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Soil health the goal, says Archuleta at No-till on the Plains Winter Conference

By Donna Sullivan, Editor

Understanding the goal of soil health and differentiating between that goal and the tools used to achieve it was the message Ray Archuleta brought as keynote speaker for the No-till on the Plains Winter Conference in Salina last week. Archuleta, an NRCS agronomist in Greensboro, North Carolina, is also the national leader of the NRCS Soil Health Initiative. Educating farmers as well as EPA officials, environmentalists and the general public about the importance of soil health is his passion.

"It's okay to be ignorant, but not to remain ignorant," he said. "That's stupid."

He began the opening session with a demonstration that illustrated the difference between soil from no-till fields and conventionally tilled soil. "This is the most powerful tool I use to talk to the EPA, environmental groups, our farmers and ranchers, grazers and foresters," said Archuleta. "This test works on 95-98% of soils."

One clod was 40-year no-till North Carolina soil and was 2.75% organic matter. "The native soils in North Carolina before Europeans entered were 3%," he said. The farm had not applied nitrogen in 19 years or phosphorus in nine. The producer has been using living cover crops for 30 years. "The only erosion he has on his farm is me," Archuleta quipped.

Two clods of Kansas soil were also used, one from a tilled field and the other from Gail Fuller's 17-year no-till field. The clods were dropped into clear containers of water and suspended near the top. "Right now pore spaces are filled with air," Archuleta explained. "Water will rush into the



Lindsey Mohler and Dennis Fitzke assisted Archuleta with experiments demonstrating the difference in no-till and conventional till soils. Mohler came to the conference with her parents because of her interest in protecting the land.

Photo by Donna Sullivan

pore spaces. Which one will stand the internal pressures and which one will fall apart?"

The audience watched as the soil from the tilled field began to disintegrate while the no-till soil stayed largely intact.

"Why? Soil structure," he said. "The no-till is glued together better. The microbes, the bacteria and earthworms carrying out their metabolic functions create these bionic glues and cementing agents that fuse and hold the particles and create and hold the pores intact." Fungus plays a part as well, he added.

Organic matter is a no-till farmer's crop insurance, he asserted. "This type of conservation does not always fit well with crop insurance. That has to change. We have to reward those who are good stewards of the planet."

His next demonstration involved pouring water into two containers of soil, tilled and no-till. The water on the no-till soil soaked in while the water on the tilled soil sat on the top. Archuleta stated that for every 1% of organic matter, 19,000 gallons of holding capacity is gained in the soil. "That will help get us through these droughts," he said.

While farmers have a love for the land, Archuleta said they are largely still disconnected from it. "We need a love for the land that is not emotive," he explained. "We need a love

for the land that is done in wisdom and intelligence and knowledge. No more ignorance about our precious soils. We need to protect them. We need to go down the road of soil health."

Archuleta said the keys to soil health are to understand our ecological, social, national and global context, protect the habitat and provide diverse food for the microbes in the soil.

In a global context, energy plays an important role in food production. He cited research by the Science Institute and paid for the Department of Energy. The report stated, "The era of plentiful, low-cost petroleum is approaching the end. The peaking of world production presents the U.S. and the world with unprecedented risk. Liquid fuel prices and price volatility will increase dramatically and without timely mitigation the economic, social and political costs will be unprecedented."

"I have a solution: soil health," Archuleta said. "We can feed our people. What do we think our parents and grandparents did before? They used less petroleum than we do. We can do this. We paid for this report with our tax money. Why are we not working together to be more efficient?"

In the area of habitat, he stressed more management and less physical, chemical and biological disturbance.

He believes keeping the soil covered is also crucial. "When I travel the whole country I see soil that is hungry, thirsty, naked and running a fever," he described. "In farming we forget that the farm is still part

of the ecosystem. We have to understand what the goal is. Mimic biology, mimic nature, soil health. We can only do it with a living cover crop all the time. That soil has to be covered."

He also pointed out the need for diversity. "We've separated our grain farmers from our animals. Nature never intended us to farm without animals. We need them in the systems so we can reduce our inputs. High diversity, low disturbance. work with nature, she will help you."

He refers to weeds as nature's first responders rather than the plants out of place, leaches and water thieves the audience called out when asked for a definition. "They are nature's healers, nature's scabs," he explained. "They're telling you you're doing too much disturbance. It's trying to protect the soil. I call a weed a plant I don't know and a plant you put there because of your management. So is it misplaced? I think it's placed."

Archuleta asserts that cover crops are the best weed control a farmer can use, as nature is more collaborative than competitive. He emphasized that by focusing less on yield and more on reducing inputs, farmers can be more successful. "Otherwise you will be a tenant farmer," he continued. "You will take all the risk and everyone else will make the money. Make your soil healthy and you make the money."

Continued on page 3

Agreement reached to further open Japan's market to U.S. beef

United States trade representative Ron Kirk and United States agriculture secretary Tom Vilsack have announced that the United States and Japan have agreed on new terms and conditions which pave the way for expanded exports of U.S. beef and beef products to Japan. Under these new terms, which entered into effect on February 1, 2013, Japan will now permit the import of beef from cattle less than 30 months of age, compared to the previous limit of 20 months, among other steps. It is estimated that these important changes will result in hundreds of millions of dollars in exports of U.S. beef to Japan in the coming years. This agreement also goes a long way toward normalizing trade with Japan by addressing long-standing restrictions that Japan introduced in response to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

"This is great news for American ranchers and beef companies, who can now – as a result of this agreement – increase their exports of U.S. beef to their largest market for beef in Asia," said Kirk. "This represents a significant and historic step in expanding U.S. beef trade with Japan and growing American exports and jobs here at home. We welcome Japan's action."

The two governments also agreed to regular and ad hoc consultations to review progress under the agreement and address any issues that may arise. In an accompanying letter exchange, Japan also confirms its ongoing BSE risk assessment by its Food Safety Commission (FSC), which includes a consideration of raising the age limit above 30 months for beef and beef product imports from the United States, taking into account international standards.

Background

In December 2003, Japan banned U.S. beef and beef products following the detection of a bovine spongiform encephalopathy-positive animal in the United States. In July 2006, Japan partially reopened its market to allow imports of some U.S. beef from animals aged 20 months or younger produced under a special program for Japan.

In December 2011, at the request of Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, Japan's independent Food Safety Commission (FSC) initiated a risk assessment to examine raising the maximum age of the cattle from which U.S. and certain other foreign beef and beef products could be exported to Japan, as well as revising the definition of specified risk materials (SRMs). (SRMs are certain cattle tissues that can carry the BSE agent.) Based on an FSC risk assessment released last October, Japan entered into consultations with the United States to revise the import requirements, including raising the age limit for U.S. cattle and adopting a revised definition of SRMs for U.S. beef and beef product imports that is closely aligned with international standards of the World Organization for Animal Health.



You have to love the weather in Kansas. On Monday night we went out at the 10:00 p.m. ewe check in shirt sleeves. Two days later we woke up to four inches of snow and single digit wind chill. It is awfully tough on new lambs and calves, but at least we had a couple of days to prepare for the worst. Say what you want about the weather but it is never the same here on the plains and it keeps life interesting.

This morning broke (I say broke because we were long up before the dawn and I certainly felt broken) cold, windy and most importantly, snowy. Jennifer and I turned on the TV as we got ready to go do chores and saw the crawl across the screen proclaiming the day a snow day for our school district. That meant a lazy day of sleeping in and playing in the snow for most kids. Yes most kids, but not my kids.

