper, diced
- 6 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup cilantro leaves, chopped
- 1/4 cup lime juice
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded & minced
- Salt to taste

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Toss and serve.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh: **PORK CUTLETS**

- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

- 1 pound pork tenderloin, sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 3 teaspoons vegetable oil, divided
- 1/2 cup salsa
- 1/2 cup thawed frozen corn kernels
- 1/4 cup water

Combine flour, salt and pepper. Dredge pork in flour mixture. Heat 2 teaspoons oil over medium heat in a nonstick skillet. Saute half the cutlets 1 to 1 1/2 minutes per side. Transfer to a plate. Repeat with remaining 1 teaspoon oil and cutlets. Cover to keep warm. Add salsa, corn and water to skillet. Simmer over medium heat 1 minute. Remove from heat and spoon salsa mixture over cutlets. Top with sour cream.

Peggy Tholstrup, Salina: "Submitted for 140th Immanuel Lutheran Church, Salina, new cookbook by

Karla Tillberg (with her approval)."

YUMMY MEATLOAF

- 1 1/2 pounds lean ground beef
- 1/2 cup crushed buttery round crackers
- 3/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1-ounce package dry onion soup mix
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 2 tablespoons steak sauce

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl stir together ground beef, crushed crackers, cheddar cheese and onion soup mix until well combined. In a separate bowl stir together eggs, ketchup and steak sauce until smooth. Stir the egg mixture into the beef mixture, adding a little water if necessary. Shape into a loaf and place in a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan. Bake in a preheated oven for 45 to 60 minutes, until no longer pink.

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"Six days ago I had chest pains after one and one half minutes on the treadmill. Today, I went 45 minutes with no chest pain. -J.C., Wichita.

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The Secret Ingredients Behind A Great Get-Together

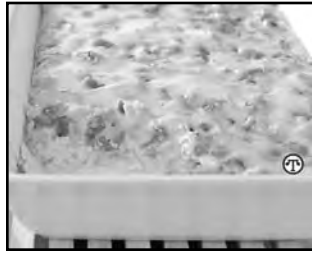
(NAPSA) — You can wow your guests without spending all your time shopping for ingredients or cooking. The hostess with the mostest knows you don't need to invest a ton of time and money to throw a great party. Just follow these simple ideas for your next gathering:

Plan Ahead: Do your chopping and prep ahead of time or even just set the table the night before. Any time you save the day of can be spent mingling with your friends and family.

Involve Your Guests: Throw a themed potluck such as Casserole Night — and have people bring their family favorites. Or try a build-your-own-pizza party so everyone can enjoy his or her own personal creations. Sharing and creating together can be half the fun.

Save Stove Space: Utilize your oven and crock-pot instead of slaving over the stove to whip up multiple dishes at the same time. One crowd-pleaser is to mix Velveeta with a can of RO*TEL† in the microwave for quick and easy queso dip.

Try these easy, one-dish wonders:



Velveeta Cheesy Bacon-Hash Brown Casserole

- 8 slices Oscar Mayer Bacon, chopped
- 2 cups frozen shredded hash browns, thawed
- 1/2-pound fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 1 each red & green pepper, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 12 eggs
- 1/3 cup Breakstone's or Knudsen Sour Cream
- 3/4-pound (12 ounces) Velveeta Pasteurized Prepared Cheese Product, thinly sliced

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Cook bacon in large skillet on medium heat 10 minutes or until crisp, stirring occasionally. Remove bacon from skillet, reserving 2 table-

spoons drippings in skillet. Drain bacon on paper towels. Meanwhile, add potatoes, mushrooms, peppers and onions to drippings; cook 10 minutes or until peppers and onions are crisp-tender, stirring occasionally. Spread vegetable mixture onto bottom of 9-by-13-inch baking dish sprayed with cooking spray. Whisk eggs and sour cream until well blended; pour over vegetable mixture. Top with bacon and Velveeta. Bake 40 minutes or until center is set and casserole is heated through. Makes: 12 servings.



Gram's Chicken Potpie, Updated

- 1-pound boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite-size pieces
- 2 tablespoons Kraft Zesty Italian Dressing

- 2 cups frozen mixed vegetables
- 10 3/4-ounce can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1/4-pound (4 ounces) Velveeta Pasteurized Prepared Cheese Product, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry (half of 17.3-ounce package), thawed
- 1 egg, beaten

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Cook and stir chicken in dressing in large skillet on medium heat 5 minutes or until done. Stir in vegetables and soup. Spoon into greased 9-inch-square baking dish; top with Velveeta. Unfold pastry sheet; place over chicken mixture. Fold under edges of pastry; press onto top of baking dish to seal. Brush pastry with egg. Cut several slits in pastry to permit steam to escape. Place dish on baking sheet. Bake 30 minutes or until crust is deep golden brown. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Makes: 6 servings.

For additional mealtime inspiration, visit www.Velveeta.com/Loaf.
†RO*TEL is a product of ConAgra Foods, Inc.

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Steve Irsik to receive award at KFS agroforestry field day

Steve Irsik lives about 26 miles west of Dodge City — the town the National Climatic Data Center lists as the windiest in the nation.

Irsik takes that fact seriously. He has been planting windbreaks and keeping them in shape near Ingalls for more than 20 years. He's now got 35 acres of trees (6 miles, if end to end), protecting his interests in dairies, feedlots, feed mills, elevators, cropland and the family farmstead. The Kansas Tree Farm Committee rates Irsik's plantings as among the highest quality in the state. They'll honor him with the 2010 Kansas Agroforestry Award May 20, as part of the Kansas Forest Service's annual Agroforestry Field Day. Field day hosts are asking interested Kansans to pre-register for the event by May 14. The award ceremony and

morning program will start at 9 a.m. at the K-State Research and Extension Gray County office in Cimarron.

The event will be almost 75 years to the day since western Kansans endured the devastation still known as Black Sunday. An Associated Press reporter's eyewitness account of the day gave an entire era its name: Dust Bowl.

Windbreaks are only part of the approach known today as agroforestry, however. Wildlife habitat, for example, can qualify, too, said Bob Atchison, KFS forester who coordinates the field day.

"Agroforestry is deliberately mixing trees and shrubs with ag production systems," he explained. "The practice can involve anything from riparian plantings to timber, mushroom or

nut production. In turn, well-managed results can benefit the environment, your enterprises, your bottom line, and even your personal well-being."

Even so, the area's ever-present winds and long memories make windbreaks a natural topic for the KFS's western Kansas field day, Atchison said. So, Irsik also will be part of the program, discussing his personal experiences with windbreaks — from planning and selecting species to maintaining and assessing results.

"Weed barrier fabric, drip irrigation and a lot of hard work have been keys to his successes," said Delores Eberle, Cimarron-based erosion expert with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Along with KFS forester John Klempa

of Garden City, Eberle nominated Irsik for the 2010 Kansas Agroforestry Award. The field day's afternoon tours will include several Irsik windbreaks. Other tour stops will be Aaron Jantz's field windbreak, the Strawn Farms windbreak, and a session on habitat-related wildlife management with Daryl Fisher, biologist with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Other highlights and presenters of the field day program will be:

New information from a remote-sensing project that has identified the location and condition of the windbreaks in the Coronado Crossing Resource Conservation and Development area, which includes Clark, Ford, Gray, Haskell, Hodgeman, Meade and Seward counties — Kabita Ghimire,

Kansas State University geographer.

1,000 cankers disease: the rapidly spreading black-walnut tree killer that already has swept through Colorado and points west — Jon Appel, Kansas Department of Agriculture plant pathologist.

Rejuvenating older windbreaks, citing real-life studies in southwest Kansas — Rich Straight, lead agroforester with the USDA Forest Service's National Agroforestry Center.

New financial opportunities for landowners inter-

ested in renovating windbreaks — Mark Janzen, specialist with USDA's NRCS in Kansas.

A \$10 registration fee will help defray the cost of refreshments and a hot lunch from Webb's BBQ.

Sheila McCarty, Coronado Crossing RC&D, is taking registrations by phone (620-227-3731, Ext. 3) or e-mail sheila.mccarty@ks.nac.dnet.net.

A Web link to the field day brochure, which includes a registration form is at www.kansasforests.org/calendar/index.shtml.

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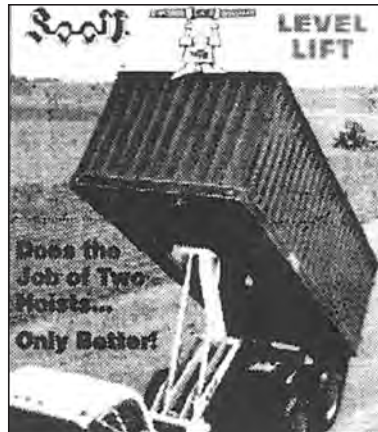
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FARMLAND AUCTION

MONDAY, MAY 17 — 7:30 PM
Courtyard by Marriott Motel (I-135 & Schilling Rd.)
SALINA, KANSAS

70 ACRES CROP LAND

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: A portion of the NE/4 1-15s-2 w consisting of 70 acres M/L, Saline County Kansas. Surveyed and recorded at the Saline County Register of Deeds.

LOCATION: Five miles east of Ohio St. on Magnolia Rd. (Blk. Top) to Cunningham Rd. One mile south to Schilling Rd. East one mile to Niles Rd. One quarter mile south.

TILLABLE LAND: 65.5 acres; Waterways 3.4 acres.

FSA WHEAT BASE: 52.1 Acres M/L; 33 bu. Yield

FSA GRAIN SORGHUM BASE: 1.5 Acres M/L; 44 bu. Yield

FSA SOYBEAN BASE: 10.7 Acres M/L; 19 bu. Yield

FSA BARLEY BASE: 1.3 Acres M/L; 42 bu. Yield

REAL ESTATE TAXES: 2009 taxes \$357.00 (\$5.10/acre) approximately. Seller to pay 2009 and all prior taxes.

MINERALS: 100% of Seller's interest conveyed to Buyer.

Sells subject to owner's confirmation.

Buyer will execute a Real Estate Contract and pay 10% of purchase price immediately following the auction. Balance of funds will be paid the day of Closing with cashier's check or wire transfer of funds.

