



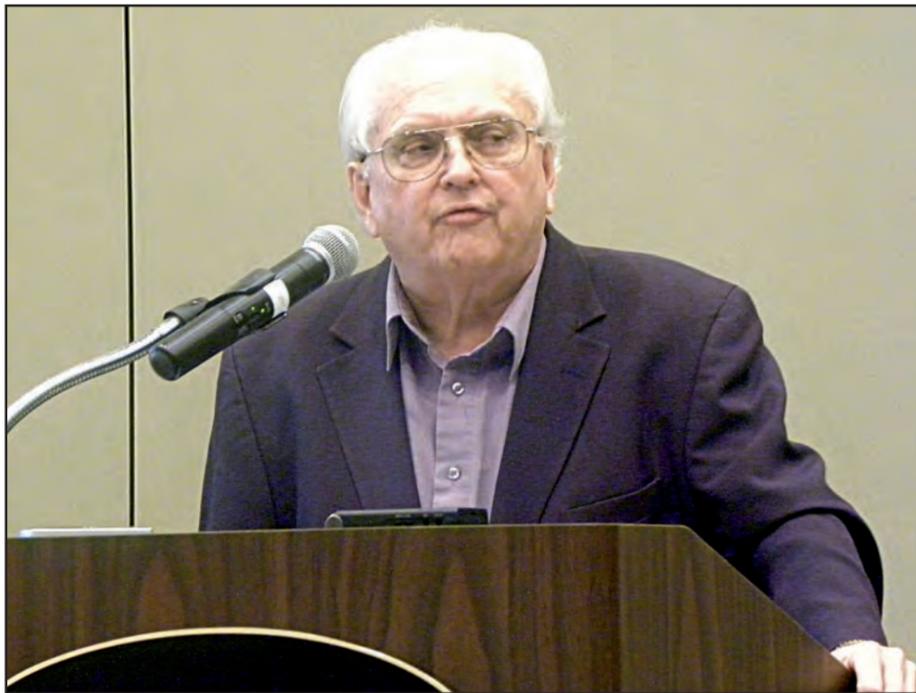
Flinchbaugh discusses economic growth at Kansas Commodity Classic

By Donna Sullivan, Editor

"It isn't economic uncertainty that's the problem, it's political uncertainty," thundered Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh as he addressed Kansas Commodity Classic on January 16 in Manhattan. Flinchbaugh, Professor Emeritus in Kansas State University's Department of Agriculture Economics, worked on his first farm bill in 1968 with Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz.

"I can truthfully say without any doubt that I've never seen the nation's capital more dysfunctional, more partisan and more mean-spirited," he said. "It simply is not working."

Flinchbaugh asserted it is a myth that the economy is broke and not productive. With 3% growth, prime interest rates at 3.25%, 2.3% inflation and unemployment at 7.8%, he acknowledged those are not stellar statistics, but cited an estimate from *The Economist* magazine that there is currently \$4.5-5 trillion in "loose change" in the American economy. Many Americans are holding on to more cash than ever before in their lives. "That's four and a half to five trillion dollars unloaned, uninvested, unused because of political uncertainty," he asserted. "They tell small businesses to grow, invest, expand; all these people out here to feed! Well how do you plan when you don't have any idea what your taxes are going to be?"



Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh brought his characteristic straight talk to the Kansas Commodity Classic in Manhattan on January 16.

Photo by Donna Sullivan

Or when you don't know what your energy costs are going to be? And you certainly don't know what your health costs are going to be or what regulations this administration is going to come up with. So how do you plan and invest? You don't. That's why there's four and a half to five trillion dollars not being used."

Calling the debt ceiling a "political pawn for both parties to be irresponsible with," Flinchbaugh says the U.S. government has no choice but to pay its bills.

"There's one great thing

about the American economy," he said. "The marketplace always takes care of political folly."

Currently U.S. bonds are rated AA. Upon a default, they would likely be downgraded to BB. "Who's going to buy them?" Flinchbaugh asked. "And what's going to happen to interest rates?"

He charged that the notion of China owning most of the nation's debt is false, saying they own only about 8.5%, with Japan owning 9%, and Europe 13%. "If we default, we're defaulting on ourselves - you and I," he

said. "If the bond agencies drop us to BBB, the Congress will panic and God knows what will happen."

Flinchbaugh believes the real issue is to get this economy to grow, which will involve both cutting spending and overhauling the tax code. "The first thing you do is get some guts in the Congress and White House to make some hard decisions. Congress prides itself on doing away with earmarks, which is like spitting in a bucket," he said. "The real earmarks are in the tax code - a trillion of them."

"Simpson-Bowles provided us with the answer, the work's done," he stated. "70% of it is based on spending cuts and 30% on overhauling the tax code. The president appointed that commission, I was quite impressed with the people that were on it. They came up with a solution and he proceeded to ignore it, as did Speaker Boehner. The problem is leadership."

He issued an ominous warning of what could transpire if the gridlock in D.C. is not overcome. "There are two ways to make public decisions. One is through civil discourse and compromise and the other is through dictatorship. Take your pick."

He went on to say that he has enough faith in the system to believe that a version of Simpson-Bowles will pass in the near future.

Flinchbaugh then turned the discussion to agriculture policy. "After Congress spent the year screwing up the economy, then they did it to agriculture. They left town in the worst drought in 60 years and let the farm programs expire. Finally the urban press came up with this notion of a dairy cliff and \$6 milk and we woke up."

He emphasized that he has preached for years the importance of never letting a farm bill expire, saying the current farm bill was extended because it was superior to the 1938 farm bill that

it would have reverted to.

He lamented the replacement of Pat Roberts as the ranking Republican on the Senate Ag Committee. "I've been in Kansas 42 years and I don't recall a time period like the one that's coming up," he said. "The great wheat state is going to have less influence in the House of Representatives and even in the wheat industry than any time in my lifetime."

Flinchbaugh denounced the idea that food stamps should be removed from the farm bill. "If you let food stamps out of the farm bill, then you lose our seat at the table. Not only will we lose the seat at the table, but that's the beginning of the end of the USDA, which was established in 1862 by Abraham Lincoln." With less than fifty ag districts in the United States, Flinchbaugh says a farm bill can't be passed without an urban majority. Removal of the food stamp program from the agriculture department would cost USDA 85% of its budget. He believes that conservation would then be moved to the forestry department and regulations would go to EPA, all contributing to the demise of USDA.

About the future of the nation, Flinchbaugh stated, "Winston Churchill said one time that the great thing about America is that it will always eventually do the right thing... after it's done all the wrong things."

Vilsack highlights unlimited opportunity in rural America, challenges Farm Bureau members and producers to pursue new partnerships

During an address to the American Farm Bureau Federation, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack highlighted the unlimited potential of rural America, and also challenged rural Americans to embrace a proactive message that highlights this

opportunity for the rest of the nation. Vilsack urged farmers and producers take advantage of innovation, job creation partnerships and to share their story of a modern, innovative, inspiring rural America to new audiences.

"Rural America is leading innovation in this country today," said Vilsack. "Rural areas can benefit tremendously through the bioeconomy, whether producing cutting-edge new products or advanced biofuels from crops and plant products. We are learning more about what can be made from wood and forest products. We are discovering groundbreaking medical benefits associated with many homegrown products - and much more."

Vilsack said that there is unlimited opportunity to grow the rural economy by harnessing the potential of this work. He highlighted a number of ways in which USDA is working to create new markets for innovation. "At USDA, my goal in

the coming years is to work with our partners to promote rural investment through research and collaboration. We must create new agricultural products that provide a renewed opportunity for the next generation of American farmers," Vilsack said. "We are particularly focused on developing new foreign and domestic markets and promoting conservation and recreation in our rural communities. We must also continue to strengthen the biobased economy."

Vilsack outlined the valuable role research plays in boosting crop production. Farmers and ranchers grow more than ever before, with today's corn farmers growing four times as many bushels per acre as farmers just sixty years ago.

Vilsack noted that USDA under the Obama Administration has pursued new markets at home and abroad for U.S. commodities, with cumulative 2009-2012 exports reaching \$478 billion - the best four years in history. He noted President

Obama's efforts to secure new trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea.

The Secretary highlighted how USDA's efforts have boosted local and regional marketing opportunities. The number of farmers markets in America increasing by 67 percent compared to 2008. Additionally, more than 200 regional food hubs are in existence today.