Sure we took pity on them and let them go back to bed (it was 5:30) and sleep for another hour. Actually it was not the kids that we were taking pity on but the animals. Normally we all go out at 5:30 check and feed the animals in the barnyard. However, this cold snowy morning Jennifer and I decided on a quiet, stealthy check of the barn trying not to disturb anything. The ewes and lambs would be much better off and warmer undisturbed in the fresh bed of straw we had put out the night before.

Wake-up calls were served and plans were made over breakfast on how to attack the chores. Extra care was needed to make sure that all of the new lambs were healthy and relatively warm. The decision was made to feed outside and then shut the ewes back in the barn and that meant water needed to be moved into the barn. Hay was thrown, feed put out and water was moved. I guess that is our idea of playing in the snow.

When everything was fed and bedded in the barnyard it was time to go out and check cows. Remember that bull that wouldn't stay home last spring? (I am happy to say that he is coming to a McDonalds near you, but that is another story for another day.) It seems those ren-

devous moved my calving up about a month. With three calves already on the ground, thorough morning checks of the cows are now part of my morning routine.

We plowed through the drifts to get to the pasture and a quick check revealed a new surprise conceived last April. Fortunately both cow and heifer calf did not seem fazed by the near arctic conditions. The cow was an older one and she had picked a good spot out of the wind. With the extra help the calf was quickly checked, tagged and released back to mama. We made our way back to the house, re-opening the drifts that had filled back in during our jaunt to the pasture.

We were back into the house a little after 8:30 a.m. and the morning's events were discussed over coffee and hot chocolate. I am sure that many of my kid's classmates were still in bed. I am sure of this because that fact was mentioned a couple of times. The wood stove was stoked and the process of thawing out, for the first time, was initiated. I say for the first time because nearly hourly checks will be made of the lambs and ewes during the day. Each one of these excursions will also necessitate thawing out by the wood stove.

I am sure the tale of my kid's snow day is not any different than any other farm kid in the neighboring two or three counties. Inclement weather provides many challenges, especially when newborn animals are thrown into the mix, and those challenges require that all hand need to be on deck. Keeping the chores done and animals cared for is definitely a family activity.

Days like this are what makes farming and ranching such a unique way of life. At an early age farm kids quickly learn that there are no days off or days when work is cancelled due to inclement weather. They also realize that family activities and farm work have a way of morphing into each other. So while other kids may have been snuggled in their warm beds enjoying their snow day, my kids were bundled in their coats and overalls enjoying their snow day just as much.

CHS invests \$10,000 in Kansas Ag Leadership Program

Many Kansans or U.S. consumers are unaware that asparagus can be picked today and be on store shelves at this time tomorrow. They may also not be aware that a lot of that fresh asparagus is coming from Peru. One of the 35 largest private companies in the United States has joined hundreds of contributors supporting the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program to share that story first-hand.

"We are pleased to announce the Cooperative

Education 101 program component of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) Program will be awarded a grant in the amount of \$10,000," said CHS Foundation president William Nelson in a statement.

In an application to the CHS Foundation, KARL, Inc. president and KARL program director Jack Lindquist shared the information detailing the 2009 free trade agreement with Peru: "Prior to that agreement, barely a sprig of asparagus was produced in

Peru. The U.S. has great demand for asparagus well outside of our domestic production cycle. Peru had the right soils and climate to meet that demand and started working with food cooperatives like Green Giant to propagate, produce, process and ship product by air to meet that demand."

"KARL Class XI will be going to Peru in March to study the agricultural industry and other food, technology and other consumer product production and marketing methods,"



Kansas is your customer

By John Schlageck
Kansas Farm Bureau

While food safety will always be the cornerstone of our food production process, allegiance is making inroads into why and where consumers buy their products.

Sure, the majority of today's shoppers enjoy and often take for granted the expanded menu in supermarkets. They look forward to shopping in a meat case filled with dozens of new cuts, pre-packaged, oven-ready, custom portioned, "natural" and pre-cooked products. They can't wait to get their mitts on the marinades, dry rubs, cooking bags and other specialty items designed for time strapped, two-income families.

There's also another growing group of consumers who are purchasing products based on trust and nostalgia. This notion of nostalgia harkens back to the good old days – a time when events and lives were perceived as simpler, more

wholesome, just downright better.

Many in this new group of consumers want to share in the story behind the product they are buying. They wish to establish a direct link and cultivate a relationship with the producer who provides them with tomatoes, asparagus, corn or their leg of lamb for the upcoming holiday.

There are a fair number of shoppers who yearn to develop a trust with producers who they believe will provide them with a quality, consistent wholesome product.

Tapping into this ever-changing consumer landscape, today's food producer – especially those located near large-population, urban areas – must not miss the opportunity to reach the hearts, minds and stomachs of consumers who feel strongly about their food.

Some consumer-savvy food growers are already honed in on this concept. They've retooled their farming operation from a

conventional commodities-only business to one that includes pick-your-own sweet corn, pumpkins, asparagus, tomatoes and strawberries. They're giving people what they want.

Others now provide home deliveries of fresh produce and sell their produce at local farmers' markets. Still others have added a corn maze, day-on-the-farm activities, ice-cream socials and chuck-wagon cookouts for everyone from school-aged kids to wedding rehearsal parties.

This new direction in farming is being driven by farmers and ranchers who are attempting to be less dependent on cheap land and vast acreage. These pioneers are tapping into the population surge and wealth of consumers who shop online, drive a couple cars including a SUV and don't mind paying a premium for the food they feed their families.

Another common element of this non-traditional farmer is the belief that this shift in production style may not make them rich, but will keep them out in the open spaces, running their own business and doing what they enjoy. A large percentage of those willing to try something new are younger farmers. In many cases, a young farmer is often considered someone who has yet to reach the half-century mark.

For some, traditional farming became too expensive. Others decided traditional farming was no longer worth the effort. Whatever the reason, any farmer will tell you that farming is a challenging vocation. Still most would agree they are glad they bought their land, and glad they're doing what they enjoy.

No doubt, more and more farmers will be looking at new strategies. Those who are determined to stay in this business of agriculture will have to find innovative ways to farm.

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.



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Lindquist added. "As honorary goodwill emissaries for Kansas, as designated by the governor of Kansas, the 36-member team will also be learning about the culture and policy development practices that enhance our trade relationship and people to people exchange."

"We will take the KARL class to the fields and processing plants to see the food we will be consuming at home and will be visiting with the producers and marketers about future opportunities. Thanks to the trade relationship, entire communities are growing and the quality of life is improving as an advance team of KARL board

members discovered during a planning trip last year. Peruvians in turn, are buying Kansas beef and other products in the exchange of goods," Lindquist wrote.

More information about the KARL program is available online at www.karlprogram.com or by calling 785-532-6300.

The CHS Foundation (www.chsfoundation.org) is the major giving entity of CHS Inc. (www.chsinc.com), one of the nation's leading farmer-owned cooperatives which is based in Inver Grove Heights, Minn. As a part of the CHS stewardship focus, the CHS Foundation is committed to investing in the

future of rural America, agriculture and cooperative business through education and leadership development.