CLOSING: June 17, 2010. C.W. Lynn Abstract Co., Inc., Salina, KS, will serve as the Escrow Agent and the Closing Agent. Title Insurance cost will be shared equally between the seller and buyer.

POSSESSION: Buyer to receive possession on August 1, 2010. Sells subject to tenant's rights through July 31, 2010.

CASH RENT: Buyer will receive Cash Rent in the amount of \$3,733.00 (\$53.33/acre) on July 31, 2010.

Property information provided from sources deemed reliable, although the Seller, Farm Service Agency, Odle Rural Real Estate, or others make no guarantees as to its accuracy. All prospective Buyers are urged to fully inspect the property, its condition, and rely on their own conclusions. Announcements made on the day of the auction take precedence over printed material and previous oral statements. Odle Rural Real Estate is the Agent of the Seller.

For a Sale Bill or additional information, call Terry Odle.

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AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 22 — 10:00 AM
Knights of Columbus, 2206 E. 23rd
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Clarke 14" chop saw; Dewalt compound miter saw; Schumacher battery charger; engine stands; work bench w/drawers; 2-Craftsman tool boxes; Craftsman 6" bench grinder; Craftsman tool sets; bench vise on stand; Craftsman 10" radial arm saw; Dayton chain hoist; Coleman Powermate pressure washer; Skil saw; Champion 5000lb.12volt winch; Sm. 12V. Winch; Craftsman 9" polisher; Ryobi 1/2 hammer drill; Makita elec. Drill cordless drills; and more power tools; many hand tools; 1/2 impact; 3/8 air ratchet; **Garden & Yard Tools,** DR Trimmer; Atlas 5hp 20" snow blower; Craftsman 20" snow blower; Roto-Hoe rear tine tiller; Montgomery Wards frt. tine tiller; Yazoo push mower; Choremaster-Lodge Shipley gas cultivator; lawn sweeper; 2 lawn tractors???; B&D cordless weed eater; hedge trimmers; Alum. Ramps; chains & boomers; Coleman 10x10 tent & lanterns; milk cans; Vaper HVLP paint gun; and to much miscellaneous to list it all!

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AUCTION

TUESDAY, MAY 18 — 5:00 PM
9707 NE 150th — CASSODAY, KANSAS
LOCATION: From Cassoday, 1 1/8 mile West on NE 150th (all blacktop road).

160 ACRES GRASSLAND W/RANCH HOME SELLS FIRST AT 5 PM



Excellent modern ranch home built in 2000. Main floor has 1860 sq. ft., modern kitchen with oak cabinets,

built-in appliances, bar with Jenn air range/grill, living room with gas fireplace, great room with wet bar and oak cabinets, library with built-in oak shelving, 1 bath. Full walkout basement with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, laundry room. Master bedroom has walk-in closet, large bath with 2-person shower, Jacuzzi tub and double sink. All bedrooms have large escape windows. Attached oversized garage as finished utility room with sink and laundry. Large front and rear wood decks the full length of the home.

Yard improvements include: A metal 40'x106' slant wall building with full concrete floor and 24'x106' lean-to open to the south. Numerous pipe fenced cattle pens with crowding alleys, working area and sorting pens. Rural water and well water supply.

The 160 Acres has approx. 40 Acres in brome, the balance is native flint hills grass. This is a must see home with a good shop/storage buildings on 160 Acres of excellent flint hills grass. This blacktop location near Cassoday has a long private driveway with electronic privacy gate, yet easy access to the highway for a short drive to town.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Northeast 1/4 Sec. 21-23-7, Butler County, Kansas.

TAXES: 2009 taxes were \$2,476.82. 2010 taxes will be prorated to closing date.

TERMS: Earnest money deposit in the sum of \$30,000.00 due day of sale. The balance will be due on or before June 18, 2010.

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IH 706 gas tractor, wide front, 3 pt., 2 pto's, w/Farmhand F-235 loader, good rubber all around; 1980 Chevy Silverado 30 pickup, V8, auto, duals w/elect/hyd. dump flatbed; Kawasaki 300 Bayou 2x4 wheeler; Hesston 1014 hydro swing swather; 2 Hesston 5800 round balers, elect. & manual tie; side delivery rake; King Kutter 6' 3 pt. rotary mower; Krause 12' wheel disk; PTO driven manure spreader; 110 gal. fuel tank & hand pump; B&D fire storm circular saw; Snap-on shop scooter; 2 - 17" used tires; & more.

HOUSEHOLD

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Iowa hearing begins marathon farm bill process

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A hearing on the new federal farm bill Friday, April 30 in Des Moines began the arduous process of writing a mammoth bill that covers everything from farm credit to food stamps.

The current \$284 billion bill, approved in 2008, expires in September 2012, and members of the House Agriculture Committee hope to avoid disagreements that delayed passage last time.

Hearings are scheduled to continue through May 18 in Nampa, Idaho; Fresno, Calif.; Cheyenne, Wyo.; Morrow, Ga.; Troy, Ala.; Lubbock, Texas; and Sioux Falls, S.D.

"During these field hearings, I want to hear from farmers and ranchers, not only about what has worked well in the past, but also whether the current farm programs offer the best safety net possible for pro-

ducers," said committee chairman Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn.

Peterson told the roughly 100 people at the hearing that it would be a long, difficult process to craft a bill that takes on so many issues.

Frank D. Lucas, R-Okla., the committee's ranking minority member, said his goal is to provide the tools farmers need "to do what you do best" — that is, produce the world's "safest, most abundant, most affordable food supply."

"I think it's extremely important to hear from you about what is working, what is not working and what changes we can make," he said.

Lucas said he also hopes to help producers avoid what he sees as negative effects of environmental regulations that hinder their ability to market crops.

About 75 percent of the

bill's funding goes toward food nutrition programs, such as food stamps, but it also supports commodity crops, horticulture, livestock, conservation, trade, agricultural research, farm credit, rural development, energy and forestry.

Some of that support comes in the form of controversial direct payments to farmers, although the 2008 bill was changed to prohibit all subsidies to anyone whose non-farm adjusted gross income exceeds \$500,000. The current measure also banned most direct payments to anyone with more than \$750,000 in adjusted gross income from farming.

Dairy farmer Dane Lang sat on a panel at Friday's hearing and addressed two proposals he would like to see in the 2012 farm bill: increased subsidies for dairy producers and stricter quality controls for milk.

"That doesn't cost any money to change quality standards," said Lang, who farms near the eastern Iowa town of Brooklyn.

Lang said quality improvements would automatically disqualify some cows from dairy production. He said that would help farmers decrease supplies and drive up prices, which have only begun to rebound from near record lows last year.

Lang said increasing subsidies from \$9 to \$10 per hundred pounds of milk to \$15 or \$16 would help producers offset rising production costs.

"Current (government) payments are not going to keep anyone in business, they can be helpful, but they're not very helpful," Lang told The Associated Press before the hearing. "Being able to produce milk for \$9 to \$10 — those days are over."

Richard Bayliss, a corn and soybean producer near Ottumwa, Iowa, asked that the 2012 farm bill look forward.

"Look 10 or more years into the future with respect

to input costs, markets, technology, global perspective and our children's children," Bayliss said. "The program should fit the future, not what we are doing this week or next."

Peterson said he wants to seek ways to improve use

of existing funds rather than seek new sources of funding.

"If there are ways that we can use the money we have to create a better farm safety net, I want to look at those options," Peterson said.

AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 15 — 10:00 AM

As we have leased our land, we will sell the following Farm Machinery and Miscellaneous at Public Auction located at 734 26000 Road, DENNIS, KS, From PARSONS, KS Jct. of Hwy 59 & 400, West on 400 8 miles to Dennis KS, (Gray Road) then North on Gray Road 2 miles to 26000 Rd then ¼ mile East of 26000 Rd or From Jct. of Hwy 169 & 400 North of Cherryvale, then East on 400 Hwy 6 miles to Gray Road at Dennis, then 2 miles North on Gray to 26000 Road. We will continue to operate our seed cleaning and Dixon Lawn Mower business at our current location.

FARM EQUIPMENT

1991 Ford 876 Tractor, Newly overhauled engine, 6049 hrs, new 20.838 duals all around; IH 3788 Tractor new engine, T A and shift improvement package, 20.8x38 rubber; DMI duals 20.8x38 fits 378, axle mount; IH 560 Tractor, gas, wide front good 3 pt, pto; IH 1206 D Factory 23.1x34 rubber 3pt & pto; Heavy Dual Loader, "quick tach" for 1206, w/forks; 1983 New Holland TR 85 Combine, new 3208 Cat Engine, 4 wheel drive, w/20 ft. 972 flex head w/bat real; JD #53 Row Crop Head w/Improvements; JD 6600 Combine Dsl Hydro, 16' header; JD Pick Up head for 6600; 1959 JD 55 Combine w/14' head; JD Pick Up head for 55; 2 JD End pull draper swathers; JD Pick Up head, needs works; 1 New and 1 used John Blue anhydrous regulator; 32' Sunflower Tandem Disk Model 1433; 37' Sunflower Field Cultivator model 5034; 24' Krause Chisel Model 742A; 25' Krause Tandem Disk Model 1407; 24' Glencoe Field Cultivator, heavy shanks; 17' IHC Model 470 Tandem disk; 14' IHC Model 480 Tandem disk; 16 Shank JD 3 pt Chisel, Model 1600; 15' Kewanee Cultipacker Mulcher; 12 ½' Bush Hog offset Heavy disk; 6-16" bottom semi mounted plow IH; Glencoe 6 row 3 cultivator; IHC 6 row cultivator model 663; Crust Buster 20' wheeled folding rotary hoe; JD 6 row pull rotary hoe; 28' 4 section IH Peg Tooth Harrow; 16' Round Harrow on wheels; 16'x7" I Bean Field Drag, rail road wts.; JD Flex 10' Wheel Disk; JD 13x7 Grain Drill; JD 6' pull Tandem Disk; IH Model 5400 no till drill 15' with coulters cart w/Dickey John Monitor, new disks; 2 IH 5100 soybean special drills w/Hyd Double Hitch; 2 IH Model 400 Air Planters, 6 row; Herd 5 bu, PTO drive Draw Bar Mount Seeder; New Idea Model 5409 Disk Mower 9'; New Holland Model 295 12' Haybine; 12 Wheel Hi-Capacity Hay Rake; New Holland Side Delivery Rake; 4 Wheel 3 pt Windrow Turner; IHC 9' Balanced Head Sickle Mower Trailer Type; 3 pt Bale Spears; JD 855 Track Loader w/Highlift Bucket (needs engine repair); Model 600 Silage Cutter w/Electric Sharpener; 2 Row Narrow Row Head; Pickup Attachments; 2 Automatic Dump Silage Gates for Trucks; Grain-A-Vator Model 60 Silage Feed Wagon; 1 damaged 1500 Gal Poly Tank; 1 ½" Transfer Pump Briggs Eng.; JD 300 Gal w/40' Boom; 500 Gal Hyd Driven pump PU Sprayer, Good stainless steel tank; 2-1000 Gal, 1-200 gal overhead; Stand w 2-300 gal tanks; Stand w/300 Gal Tank; 60"x8" Kewanee Portable Auger; 6"x47" Hutchison Portable Auger; Foam Marker used one time; Paint Field Marker; 20' Chain Conveyor on Transport; Karre Model 600 Dump Scales.