USDA, said Vilsack, has taken steps to monetize the tremendous conservation efforts going on across rural America. USDA is taking steps to create new ecosystem markets to help landowners earn revenue for conservation, while giving companies increased options to meet regulatory requirements. At the same time, USDA is pioneering new uses for forest products by funding research into nanotechnology to develop new plant-based construction materials.

Vilsack said that USDA is continuing to support growth of a new biobased

economy, creating a "USDA Biobased Product" label that links manufacturers of more than 25,000 plant-based products with buyers. It is promoting production of feedstocks to be converted into biofuel, and through research and loan support is promoting the development of new-generation refineries. The Department is also working with the Navy and the Federal Aviation Administration on 'drop in' biofuels that can supplement traditional fossil fuels used to power ships and planes.

Vilsack set new goals for USDA in the remarks, promising the Department would build on its successes since 2009 by establishing more local and regional markets and food hubs, assist additional companies in producing biobased products, establish additional conservation certainty agreements and take steps to strengthen ecosystem markets.

Vilsack also challenged Farm Bureau members to aggressively tell the story of a modern, innovative and

inspiring rural America. "Rural communities, organizations and leaders must reach new audiences to strengthen the understanding of the agricultural sector," Vilsack said. Citing the recent failure by Congress to act on a comprehensive Food, Farm and Jobs Bill, he challenged rural America to ensure its voice is more clearly understood in Washington and around the country.

Vilsack said that USDA will continue taking new steps to help rural communities strengthen their economies, while providing a chance to regain population. "I'm going to do all I can this year to work with Congress and secure the sort of comprehensive, long-term Food, Farm and Jobs Bill that will continue growing the rural economy. But I need the help of those across rural America to reach out, to expand partnerships and to tell the story of the modern and innovative rural America that provides so much to our nation."



My overalls and coat are hung by the door, the barn is illuminated with heat lamps and a warm bed of straw is spread out. It must be lambing season. The time of the year that begins with a check at 5:30 a.m. and ends with another at 10:00 p.m. (or midnight depending on the maternity ward). It is a hectic time of the year and I wouldn't trade it for anything. Well, that is, as long as everything is going okay.

As much as I like lambing season I also know that at some point things will become stressful. I really don't like stress. Stress during this time of the year comes in many forms, but most often it is due to an animal health-related crisis. Yes, even with the utmost precautions and preparations, animal illness will still occur. That is why I am glad I have all of the best medicine that veterinary science can provide me.

That is also why the recent arguments over the use of antibiotics in livestock have made me so mad. I cannot imagine going into a lambing or calving season without antibiotics in my arsenal. I can't imagine how helpless it would feel to watch a calf or a lamb die because I could not treat it, especially knowing that the medicine to treat it does exist.

Like many of my fellow farmers and ranchers I believe that I have a duty to provide the best care possible to the livestock in my care. I believe that it is my responsibility to do everything in my power to keep them healthy and to nurse them back to health when they become ill. Don't get me wrong, we do our best to make sure they do not become sick. However, when they do, I want to know I have done all I can.

We have also heard all of the concerns of the public about antibiotics in livestock and whether they create resistance issues in human medicine. First of all, I am just as concerned about the safety of the food I produce as anyone. The food I produce is the same food I feed my family and I would never do anything to jeopardize their safety. Second, I follow all of the withdrawal pe-

riods and other precautions when using antibiotics. I have the utmost confidence that the meat I produce does not contribute to the antibiotic-resistant viruses that we are seeing.

I also find it quite interesting that in this time of focusing on the well-being of animals we are even considering limiting or eliminating the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture. To stop the use of these safe and effective medicines would only lead to needless suffering of animals that would otherwise be saved. As a rancher I cannot stand for anything that leads to an increase in suffering.

Is there abuse? Are there producers who don't follow the rules and overuse antibiotics? I am sure there are, but I assure you that they are a very, very small minority. I am as mad about their abuse as anyone. We must find ways to make them accountable, but I am also just as sure that removing safe, necessary antibiotics is not the answer.

As producers, what should we do? We need to tell our story to everyone who will listen. We also need to open our operations to the public and allow them to see that we do care about our animals and we care just as much about producing a safe product for our consumers. We need to help eliminate the disconnect between ag producers and consumers. I truly believe that most of the public want to trust us and will trust us when we do a better job of communicating with them. We are doing things right and we produce a wholesome, safe product.

I am going into this lambing season with the hope that my animals will continue to be healthy. I will continue to maintain sanitation and nutritional standards to insure that my animals will be in the best health they can be in. I will carry on a constant vigilance watching for any changes in their health. However, I will also be confident that if they become ill I will provide the best care with the best medicine possible. That is why I am a proud producer of the food we all eat.



**By John Schlageck,
Kansas Farm Bureau**
Travel anywhere in the Sunflower State and people will tell you it's dry. It's so dry the U.S. Department of Agriculture declared that all but one of the 105 Kansas counties is in a drought disaster. This clears the way for farmers and ranchers to seek low-interest emergency loans.

While many areas of the state have been blessed with eight to ten inches of snow, the winter wheat crop still needs moisture. Limited moisture in most areas of Kansas caused the winter wheat condition to decline through December.

As of the first of the year, 9 percent of the crop was rated very poor, 22 percent

poor, 45 percent fair, 23 percent good and 1 percent excellent, according to Kansas Ag Statistics.

Estimates place the number of wheat acres that did not germinate between 5-10 percent. Some folks believe it may be less than 2 percent; however, those acres will almost certainly produce approximately 65 percent of a normal yield. And nearly every Kansas farmer knows of someone who has a field that didn't come up.

Many parts of the state received a quarter to half inch of rain Jan. 10. Any moisture in January is considered a bonus.

Significant rainfalls essential for the wellbeing of winter wheat in Kansas gen-

erally fall in February and March. Rain or snow before or after this two-month period does not impact wheat as much.

"We can talk about how dry it is now, but what if we receive a foot of snow the beginning of February?" asks Mark Nelson, Kansas Farm Bureau commodities director. "And let's say this snow just sits on this wheat crop across the state for the next two months. Then March is nice and we receive April showers. All this wheat that has been dry up to this point - well, it could make 60, 70, 80 bushels per acre next harvest."

And those farmers whose crop didn't come up?

Their wheat harvest may make 50 bushels per acre and they'll say, "Good God. I didn't know she'd do this."

On the flip side, if it remains dry, Kansas farmers could harvest a 270-million-bushel wheat crop, Nelson says. Right now, with aver-



My oldest son married a young lady who, while not exactly raised in agriculture, did have some experience and a working knowledge of it. The other kids, however, seem to be taking the approach of educating others about agriculture through marriage. When our second son informed us that the young lady he was bringing home to meet us was a Johnson County sorority girl, I was pretty sure he'd taken complete leave of his senses.

"Are you crazy? If you bring her around here, you'll never see her again!" was my exact quote.

You see, our family is kind of like our own version of Duck Dynasty, minus the long beards and millions of dollars. But he ignored my warning and brought her around anyway, and what do you know, she liked us and fit right in with our crazy bunch. Except for nearly setting our house on fire with a Roman candle on Independence Day, she became part of the family without incident. She started a blog called From High Hills to Corn Fields, which unfortunately got abandoned when real-life things like work and keeping up with a toddler

got in the way.

For her birthday, my son got her a pink .22 rifle, which she further embellished with zebra stripes and promptly won a night off from cooking supper by being a better shot than he thought she'd be.

I knew her immersion into the country way of life was nearly complete when he told us what he'd gotten her for Christmas.

Jewelry? No.

Clothes? Nuh-uh.

My son had purchased for his lovely wife... three goats.

"So do you need to stay with us for a few days?" I asked when he told me about them.

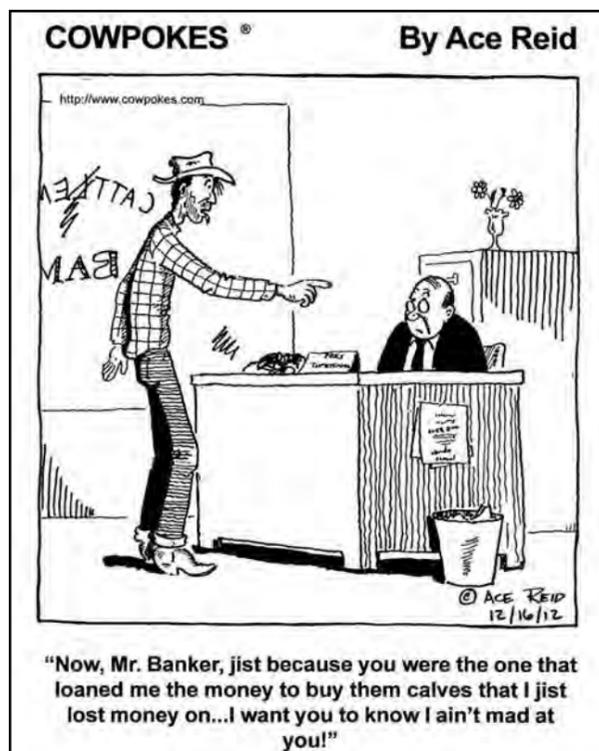
"No, she loved them," he replied.