CHS supplies energy, fertilizer, grain marketing, livestock feed, food and food ingredients, along with business resources including insurance, financing, commodity brokerage and other risk management services. The company operates petroleum refineries and pipelines and manufactures

and distributes Cenex® brand refined fuels, lubricants, propane and renewable energy products. The initials in the company's name come from a corporate forerunner: Cenex Harvest States, which itself was formed in a 1998 merger between two regional agricultural cooperatives — Cenex, Inc. and Harvest States Cooperatives. As a result of the merger, the company's roots extend back to the early 1930s.

Soil health

Continued from page 1

But according to Archuleta, cover crops, diversity, no-till and management practices are just tools for the ultimate goal: advancing soil health, even to the point that he encouraged No-till on the Plains to consider a name change. "Don't call yourself the tool," he beseeched the group. "Lead us. No-till

fell and collapsed in many parts of the country because it was all about the drill. It's not about the drill, it's about bio-mimicry. Call yourself Soil Health of the Plains or Soil Health Institute. We can no longer afford to just educate ourselves; we have to educate everybody. Let's connect our people and heal the land, not just here but around the globe. If we get the soil right, we get everything right."

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- 4 cups broken Doritos Nacho Chips
- 3 cups Crispix cereal
- 4 cups microwave popcorn, popped
- 1 can mixed nuts (optional)
- 3 cups small pretzels
- 3/4 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon powder
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes (or more)

Combine chips, cereal, popcorn, nuts and pretzels in a large roasting pan. Combine corn syrup, butter, brown sugar, chili powder, cinnamon and red pepper flakes in a saucepan. Heat to boiling for 2 minutes. Pour over mixture in roasting pan, stirring to coat evenly. Bake in 225-degree oven for an hour stirring every 15 minutes. Pour onto cookie sheet to cool, break into pieces and store in airtight container.

Gin Fox, Holton: "Enjoy." RED VELVET CHEESECAKE CUPCAKES

- Cake:
- 1 box Duncan Hines Moist Deluxe Red Velvet Cake Mix
 - 6-ounce container Chobani 0% Vanilla Greek Yogurt
 - 1 egg
 - 1 cup water

- Cheesecake:
- 8-ounce block reduced fat cream cheese (Philly)
 - 1/4 cup Chobani 0% Vanilla (2 ounces) Greek Yogurt
 - 1/4 cup light sour cream

- 2 large egg whites
 - 1/4 cup sugar
 - 1 tablespoon flour
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare muffin/cupcake tins with foil liners (24); set aside. In a large mixing bowl beat all the cake ingredients on medium speed until all well combined; set aside. In a medium mixing bowl beat all the cheesecake ingredients on medium-low until all well combined. Add Red Velvet cake mix to all the cup-

cake liners, approximately half full. Add an ice cream scoop size of the cheesecake mixture on top of the cake mix. Swirl with a fork to combine slightly and get a swirled design. Bake for 25 minutes until the cheesecake is set. Cook and cool until they come to room temperature. Refrigerate in a covered container for minimum of 1 hour.

Mary Rogers, Topeka: BREAKFAST STRATA

- 6 eggs
- 3 1/2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 8 cups of 1-inch cubes French bread
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Spray a 9-by-13-inch pan with cooking spray. In bowl beat eggs with wire whisk until foamy. Beat in milk until blended, beating in salt and pepper. Set aside. Place bread cubes in baking dish. Sprinkle with mozzarella cheese. Pour egg mixture over top, pressing lightly to moisten bread. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese over top. Cover with plastic wrap, refrigerate at least 8 hours but not over 12 hours. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Remove plastic wrap, bake uncovered 40-45 minutes or until strata is puffed and knife inserted in center comes out clean. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Cut into squares and serve.

Mariann Bradley, Eudora: "This recipe came from a friend, Martha Gilliam of Ponca City, Okla. You will not believe how quick and easy they are. I doubled the recipe and made big fat biscuits. They are so delicious."

BOOT-SCOOTIN' SELF-RISING FLOUR BISCUITS

- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise (do not use salad dressing)
- 1/2 cup milk

Mix all together and roll 1/2-inch thick. Cut with biscuit cutter. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 425 degrees until golden brown. Makes 6.

Kellee Rogers, Topeka: MAC & CHEESE CUPS

- 16-oz package elbow macaroni
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4-pound sliced American cheese
- 8-ounce bag shredded Cheddar cheese

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1 egg, lightly beaten
Heat oven to 375 degrees. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil Add macaroni and cook 8 minutes or as per package directions. Drain and return to pot. Meanwhile, melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add flour and cook 1 minute. Whisk in milk in a thin stream. Whisk in mustard, onion powder, salt, pepper. Bring to a simmer cook 2 minutes whisking occasionally. Remove from heat and whisk in American cheese and 1 cup of the Cheddar cheese. Whisk a little of the cheese sauce into the egg to temper. Whisk egg mixture back into cheese sauce. Stir sauce into macaroni. Coat 16 muffin cups with spray. Divide macaroni among prepared cups. Top each with 1 tablespoon of the remaining Cheddar cheese. Bake at 375 degrees for 18 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool slightly before running a thin spatula around edge and removing from pan.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Okla.:

STRAWBERRY BANANA GELATIN SALAD

- 6-ounce package strawberry gelatin
- 1 cup boiling water
- (2) 10-ounce packages frozen sweetened sliced strawberries, partially thawed
- 20-ounce can crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1 cup mashed firm bananas, about 2 medium
- 1/2 to 3/4 chopped walnuts
- 2 cups sour cream
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

In a large bowl, dissolve gelatin in water. Stir in strawberries, pineapple, bananas and walnuts. Pour half of the mixture into a 9-by-13-inch pan. Refrigerate for 1 hour or until set. Set the remaining gelatin mixture aside. Combine the sour cream, sugar and vanilla. Spread over the chilled gelatin. Spoon remaining gelatin mixture over top. Chill overnight.

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Chocolate And Peanut Butter: Nutritious?

(NAPSA) — Chocolate and peanut butter are a great match for many taste buds, but they can offer nutritional benefits, too. The key is in which varieties you consume.

According to registered dietician Tammi Hancock, chocolate is rich in beneficial antioxidants, which are highest in unsweetened cocoa powder and dark chocolate.

Peanut butter is a good source of protein and vitamin E. Hancock recommends choosing a natural variety with no hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated oils, such as Smart Balance® Rich Roast.

A good way to enjoy the pair is in this recipe:

Chewy Chocolate PB Sandwich Cookies
Dough:
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup whole wheat flour
1/2 cup rolled oats, pulverized to coarse flour in a food processor or blender
1/2 cup Dutch cocoa powder
1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup Smart Balance® Original Buttery Spread
1 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg
1 1/2 ounces unsweetened chocolate, melted & cooled slightly

Filling:
1/2 cup Smart Balance® Rich Roast Creamy Peanut Butter
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
3 tablespoons Smart Balance® Fat Free Milk
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

In a small bowl, combine flours, oats, cocoa, baking powder and salt; set aside.

In a medium mixing bowl, cream Smart Balance® Buttery Spread and sugars with an electric mixer. Beat in vanilla and egg. Blend in melted chocolate. Gradually blend in the dry ingredients.

Using a 1 tablespoon scoop, spoon dough 2 inches apart onto parchment-lined baking sheets. Bake at 325

degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Cool on parchment paper for at least 5 minutes.

For filling, cream together all ingredients in a mixing bowl until smooth. If needed, add a small amount of extra milk to reach the desired consistency. Transfer filling to a zip-top plastic bag or piping bag.