weese w/engine driver hyd system; 1969 IH short coupled trailer toter 392 cu in w/5+2; 1984 Heavy built 30 ft goose neck tandem axle dual wheeled trailer w/extensions for hauling hay/set of heavy ramps; 1992 Heavy built 8'x18' flat bed trailer tandem axle single wheel bumper trailer; 1975 20 ft stock trailer, good; 1970 20 ft pup grain trailer, new hopper, pindle hitch; Parker gravity wagons 500 bu, 400 bu, 250 bu; Model 30 Grain-A-Vator 175 bu auger wagon, good; 400 bu Grain Kart; 2 Pickup bed trailers; 3 - 4 Wheel Trailer w/Grain sides; 2 - 4 Wheel trailers running gears only; 7'x 9' Truck Bed w/Grain sides & Stock racks; 7'x 9' Truck Bed w/Stock racks w/2 tool boxes; 8'x12' Heavy Steel Truck Bed.

TOOLS

Sand Blaster; 1" Air Impact Wrench; 2 Small Power Wrenches; 1 Set Comb. Wrenches, Large; ¾" Drive Socket Set; Johnson Sickle Servicer; Lots of Misc. Tools; 6 pcs Sections Roller Conveyor; 25' Flat Belt Conveyor 15" wide, portable; 20' N H 972 head for parts; Lots of new plow and cultivator bolts; Lots of new sickle guards JD & Heston; 5 ½' x 17 ft Steel Tanks; Chains & Boomers; 4" Straps & Ratchets.

ANTIQUES

Black Kettle, Lard Press; 2 Corn Shellers; Hay Fork; 1 Set of Hay Slings; Wooden Harness Vise; Small Wooden Desk; Steel Wagon Wheels; Several Iron Wheels; Buggy Shaft.

MISCELLANEOUS

12' Portable Loading Chute; Impement Caddy, 2 wheel; 27 Concrete Feed Bunks; Large Self Feeder w/steel creep gates portable; New Round Auto Water w/gas heater, never used; 2 New Large Heavy Hay Tarps, never used; Hay Ring Feeder; New Salt Feeder; Woven Wire Stretcher & Clamps; 34 used yellow pine 2"x12' approx 17'; 13 used yellow pine 2"x12' approx 13'; Misc. used lumber; 21 Concrete Culverts 12" & 15"; 50 Approx 2" x16" used pipe; 12 - 16" wire panels, Cattle; Grain moisture tester; Hay tester; Hay Core Sampler; Medi Dart Kit Bow & Pole; Dehorners; Stewart Elect Sheep Shears; Lots of Vet Tools; Chicken Waterers, Chicken feeders, Heated Waters; Lots of Electric Fence wire, Posts, Insulators & Chargers; New Steel 3 pcs 3"x3"x 3/16 Angle 2"x2"x1/4" Angle; Used Steel 3 pcs 10"1/4 27', 29' & 30' long; Used steel pipe misc lengths; 40 pcs New PVC pipe 1/1/4 Dia; New 48" and 32" Heavy Woven Wire; Used Woven & Barb Wire; Several Pipe Gates; Go Cart, needs work; One lot of other items, too numerous to mention.

BARN

Large barn with lots of tin and some barn siding to be torn down.

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Full sister to GAR Concrete, 7074 is certain to become a premier donor in her own right. She has been flushed one time and produced 8 high quality embryos. She is due to calve 10/27/10 to GAR Predestined. She ranks in the top 1% of the breed for WW, YW, SF and SYG; top 2% for SG and SB; and top 4% for CED and RE.



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Full sister to GAR Prediction, N105 compiled an impressive 11@107 %AMF scan record on her first 11 calves by Solution while at GAR. She has been flushed 4 times at Chair Rock and averaged 13 high quality embryos per flush. N105's own performance ranks her in the top echelon of the breed for more than 10 traits, including top 1% for Marb, SQG and SB; top 2% for CW and SG; top 3% for RE.

Selling 115 Lots, Including:

23 Donors: These females represent 2009 donors used in our program. 20 are bred to calve in the fall and 3 are open and ready to go immediately into the new buyer's ET program. Three 1407 daughters out of GAR Concrete's dam, Chair Rock Grid Maker 4047, sell. Also selling full sisters to GAR Prediction and GAR Concrete.

5 Cow-Calf Pairs: Young cows with early spring calves by Concrete and 5050.

57 Bred Cows: A tremendous group of 4-year-old cows bred to calve in the fall. Cows are bred to GAR Concrete, GAR Predestined, GAR Prediction and Objective.

21 Bred Heifers: First calf heifers bred to GAR Concrete, Objective, GAR New Design 5050 and GAR Prediction.

8 Open Heifers: Open yearling heifers sired by Objective, GAR New Design 5050 and GAR Predestined, out of the top donors selling in this sale.

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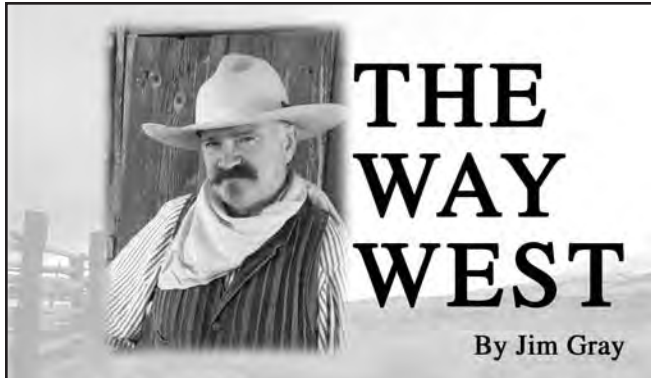
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Col. Jack Hardesty and the S Half Circle

The cattle trails across Kansas in the 1860's and 70's opened the eyes of many a wandering cattleman as to the grazing potential of the recently deserted buffalo plains. The Hardesty brothers were the first to lay claim to the free grass on the open range of southwest Kansas. The S Half Circle ranch was established on a range that stretched south from the Arkansas River into the Oklahoma panhandle, known in those days as "No Man's Land". They first moved into an abandoned

sod fort and stockade known as Pleasant Encampment. The site, near the Kansas-Colorado border, was originally established to guard the Santa Fe Trail. The Hardesty Brothers continued to move their cattle around, changing headquarters over the years.

The S Half Circle ran upwards of 25,000 head of cattle annually. In 1874 they were offered \$500,000 for their cattle but the brothers figured that they could not afford to sell out at that price.

One of the cow camps was located at a spring along the Cimarron Cutoff of the Santa Fe Trail. The spring flowed strong but sand filled a good portion of the depression. Nearby the remains of an old government wagon lay on the prairie. The tales that wagon could tell no one knew, but the abandoned wreck was destined for historical immortality.

The Hardesty cowboys moved that wagon bed to the spring, placing it over the depression. By scooping the sand from within the bed they soon had a makeshift "tank" of clear, free flowing water. The cowboys christened it "Wagon Bed Springs" and the spot became a well-known stopping place on the Santa Fe Trail. The site is in Grant County south of Ulysses on private property near Wagon Bed Springs Road.

In 1879, another S Half Circle ranch site was set up at the confluence of Coldwater Creek and Beaver River in "No Man's Land". Tom Hungate was hired to

foreman there. The ranch took on the look of a sod town and was known as Hardesty.

Jack, who was known as "Colonel Jack" married Miss Margaret Mattas in Leavenworth, Kansas in 1880. With his marriage, Jack surrendered his frontier lifestyle and made a home in Dodge City. His brother, John, continued to manage ranching operations from the range.

Jack Hardesty was known far and wide. When a Hardesty cowboy was asked why he was so loyal to the S Half Circle, the likely response was, "Col. Jack don't expect a man to do anything he can't do from the back of a hoss."

Hardesty was the kind of boss that expected the most from his men, but he was famous for his celebrations. A particular shipping trip to Kansas City found "the boys" raisin' the roof in the hotel. The party lasted for two days and two nights. The drinks flowed in the hotel saloon as the revelry kept hotel personnel on

their toes around the clock. Then Col. Jack noticed two large brewery wagons pulling up to the back of the hotel loaded to the limit with beer. "All right, boys," he yelled, "Let's knock it off... They're running in two more loads of beer on us and I'm sure we can't drink it all!"

The devastating blizzard of 1886 is known throughout the plains. Like so many outfits, the S Half Circle was hit hard. Back in 1874 they had been offered \$500,000 for their cattle interests but when the blizzard was through the outfit was valued at less than \$50,000. Many cattlemen went under, but the S Half Circle struggled through.

Jack continued to live at Dodge City with his wife Margaret. He was deeply attached to his home. In later years he told a friend that he missed the "old timers", and "above all I do not like to have them buried away from Dodge City."

Colonel R. J. "Jack"

Hardesty died April 29, 1910 at his home at Dodge City. He was laid out in his home and funeral services were held there on May 1st. The funeral procession fittingly carried him to the cemetery to be buried near his old friends.