In keeping with her love of literature, she named them Arthur, Lancelot and Guinevere.

Now my youngest daughter is dating a young man from New Jersey. In his time with us, he's been to his first county fair, sat on a tame longhorn Brahma bull at that same fair, and worked cattle on a cold Saturday afternoon. I asked him what he thought of life in the country.

"If more kids could grow up like this, our world would be a much better place," was his reply.

And you know, I couldn't agree more.



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Editor — Donna Sullivan
gandgeditor@agpress.com

— Advertising Staff —
Steve Reichert • steve@agpress.com
agpress2@agpress.com

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age yields, Kansas is looking at the potential for a 355-million-bushel crop.

In January most wheat growers remain lodged in a kind of limbo. They're busy planning, marketing and oftentimes worrying about the lack of moisture on their wheat crop. And rightly so. The long-range forecast is dry through February and March.

"No moisture in February and March could add up to that 100 million bushel shortfall I was talking about," Nelson says. "There's no subsoil moisture anywhere in Kansas."

Still, it's too early to say how the 2013 wheat crop will pan out. Harvest is nearly six months in the future.

In Kansas, it's often said

the wheat crop lives from hand to mouth. It's hanging in there right now. If it receives a little more rain and some snow for cover protection it could make a good crop yet.

"We can chicken scratch along, and if everybody grows a bunch of 35-40 bushel wheat and we end up with 335 million bushels across the state next harvest, this may be disappointing but it's far from a disaster," Nelson says. "If this scenario plays out, what I'm worried to death about are the row crops we plant in spring. Where will they find the moisture?"

Nelson isn't alone; more than one irrigator I've spoken to this winter is concerned with this possibility. Their biggest worry during

this relatively slow time in January is the fear that February and March will not provide needed moisture.

"The Kansas wheat crop will continue to mosey along," Nelson says. "It's too early to worry too much about this crop. Barring weather disasters, the wheat crop has a relatively good shot. We're behind the 8-ball however, when we look to the future and our corn, milo and soybeans this spring if it remains dry."

John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.

Kansas Farm Bureau announces staff changes at state headquarters

Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm advocacy organization, has made staff changes.

Jeff Sutton was named the farm group's director of marketing, business partnerships and leadership development. Sutton will manage Kansas Farm Bureau's marketing thrusts, develop business partnerships and build leadership development areas. Sutton will continue coordinating Kansas Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee. He previously served as assistant director of marketing and assistant director of the KFB Foundation for Agriculture. Sutton returned to Kansas in 2005 from his position of reporter/field producer for Georgia Farm Bureau's Georgia Farm Monitor tele-

vision program and the Georgia Farm Radio Network. He currently serves on the Kansas FFA Foundation Board of Trustees, the Kansas Foreign Animal Disease Public Information Team, Alpha Gamma Rho Alumni Board, the state General Agriculture Assessment Committee, and is director of youth ministry at Marysville United Methodist Church.

Harry Watts was named Kansas Farm Bureau's director of the Foundation for Agriculture and chief foundations development officer. Watts will be responsible for all the activities associated with the KFB Foundation for Agriculture and will be the primary fundraiser for the KFB Foundation for Agriculture and the KFB Legal Foun-

He previously served as director of the farm organization's governmental relations division. Watts came to Kansas Farm Bureau from the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, where he served as vice president for economic development. He also brings more than two decades of hands-on leadership and experience in the public policy arena, having led a number of external affairs functions with the former Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

"These individuals are well suited for their new assignments," Dan Yunk, Kansas Farm Bureau CEO/executive director, says. "They have a passion for agriculture as well as rural Kansas and will serve our members well."

Mike Chartier - Hiawatha, KS	913-370-0999	Kyle Krier - Salina, KS	785-317-7542
Tony Elizondo - Manhattan, KS	785-410-7563	Mike Scherer - Leavenworth, KS	913-426-2640
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96 JD 544G Wheel Loader	81 Steiger PTA 325 Tractor	95 Wilson DWH-400 Semi Trailer, 42'
89 Freightliner FLD12064ST Semi Truck Tractor		

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Saver; 24' Great Plains no-till drill; JD 566 Baler.

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TWO-HOUR ROLLS

- 1 1/2 cups warm water
- 2 packages dry yeast
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup Butter Crisco
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 5 cups flour (approximately)

Put warm water in a large mixer bowl; add yeast. With mixer on low speed mix then add sugar, Crisco, eggs and salt. Increase mixer speed and add 2 cups flour. Decrease mixer speed and add 3 cups flour. Knead dough. Put in bowl, let rise in warm place. Punch down and make into rolls; let rise. Bake 15 to 20 minutes at 400 degrees or until golden brown.

Jean Wrosch, Onaga: **BARBECUED MEATBALLS**
 1 cup evaporated milk
 3 pounds ground beef
 2 cups oatmeal
 1/2 teaspoon pepper
 1 cup chopped onion
 2 teaspoons salt
 2 eggs, beaten

Topping:
 2 cups ketchup
 2 tablespoons liquid smoke
 1/2 cup chopped onion
 1 1/2 cups brown sugar

Combine ground beef, salt, pepper, onion and oatmeal. Mix thoroughly. Add beaten eggs to evaporated milk and mix. Combine with ground beef mixture and shape into meatballs. Place in a 9-by-13-inch pan (one layer to a pan). For topping, mix ketchup, liquid smoke, onion and brown sugar together and pour over meatballs. Bake uncovered for 1 hour at 350 degrees.

Rose M. Dietz, Hoisington: "This is a tasty combination of pork and apples."
PORK-APPLE SUPPER

- 4 or 6 pork chops
- 4 cups sliced apples
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons flour
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg

1 package Shake 'N' Bake seasoned coating for pork
 Place apples in a well greased casserole dish. Mix sugar, flour and spices together and sprinkle over apples. Coat pork chops with the packaged seasoning and arrange them on top of the apples. Bake uncovered in a preheated 400-degree oven for about 1 hour.

Carol Ricketts, Clay Center:

BUTTERFINGER DESSERT

- 2 cups (crushed) graham crackers

- 1 cup (crushed) soda crackers
- 1 stick oleo, melted
- 2 cups milk
- 8 ounces whipped topping, thawed
- 2 small boxes instant vanilla pudding
- 1 quart vanilla ice cream, slightly softened
- 2 regular Butterfinger candy bars, crushed

Combine crackers and oleo for crust; press 2/3 of the mixture into a 9-by-13-inch pan, reserve remaining 1/3 for topping. Combine pudding mix with milk and then add softened ice cream (use electric mixer). Pour mixture over crust; spread whipped topping over pudding mixture. Spread remaining 1/3 topping and crushed candy bar over whipped topping. Keep in refrigerator.

Kellee Rogers, Topeka: **PISTACHIO BARS**

- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- Topping:**
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup syrup
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pistachio nuts
- 1/2 cup coconut

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In bowl, mix flour and 1/4 cup sugar. With pastry blender or fork cut in 1/2 cup butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press mixture in bottom of ungreased 8-inch square pan. Bake 20-25 minutes or

until light golden brown. Cool 10 minutes. In bowl, beat egg slightly. Stir in remaining topping ingredients except pistachios and coconut until well blended. Stir in pistachios and coconut. Spoon and spread pistachio mixture evenly over warm base. Bake 15-20 minutes longer or until edges are golden brown. Cool completely about 1 hour 15 minutes. For bars, cut into 5 rows by 5 rows.