When completely cooled, place half the cookies bottom side up. Pipe filling onto the cookies, using about 2 teaspoons of filling per cookie. Top with the remaining cookies, bottom side down, to create a sandwich.

Yield: about 24 sandwich cookies (48 cookies made into 24 sandwiches)

Per 1 sandwich cookie serving: 196 calories, 3g protein, 28g carbohydrate, 8.5g fat, 2g saturated fat, 4g monounsaturated fat, 2g polyunsaturated fat, 0g trans fat, 238mg omega-3 fatty acids, 1,688mg omega-6 fatty acids, 8mg cholesterol, 133mg sodium, 2g fiber.

Bake Like A Pro With 10 Easy Tips

(NAPSA) — Whether it's a school party, personal accomplishment or just because, every day, there are occasions that call for special treats or desserts. Even with a full schedule, busy moms can bake and decorate beautiful cupcakes that would be perfect for any gathering.

The key is to use quality ingredients and products designed for the job. To help, bestselling authors and cupcake gurus Karen Tack and Alan Richardson share their best tips for baking cupcakes like a pro every day.

- Start with a good cupcake pan. It should be silver colored and a little on the heavy side.
- For cupcakes that look as good as they taste, use an aluminum foil-lined baking cup that's designed to keep its pattern after baking, such as Reynolds StayBrite Baking Cups. Baking cups that are not foil lined can lose their color while baking.
- Before mixing your cupcake batter, make sure to bring all ingredients to room temperature. This way, the ingredients are more likely to blend together easily.
- Remember, if you mix cold items into your batter, you run the risk of having a lumpy consistency. This might lead you to overmix the batter and overmixing can cause cupcakes to be chewy instead of moist.
- Pinch the ends of your baking cup with paper clips to make your cupcakes into different shapes, like a star or a football.



• Only fill your baking cup 2/3 to the top. They will rise to the top of the liner while baking.

• Simply use a serrated knife to trim the top of your cupcakes so they are flat, rather than rounded like a mushroom cap you may find in a bakery. This makes it easier to decorate the top of the cupcake.

• Chill your cupcakes before you frost them so they won't crumble while you're handling them.

• Wipe the excess frosting off the spatula on the edge of the can before going back for another swipe. If you have extra frosting on your spatula, you will never get a clean peak on your cupcake top.

• Keep frosting at room temperature before spreading it on your cupcakes. If frosting is too cold, it will be difficult to spread and can tear the cake. If frosting is too warm, it becomes runny and messy.

For more tips and for fun-filled recipes, visit www.cupcakecentral.com

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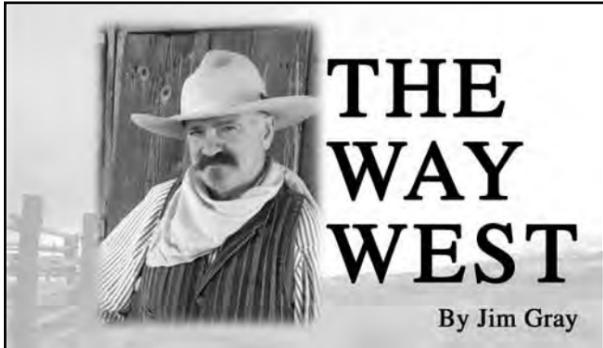
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THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

An Interrupted Rest

When Henry Sitler built a sod house on the wind swept plains of western Kansas in 1871, he could not have known that he was setting in motion the beginnings of one of the most famous towns in the history of the American West. He was only interested in building a headquarters for his cattle operation. The location just west of Fort Dodge and along the Santa Fe Trail gave Sitler plenty of securi-

ty. Sitner could stand on the hill north of the house and see trains of wagons stretch into the distant horizon. There were times when the traffic continued twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Sitler's place soon became a popular resort for buffalo hunters and traders.

The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway had also surveyed the right-of-way for a railroad the summer before. The route paral-

leled the Santa Fe Trail, making his location ideal for commerce. A saloon opened next door offering dust-weary travelers a full ladle of whiskey for twenty-five cents. By the time rail service arrived the boom was on.

Folks began to call the "town" Buffalo City in reference to the heavy hunting traffic. On any particular day streets were lined with hunters' wagons bringing buffalo hides and meat to the Santa Fe railhead. Trainloads of hunting provisions arrived each day.

A town company was formed, but another town was already designated Buffalo City. With Fort Dodge nearby, the Dodge City Town Company was organized Au-

gust 15, 1872. Like most frontier towns the fledgling town did not meet the state requisite for a third-class city. Therefore early Dodge City had no mayor, city council, or city marshal. However, all the elements of frontier life were there, including several saloons and three large dance halls. Whiskey flowed and life was cheap.

It didn't take long before the hill from which Henry Sitler had spent many a pleasant hour became a burying ground. There were already several graves on Boot Hill when Jack Reynolds was buried. His name is known because a newspaper noted the circumstances of his death. According to the report, Reynolds was "forever qui-

eted" when a railroader "put six ball through him before he could say scat." Next, J. M. Essington, owner of the Essington Hotel was killed by his cook while drunk and "in a fuss." A report in the Newton Kansan related that four unnamed men were killed in early December.

Vigilantes killed Texas Charley Hill and Ed Williams in February, 1873, and so it went. By June of 1873, seventeen men were

moldering in their graves on the high hill overlooking the lawless frenzy below the infamous Boot Hill.

In time even the notorious Dodge City felt the need to civilize. It would still be a vigorous cattle town for another seven years when preparations were begun in 1878 to make the town a respectable community. Boot Hill was slated for urban development. The remains of those who died with their boots on were to be trans-

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ferred to the newly established Prairie Grove Cemetery. "Squirrel Tooth" Alice died before Prairie Grove could be made available, making her burial the last interment on Boot Hill. A few months later the January 28, 1879, Ford County Globe noted, "The body of Alice Chambers was removed last week from her former resting place on Boot Hill to Prairie Grove Cemetery. God rest her soul."

The February 4, 1879, Globe, speaking of the grisly task of opening the graves, recorded, "Colonel John W. Straughn, the coroner, who removed them, says they were as fine a collection of the extinct human race as he ever handled. Some were resting with their boots on, while others made more pretensions to style, having had their boots removed and placed under their heads for pillows...They are now resting side by side, like one happy family, at the lower end of Prairie Grove cemetery northeast of the

city. The enchanting click of the festive revolver they no longer hear. The sights of the Kansas zephyrs are unheeded and the sportive grasshopper perched on a headboard, chews his cud and chants his harvest song without the fear of God in his heart."

Unfortunately, Prairie Grove was not to be their last resting place. Another town development caused Prairie Grove to be closed in 1887. Maple Grove Cemetery was established west of town and the graves moved once more. Even in death the former residents of old Boot Hill could not find rest from the life they had lived 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.

U.S. hay production and supplies at record low

Two years of drought have taken a huge toll on U.S. hay production. *Cow-Calf News* reported that in the recent USDA Annual Crop Production Summary, total U.S. hay production in 2012 was 120 million tons, down nearly 18 percent from the 2006-2010 average.

This is the lowest U.S. hay production total in data going back to 1974. This follows the 2011 hay production total of 131 million tons, down nearly 10 percent from the same five-year average.

The combination of reduced hay production and increased hay feeding due to drought the past two years leaves the U.S. with severely depleted forage supplies. Total U.S. December 1 hay stocks were 76.5 million tons, the lowest December 1 stock level in data back to 1974. This stock level is down 25.5 percent from the five-year average. The reduction is severe in many states.