Years later, the Colonel's old abode was purchased by the Skelly Oil Company and donated to the Boot Hill Museum. The Hardesty home is slated for restoration this spring. No better tribute to Dodge City's founders could be found than the presence of Col. Jack's home on the museum grounds, for in those walls rests the spirit of the old S Half Circle and the cowboys of old Dodge City.

"The Cowboy," Jim Gray is author of *Desperate Seed: Ellsworth Kansas on the Violent Frontier* and also publishes *Kansas Cowboy, Old West history from a Kansas perspective*.

Contact Kansas Cowboy, Box 62, Ellsworth, KS 67439. Phone 785-472-4703 or www.droversmercantile.com ©2010

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Note: Jim traveled the United States, the world and attended auctions through out. This is an interesting event. Check www.auctionspecialists.com for pics. Hope to see you here! Vern

VEHICLES & TRACTORS: 1951 Ford F-5, Bought new by Jim's father, restored, maintenance records, grain sides, stock racks, V8, 750 x 20 tires (pride of ownership); 1964 MGB 2 Door Convertible; 2009 Cub Cadet LTX 1040 Tractor, Auto, 19HP Kohler Engine with twin blade 42" deck; 1980 Honda Twinstar Motorcycle; 1987 Mazda B2200 Pickup with 4 speed trans., 10' camping trailer, stove, bed & table; 1982 Itasca 22' Camper, Sundance SE, fully equipped on Chevrolet Chassis, 96K; 1934 Hudson Terra Plane with Custom Body; 1971 Chevrolet 3/4 Ton Custom Camper Longhorn Special, 350 Engine, Auto, 93K; John Deere 410 D Tractor Backhoe, complete motor overhaul, 7' Front Bucket, 2'; Rear Bucket (Solid Machine) #336766T; 1964? MGB for parts; Allis Chalmers WD45, Wide front, factory 2 point, #208683; 7' x 16' Tandem Axle Car Trailer.

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GUNS: Iver Johnson 12 GA #6193; The Original Marlin Goose Gun Model 55, 12 GA; Stevens Single Shot 410; Savage Model 6A 22 Rifle; Remington Model 514 Single Shot 22 Rifle; Smith & Wesson Model 78G Air Pistol 22 Cal; Cummins Industrial Tool High Power Air Gun; 308 Winchester, 12 GA & Other ammo.

COLLECTIBLES/ ANTIQUES: Fire Bell & Wooden Handle Window Opener from Mitchell, KS Grade School; Mantle Clock; 20" Metal Postal Telegraph Clock by Hammond Clock Co.; Indian Chief Sculpture marked APSIT H & O Enterprises; Single Horse Surry Mfg. by Amish at Yoder, KS (very good); Crown Royal Advertisement Display; Cistern Pump/Buckets; Oak Glider Rocker, Oak Parlor Table; Zippo Naval Ship Lighters; Oak Swivel Office Chair; 50 Gal. Oak Whiskey Barrel; Iron Beds; Well Pulling Jack; Various Iron Wheels; Horseshoe Rocking Chair; Youth Cap Pistols, Old Knives, Army Helmet & Liner; 2 Oak Wall Telephones; Southern Style Slot Back & Bottom Rocker (Unusual); Quarter Sawn Rocker; Bent Wood Curved Back Slat Rocker; Leather Bongo Drums; Signs of all Types; Metal Seats; License Plates; Solid Oak Table on Wheels with Glass Display Cabinet on Top; Well Pumps; Small Detroit Stove works #6 Stove from Engel Store in Nickerson; Many Other Collectibles.

FARM RELATED: Flat Head 4 Cylinder Motor overhauled, 6V with clutch assembly; 3 Pt. 5' Bush Hog; Farmhand F11 Loader/78" Bucket; Belt Drive 30" Buzz Saw; Portable Concrete Mixer; 4 Rolls New Barbed Wire; Craftsman 16 Gal. Shop Vac; Rockwell 10" Table Saw; Tap & Die Set, Large Vise on Stand; Ryobi Gas Powered Weed Eater; Ryobi 14AMP Compound Miter Saw; Ryobi 7 1/2" Skil Saw; New 5000 Watt Generator; Homelite Chainsaw, Pile Rough Sawn Ash Lumber; Craftsman 1 1/2 HP Router; Aeromotor Co. 3 Legged 30' Windmill Tower/Motor & Tail (Fan is damaged); Wheel

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Cattlemen can boost profits by syncing cows

Research demonstrates estrous synchronization in cows can improve calving distribution and progeny value.

Synchronizing estrous is a tool that can be used to concentrate when animals exhibit estrus and potentially calving distribution.

Calving records collected between 2000 and 2008 at the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory near Whitman were used to determine the effect of estrous synchronization on calving distribution and the impact of time of calving on steer weaning, feedlot and carcass characteristics.

A major goal in estrous synchronization is to increase the percentage of calves born early in the calving season. University of Nebraska-Lincoln research found that calves born in the first 21 days of the calving season are heavier and more uniform at weaning and have greater carcass weights and quality grades.

Data were compared from 60-day, non-synchronized and 45-day, synchronized breeding seasons, both using natural breeding. Compared to the 60-day non-synchronized season, 12 percent more calves were born in the first 21 days of the calving season, and the average weaning weight was 20 pounds greater for the 45-day synchronized breeding season.

The benefits don't stop with weight at weaning, said Rick Funston, beef cattle reproductive physiologist at the West Central Research and Extension Center at North Platte.

"There are significant benefits to the cow," Funston said. "It benefits the cow because she has a longer time to breed back. It gives the cow a longer period of time from calving to breeding, so the postpartum interval is lengthened. This will potentially increase longevity and decrease replacement needs."

Shortened calving periods result in more efficient use of labor inputs for calving and vaccinations and increased returns on feed inputs.

Cow nutrition can be optimized by grouping cows according to stage of gestation and feeding each group accordingly.

The synchronization system used was a single injection of prostaglandin F2-alpha given five days after bull turn in and cost less than \$2 per dose.

Funston does not recommend shortening the breeding season of the cow herd with this synchronization

system the first year as late calving, non-cycling cows will not respond to this synchronization protocol and may need the additional days to become pregnant.

"It is likely more profitable to have your veterinarian identify those late pregnant animals and either market them as pregnant females or calve them and sell the pair next spring," Funston said. "The place to start is with replacement females, having a short first breeding season coupled with synchronization so they never are introduced into the herd as a late calver."

"In a modest to low input heifer development system, a non-pregnant female at pregnancy diagnosis is generally a valuable commodity as a yearling."



Will Gamble stands with dad Michael looking at Angus bulls at the Basic Blacks 20th Annual Bull Sale in Marysville. The Gambles are from Manhattan.

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In Memory of Steve Jensen, 1960-2010

On May 4, our dear friend and co-worker Steve lost his battle with cancer. He was a lifetime area resident and 18-year employee of Ag Press and Grass & Grain.

He held many job positions at Ag Press but was titled as Bindery Supervisor and Freight Specialist. He did about anything and everything asked of him. He always took pride in keeping the front lawn and outside of our building neat and beautiful.

In addition to his career he enjoyed hunting, fishing, spending time with his family and friends.

Surviving are Steve's wife, Wendy; daughter Courtney Jensen and her fiance Tim Grecu; twin sons Taylor and Tyler Jensen; his mother Mabel Jensen; two sisters, Karen Wille and her husband Jeffery and Vickie Day and her husband Buddy.

Funeral services were held Saturday, May 8 at Manhattan.

Anyone who ever met or worked with Steve knows the great loss his passing has brought.

The Picket Line

By Ralph Galeano

Kansas Memories

Here's the final installment of the four part series of the memories of a native Kansan when he was 5 years old growing up during WW II on the Kansas prairie. He later went off to become one of Alaska's top crab fisherman decades before the Discovery Channel made The Deadliest Catch America's most watched adventure show. In Part I, II and III, Ken Moore described the farm where he grew up and the animals and people that were his companions on the prairie. Here's the end of his amusing story.

Part IV

by Ken Moore

Aunt Isabel, one of my dad's two sisters, came to stay for two weeks. It was good since all the P.O.W.'s and other workers had been gone for quite a while. The dog dead, the two turkeys had been whacked for Christmas and I had learned to throw rocks at the chicken. Alvie was O.K. to talk to, but he said a lot of stuff that I didn't understand. So, it was good to have Aunt Isabel here. She helped me figure out a lot of complicated things; after all she

was some sort of a collage professor or teacher.

Being modern was really good, but apparently we hadn't figured out how to get really modern because we still had the slop bucket behind a flap of cloth under the sink.

I would never have guessed that that slop bucket was going to make Aunt Isabel my greatest hero ever. We seldom if ever saw movies, and I don't think Superman had been invented yet, but Aunt Isabel was about to become my superwoman. One day, when the steel five-gallon (actually, it was a bucket that came with grease in it for the dump trucks) slop bucket was about full, Aunt Isabel lifted it out from under the sink, by its heavy wire, went out the door and started across the yard.

The procedure was to manhandle the thing across the open area between the house and pig pens and dump it into one of the pig troughs.

She made it about 30 steps from the house lugging the bucket, when out of nowhere came this chickenish squawk and thrashing of wings. The bird was in full combat mode.

It plowed into Isabel's legs and the bucket, squawking, kicking and pecking. I was standing safely on the porch steps with my mouth hanging open. When the chicken hit her legs, Aunt Isabel bent, grabbed the bottom of the bucket and dumped it — bucket, slop, and all over the rooster's head. She was trying to get the chicken into the bucket or the bucket down over the bird. When that didn't work she grabbed the bucket handle and did a round house that almost succeeded in taking the soggy, peel-covered chickenhouse "king's" head off.

It didn't do the clucker in, but it did me a lot of good to see him laying flat. One way or another, whatever it did to the old rooster, I didn't have to fight him off ever again. For whatever reason, he gave most of us a lot of space after that.

In short order my sister Doris arrived. They said, no kids in the hospital in Salina, but dad snuck me in anyway to see her. She certainly wasn't much to look at. It's really good that she started looking better later on. It took quite a while, but in time she started looking more like people. She was

probably not as good as another dog would have been, though. A pup would have been able to hike up to explain about things to the mailman right away. It takes a kid years to be able to walk that far without falling down. I sure would have liked to have been able to see Doris' expression when the mailman blew smoke out the hole in his face.