Lydia Miller, Westphalia: **TANGY COCONUT TARTLETS**

- 1 1/2 cups sweetened flaked coconut
- 1/4 cup Splenda No-Calorie Sweetener, granulated
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 egg whites
- 3.4-ounce package instant lemon pudding mix
- 2 cups fat-free milk
- 8-ounce tub fat-free frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened flaked coconut, toasted

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Lightly grease 24 muffin mini cups. In mixing bowl mix 1 1/2 cups coconut, Splenda, flour, vanilla and egg whites; stir well. Divide evenly among cups pressing mixture into bottom and sides. Bake in preheated oven until edges are browned. Cool 2 minutes in tins on wire rack. Remove and cool completely on wire rack. Prepare pudding according to instructions, using milk. Spoon pudding into each tartlet shell. Top with 2 teaspoons of whipped

topping sprinkled with a pinch of toasted coconut.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh, shares the following:

- GREEN PEAS & MUSHROOMS**
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 8-ounce package sliced baby portobello mushrooms
- 1/2 cup finely minced onion
- 16-ounce package frozen peas
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

In a large skillet melt butter over medium heat. Add mushrooms and onion. Cook, stirring occasionally for 4 minutes. Stir in peas and 1/2 cup water. Cook stirring frequently for 8-10 minutes or until peas are tender. Stir in salt and pepper.

Following are two additional recipes from Kellee Rogers, Topeka:

EASY BEANS & FRANKS SOUP

- 28-ounce can baked beans with bacon & brown sugar sauce, undrained
- 11 1/2-ounce can V8 juice
- 6 hotdogs, cut into 1-inch slices
- 3 medium carrots, chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

Mix all ingredients in 2-quart saucepan. Heat to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer uncovered 10-15 minutes or until carrots are tender.

MAPLE ROASTED CHICKEN

- 1 stick butter
- 3 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon thyme
- 3 1/2- to 4-pound chicken
- 1 lemon, quartered
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons pepper

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In small bowl stir together butter, syrup and thyme. Set aside. Place chicken in a roasting pan and stuff cavity with lemon. Slide hands under the chicken's skin to loosen. Spread half of reserved butter mixture between loosened skin and meat. Rub remaining butter mixture on top of skin and season with salt and pepper. Roast chicken until a thermometer inserted into thickest part of thigh reaches 165 degrees, about 1 1/2 hours. Remove chicken from oven and let rest 10-15 minutes before carving.

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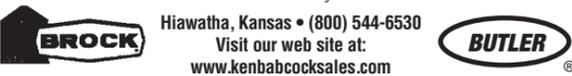
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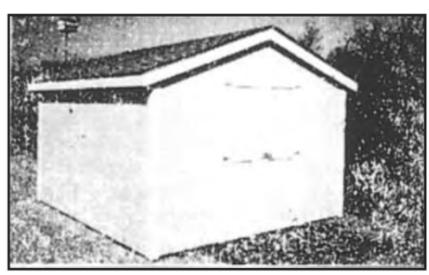
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Host A Tailgating Party At Home

(NAPSA) — You can score an instant touchdown with your party guests during football season — or at any time — by offering a hot baked potato bar fully loaded with fan favorites and some new players. Unlike watching the big game on the screen, a hot potato bar is anything but a spectator sport. Encourage guests to engage in "full contact" with your potato bar, where they can customize their spuds with toppings of their choice.



Select potatoes that are the same size, so they cook evenly. Remember to scrub potatoes clean under running water and pat dry before baking. After they're cooked, slit the potatoes lengthwise and keep them warm in a chafing dish, so guests may grab and load.

"Top This"

Build the base of your potato bar with simple and classic favorites such as butter, salt, pepper, sour cream, cheese, green onions and bacon bits. These ingredients are great on their own but can also complement other toppings.

Next, spice up the offering with savory toppings such as vegetarian or meat chili, shredded cheese, salsa, sliced jalapeños and pico de gallo.

For the more adventurous guests, offer these delicious and less traditional toppers:

- Shredded chicken with barbecue sauce
- Baked beans and sausage
- Tuna tossed with creamy peas
- Crab with an Alfredo sauce
- Coleslaw
- Chicken salad.

The beauty of a potato bar is that guests can splurge or go for a little garden variety, healthful options:

- Steamed vegetables such as broccoli, green beans or asparagus
- Roasted peppers and onions
- Goat cheese and sautéed spinach
- Kernel corn
- Black or red beans.

Don't forget to try baked sweet potatoes on your potato bar. These can become especially sweet when topped with cinnamon and chunky warm apple sauce.

If you need more inspiration for your hot potato bar, you can visit a Buffets brand restaurant — Ryan's®, Country Buffet®, Fire Mountain®, Granny's Buffet®, in addition to HomeTown Buffet® as well as Old Country Buffet® — to check out the "Top This!" setups throughout the restaurant. While there, you may care to top off your potato with a wide selection of options, then pair with a terrific partner — the new thick-cut Rancher's Select® Sirloin.

For more information, visit www.Ryans.com, CountryBuffet.com, FireMountainBuffet.com, GrannysBuffet.com, HomeTownBuffet.com and OldCountryBuffet.com.



(NAPSA) — When the temperature drops, a cinnamon-scented kitchen is especially warm and inviting. Savor the warmth every time you bake a Blueberry Coffee Cake. The classic recipe here, rich with sour cream and dense with luscious blueberries, is a blue-ribbon winner! And a bonus—because it's made with reduced-fat products, the calories are relatively low for a treat that tastes so indulgent.

Blueberries — fresh and frozen — are abundantly available through the winter months, so you can enjoy Blueberry Coffee Cake and all the blueberry dishes you love anytime you like. Find a large collection of recipes, nutrition information and more at www.LittleBlueDynamo.com.

Blueberry Coffee Cake Warms Those Chilly Mornings

Blueberry Coffee Cake

Topping:

- 1/3 cup rolled oats
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/4 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons butter, softened

Cake:

- 1 2/3 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup reduced-fat sour cream
- 1/4 cup fat-free half & half
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups fresh or frozen (not thawed) blueberries

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9-by-9-inch baking pan with nonstick spray. Make the topping: In a small bowl, stir oats, flour, sugar, cinnamon and salt. Add butter and blend until crumbly. Set aside. Make the cake batter: In a medium

bowl, stir together flour, baking powder and salt; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, add butter and sugar; with an electric mixer, beat until fluffy, about 1 minute. Add the eggs, sour cream, half & half and vanilla; beat until well blended, about 1 minute. Add the flour mixture; beat on low speed to combine, scraping the sides with a rubber spatula, about 30 seconds. Increase speed to medium and mix just until well blended, about 30 seconds. With a rubber spatula, gently fold in the blueberries. Turn batter into prepared pan. Sprinkle the topping mixture evenly on top; press lightly. Bake until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes out clean, 40 to 45 minutes. Let cool in pan 30 minutes before serving.

Yield: 16 portions
Per portion: 216 calories; 33 g carbohydrate; 8 g total fat; 5 g saturated fat; 1 g fiber.

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Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative works to improve habitat in five states

Eric B. Banks, state conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kansas, announced an application period cutoff date for participation in a multi-state initiative designed to improve the lesser prairie-chicken (LEPC) habitat. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis; however, to be considered for fiscal year 2013 funds, the application cutoff date is February 15, 2013. The Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative (LPCI) promotes the overall health of grazing lands and the long-term sustainability of ranching operations in Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

"Over the past three years, the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative has succeeded in improving and increasing lesser prairie-chicken habitat acres in all five states," said Banks. "Kansas received an allocation for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative for fiscal year 2013 of \$3 million. This initiative offers financial assistance for implementing necessary conservation practices for lesser prairie-chicken habitat and development of efficient grazing management systems."

Funds through this initiative provides producers an opportunity to improve the LEPC habitat while promoting the overall health of grazing lands and the long-term sustainability of Kansas ranching.

Expired or expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) fields in perma-

nent cover that may benefit LEPC habitat may also be eligible for funding.

The LPCI is available in 36 Kansas counties: Barber, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Ellis, Finney, Ford, Gove, Graham, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Kiowa, Lane, Logan, Meade, Morton, Ness, Pawnee, Pratt, Rush, Scott, Seward, Sheridan, Sherman, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Thomas, Trego, Wallace, and Wichita. Interested agriculture producers must meet eligibility requirements to qualify. The unique circumstances and concerns of interested historically underserved ranchers are also addressed by offering a higher payment rate for them.