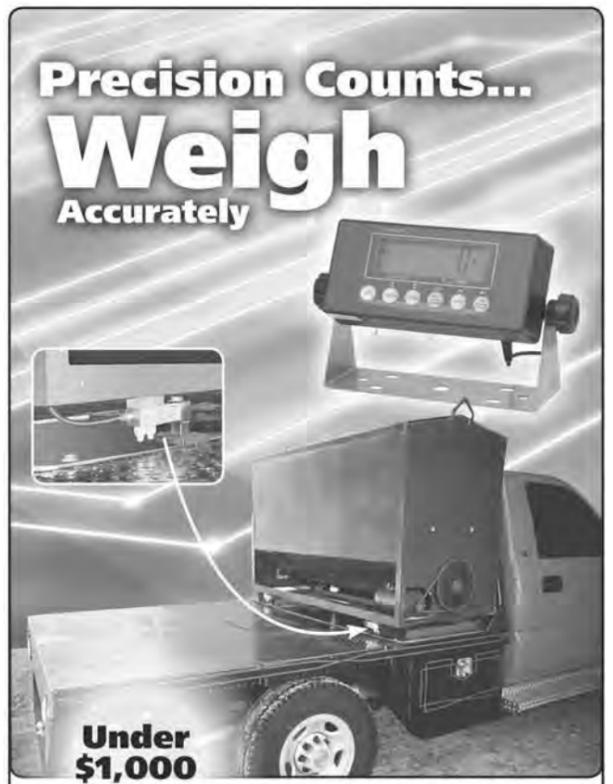
Pasture conditions in most regions are similarly poor. With the final pasture and range condition report at the end of October, 15 states had more than 60 percent of pastures in poor or very poor condition and another five states had 40-60 percent poor to very poor pasture conditions.



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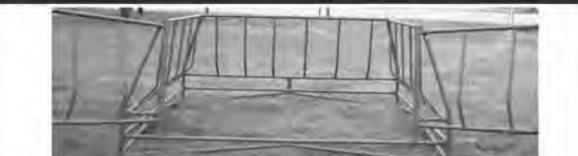
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Homeground & Other Geographies by Tom Parker

Where The Wild Things Are

My granddaughter, Hailey, asked, "Do you have mountain lions there?" and I said, "Maybe. Why do you ask?"

"You must live in the wilderness," she said. Her voice was thin and reedy and filled with a curiosity that bordered on uncertainty if not fear, and on this evening she was filled with questions about the local fauna. We'd already discussed spiders and squirrels and skunks and raccoons and woodchucks and badgers and bobcats and coyotes and cows and deer, and if it seemed each new species grew in girth

and length of fang I wasn't entirely mistaken. After mountain lions came bears.

"We don't have bears here," I told her. "We have Republicans."

"Daddy and Mommy are Republicans," she said.

"Yes they are." A lengthy silence indicated deep thought from my little thinker. I almost felt badly about deliberately confusing her but I'm a firm believer in keeping youngsters on their toes. It's only fair, after all, considering how she keeps me going in circles. Her line of interrogation had gone

on for several weeks as she tried forming a mental picture of where we lived versus her life in Denver, fueled no doubt by her mother's tales of poisonous spiders, blood-sucking ticks, venomous reptiles and vast empty spaces devoid of shopping malls and espresso bars.

What delighted me was the timing of her inquiries. I'd just finished reading a lengthy article by Elizabeth Kolbert in the Dec. 24 issue of The New Yorker entitled "The Call of the Wild," in which I'd discovered a new word equally applicable to

Kansas as it was to the Netherlands: rewilding. Apparently the Dutch have created what's being billed as the "Serengeti behind the dikes" on 15,000 acres of perfectly flat reclaimed land. More than trying to create a

faux-wilderness area populated with mammals based on traditional but extirpated species, its designers set out to do one better—mastermind a Paleolithic ecosystem.

In many ways it's worked brilliantly, so

much so that in the course of letting nature have its way wolves have returned as well as white-tailed eagles and greylag geese. The movement behind the park's creation, called Rewilding Europe, was based on proposals to turn

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the depopulated expanses of the American Midwest into a semblance of what it once was when millions of bison roamed the Plains and cougars and grizzlies knocked humans a rung or two down the food chain ladder.

While Midwesterners are far from agreeing about the future of their region, most bristle at the idea of returning the land to four-legged creatures of the wild variety. Still, the term rewilding rolled off my tongue like a piece of candy corn, sweet and satisfying but also triggering

a philosophical rumination focused on the increasing numbers of cougar sightings and incursions from southwestern and southern avifauna such as white-winged doves, roadrunners and armadillos. It's wild out there in northeast Kansas and getting wilder. Rewilding, indeed.

And here was our granddaughter trying to figure it all out. Where they live feral cats are their number one wild mammal, followed closely with (increasingly) raccoons. Coyotes can be seen

on city streets, though many urban residents would be hard pressed to differentiate them from stray dogs. In almost all major American cities, predator animals are making inroads into suburbia, much to the dismay of poodle and cat owners.

Here, I tried to explain, things are also in flux, but people are in the minority and always have been.

"Do you live in the country?" she asked.

"Kind of," I replied. I tried explaining how living on the edge of a small rural community was

about the same as living 50 miles from the nearest inhabitant, but never entirely succeeded. We proceeded onward to the toothsome stage of the animal kingdom whereupon Hailley was fixated on various means of dismemberment by talon and fang.

"Are you scared of being eaten by mountain lions?"

"I'm more afraid of old plumbing," I said, a statement I regretted at once.

"What kind of animal is that?"

It was going to be a long conversation.

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FSA INFORMATION

Crop	Base Acreage	Yield
Wheat:	80 acres	32 bushel
Corn:	19.4 acres	54 bushel
Milo:	17.7 acres	48 bushel

SOIL TYPES: All Irwin Silty Clay Loam

POSSESSION: Tillable ground after the 2013 wheat harvest. Waterways, upon closing.

TAXES FOR 2012: \$924.44

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 10% due day of sale balance due on or before April 5, 2013. Real Estate Taxes pro-rated to date of closing. Title Insurance will be used with the cost split equally between buyer and seller. Wyatt Land Title, Abilene, KS will escrow the contract and earnest money. Escrow charges will be split equally between buyer and seller. Reynolds Real Estate & Auction Company will be acting as "Sellers Agents." Property sells in "as is" condition with no guarantees or warranties made by Seller or Auction Company. Announcements made day of auction take precedence over printed matter. All information given is from sources deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Property sells subject to easements, restrictions and reservations if existing.

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TS HEREFORDS & QUARTER HORSES
Cottonwood Falls, Kansas

Forage specialist offers methods of coping with continuing drought

With a drought as severe as last summer's, the long-lasting effects require long-term adaptations from producers who are working with the limited water supply.

As producers throughout the region search for ways to deal with the continuing drought, they can try to take advantage of the limited water they can access. University of Nebraska-Lincoln forage specialist Bruce Anderson suggests how they can do just that.

Many ponds and creeks dried up last year, leaving some cattle producers with only unreliable water sources.

"Maybe rain will replenish them this spring, but this might be a good time to develop more wells or pipelines to reliably put water into tanks," Anderson said.

Tank water may be cooler and offer easier access than ponds or creeks. It is often healthier for cattle, and they usually prefer it. When cows walk into ponds and creeks, they stir mud and sediments into the water and often deposit waste.