Well, that's what I remember from being five. No matter how convoluted it might have become with time, it's still what I at least think I remember, and since no one else would care anyway, it has to be true.

P.S.

Before we moved to the hog farm, we lived in a house next to the Frisbee store building that also housed the Roxbury State Bank and a restaurant on the far side. That building was one of the two, two story buildings on the main street. After about 1 and 1/2 years at the farm we moved back to Roxbury and lived in Marie Burch's house, the third house down from the other big wooden building in town that housed the Ash store.

In 1951 Mom's present house was built.

Alvie Brookins — Our

paths seemed to cross once and a while after the farm. When I was about 12, Brian Moore, my cousin and I were fishing in a hole under a bridge, three miles east and 1/4 miles north of Roxbury.

One of us caught a huge alligator snapping turtle. We had it out in the road trying to get the hook out of its mouth without losing a finger doing it. We also wanted it dead as there were a lot of them in the local ponds and creeks. Brian would jump on the turtle's back with both feet and I would try to cut off its neck when its head flew out. Seemed like it ought to work, but really wasn't going that well. About that time an old pickup came rattling up and out stepped Alvie.

About two cars a day used this road so we were surprised to see anybody. I recognized Alvie and he proceeded to do in the turtle for us.

Then he asks if he could have it. He said there was several (I seem to remember seven, but that seems like a lot) different kinds of meat in a snapping turtle and he would sure like to have it. That was all right by us.

After the Army, I was

about 24, and working for Morrison Grain Company salvaging train wrecks and other minor disasters. I was actually trying to make up my mind whether to return to Alaska or not. Alvie showed up to help on a wreck in Oklahoma. He brought a straight truck full of equipment down to the job. He said he had rolled a truck a year or so before and got stuck under the cab and just about died. I couldn't find the location of the hog farm if I had to. I'm sure it has been gone for many years as the buildings were not that substantial. I grew up running back and forth to Salina.

After high school I worked for Morrison Grain Company, who owned the farm. They had bought Camp Phillips and I was even out there a few times to get equipment and do things for them, but for some reason I never had the urge to go look for the hog farm. Possibly, I have such strong memories of how I think it looked, I didn't want to find out how wrong those memories could be. Why mess with something that you know exactly how it was and are satisfied with that program?

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Cows respond favorably to corn co-products in ration Steps create valuable compost

University of Nebraska-Lincoln research finds feeding reproducing cows corn coproducts is beneficial to their post calving gain, reproduction and may improve beef production sustainability.

Dried distillers grains plus solubles or wet corn gluten feed are co-produced during the fermentation process of ethanol or corn sweetener, so they are a readily available, economical feed choice for Nebraska cattle producers.

Little information is available when it comes to feeding coproducts to reproducing cows, said Rick Funston, beef cattle reproductive physiologist at the West Central Research and Extension Center at North Platte.

"There's been a lot of research on feeding coproducts from the corn ethanol and corn sweetener industries, but most of that has been in feedlot cattle, not in breeding females," Funston said. "We wanted to look at the impact of feeding coproducts to first-calf heifers."

UNL animal scientists conducted feeding trials on 134 first-calf heifers between calving and artificial insemination. The experiment was replicated over two years to determine the effect of additional bypass protein and dietary fat from feeding dried distillers grains plus solubles or wet corn gluten feed.

The first-calf heifers were fed diets equal in energy and crude protein with varying levels of bypass protein and dietary fat.

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources researchers found that feeding first-calf heifers dried distillers grains plus solubles or wet corn gluten feed in amounts that do not exceed protein needs do not have any negative effects on reproduction. In fact, they are beneficial.

Funston said the various diets did not affect pre-breeding body weight of the cows. However, scientists did find that the first-calf heifers consuming the wet corn gluten feed diet had a greater average daily gain during the supplementation period compared to the cows fed the diet containing dried distillers grains plus solubles.

In addition, researchers observed a 24 percent increase in cyclicity before synchronization which resulted in a 9 percent greater artificial insemination conception rate in heifers fed the diet containing dried distillers grains.

"You can feed relatively small amounts of this inexpensive coproduct in a cow diet, and balance with moderate to low quality hay," Funston said. "In these challenging economic times, producers should evaluate a diet containing coproducts if they are

readily available and reasonable priced."

Researchers also found that male and female calf weaning body weight were similar between treatments, but female calves from dried distillers grains plus solubles-fed cows had a greater age-adjusted body weight than those from cows fed the diet containing wet corn gluten feed.

Overall, they found that wet corn gluten feed improved cow average daily gain before breeding and dried distillers grains plus solubles increased reproductive response of the first calf heifers and adjusted weaning body weight of female offspring.

Further research will identify the appropriate level and duration of supplementation. This will look at additional mechanisms to decrease production costs and further enhance reproduction.

Gardeners can reduce their carbon footprint and preserve natural resources by renewing their soil the way nature does. "Composting — turning organic debris into a dark, rich, crumbly soil amendment — can be as simple or complicated as you want to make it," said Amy Jordan, horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

"What you end up with, however, is a good mulch. If worked into the soil, it adds nutrients and increases the soil's efficient water use. It can even loosen tight or heavy soil."

The approach to composting that is slowest, but closest to nature's method is to pile the needed ingredients on the ground, Jordan said. The approach that can be the fastest, but somewhat costly starts with buying a sophisticated, rotating bin with a crank handle. Most gardeners, however, try something in between those extremes, she said. Typically, they use one or more compost bins, built from wooden pallets, wire

fencing or even cement blocks. Or, they drill air holes and load organic materials into a "rollable" plastic trash can or a barrel with a locking lid. "Round or square, bins help contain organic material while it 'cooks' and decays. Yet, they also allow air to reach the microorganisms that actually do the job of breaking down organic debris," she said. "Plus, the most efficient bins allow you — not the weather — to ensure the material stays damp, but not wet."

The basic compost recipe calls for alternating "brown" and "green" ingredients and layering them on top of each other, Jordan said.

Each layer of fine materials, such as clippings, should be only 2 to 3 inches deep. A layer of coarse materials, such as straw, can be 6 to 8 inches deep. The browns in this "hero sandwich" are dry and high in carbon content. They can

include fallen leaves, straw, overwintered plant debris, shredded paper and wood chips.

The greens are "wet" and high in nitrogen. They can be grass clippings, green plant remains and vegetable scraps. To err on the side of safety, they should not include invasive plant parts, weeds with seeds, or insect-infested plants.

"The occasional narrow layer of soil can be a good idea, too. And, if you want to speed the process up, you can add a cup or so of commercial garden fertilizer per square yard of organic material," Jordan said. "At the same time, though, don't add anything associated with dairy products, meats and oils. Avoid pet and pig manure. Otherwise, your compost pile could smell bad or attract critters."

The steps after that: Turn the pile every few weeks with a garden fork or shovel, to aerate and mix the ingredients.

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2-DAY AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 15 — 10:00 AM
SUNDAY, MAY 16 — 1:00 PM

Anderson Building, 2650 W. Hwy. 50
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This is a large estate auction for a local Lyon County family with an extensive collection of a wide range of items.

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SUNDAY, MAY 16 — 1:00 PM
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See last week's Grass & Grain for complete listing.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Items selling on the 15th may only have one item listed from a collection. Every drawer, box, cabinet, trunk, dresser that we opened were full of collectibles. There may be many items not seen until set up time. Come prepared to find many treasures! This sale bill doesn't begin to address the depth of this auction. Lunch will be served by Sacred Heart Church.

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Controlling tomato leaf spot diseases is key says experts

Nothing is better than a homegrown tomato, but growing tomatoes does have its pitfalls, including disease problems. Tomatoes are susceptible to both fungal and bacterial diseases that affect the leaves, petioles and stems, and cause blemishes on the fruits. Foliage diseases weaken infected plants by killing the leaves, which are the plant's factory for carbohydrate and energy production.

Loss of foliage due to disease often causes sunscald on existing fruits, poor fruit set, poor flavor and, eventually, death of the plant. Common diseases of tomato include Septoria leaf spot, early blight and bacterial speck and spot. All of these diseases overwinter in the vegetable garden on infected plant debris. The spores are spread during the growing season by wind, water and human activity.

Septoria leaf spot begins as tiny black dots on the leaves, enlarging to small circular spots with a dark margin and gray center. Infected leaves turn yellow and die. Elongated lesions develop on stems and petioles. Early blight appears as

irregular, dark brown areas on the leaves with concentric, black rings developing in a target-like pattern as the spots enlarge. Dark brown, sunken lesions form on stems and petioles.

These symptoms appear about 10 days after infection. Early blight occurs in midsummer during warm, humid periods and can spread very rapidly. Bacterial speck and spot are both spread by splashing water from irrigation or rain and clipping implements. Bacterial speck appears as tiny, pinhead sized, raised black specks on tomato leaves and fruits. Bacterial spot causes leaf and fruit spots that are slightly larger.

On tomato fruits, bacterial spot results in slightly raised, brown, scabby lesions. Sanitation is very important for reducing disease pressure in your garden this year. Remove all plant debris that is left in the garden from last season before tilling and planting.

Establish a 3-4 year rotation schedule in your garden, by moving those plants most affected by disease to containers or new plots of ground. Or choose not to

grow heavily affected plants for a few years to reduce populations of disease organisms in the soil.

One of the most common methods of tomato leaf infection is through rain splashing on bare soil. All of the diseases mentioned above overwinter on infected plant debris in the soil.

During a rainstorm, water droplets hit the soil surface, splashing water and soil up onto the lowest tomato leaves. Prevent rain splash in your garden by covering the soil with mulch. Apply a 2-3 inch layer of mulch, using clean straw, black plastic, newspapers topped with wood chips, or any other coarse organic material.

Mulch also helps suppresses weed growth, moderates soil temperature extremes and helps retain soil moisture. Keep tomato leaves as dry as possible by applying water to the base of plants through soaker hoses, instead of using an overhead sprinkler, since water on the

leaf surface promotes germination of fungal spores and leaf infection.