For more information visit the Kansas NRCS web page at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/lpci/index.html or contact your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government or on the internet at offices.usda.gov). Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Moran visits Kansas Commodity Classic

Senator Jerry Moran made a stop at the Kansas Commodity Classic on January 16. He stated it doesn't seem like much has changed in Washington D.C. since the election. As for the farm bill, Moran said he was disappointed that it wasn't passed last year, and that the process will now have to start over. He supported the extension of the farm bill, but said he did so because it was better than not having anything. "My guess is that we will pass a farm bill," he said. "There is a pretty broad consensus about the elimination of direct payments, and under the extension, direct payments would be paid come October unless there's something that replaces the extension." He expects the farm bill to focus on crop insurance.



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U.S. beef exports dip slightly

The value of beef exports through the first 11 months of 2012 remained slightly above 2011's record levels, despite continued lower volumes, according to statistics released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF), a contractor to the Beef Checkoff Program.

As U.S. production declined in 2012, beef exports fell a modest 1 percent in value on a 13.3 percent drop in volume in November. Year-to-date through November, volumes were down 11 percent (2.3 billion pounds) but the value of those exports was a strong \$5.05 billion – still 2 percent above the record-setting value pace of 2011.

Exports to Canada (up 18.5 percent in volume and 37.8 percent in value), Hong Kong (up 18.8 percent and 62.6 percent in volume and value, respectively), Russia (up 19 percent in volume and 4 percent in value) and Central/South America (up 42.4 percent in volume and 56.3 percent in value; including record exports to Chile, up 119 percent) were the top-performing beef export markets in November. Export value to South Korea increased nearly 6 percent on a slight decline in volume.

Beef exports to price-

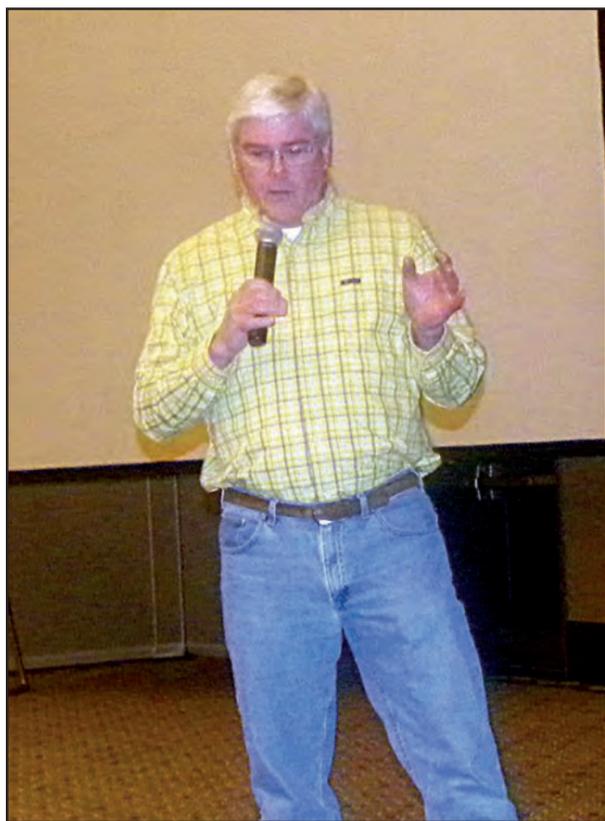
sensitive markets like Mexico are down this year, but the value of exports to premium markets like Japan (up 19 percent for the year) and Canada (up 13 percent) continue to grow even as volumes remain low.

Another positive for beef exporters is the rebound of the Taiwan market, which was once a top-five U.S. beef export market but was hindered for

most of 2011 by racotamine-related barriers that have since been resolved. In November, the value of beef sales to Taiwan jumped 13.7 percent over last year on slightly reduced volumes. For the year through November, exports to Taiwan were down 48 percent in volume and 40 percent in value, but recent numbers are encouraging for 2013.

Beef exports account for 12.6 percent of total production (9.8 percent for just muscle cuts) with a per-head value of \$214.64, up 5 percent from last year. Complete export results are available online.

For more information about your beef checkoff investment in foreign marketing programs, visit MyBeefCheckoff.com.



If producers at the Kansas Commodity Classic were hoping to hear that the drought is nearing its end, WIBW meteorologist Dave Relihan didn't bring the news they wanted. While he believes the state will receive enough moisture this spring for the wheat, he said that the fall crops are likely to suffer when fall shuts off in mid-June. He expects July and August to be similar to last year, minus the extreme heat. While there are signs that the drought is breaking across Texas, he says it has not run its course. He said Kansas should begin to move away from the drought in 2014. "I wish I had something better to tell you," he said. "Myself, I've never seen it this bad."

Photo by Donna Sullivan

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The "Goose Question" on the Kansas Border

"How does he stand on the goose?"

When John McNamara first heard that question he had no idea what it meant. The date was October 15, 1854. McNamara, an Episcopal minister, was in the dining hall of the Saint George Hotel in Weston, Missouri. Being new to the territory the pro-slavery crowd was anxious to know the preacher's stance. What "Strange Cabalistic!" McNamara would soon come to understand the cryptic remark.

Weston was a stronghold for a pro-slavery group led by the Chaplin at Fort Leavenworth known as the "Self Defensives." Members of the Platte County Self-Defensive Association were originally examined and when approved, were declared "sound on the goose."

David R. Atchison, for whom Atchison, Kansas was named, was an avid supporter of the Self Defensives with a great deal of political sway. Atchison was presently serving as the

president pro tempore of the United States Senate, and although not officially appointed vice president of the United States following the death of vice president William R. King, Atchison was considered by many to be the Vice President. McNamara called Atchison a "true knight of the Manacle of Slavery."

The United States government was in the hands of the very powerful Southern Democratic Party. Under the Franklin Pierce administration, federal interests, including U.S. troops at Fort Leavenworth, supported the institution of slavery in the south and by extension slavery for Kansas.

Assembling a government for a new territory was no small task. Andrew Reeder was appointed Governor of Kansas Territory. He established a temporary executive office in Leavenworth on October 7, 1854. Throughout the next month he toured the territory. An election for a Congressional delegate to the United States Congress was held in November. John W. Whitfield, a proslavery supporter, easily defeated two free state candidates.

A general election to select representatives for the Kansas Legislature was slated for March 30, 1855. A throng of northern abolitionists daily arrived in

Kansas, taking up the Free State cause. Slave holders in the territory who were SGQ (Sound on the Goose Question) were becoming the minority. The Self Defensives were not deterred. Their flagship newspaper, the *Platte County Argus* published in Weston, Missouri, helped guide the cause as the Self Defensives met to prepare for an "invasion" of pro-slavery men into Kansas Territory.

The *Argus* counseled with "orders from headquarters." Everyone was to have a saddle horse ready. Tents were constructed for their sojourn into Kansas. Canteens were filled with whiskey and old dragoon

coats were "borrowed" to give the invasion a military flair.

"Everything depended upon the point of destination which had been assigned to the different corps...If A.'s company was designed to carry the polls at Marysville...Mr. A. must start at least five days before the opening of the polls. If B.'s company had been ordered to take Leavenworth...B. could wait until the last moment, and go down to the sound of 'fife and drum.'"

There were two ferry crossings into Kansas. One of the operators was definitely SGQ, but the other, John Ellis, being from Indi-

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ana, was suspect. "Put no money in John Ellis's purse," was the word. Alas, the election-day invasion would be a great windfall for his business if only he could gain the trust of the Self Defensives.

Hoping to change their opinion Ellis placed an ad in the Argus. "Some illy-disposed persons have tried to injure my ferry, by stating that I refused to cross persons, last fall, to go to the election. This is false;—it will be difficult to find one more sound on the 'goose,' than I am. (Signed,) JOHN ELLIS." His business flourished on Election Day. So much so that in a short time his business sported a new ferry boat!

One day before the election a party of Platte County men rode into Weston. "They had tufts of hemp (the staple of Platte County) in their hats and in their button holes." They carried

a long pole with a live goose strapped to the highest point as if it were a military crest.

McNamara thought the goose was "emblematic of Slavery, the object of the conquest of Kansas." He railed at the idea, "From henceforth let this animal be mentioned with honor. O ye future historians give it a place in your annals; when you mention "Roman Eagles," say a word in behalf of "Missouri Geese!"

Those elected became a part of the "Bogus Legislature," and even though they were "sound on the goose" their cause was eventually lost to the principle of freedom on The Way West.