"No wonder calves consistently choose tank water over ponds when given a choice," Anderson said.

Reports show that the higher water quality found in tanks provides a boost in cattle gains. Calves can weigh an extra 50 pounds at weaning when tank water is available, and yearling steers can gain an extra three- to four-tenths of a pound per day. With

this much added performance, pumping water into tanks can pay off in just a few years and offers an even more immediate payoff in the case of dried-up ponds.

Another related way producers can adjust to water shortages, according to Anderson, is to grow limited irrigation forages rather than a grain crop. Many irrigated acres may not receive enough water this summer to grow a good grain or root crop.

"Sometimes you can combine water allocated for several fields onto one field to get a crop, but that still leaves the other acres with little or no water at all," Anderson explained.

Forage crops also need water for highest production, but at least some use-

ful yield can be gathered when total water available is very low. A perennial forage would eliminate the cost and time of establishing a new crop if water limits continue for several more years.

According to Anderson, switchgrass is one good choice. It's less expensive to plant, its primary water needs occur in early sum-

mer when water usually is available, and it can be managed for hay or pasture. Other warm-season grass options include big or sand bluestem and indiangrass.

"It may not be what you hoped for, but growing forages under limited irrigation may help you make the best out of a bad situation."

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2013 K-State Ag Profitability Conference at Salina – February 12

The Central Kansas Extension District will host the 2013 K-State Ag Profitability Conference on Tuesday, February 12 at the 4-H Building, Kenwood Park in Salina. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. and the program runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A noon lunch will be sponsored by the Salina and Ottawa County Farm Bureau Associations. There is no cost for the conference but participants should RSVP for the noon meal by calling the CKD3 office at Salina 785-309-5850 or Minneapolis 785-392-2147 by no later than February 5.

Topics and speakers from the K-State Agricultural Economics Department will be: Profitability Drivers and Global Posi-

tion Impacts on the U.S. Beef Industry's Future, Glynn Tonsor; Crop Profitability Outlook for 2013, Troy Dumler; Bringing the Next Generation to the Farm: Do We Have What We Need To Do What We Want?, Kevin Herbel; and Land Prices During Periods of Rapid Change, Bryan Schurle.

If you want to learn how to manage some of the challenges of agriculture in the 21st century such as market volatility, increased production costs, and changes in the global economy you will want to make plans to attend the Ag Profitability Conference on February 12 in Salina. All area farmers, ranchers, and landowners are invited to attend.

Funding now available to renovate shelterbelts and restore forested riparian areas

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.nrcs.usda.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.nrcs.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Kansas soybean contest winners exceed expectations

Despite the drought that plagued most of the state, carefully planned growing practices and wisely selected seedstock varieties helped some Kansas farmers achieve high soybean yields and quality in 2012. Entrants in the annual Kansas Soybean Yield and Quality Contests far surpassed the year's state average yield, tripling it in many instances, or qualified for well above the cash price.

The yield contest included 57 entries, up 17 from 2011. The quality contest had 36 entries, 10 more than in the previous year.

"These contests recognize outstanding Kansas soybean farmers and provide fun incentives for

them to increase soybean yields and protein and oil contents," said Gary Kilgore, Chanute, a Kansas State University emeritus professor of agronomy who coordinates the contests. "They also allow the Kansas Soybean Association, with financial support from the Kansas Soybean Commission, to share the information participants learned to help all Kansas soybean farmers raise higher yielding and more profitable soybeans."

The 32 winners in 13 categories had verified yields averaging 67.68 bushels per acre, compared to the reported state average of 22 bushels per acre in 2012. While the state average declined 5 bushels per acre from

2011, the contest winners' average increased by 0.35 bushel per acre.

The top three entries in the quality contest averaged a \$1.0983 premium over the \$15.05 cash price for their protein and oil contents. In 2011, that average was 55.25¢ above the \$11.34 cash price.

Howard Taylor, White Cloud, was the yield contest's overall dryland winner with 88.95 bushels per acre. Bob Wietharn, Clay Center, topped the irrigated entries with 84.81 bushels per acre. Bob Henry, Robinson, won the quality contest with a protein and oil premium of \$1.1256 per bushel.

The Kansas Soybean

Association presented the state and district winners with plaques or certificates and monetary prizes from the Kansas Soybean Commission at the Kansas Soybean Expo, Jan. 9 in Topeka. The highest dryland and irrigated yields in the state each received a \$1,000 award. In each district, first place won \$300, second earned \$200, and third received \$100. No-Till on the Plains supplied additional prizes for the no-till categories.

Complete results and the award photos are available via the "Producer Information" tab on the commission's website www.KansasSoybeans.org.

AUCTION

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FARM TOY & FIREARMS AUCTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 — 10:00 AM
2206 East 23rd Knights of Columbus Hall (Heated),
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

200+ FARM TOYS

560 IH Pedal Tractor; 1960's JD trailer; 1/8th Farmall 806 diesel & AC WD45 scale models; 1950's Oliver 77 w/driver & corn picker & JD Eska pull combine w/scoop shovel (BOTH ARE RARE); 1960's JD 3010 3 pt. no fuel filters & Long Nose Corn Picker.

7140, 7210, 7240, 8950; Case IH 7130, 7140, 7120; Case IH Maximum 5250, 5140, 5120; Farmall 230, 350, 450 LP, 460; IH 660; AC 7080, 8010, 175; Oliver 1950 T; MF 1155; Case 1170 Gold Demo; JD BR; JD 9500 combine; MF 275; & various Implements; 1/32 AC Roto Baler.

20+ Precision W/Boxes:
JD 4020 w/237 corn picker, 720 w/80 blade & 45 loader, A w/290 cultivator, 8020 4WD, 4020 WF, 4020 NF, 70 standard, A on steel, B, 70 diesel, 9410 T, Farmall 560 w/2mh corn picker, MD w/loader, M, Regular on steel, AC D17 w/New Idea corn picker, WD45 FFA, WD45, Ford 5000, 2N, JD F145-H 5 bottom plow, JD 594 planter, IH Little Genius 2 bottom plow.

No Boxes:
Farmall 806 square & round fenders, 560 w/cab, 450 repaint, M, W4; IH 1256, 1466, 1586, 544, 966, 1568, 460 diesel utility, JD 7520, 5020, 8630, 4450; Case IH 7130, 4994; Ford 4000; Marx Ford w/scoop; AC WD45; AC 190XT/Farmall 560/JD 3020 pulling tractors; Case 500 & 600; Case Irvin Threshing Machine; Tru Scale cattle chute/manure spreader/trailer; Cub Cadet 129 & 1650's; Hubley w/scoop; several implements; 100+ 1/64 tractors & implements; cast iron toys; IH belt buckles; Hesston belt buckles

NIB Toys:
Big Buds 760 & 900; Versatile Big Roy; Farmall H Franklin Mint 1/12th ; 1/16th's: IH 1256 #101 Summer Farm Toy Show; IH 660; Case IH Magnum

50+ FIREARMS & MISC.
Ruger LC9 9MM pistol (NIB Never Fired); Smith Wesson 460XVR (Test Fired Only); FNH FNP-40 .40 caliber pistol w/magazines & holster (Test Fired Only); Thompson Center Venture Predator .22-.250 (Never Fired or Zeroed In); Browning Sweet Sixteen 16 ga. Belgium made; Henry Magnum Lever Action .22 model H001TM w/BSA Classic scope (NIB/Never Fired); 2-Belgium Brownings A5 12 ga.; Colt M16 .22 tactical rifle w/extra clip NIB; SKS 7.62x39 w/clips; Winchester model 190 & 67; Pardner model SB1 12 ga.; Lorcin model L9MM 9MM w/box; Bryco Jennings J38 .380 auto pistol; Jennings model J-22 .22 pistol; RG model RG14 .22 pistol

w/leather holster; Imperial model IMP .22 cal short pistol; Remington 870 Magnum Express 20 ga.; several wall hangers; black powder; ammunition (Remington bricks, Winchester, Federal, Peters); magazines/clips; leather holsters & gun cases; wooden gun cabinet; several prints; ducks (wood, hand, painted); NRA items; hunting pictures; outdoor items; WWII JW York bugle; 1878 bayonet w/steel case; Pluribus Officers sword w/Eagle handle; sheathes; 50+US knives; Presidents knife book collection; Skelley oil tin bank; Keen Kutter wall holder; horse tack; 5 hp. MTD snow-blower; numerous items too many to mention.