Suppression of leaf spot diseases, once plants have been infected, can be accomplished through sanitation and the application of fungicides. Remove and discard heavily infected plants. Infections may be slowed by removing diseased leaves as they appear. Fungicides are protective; they keep healthy leaves from becoming infected. Fungicides are not curative.

This means that infected foliage will remain diseased and may die. Fungicides must be applied on a regular basis to provide continued protection for the healthy leaves. Fungicides for use on garden vegetables, such as liquid copper or Bordeaux mixture, are readily available at most garden centers. Read the fungicide label carefully to determine the number of days you must wait after the final fungicide application before fruits can be harvested.

Extension Master Gardeners launch nationwide blog

Extension Master Gardener volunteers have a new communication tool to encourage interaction and sharing at the national, state and local level. Cooperative Extension Master Gardener (EMG) program coordinators launched the first national blog for EMG volunteers May 3.

Blog posts can be found directly at <http://blogs.extension.org/mastergardener> or through the new national Extension Master Gardener website at <http://extension.org/mastergardener>. The new blog is hosted by eXtension, an educational partnership comprised of land grant universities across the country. Kansas State University Research and Extension is a partner in eXtension. EMG coordinators and guest contributors from various states will take turns sharing a weekly blog post on a topic geared toward the national EMG community. Master Gardeners will be encouraged to discuss items appearing in blog posts by submitting comments using the blog's commenting features. Monica David, Illinois EMG coordinator and Consumer Horticulture National Committee chair, said, "I hope the EMG Blog will be a place where Master Gardeners are encouraged to 'talk shop.'"

David also noted that the blog can be a place for EMGs to interact around blog post topics that may highlight many Master Gardener activities including: Project ideas, successes, and learning points; educational opportunities and curricula; contributions to the public good (value and benefit); national updates and events.

Information about Kansas Extension Master Gardeners is available on the website: <http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=422>.

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Cowboy Up

by Ron Wilson
Poet Lariat



The Texas Trail — by air

Traveling 120 days' worth of distance in an hour and a half? It sounds like magic, or a time machine. At least that is what it would have seemed like to the cowboys of yesteryear, who traveled that distance the hard way. That was long before "Beam me up, Scotty."

Recently I made a trip from Manhattan to Fort Worth. Thanks to a new American Eagle flight, it is possible to fly direct from the Manhattan airport to Dallas-Fort Worth. (Quite a contrast in airport sizes there. It's like going from a puppy to an elephant).

Catching this direct flight is a marked change from my usual practice of driving to the airport in Kansas City to catch a flight, as I have done for years. Not only does flying direct to DFW save the

cost of parking at KCI, it saves two and a half hours of drive time over and back.

I love the direct flight to Dallas and back. Two things struck me about it. The first was the view of the Flint Hills. Now, I am an experienced air traveler. Getting on a plane ain't my first rodeo. So I typically select an aisle seat, read my papers, and ignore the flight attendant's safety instructions just like all those seasoned businessmen and other veteran air travelers. But on this flight I got stuck with a window seat somehow, which left me cramped.

Yet as the plane came in for its descent into Manhattan, it gave me a great view of the Flint Hills. I got as excited as a fourth grader at recess. We came right in over Interstate 70 and the Konza

Prairie. I started spotting landmarks I recognized, and then I even saw our ranch. It was all I could do to keep from elbowing the guy next to me and saying, "Hey! Hey! That's our hill! That's our hill!" I don't suppose that's what the corporate CEO next to me would do.

The second thing that struck me (not counting the items in the overhead bin that had shifted during flight, just as the flight attendant had warned us — see, I was paying attention after all) was that we had just traveled the approximately identical route as the cattle drives of yesteryear. After the Civil War, thousands of head of cattle were shipped from Texas to the middle of Kansas — but it took them four months, while the little plane that I was on just did it in an hour and a half.

The cattle drives from Texas to Kansas were a formative part of Western

history. In the post-Civil War era, thousands of longhorn cattle were roaming free in Texas, having been abandoned by those who had gone off to war. At the same time, there was demand for beef in the big cities in the east. That's why a steer would bring \$4 a head in Texas, but \$40 a head in Chicago.

So do the math. Entrepreneurs saw the opportunity to make money, if they could get those cattle from Texas to the market. The Kansas railroads became the destination for thousands of head of wild cattle and the wild Texas drovers who brought them. The legend of the Great American Cowboy came to life.

The trail those cowboys blazed was long, hot, dusty, and hazardous. Yet the courage, independence, and derring-do of those cowboys would capture the imagination of America and the

world. It is amazing what those cowboys endured to make it to the end of the trail. Along with bad food, uncertain water, and bedding on the ground, those cowboys

faced dry spells, floods, stampedes, storms, Indians, rustlers, rattlesnakes, and more.

I guess I won't complain about my window seat.

Extreme Makeover — A Trail Driver's Lament

by Ron Wilson, Poet Lariat

I've been trailin' this herd for 120 days,
Eatin' dust, pushin' cattle, and gatherin' strays.
My chaps are beat up, scratched and worn.
My shirt's all ragged from mesquite thorns.
My hat got stepped on by a hoss.
My bandanna's down to a total loss.
My knees are showin' through the holes.
My boots are thin, right down to the soles.
I'm grimy and sweaty from head to toe,
Caked with dirt and manure also.
Now I finally made it to the end of the trail,
But my aroma seems to make the city folks turn pale.
All the dance hall girls say my looks need to change,
That I've been way too long out on the range.
So I think I've selected my future path:
When I get back to Texas, I'm gonna get me a bath!
Happy Trails!

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RESULTS BY THE BARREL™
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Cash flow is important for small businesses

Cash flow is key for businesses. Without it businesses are not able to buy merchandise and pay employees — the bottom line is, they would not survive.

According to the American Express OPEN Small Business Monitor survey, cash-flow issues are growing among small businesses.

Glenn Muske, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension interim associate dean, assistant director, family and consumer sciences, said most recent findings revealed businesses with cash-flow problems rose to 60 percent from 57 percent in April 2009 and from 55 percent in September 2008.

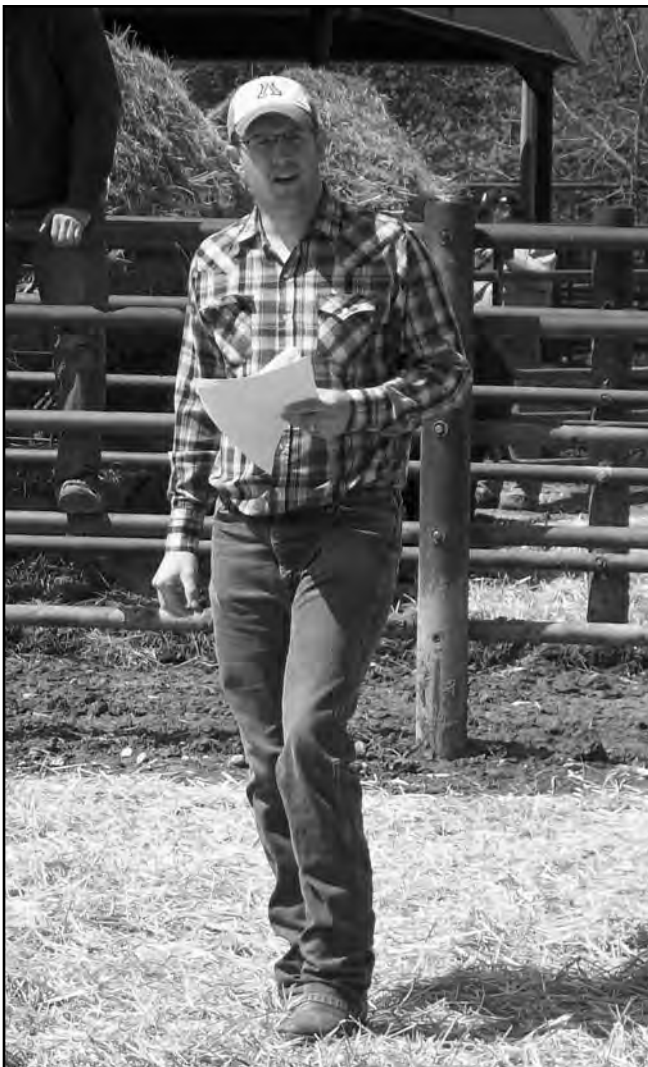
"Business owners must monitor cash flow more closely these days because customers take longer to pay, suppliers want to be paid sooner, clients are going out of business and access to loans have diminished," Muske said. "Businesses must focus on maintaining a healthy cash flow as the economic recovery

will be slow in changing the current picture. Plus, financial restrictions previously used to provide them with cash to pay bills early and lets them address those unexpected troubles may be gone or are dramatically reduced."

Muske said companies have to use histories of cash-flow management to prove to banks they can make loan payments. Some banks ask for up to three years of tax returns from small-business borrowers in addition to other business and personal financial information for loans up to \$500,000.

Improving cash flow can be a long-term progression.

"The business owner today must consider all options to ensure a healthy cash flow balance. One such option might be by paying vendors early, a business can make more money than if the money was sitting at the bank," he said. "This will ultimately help the cash flow the business accumulates over time."



Shane Terrell, Hay Springs, Neb., looked over the Basic Blacks sale offering at Marysville last month. This was the 20th anniversary of the sale hosted by the Tim Ohlde family.

Tell them you saw it in Grass & Grain!

AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 22 — 11:00 AM

Guest House Inn, 2700 West 18th Ave. EMPORIA, KS (Exit 128 on I-35) Industrial Road exit. Guest House is across from Flint Hills Mall.