"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 785-531-2058 or www.droversmercantile.com.*

Funding available to renovate shelterbelts and restore forested riparian areas, deadline Feb. 15

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Eric B. Banks, Salina, announced the availability of Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 funding for Kansas agriculture producers to renovate shelterbelts and restore forested riparian buffers under the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI). Sign-up deadline to be considered for this FY 2013 funding is February 15, 2013. Producers need to contact their local NRCS office to sign up.

"Through the CCPI, the Kansas Forest Service, in partnership with NRCS, can address two areas of critical forestry needs—renovating shelterbelts and restoring forested riparian buffers in Kansas," said Banks.

"The CCPI fits nicely into the renovating and restoring efforts," said Larry Biles, Kansas Forest Service state forester. "Many shelterbelts in Kansas and throughout the central Great Plains are old and are no longer providing the benefits that they used to. This is also true of forests along rivers and streams."

CCPI provides assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). In Kansas, socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers will receive a higher payment rate for conservation practices related to CCPI.

Additional information specific to CCPI projects, or to sign an application, stop by your USDA Service Center and visit with the NRCS staff. The website offers information at www.ks.nrcsusda.gov/programs.

For more information about other natural resources conservation programs, please contact your local NRCS office or conservation district office.

The office is located at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government or on the internet at offices.usda.gov).

More information is also available on the Kansas website at www.ks.nrcsusda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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 100 bwf (F-1), few blk 550-650#.....Duane Tate
 125 blk (80h-45s) NI breedable Jorgensen genetics deep ribbed kind 600#Elliott Yenglin
 175 blk NI 450-525#.....Manning Cattle Co.
 167 blk (100hd) & char-x (67 hd) N not topped 350-475#.....Tim Miller
 150 blk, bwf cake & range April born drugfree 350-500#.....Berry Creek Ranch
 104 blk, few blk & rd NI 550-600#.....Bar 11 Ranch Co.
 87 blk NI EID tagged 550-600#.....Larry, Danny & Craig O'Kief
 80 blk not topped sires include Final Answer & In Focus genes 500-600#Thad Emerson
 75 blk blk-x NI 750-800#.....L & C Land & Cattle
 60 blk B.V. NI 500-575#.....Bob & Shane Keller
 95 blk B.V. NI 550-625#.....Don & Jolene Grunhaupt
 30 blk B.V. 600-650#.....Tom Cox, JR.
 30 char-x, blk & rd 550-650#.....Middle Creek Steers:
 145 angus CAB NHTC 1 Id @950#- 1 Id @ 850# 750-950#.....Littau Angus Rn
 368 angus 144 hd @ 900# mailto:224 @ 825# 825-900#.....CC Angus (Collier)
 300 angus EID/Angus Source Sitz Angus genes 575-675#.....Tom Ramm Family
 190 angus NI EID/Angus Source Baldrige genes 600-650#.....Brush Creek Rn
 227 blk NI front end 155 hd @ 825# 71 hd @ 725# 800#.....Jim Lee Ranch
 74 blk, blk-x a load lot 750-800#L & C Land and Cattle
 150 blk, few bwf (2 rd) NI 700-750#.....Witte Ranch LLC
 131 blk, few bwf & rd 500-600#.....Bar 11 Ranch Co
 110 blk, few bwf NI A.L'd over 20 yrs EID tagged 600-675# Bud & Kurt Stolzenburg
 100 blk, few bwf (1 rd) NI 500-650#.....Bob & Jody Dexter
 50 blk NI 600-650#.....Harms Cattle Co
 70 angus/angus-x (few hfrs) NI thin fleshed 600#Tom Mulligan
 126 blk, bwf (26 rd, rwr) drugfree 350-500#.....Dennis Bammerlin
 175 bwf & rd, rwr (20 hd) NI hayfed 425-525#.....Sell Bros.
 150 blk, bwf cake & range April born drugfree 350-500#.....Berry Creek Ranch
 168 blk (100 hd) & char-x (68 hd) NI green, range only 350-475#.....Tim Miller
 60 blk NI 600-750#Dan & Mike Vavra
 60 char-x, blk & rd 550-650#.....Middle Creek
 45 blk(3 rd) NI NHTC 500-550#.....Hyde & Tracy Kramer
 30 blk, few bwf 400#.....Ford Family
 25 blk, bwf NI 600#Matt Walking
 24 blk 500-600#Thad Emerson
 55 blk str & hfrs 500-650#Bar S Ranch
 40 angus (20s-20h) NI 500-600#Dale Stoner
 35 blk (17h-18s) hfrs NI 500-550#Dave Vandermay
 25 blk(15s-10h) NI 450-550#Robert & Nancy Sinnert
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See last week's Grass & Grain for full listing.
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Homeground & Other Geographies by Tom Parker

The Last Picture in Three Parts

I didn't want to go out into the cold and ice and snow and so fretted over it with altogether too much energy. It was the last night of 2012 and I was tired. My wife had been working crazy long hours so we'd barely seen each other for several weeks, and here we were snug and warm while outside winter honed its icy blades, the roads snow-packed and treacherous. I had a good book to read and hot coffee, but also unfinished business. And that business allow-

ed no rest. "Go," my wife said. "I hate bars," I replied. "Go anyway." "Want to go with me?" "No." So much for moral support. I reluctantly got dressed, donned my coat and slipped the camera over my shoulder. "See you next year," I said, and went into the night. ***

For the past year I'd photographed the men, women and children of our town performing the diverse tasks that are at

their core the building blocks of rural America. The project, called The Way We Worked after the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit of the same name, was sponsored by a grant from the Kansas Humanities Council. Our historical society was one of 16 partner sites to the traveling exhibit, and the first time the Smithsonian had partnered with small towns. While the other sites focused on their particular histories as related to work or culture (mining, agriculture, black populations, etc.), ours was a photographic record of how we worked in Blue Rapids. We called it a snapshot of a single year and thought of it in terms of the historical record. It was also a lot more time-consuming than I'd envisioned, and much more rewarding.

Along the way I'd spent hundreds of hours with

farmers, ranchers, convenience store workers, clerks, grocers, city workers, lifeguards, contractors, shopkeepers, retailers, postal employees, medical professionals, welders, musicians, explosives experts, county fair workers and volunteers, even a cat and a dog. I was there for funerals and the baptism of twins. I was allowed unrestricted access into the working lives of my friends, my neighbors and complete strangers. Everywhere I went my camera went. And all the time I brooded over the final shot, the wrap, when I would lay down my camera and begin working on the exhibit that would follow.

By mid-December I had a few ideas, several of which fell through. That left the nursing home or the bars. The former would be fairly boring barring any disastrous emer-

gency ("hours of mind-numbing boredom punctuated by heart-pounding terror" was how it was explained); the latter filled with drunks, almost-drunks, getting-there-drunks, too-loud music and drunken revelry. But the celebratory aspect appealed to me. While my fellow partiers toasted the conclusion of one year and the birth of another, I'd be toasting the same for my project.

I'm not much of a bar person, though. Throughout the project I liked to quip that I'd spent more time in churches and bars than at any period in my life. Without fail I was asked which I preferred. Bars, I said. Their brand of spirits suited me best. ***

You never know what you're going to get: that's the first rule of photography.

The second is to go with

the flow. Be flexible. Be realistic. Be prepared. and above all, be ready.

The counter is crowded, the music blaring. The bartender is working alone, fast and furious. I'm positioned near the end of the counter so I can frame her against the wall of bottles, mirrors, signs and assorted bling plus the digital wall clock hanging above the cash register.

Halfway through my second beer it comes together as if choreographed. The clock shifts to 11:59 p.m., the bartender turns and glances at the clock, I hammer the shutter, eight or nine frames faster than a person can blink. And know, without the slightest doubt, that I nailed the shot. "Happy New Year," I toast, draining my beer with the rest of them. What I meant was, "To 2012: one of the best years of my life."

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GRASS & GRAIN Auction Sales Scheduled

January 23 — Tractors, combine, dozers, wheel loaders, skid steer, trailers, trucks, farm equip. & more online (www.bigiron.com). Auctioneers: Stock Auction Co.

January 23 — Combine, grain cart, tractors, trucks, trailers, farm & livestock equipment, farm & shop items, 4-wheelers, mowers, household near Scott City for Jack & Linda Frick. Auctioneers: Berning Auction.

January 24 — Pottery, tools, collectibles, furniture & more at McPherson. Auctioneers: United Country Mid West eServices, Inc., Eric Blomquist.

January 24 — Southern Geary County pasture at Junction City for LCF trustee Nelson Unitrust. Auctioneers: Bina Auction Service.