ALL ATF RULES APPLY KANSAS RESIDENTS ONLY! GO TO WEB PAGE FOR FULL FIREARMS LIST.
AUCTION NOTE: Everything is in exceptional condition & preview begins at 7:00 A.M. Day of Auction ONLY!!

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www.KansasAuctions.net/elston for pictures!!

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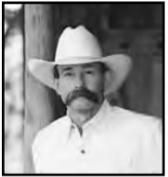
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BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Sustainable Farming? Really?

Most of the agricultural community watches the pied pipers of "Sustainable Farming" the same way grandparents watch their grandkids play with toy trains. We humor them but don't try to explain how real trains work. Many "Sustainable Farming" proposals are the exact opposite of their name. "Model T Farm-

ing," or "Third World Farming" or "Farming to Feed the Few" would be more accurate.

As a caveat, I must credit those scientists seeking realistic solutions to agriculture's booming production capabilities. However, the dream world lead by Ludites and New Age gurus are proposing a return to

farming methods used in the first half of the 20th century; a time they describe as "not relying on toxic chemicals, pesticides, synthetic fertilizer and genetically modified foods. A time when animals moved freely, consumed a natural diet, and were not confined."

I do offer a tip of the hat to hobby farmers with a nice garden, some chickens or 15 sheep as 4-H projects. Their contribution is appreciated, but they realize very quickly that they can't grow or raise enough to feed their families for a fortnight, much less fifty of their urban neighbors. Which, of course, is the elephant in the room.

After World War II the

population of our country and our world began to explode! In the 1970's scientists were increasingly convinced a new "Ice Age" was coming and "Global Starvation" was imminent. But help was on the way. Monsanto, Dow, John Deere, Pfizer, Monfort, Pioneer, plus a battalion of academic and privately funded scientists had seen it coming and were already root-deep into research. Their objective was to increase production of food and fiber from a decreasing number of acres (a result of urban encroach-

ment), AND keep it affordable for the masses. Look around you, my friends. They did it...and saved the world.

Indulge me a few statistics:

In the last 50 years the United States and Canada have not only been able to keep up with the skyrocketing global demand for food, we have shared our research and taught the third World how to feed itself! THAT is what I call "Sustainable Farming."

Agriculture, great grandpa's agriculture, before

the advent of pesticides, chemicals, antibiotics, concentrated feeding and genetically modified seed, was, and is not "sustainable" by any definition.

I suggest we call the methods that the pied pipers promote something that more accurately describes their toy train idyllic vision. For the sake of clarity how 'bout "Subsistence Level Farming."*

*subsistence: syn. (poverty, insufficient, hand to mouth) Roget's Thesaurus

	1950s	2000s	2020	2024
1. U.S. wheat production (bu/acre)	25.4	33.5		
2. Total wheat production (bil bu/year)	1.057	2.2		
3. Beef production (lbs/cow)	208	722		
4. Total beef slaughter (mil head/year)	69.5	110.8		
5. Population of United States (millions)	152.2	311.8		
6. Population of world (billions)	2.5	6.9	7.5	8.2

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E-Z 3 - 12 sons sell Olie - 12 sons sell
CCR Tribute - 8 sons sell CCR Diesel - 4 sons sell
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Please call for a sale book:
Cow Camp Ranch Simmental / Angus
Kent Brunner 785-466-6475 cell Nolan Brunner 785-466-1129 cell
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11 New Holland L220 Skid Steer	96 JD 8870 4X4 Tractor	91 White 120T Tractor
Vultra 6850H Type 6850-4 Forestry MFWD Tractor	82 Merritt 42' Grain Trailer	81 Fruehauf 32' Dump Trailer
94 Ford New Holland 8670 MFWD Tractor	98 Transcraft DTL-2000 Super Beam Drop Deck Trailer	93 New Holland TR 96 Combine
08 JD 1770 24R30" NT Planter	JD 4430 Tractor	JD 1770 16R30" Max Emerge Plus Vacumeter Planter
00 Ag Chem Air Max 1000 Air Flow Fertilizer Box & Stainless Booms	99 Volvo Truck	03 JD 946 Disc Mower
JD 4020 Tractor	12 GR Flatbed Trailer	Daniels Mfg 524 Double Alley
Progressive 6200 18R30" Strip Till Bar	75 Steiger Cougar 11 4WD Tractor	Clark/Michigan 350 C GM Payloader
	64 IH 706 Wide Front Tractor w/Loader	12 Laser-Tech MEI-180 Machine Control Receiver

18 Tractors, Wheel Loader, 11 Planters, 2 Mower Conditioners/Windrowers, 1 Dozer, 2 Skid Steers, 5 Grain Trailers, 4 Combines, Dump Trailer, 6 Semi Trucks, 4 Straight Trucks, Precision Farm Equipment, 8 Feeder Wagons, Tillage & Planting Equipment, Haying Equipment and much more!

The next **BIGIRON.com** auction is on February 20!
Have equipment to sell? Contact your local sales rep, 1-800-937-3558.

bigiron.com - is a division of Stock Auction Company, 1-800-937-3558

GRASS & GRAIN Auction Sales Scheduled

February 6 — Furniture, antiques, household, artwork, tools & misc. at Manhattan for Arlene Peterson & other local estates. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.

February 6 — Tractor, machinery, livestock equip., hay, straw & misc. near Washington for Jim Ryser. Auctioneers: Schultis & Son, Inc.

February 6 — Tractors, trucks, farm equipment, forklifts, planters, trailer, tillage, livestock equipment & more online at (www.bigiron.com). Auctioneers: Stock Auction Co.

February 7 — Trucks, pickup, trailers, tractors, loaders, grain carts, machinery & misc. near Garden City for Stone Farms (excess farm equipment). Auctioneers: Larry Johnston Auction.

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

February 9 — Old advertising signs, vintage Winchester items, military items, clocks, collectibles, misc. musical instruments & misc. at Junction City for local collector. Auctioneers: Brown Real Estate & Auction Service, LLC.

February 9 — Household, antiques, collectibles, special care items at Herington for Eugene Cappel Estate & Yvonne Monnich. Auctioneers: Bob's Auction Service, Bob Kickhaefer.

February 9 — Tractors, trucks, trailer, planting & tillage, combine & heads, machinery, livestock equip, tools & misc. at Tecumseh, Nebraska for Bob & Jan Faris. Auctioneers: Speckmann Realty & Auction Service, Inc.