RIFLES

Marlin model 917B .17 HMR caliber with scope, unfired; New England Firearms .17 HM2 with scope, single shot, unfired; Interarms Mark X .308 with scope, bolt; Remington m77 .22 semi auto clip fed, nylon stock with scope; New England Firearms Sportster model SS1 .22LR, single shot, scope; Ruger 10/22 .22, Stainless barrel, laminated stock; Ruger #1 .22 Hornet with scope, single shot; Ruger .223 mini 14 stainless barrel, fold down stock, muzzle brake, semi; Ruger #1 .458 single shot; Interarms Mark X .458 Win. Mag. Leopold scope, bolt; Ruger Model 77 .264 Win Mag Leopold scope, bolt; Ruger m77-7MM Rem Mag, with scope, bolt; Interarms Mark X .300 Mag, with scope, bolt; Thompson Center Arms .35 Rem. Carbine, with scope, 16 1/4" barrel, single shot; Remington model 7 .243 Win. With scope, bolt; Remington m760 GameMaster .270, pump; Ruger #1 .375 H&H mag., single; Ruger Mini 30, blued, scope, semi; Marlin M1894 S.44 Mag lever action 10 shot, NIB; Ruger 77/22 .22 Win Mag, Stainless, Laminated stock, scope, bolt; NEW Savage m16 .300 WSM, stainless, Laminated stock, scope, bolt; Sako Finnbear .264 Win Mag with scope.

Edition #770 of 1100 Smith and Wesson .460 Magnum, 83/8" barrel; Freedom Arms .22 revolver, 11/4" barrel, Stainless.

MILITARY AND ANTIQUE

5 Russian Mosin Nagant Military rifles, NIB; Finnish Mosin Nagant military, sporterized; Turkish 8 MM Mauser; Turkish 1943 8MM Mauser; Turkish 8MM Mauser with synthetic stock; Steyr m 1917 7 MM; Argentine 1891 7.62x54 Mauser; Argentine Mauser parts rifle with great stock; Japan Arisaka .77 sporterized, 200 rounds of ammo; British #4 Mark I, .303 marked U. S. Property, ; Carl Gustav 1923 6.5 MM, Swedish, Original and very good with ram rod; Russian Military, 1941; Turkish Mauser; 2 British Enfields, Ishaphor manufacturer, 1965; Enfield Mark I #4 .303, original military; British Enfield .303 Mark I #3, original with sling, import market; Universal .30 M1 caliber carbine; Sako Finnbear .264 Win Mag with scope.

BLACK POWDER

Ruger Old Army BP .44 Stainless 71/2" barrel, Ruger Leather holster; Pietta BP .36 revolver with leather holster; Traditions BP .54 caliber Rifle; Thompson Center Arms .50 cal. BP Muzzle load rifle, Hawkin 25th anniversary model.

SHOTGUNS

Westernfield 20 ga, 23/4" or 3", pump, Select A Choke; H&R m158 Topper 12 ga. Single shot, 181/2" barrel.

BARRELS & STOCKS

3 Thompson Contender barrels, 44 Mag Hex, 45 Colt/410--10" vent rib, 357Max 14" barrel; Ruger Mini 14 stock; Carbine stocks; Ruger 10/22 laminate stock.

BB GUNS

Daisy 105B; Daisy 840/841; Daisy m717 pellet pistol; Daisy Red Ryder BB, Rogers AR.

AMMO, RELOADING & MISC (2-3 hours)

More than you can count includes a lot of foreign military; Case 44 Russian factory ammo; Argentine .765 factory ammo; Target 6MM factory ammo; 1000 rounds Swede 6.5 factory; Literally thousands of rounds of ammo, about twenty 50 caliber boxes full of factory, & reloads for listed firearms; Brass; Bullets; Cartridge boxes; 3 handgun and 3 Gun safes, sleeves, cases; Reloading dies, manuals, cleaning medium.

ARTWORK

Friends of NRA Bronze Sculptures include: Buffalo bookends, by F Boyer, 1992; The Lesson, '08; The Lesson II, '09; Trophy Ridge 44/1050; Living Large 1/1100; Trail Blazer 2003 Sponsor; The Marshal '04 Sponsor; The Patriot '02 Sponsor; The Paratrooper, '06 Sponsor. Anastey Drawings include 8—8x10's (unframed), 1 larger framed; Framed DRAWINGS of Wolves "Calling the Twilight" by Kristi Malaine; '03 Friends of NRA Print of year "No Sure Thing" by Paco Young; And "Sprigs of Snow" and "On the Wind"; And Unframed "Covered Dish", '04, "Limbo" '05, "Morning Reveille" and "Hide N Seek", '00, all by Christopher Walden.

MUCH MORE FROM 35 years of collecting.

ORDER: Will start on ammo and at noon sell the guns, ending with more ammo and reloading items.

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AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 — 7:30 PM

To be held at the Abilene Civic Center, 210 NW 2nd ABILENE, KANSAS

60 Acres m/l of Dickinson County Farmland. Property Location: 3000 Avenue (Hwy. 18) & Nail Road

SELLERS: SHANE & SILYNDIA CHRISTIENSEN

For more information or to view the property, contact: YOCUM REALTY AND AUCTION SERVICE Phone: 785-263-8709 or Cell: 785-479-1067 jgyocum@myadvantageplus.com

AUCTION

FRIDAY, MAY 21 — 4:00 PM

Clarion Hotel, 530 Richards Drive MANHATTAN, KANSAS

Entire contents of a 14-room Sharingbrook home. Most furniture is maximum of 3 years old. Quality throughout.

Full list in next week's Grass & Grain

DR. RENEE SLICK

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LAND AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 22 — 10:00 AM

At the southeast corner of the farm, ¼ mile south of the intersection of Highway US 24 (18th Road) and Deer Trail Road. Deer Trail Road is ten miles west of the US 24 & K-15 intersection in CLAY CENTER, KANSAS or two miles west of the Frontier Road & US 24 intersection.

The N ½ NE ¼ 9-8-1, Five Creeks Township, Clay County, Kansas.

This farm, 72 acres, more or less, consists of 59.4 acres land presently in the Conservation Reserve Program, 5.3 acres in three waterways, and 7.1 acres in creek and wildlife habitat.

The cropland now in CRP has an excellent stand of native grass, and has had good terraces and waterways in place for many years. The upland soils are Crete and Geary gently and moderately sloping land. The lowland in the northeast corner is Hobbs and Muir bottom land.

The CRP contract expires on September 30, 2010. The contract pays \$52 per acre. The 2009 taxes were \$430.76. The estimated FSA bases and yields are 2.6 acres wheat, 30 bushels; and 2.3 acres milo, 50 bushels.

This is an opportunity to buy a productive, well located farm, with the option of converting it to cropland in the future, using it in pasture or hayland, or possible continuation in the CRP.

TERMS: Ten (10) percent down, with the balance due in 30 days. Possession will be given at closing. The CRP payment and the taxes will be pro-rated to the date of closing.

LELAND L. PORTER

Auction by

Raymond Bott Realty & Auction
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785-325-2734
www.bottrealtyauction.com

AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 15 — 10:00 AM

Auction will be held at the farm located from the Southeast corner of Beloit, Ks. on Jazmine Tr. Road 1 ½ miles East to 330 Road, then ½ mile North.

REAL ESTATE SELLS AT 10:00 A.M.
2 TRACTS IN MITCHELL COUNTY

Tract I: 40 acres. 38.09 acres crop land.

Tract II: Approximately 89.4 acres with 46.4 crop acres, 43 acres pasture with good fence.

CAR, TRUCK, TRACTORS & MACHINERY

1968 Chevy II Nova, GMC 4000 truck, 1961 JD 3010 diesel tractor, 1986 Buick LeSabre, 1946 IHC M tractor, round baler.

ANTIQUES & HOUSEHOLD

Lift chair, 2 queen size bedroom sets; round table & chairs; auto washer; elec. dryer; Antiques: oak 7' drop

front secretary; 42" square oak table; mahogany library table; oak pattern back rocker; upright phonograph; floor radio; wheat pennies; Red Wing crocks; glass.

CATTLE EQUIPMENT, TOOLS & OTHER

Pontoon boat; aluminum boat; camper; riding mower; garden cultivator.

See last week's Grass & Grain for complete listings or check our website for pictures: www.thummelauction.com

FRANK E. HISEROTE ESTATE

Auction Conducted By
Thummel Real Estate & Auction LLC
Beloit & Concordia, Ks • 785-738-5933

AUCTION

SUNDAY, MAY 23 — 1:30 PM

11526 NW 86th St., SILVER LAKE, KANSAS

Directions: From Silver Lake, 8 miles North on Hoch Rd., then 2 miles West on 86th. From Rossville and Hwy. 24, 5 miles North on Rossville Rd., then 4 miles East on 86th.

Due to a health condition we are selling the following equipment.

PICKUPS & MACHINERY

2000 F150 XLT ext. cab pickup, 90,000 miles, nice truck
1988 GMC 1500 flatbed pickup, 60,000 on new motor
JD 4010 diesel tractor, dual hyd., with Great Bend loader, 8' bucket & bale spear
3 pt. Worksaver bale unroller
2 pt. rear hay spear
IH 560 gas wide front tractor & loader
16 ft. gooseneck trailer, canvas top
5 ft. pull rotary mower
605F Vermeer round baler, shedded, good
IH 375 square baler, shedded, good
JD 214WS wire square baler
Hesston 500 swather, 14 ft. self propelled, motor is 4 yrs. old
Hesston PT 10 pull swather, for parts
MF rake; 300 gal. pull sprayer
300 gal. gas barrel & stand
L-12 White riding mower

LIVESTOCK ITEMS

2 saddles, 16" seats, 1 is Billy Cook roper
Saddle bags, bridles, halters
2 mineral feeders
3 hay rings
Metal flat bottom feed bunk
16 ft. square bale feeder
Pride of Farm calf creep feeder
Portable calf cradle w/wheels
Steel posts and other cattle equipment

OTHER ITEMS

Husky 1.8 hp. 20 gal. air compressor, new
Ruger 22 revolver
30-30 lever action rifle w/scope
Antique bar and 4 stools
Refrigerator
Apartment refrigerator
Table & 4 chairs
Ping pong table
Canoe, recent model
Char Broil gas grill
Shop tools & misc.

TERMS: Bid by number, show ID, pay by cash or personal check day of sale before removing items from premises. Not responsible for accident or theft. Announcements at auction take precedence over printed materials. Concessions by Emmett United Methodist Church.