January 26 — Collectible furniture, glassware, primitives, toys, coins & ammo at Lyons for Marietta Harmon & Others. Auctioneers: Oswalt Auction Service.

January 26 — Mobile home, pickup & snow blade, tractor, trailer, motorcycles, hoist, collectibles, shop & power equip., automotive test-tune, tool chest, hand tools & misc. at Beatrice, Nebraska for Ron's Automotive & Exhaust (Ron Neurkirch). Auctioneers: Jurgens, Henrichs, Hardin.

January 26 — Tractors, combines, farm equipment, planters, drills, trucks, trailers, lawn, garden, livestock equipment & more at Paris, Missouri. Auctioneers: Wheeler Auctions & Real Estate.

January 26 — Household, jewelry, vehicles, bicycles, antiques, collectibles, motor home, tools, furniture, appliances & more at Manhattan for Bob Burgess Estate, Delphin McKean Estate, Riley County Police Dept., Meadowlark Hills, UMB Bank, Economy Electric & others. Auctioneers: To-

tally Auctions.

January 26 — Pottawatomie County riverbottom, farm ground at Wamego for Mark Pope. Auctioneers: Murray Auction & Realty.

January 27 — Collectibles, furniture & glass at Salina. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

January 27 — Real estate, automobile, pickup, antiques & household at Clifton for the Heirs of Alma McLaughlin. Auctioneers: Raymond Bott Realty & Auction.

January 29 — Jackson County real estate at Delia for Brian Thompson. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.

January 30 — Wheel loader, combine, tractors, cultivators, planter, trucks, farm equip. online (www.bigiron.com). Auctioneers: Stock Auction Co.

January 30 — Shawnee County land at Topeka. Auctioneers: Farmers National Company.

February 2 — Consignments, machinery, equipment, farm items, etc. at Axtell for Axtell Knights of Columbus.

February 2 — Flinthills Ranch land at Manhattan for Gene Lindsey Trust. Auctioneers: United Country, Ruckert Realty & Auction.

February 2 — Antiques, household, '50s Chevy pickup at Clay Center for Louise Ahlberg Estate. Auctioneers: Kretz, Hauserman, Bloom Auction Service.

February 7 — Greenwood County Kansas land at Eureka for Jerri L. Hoffine Revocable Trust. Auctioneers: Sundgren Realty, Inc.

February 9 — Trucks, farm machinery, golf cart, tools W. of Overbrook for Jim Badger. Auctioneers: Beatty & Wischropp Auctions.

February 9 — Antiques, period furniture, glassware, collectibles, toys, games, guns at Topeka for Slawson Estate & others. Auctioneers: Whitmore Estate Liquidators.

February 9 — Production sale at Leavenworth for J&N Ranch.

February 13 — Real estate & water bottling equipment at Excelsior Springs, Missouri for formerly dba Excelsior Springs Bottle Co. Auctioneers: Lindsay Auction Service.

February 16 — Antiques & collectibles at Clay Center for Raymond & Lyleen Adams. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service.

February 19 — Western Butler County land at Benton for William G. Watson & Mary H. Watson. Auctioneers: Sundgren Realty, Inc.

February 22 — Chase & Greenwood County Flint Hills land at Cottonwood Falls for Janice A. Brown, Charles M. Brown, Robert M. Brown & James A. Brown. Auctioneers: Sundgren Realty, Inc.

February 22 — Farm Machinery consignments at Clay Center. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service.

February 22 — Annual bull sale at Quinter for Jamison Herefords.

February 22 — Spring bull sale at Lost Springs for Cow Camp Ranch.

February 23 — Pickup, ATV, Cushman, tools, antiques, L&G equipment, more at Vassar for Rod Huse. Auctioneers: Beatty & Wischropp Auctions.

February 23 — Bull sale at Wamego for The Gold Bullion Sale.

February 24 — Production sale at Plainville for Rock 'n R Angus Ranch.

February 25 — Farm machinery W. of Concordia for Larry V. Crum Trust. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

February 26 — Southwest Kansas land, irrigated circles, oil & gas income, homes, buildings, grain storage (S. of Garden City)

at Garden City for Stone Family Farms. Auctioneers: Schrader Real Estate & Auction Company, Inc.

February 26 — Hereford & Angus bulls & females at Manhattan for Mill Creek Ranch "Brand that Works" Production Sale.

March 1 — Production sale at Manhattan for the Legacy Sale.

March 2 — Household & misc. at Clay Center for Hal Kunze Estate. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service.

March 2 — 35th Gelbvieh Balancer & Red Angus sale at Pomona for Judd Ranch.

March 2 — Production sale at Pawnee Rock for Loving Farms.

March 4 — Bull sale at Manhattan for Lyons Ranch.

March 6 — Farm & industrial consignments at Beatrice. Auctioneers: Rottinghaus Auction.

March 6 — Production sale at Agra for Spring Valley, LTD.

March 8 — JD equipment farm equipment dispersal NW of Minneapolis for Stanley & Ruth Briggs. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service.

March 8 — Production sale at Paradise for Bar S Ranch.

March 9 — Farm equipment, construction equipment, trucks, cars, shop tools & misc. at Concordia for 27th annual Concordia Optimist Clubs Consignment Auction.

March 9 — Machinery, mechanics tools, power tools, shop supplies, farm items & misc. NW of Randolph for Cindy (Mrs. Randy) Pfaff Trust. Auctioneers: Kretz, Hauserman, Bloom Auction Service.

March 9 — Harley Gerdes consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

March 8 — Angus Choice bull sale at Olsburg for Good Farms.

March 9 — Machinery consignments at Concordia for Concordia Optimist Club.

March 9 — Production sale at Maple Hill for Mill Brae Ranch.

March 11 — Large farm machinery & misc. S. of Abilene for Dale Dautel Estate. Auctioneers: Kretz, Hauserman, Bloom Auction Service.

March 12 — Production sale at Phillipsburg for Bar Arrow Cattle Co.

March 13 — Production sale at Kingman for Stucky Ranch.

March 16 — Open House bull sale at Onaga for Clint Cattle Co.

March 17 — Annual Bull & Female sale at St. Joseph, Missouri for April Valley Farms.

March 18 — Bull sale at Leonardville for Lindell Angus.

March 19 — Bull sale at Cottonwood Falls for Hinkson Angus Ranch.

March 20 — Production sale at Overbrook for Mayway Farms & Woodbury Farms.

March 21 — Production sale at Mankato for Benoit Angus.

March 23 — Farm sale S. of Clyde for Cailteux Brothers. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.

March 23 — Open House bull sale at Westmoreland for R&L Angus.

March 23 — Production sale at Leavenworth for New Haven Angus.

March 23 — Spring bull sale at Salina for Kansas Limousin Breeder Assoc.

March 25 — Production sale at Dwight for Oleen Brothers.

March 26 — Production sale at Mankato for Black Velvet Cattle.

March 26 — GENETRUST @Suhn Cattle Co. 20th Anniversary Ultrablack & Brangus bull sale at Eureka.

March 27 — Production sale at LaCrosse for Pelton.

March 28 — Production sale at Strong City for Mushroom Red Angus.

March 30 — Production sale at Gorham for Dickinson Ranch.

April 1 — Production sale at Lorraine for Green Garden Angus.

April 3 — Bull Test at Beloit for Kansas Bull Test.

April 5 — Farm machinery & recreational & lawn care consignments at Clay Center. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service.

May 27 — Harley Gerdes 20th annual Memorial Day auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

August 3 — Harley Gerdes consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

September 2 — Harley Gerdes 18th annual Labor Day consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

November 2 — Harley Gerdes consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

January 1, 2014 — Harley Gerdes 29th annual New Years Day consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

UNITED COUNTRY CONSIGNMENT AUCTION
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24 — 4:00 PM
 United Country McPherson Auction Gallery, 1337 W. Kansas Avenue
MCPHERSON, KS

This Auction will include such items as Pottery, Tools, Collectibles, Furniture and More!
This auction will be simulcast live thru Proxibid.com
 For catalog/pictures/internet bidding visit
www.unitedcountrykansas.com

A Buyer's Premium and Sales Tax will be charged. Announcements day of auction take precedence.

ERIC BLOMQUIST, Owner/Broker/Auctioneer
 United Country Mid West eServices
 1337 W. Kansas, McPherson, KS 67460
 620-245-0292

REAL ESTATE AUCTION
Selling 160+/- ac Southern Geary County Pasture
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2013 — 11:00 AM
 AUCTION LOCATION: Sunflower Room, Marriott Courtyard, 310 Hammons Drive, Junction City, KS 66441

SELLERS: LCF TRUSTEE NELSON UNITRUST
 From: Junction City, KS I-70 & K-57 Hwy Travel South approx. 10 miles to the intersection of K-57 & North Carr Rd travel 3/4mi North.
 From: Dwight, KS Travel N on K-57 approx. 7 mi to the intersection of K-57 & North Carr Rd travel 3/4mi North. Signs will be posted.
PROPERTY VIEWING: Call listing agent Byron Bina at 620-338-6378. For additional information, visit: www.BinaAuction.net
 Byron J Bina, listing agent for Heery Real Estate.
 See last week's Grass & Grain for complete information.

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LARGE AUCTION!
TOTALLYAUCTION.COM
 Manhattan National Guard Armory
721 Levee Dr. Manhattan, KS
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26 — 11:00 AM
 National Guard Armory, 721 Levee Dr., Manhattan, KS

This Auction will consist of two large Estates including Household, Jewelry, Vehicles, Bicycles, antiques, collectables, Motor Home, Tools, Furniture, appliances and Much More.
Sellers include: Bob Burgess Estate, Delphin McKean Estate, Riley County Police Dept., Meadowlark Hills, UMB bank, Economy Electric and others.

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This will be a large auction. Expecting more on Sale Day. Not everything will be on Website. Lunch will be available on site.

Go to **TOTALLYAUCTION.COM** to enter your pre-auction bids!
TERMS: All sales final. A 10% buyer's premium applies to all sales; sales tax added where applicable. Cash, Good Check, Credit/Debit Cards accepted. Announcements made day of sale take precedence over all previously printed material.

TOTALLYAUCTION.COM
 Jeff Ruckert, Auctioneer Tel: 785-565-8293
 Email: totallyauction@totallyauction.com

River Bottom AUCTION
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2013 — 10:00 AM
 Wamego Senior Center, 501 Ash St. — **WAMEGO, KS**
70 ACRES M/L IRRIGATED KANSAS RIVER BOTTOM, WABAUNSEE COUNTY, KS
Location: This tract is 1/2 mile south of Wamego bordering K-99 Hwy.
 Top-producing soil, producing top yields. Best location w/easy access off K-99; 1/2 mile to grain storage. 3 irrigation wells. **These opportunities come along just once in a lifetime.**
NOTE: Harmony Gardens property is not selling.
See January 8th issue for complete details & terms!
 Murray Auction and Realty is acting as an agent for the seller. Statements made day of auction take precedence over printed material.

MARK POPE, SELLER
 For more information contact:
MURRAY AUCTION AND REALTY
 Steve Murray, Broker/Auctioneer • 785-556-4354
www.murrayauctionandrealty.com
murrayauctionandrealty@yahoo.com

LAND AUCTION
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 — 1:00 PM
 8380 Frogg Holler Road — **MANHATTAN, KS**
240 +/- Acres Flinthills Ranch

Auction will be held AT THE RANCH
OPEN HOUSE WILL BE SUNDAY, JAN. 27
FROM 1 PM TO 3 PM
OR CALL JEFF RUCKERT AT 785-565-8293

Tract 1 80 Acres +/- Tract 2 80 Acres +/- Tract 3 80 Acres +/-

Offered in (3) 80-Acre +/- Tracts or as a Whole 240 +/- Acres

TRACT 1: 80 acres +/- good clean native grass with scenic hills.
TRACT 2: Includes House, barn, cattle corrals, wooded creek and native grass.
TRACT 3: Includes 80 Acres +/- native grass, woods & scenic hills.
TRACT 4: Includes 240 Acres +/- consisting of Tracts 1, 2 & 3.

GENE LINDSEY TRUST—This ranch has been in the Lindsey family for over 40 years. Very nice hard to find Property close to Manhattan, KS. Good clean pastures with wooded draws for wildlife habitat. This property is in a secluded area of Riley County on the North end of Frogg Holler Road located close to Tuttle Creek Lake. If you are looking for a nice place in the country don't miss this auction!
 Successful Buyer to pay 10% down day of auction. With balance due at closing on or before March 1, 2013. Property taxes will be prorated between buyer and seller at time of closing. Title Insurance will be split 50/50 between Buyer and Seller. All inspections must be made prior to Auction. All statements made on auction day take precedence over all previous printed material.

Jeff Ruckert, Auctioneer
UNITED COUNTRY RUCKERT REALTY & AUCTION

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ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Gone Fishin' With Pinto

Pinto had inherited a nice little fishing boat. He waited all winter to launch it. When springtime came he invited his friend John to go with him. Friday after work they hosed it down and patched the holes to get it ready.

Saturday morning early they hooked up the trailer and drove 19 miles to the Strike Reservoir. After backing down the launch Pinto was reminded by the local warden that he had no registration sticker. Pinto realized he had specifically dug them out last night and set them by the door so he wouldn't forget!

They parked and unhooked the boat trailer, drove back home, retrieved the sticker, drove back to the lake, hooked up the trailer and launched the boat. They had gassed it up and were ready. Pinto squeezed the rubber ball on the gas line to inject fuel. However, over the winter the ball had frozen and it cracked, spewing gas all over our hapless captain! They

pulled the boat back onto the trailer, drove five miles to the bait shop/convenience store and bought a new squeeze ball. Back at the lake they launched again!

Exuberantly he squeezed the new ball and flooded the little boat motor so much that after twenty minutes of jerking the cord, they gave up. John backed the trailer down the launch again and loaded the boat. As they started forward, the boat slid off the trailer... because they had forgotten to connect the latch strap!

They rescued the boat, affixed the latch strap and decided to drive to the river instead of the lake. They could just float along in the current and fish. It was a good idea since it was already after lunchtime. In an attempt to back down a rocky bank into the river, one of the trailer wheels peeled its whole tread. Thank goodness Pinto had a spare and a jack. Unfortunately, his lug wrench didn't fit!

So... unhook the boat

and trailer, drive to a nearby farm, borrow a lug wrench, drive back to the river, fix the tire and resignedly hook up the trailer... once again. They fired up the pickup and turned uphill on a washboard road which rattles the trailer so bad it came off the hitch, tearing out the wiring and coming to a stop when it rolled up against a mailbox. Apparently John had forgotten to latch the ball down. Stubbornly our superhuman sportsmen hooked back up, drove by the farmer's place, returned the wrench, put air in the trailer tire and drove home.

"Done fishin'!"

Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co., Inc. names new territory sales manager

Luther Braun has been named territory sales manager for the Topeka branch of Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co., Inc. In his new position, he will be responsible for new and used heavy equipment, attachments and trailer sales in northeast Kansas.

"I find Luther's enthusiasm and professional esteem to be a quality which will benefit our company and customers, for a long

time to come," said Mike Curry, branch manager. After studying business at Emporia State University, Braun owned and operated a plumbing construction company for eight years.

"Continuing relationships I have built over the years with contractors is something I look forward to, as well as building a solid foundation for new ones in the equip-

ment industry," Braun said.

Murphy Tractor and Equipment Co., Inc., one of John Deere's largest North American construction equipment dealer organizations, is headquartered in Park City. The organization has 28 locations throughout the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Nebraska. Find out more at: www.murphytractor.com.

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Cow Camp Ranch 2013 Annual Spring Bull Sale

Friday, February 22
1:00 P.M. CST

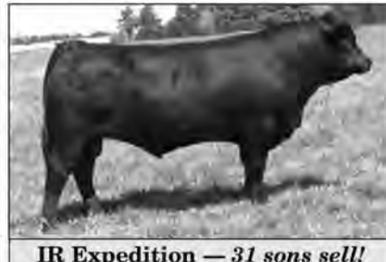
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L. Taylor — 18 sons sell • Alumni — 14 sons sell • E-Z 3 — 12 sons sell
Olie — 12 sons sell • CCR Tribute — 8 sons sell • CCR Diesel — 4 sons sell
CCR Catalyst — 3 sons and 8 half-brothers sell
CCR Sure Fire — 2012 high selling lot — 1 full sib sells

Please call for a sale book:
Cow Camp Ranch Simmental / Angus
Kent Brunner 785-466-6475 cell
Mark Brunner 785-258-0173 cell
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www.cowcampbeef.com
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