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GRASS & GRAIN Auction Sales Scheduled
check out the on-line schedule at www.grassandgrain.com

- May 11 — Chevy HHR LT, furniture, antiques & collectibles at Manhattan for Delorus Wright, John Dunbar. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.
- May 12 — Irrigated real estate NW of Concordia for Sallman Enterprises LLC. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.
- May 12 — Dickinson Co. farmland at Abilene for Shane & Silynda Christensen. Auctioneers: Yocum Realty & Auction Service.
- May 12 — Tractors, trucks & vehicles, trailers, airplane, harvest & haying equip., irrigation equip., other equip. online only (www.bigiron.com). Auctioneers: Stock Auction Company.
- May 13 — Tractor, dump trucks, sand spreader, cars, mobile home axles, office equip. at Lyndon for Osage County Kansas. Auctioneers: Beatty & Wischropp Auctions.
- May 14 & 15 — Tag sale at Manhattan for Bonnie Nespor.
- May 14 & 15 — Guns at Topeka. Auctioneers: Kull's Old Town Station.
- May 14, 15 & 16 — Show Case collectibles, glassware, crocks, primitives, old furniture, antiques & collectibles at Kirwin for the Cheryl M. Rader Estate. Auctioneers: Ashley's Auction Service.
- May 15 — State Fair & KJLS show pig sale at Overbrook for Valleybrook Farms, Mike & Debra Bond.
- May 15 — Mitchell Co. real estate, car, truck, tractors, machinery, '68 Nova, antiques & household, cattle equip., tools & other near Beloit for Frank E. Hiserote Estate. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.
- May 15 — 3 bedroom house at Clay Center for Clay Center Community High School. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service, LLC.
- May 15 — ATVs, guns & sporting, tractors & skid steer, harvest & planting equip., trucks, field spraying, tillage, misc. farm items at Lincoln for Keith W. Jeffers. Auctioneers: Meitler Auction Service.
- May 15 — Farm equipment, truck & trailer, tools, antiques & misc., barn at Dennis for Howard & Geta Markley. Auctioneers: Larry Marshall & Mark Garretson.
- May 15 — Hunting & outdoor equip., ultralight airplane, vehicles, motorcycle, construction equip., shop tools & equip., farm equip., junk iron & misc. at Ada for Linn Bacon Estate. Auctioneers: Bid-N-Buy Auction.
- May 15 — Tractors, skid loader, dozer, trailers, trencher, tree spade, implements, trucks, car, ATVs, pontoon boat at Manhattan for Civitas Development Group, Inc., Rod Harms. Auctioneers: United Country-Ruckert Realty & Auction.
- May 15 — Antique furniture, glassware & household at Manhattan for Victoria George Estate. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.
- May 15 — Travel trailer, tractors & skid steer, stock trailer, manlift, farm equip., hay, livestock equip., lawn & garden, hunting, fishing & outdoor items, furniture & household at Emporia for Bill Lahr Estate. Auctioneers: Hancock Auction & Real Estate.
- May 15 — Truck, tractors, combine, trailers, machinery, livestock misc., collectibles, antiques & crocks near Wilson for Barbara Princ Trust. Auctioneers: Victor Brothers Auction & Realty, Inc.
- May 15 — Heating, air conditioning, sheet metal, shop & tools, office equip., yard & garden, sporting, exercise equip., trailer at Great Bend for Golden Belt Heating & Air, Mike Johnson. Auctioneers: Schremmer Auction.
- May 15 — Antiques, collectibles, coins, household & misc. at Belleville for Betty Mock Estate. Auctioneers: Novak Brothers & Gieber.
- May 15 & 16 — Antiques & collectibles at Emporia for a large Lyon County family estate. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction Service, LC.
- May 16 — Furniture, china, household, collectibles & misc. at Manhattan for Fred & Evelyn Brock. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.
- May 17 — Saline County cropland at Salina. Auctioneers: Odle Rural Real Estate.
- May 18 — Butler Co. grassland & ranch home, machinery & misc., household, livestock equip. at Cassoday for Bruce & Melody Sayers. Auctioneers: Leppke Realty & Auction.
- May 19 — Tractors, trucks, planter, farm equipment E. of WaKeeney for Newcomers. Auctioneers: Farmland Auction & Realty Co., Inc.
- May 19 — Combines, headers, trailers, trucks, campers at Lincoln for Dean & Brian Jones, dba Jones Custom Harvesting. Auctioneers: United Country-Theurer Auction/Realty, LLC.
- May 21 — Furniture & household at Manhattan for Dr. Renee Slick. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.
- May 22 — Acreage, home & buildings, farm equipment & household at Mayetta for Francis Frazier Estate & Lola M. Frazier. Auctioneers: Wayne Pagel, CAI.
- May 22 — Real estate & personal property SW of Matfield Green for Estate of Brittje Jean Taliaferro & the late Howard C. Taliaferro. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction Service, LC.
- May 22 — 3 bedroom house at Abilene for USD 435, Abilene High School Carpentry Class. Auctioneers: Reynolds, Mugler & Geist.
- May 22 — Furniture, guns, tools, garden & yard tools at Lawrence. Auctioneers: Paxton Auction Service.
- May 22 — Clay County farmland W. of Clay Center for Leland Porter. Auctioneers: Raymond Bott Realty & Auction.
- May 22 — Vehicles, tractors, farm related, guns, collectibles & antiques at Lyons for Jim A. Keller Estate. Auctioneers: Auction Specialists, LLC.
- May 22 — Rifles, handguns, military & antique, black powder, shotguns, barrels & stocks, BB guns, ammo, reloading & misc., artwork at Emporia. Auctioneers: Hancock Auction & Real Estate.
- May 22 — McPherson County land, farm machinery, farm related, household & collectibles at Moundridge for Dwight R. & Velma I. Decker Estate. Auctioneers: Van Schmidt Auctions.
- May 22 & 23 — Household, furniture, tools, antiques & collectibles & newer items at Kirwin for the Cheryl M. Rader Estate. Auctioneers: Ashley's Auction Service.
- May 23 — Pickups, machinery, livestock items & misc. at Silver Lake for Roy & Nancy Darting. Auctioneers: Rezac Auction Service.
- May 24 — Barber County real estate at Medicine Lodge. Auctioneers: United Country-Nixon Auction & Realty, LLC.
- May 25 — Pickup, construction equipment & tools at Hesston for D&R Construction. Auctioneers: Van Schmidt Auctions.
- May 29 — State fair KJLS show pigs at Abilene for Wuthnow Family Show Pigs. Auctioneer: Craig Heinen.
- May 29 — Home & personal property at Marion for Chill Estate. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction Service, LC.
- May 29 — Personal property NE of Marysville for Ken & Arleta Martin. Auctioneers: Olmsted & Sandstrom.
- May 31 — 17th annual Harley Gerdes Memorial Day consignment auction at Lyndon.
- June 3 — Commercial real estate at Lawrence. Auctioneers: Wayne Wischropp.
- June 5 — Real estate with home at McPherson for Steve Lowe. Auctioneers: Triple K Auction & Real Estate.
- June 6 — Tractors, combine, trucks, hay & tillage equip., riding mower, tools & farm related, household, appliances at Basehor for Hank Porter Trust. Auctioneers: Sebree Auction, LLC.
- June 8 — Tools & misc. for Kenneth Holechek and mowers & tools for Beldon Blosser Trust #1 at Concordia. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.
- June 10 — Consignments at Newton. Auctioneers: Road Runner Sales.
- June 12 — Real estate, machining tools, shop tools, vehicles, household & misc. at Riley for Steve Sharp Estate. Auctioneers: Clay County Real Estate, Greg Kretz & Gail Hauserman, salesmen & auctioneers.
- June 12 — Collectible cars, tractors & misc. at Topeka for Herb Bolyard Estate & Barb Bolyard. Auctioneers: Wayne Pagel, CAI.
- June 12 — Consignments at Topeka. Auctioneers: Simnitt Auctions.

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BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Letter To Norm 'Bout Spring Gather

Dear Norm,

I just wanted you to know we're still punchin' cows here on the S X. Not much has changed. The Beacon well is working again. It's opened up the west side for us. We're trying to get the stragglers all into the Kline pasture to finish branding. This morning three of us rode the Black. I dropped two cowboys at the road gate then drove on to the corrals.

I parked far enough back, unloaded Chaco so I could sneak up and maybe catch 'em in the trap. No luck. I started west to the old railroad bed, then swung back north. Wind was blowin' like a banshee outta the west. I think the high temp was 45 degrees! Warm gloves, wool shirt (with rubber bands around wrists to keep wind

from blowin' up my sleeve), scarf, leggin's and lined canvas brush jacket. I was plenty warm till I turned into the wind!

Riding in the big arroyos, it was calmer but the clouds were dark and low on the mountaintops. The sky was the color of the floor in a truck stop shop! Chaco and I made a big circle, never saw a fresh track, except a single day-old bull track headin' north. At least he was going the right direction.

Met up with Frank and Pancho at Black corrals. They headed cross country north. I loaded my horse and hauled three miles back to the Kline where I mounted up and rode to the north fence, then back to the east and eventually turned south to the lower drinker. I saw

the occasional fresh track, cows and calves moving toward the drinkers. No cows at the lower drinker so I swung west into the brush and eased up on the middle drinker ... Ten of 'em! After five hours in the saddle ... ten of 'em. That's not a bad bunch when you're doin' clean up.

I stayed beyond the edge of their nervous zone. Frank called on the walkie-talkie. They were already at the Kline corrals with seven head. I told them I'd hold the bunch at the middle drinker. Twenty minutes later the boys rode quietly in. Soon as I saw them I swung wide to the opposite side and we started them up the water line trail. You know how hard it is to keep 'em together on that final drive, specially into a stiff breeze! It makes everybody antsy. But it went as smooth as silk and not a word had been spoken. I'm workin' with top hands out here.

Well, seventeen head to the Kline gathered out of 10,000 acres of rough country on a day when stunt doubles and daredevils would

have just stayed home. A good day's work here at the ranch. Only thing missing was you, ol' friend. But I could see your tracks everywhere I went. You were there in spirit, at least. I thought of ya when that jack rabbit shot out of the brush, spooked ol' Chaco and slid me sideways far enough I grabbed the horn! I could see ya outta the corner of my eye. You were there alright, keepin' me on my toes.

Take care, amigo, we're thinkin' of you.

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