February 9 — Nemaha County land at Bern for Anne H Ulmer Irrevocable Family Trust. Auctioneers: Seneca Realty, Dale Wilhelm & Mike Kuckelman.

February 9 — ATVs, mowers, tractor, log splitter, shop items, livestock equipment at Manhattan for Gene Lindsey Trust. Auctioneers: Ruckert Realty & Auction.

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 10 — Antiques, furniture & retro items at Manhattan for Lou & Norma Jane Ball Estate. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.

February 13 — Tractors, wheel loader, planters, mower conditioners/windrowers, dozer, combines, trucks, tillage, planting & haying equip. & more online (www.bigiron.com). Auctioneers: Stock Auction Co.

February 15 — Real estate & water bottling equipment at Excelsior Springs, Missouri for formerly dba Excelsior Springs Bottle Co. Auctioneers: Lindsay Auction Service.

February 16 — Antiques, collectibles & furniture at Council Grove for the Dorothy Ashley Estate. Auctioneers: Hallgren Real Estate & Auctions.

February 16 — Farm toys, firearms & misc. at Lawrence. Auctioneers: Mark Elston & Wayne Wischropp.

February 16 — Farm equipment, trucks, trailers, forklifts, fuel & water tanks, shop equip., storage units & misc. near Neodesha for Melvin D. Hare Revocable Trust. Auctioneers: Larry Marshall Auction & Realty.

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

February 17 — Firetruck at Havensville for Havensville Fire Dept.

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

February 20 — Pratt County land at Pratt for Chrisman Heirs Trust. Auctioneers: Hamm Auction & Real Estate, LLC.

February 21 — Tractors, hay & livestock equip., antique machinery, tillage, trucks, vehicles, trailer, grain handling, construction, planting, cultivating & spraying, harvest, misc. & more N. of Tekamah, Nebraska for consignments. Auctioneers: Lee Valley, Inc.

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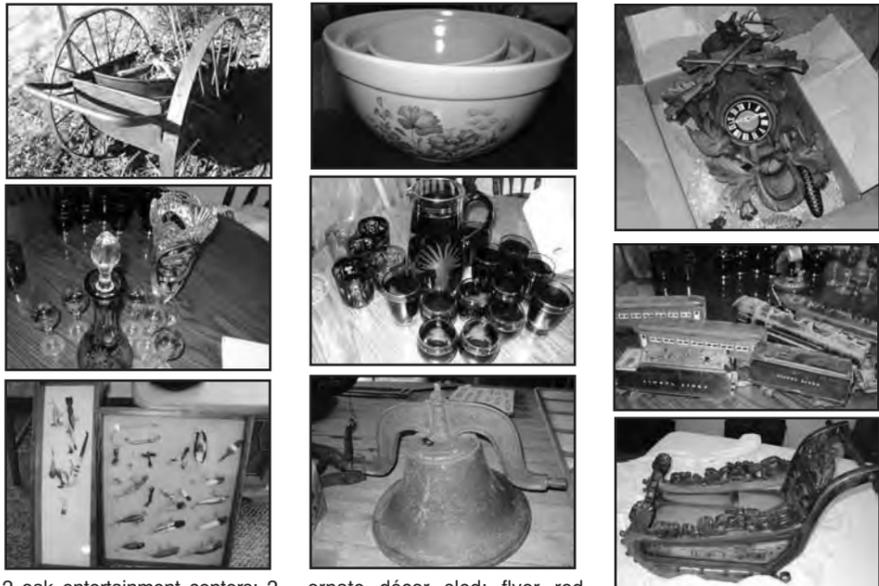
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AUCTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9 — 10:00 AM

Located at Herington Community Building, South Broadway
HERINGTON, KANSAS



2 oak entertainment centers; 2 matching lamp tables w/lamps; coffee table; sofa; matching dresser and chest; round dining table w/ 4 chairs; china hutch; matching chest-o-drawers; matching chest-o-drawers and dresser; pine chest-o-drawers; wooden Lazy Susan; GE microwave s/stand; table and floor lamps; pine pantry cupboard; old oak dresser with mirror; nice old pie cabinet; 2 table leaf holders; rocking chairs; straight back and other hardwood chairs; Singer sewing machine w/ cabinet; nice German Tempus Fugit grandfather clock.

HOUSEHOLD, ETC.
Sanyo 26" TV; Lloyds turntable; Emerson Radio w/ 2 speakers; Toshiba 8 track and lots of cassettes; Dell computer; Lexmark printer; lots of western/xmas LP; Oreck sweeper; misc., sewing, blankets, sheets, etc.; lots of knick knacks; kitchen items like new; Kitchen Aid mixer w/ grinder; electric roaster, rotisserie, fry pan; crock pot; Pyrex bowls; toaster oven; lg sausage grinder; Pyrex and Hocking measuring cups; several sets of Dinnerware; Beef jerky maker; Bionic Air purifier; lots of xmas; misc. games; lots of books; patio table w/ 4 chairs and umbrella; metal lawn chairs; Kenmore gas grill; coolers and Coleman items; 3 drawer metal file.

ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLES
Ornate German cuckoo clock;

ornate décor sled; flyer red wagon; lots of Louis L'Amour, Zane Grey and German books; old Sears catalogs; kids books; sheet music; 1973-74 coon hound magi JD #5 steel wheel mower; JT Edson books; old post cards; old hand held chalk boards; Buster Brown Goes Shooting and Browns Blue Ribbon shoes book of jokes; 1986 diary; old bottles-Hostetters stomach bitters-Bubble Up and more; soda carbonate cylinders; ruby red glasses; amber pitcher and glass set; German blue wine decanter crystal set; 70 plus silver plated spoon collection and spoon holders; 25 misc. collector cars; Lionel train set of 10 cars and 2 engines and track; pitcher and bowl; 4 quilts and starter top; Admiral ceramic pot; #15 crock, #2 Diamond, #3 Pittsburg, #2 Crock, #4 Western butter churn complete; crock jugs, 1 marked RCP Akron, Ohio; bake king 4 tier cake set in box; old metal stairway carpet corners; old cookie cutters; old wood checkers with glass top board; **Cramers glass photo dry plates**; old trunk; 12 bushel baskets and 3 half bushel; lots of fruit and vegetables cases; Diamond match crate, Beacon Falls rubber shoe crate, Pepsi crates; solid core doors; lots of oak flooring never used; 2 metal and 2 wooden old trusty incubators; lots of wall pictures; player piano by **Hobart M. Cable** left in home; 80 plus piano rolls and a unique 2 door piano bench; #4 1885 20" Monkey Ward with stand school bell; yard art; old rabbit fur coat; 40 stacked bee hives.

10:00 AM: GUNS, FISHING, TOOLS
20 plus lures under glass; Wilson super wobbler wood lure NIB; 10 or more tackle boxes full; rods-reels etc.; **Daisy BB guns**; **Winchester 1906 rifle needs work no stock**; **Stevens Little Scout 14 1/2 rifle needs work**; **Remington model 770-30-06 with Simmons scope**; old wood gun cleaner; nice wood glass door gun cabinet; 2 power animal shears; lots of livestock syringes etc.; new attic whole house fans; car stereo; Homelite weed eater; power washer; table saw; Craftsman tool boxes; side grinder; Sabre saw, shop vac., ext. and step ladders; lots of misc. tools of hammers, wrenches, screw drivers, saws etc.; 5 nice wood planes 1 marked union #4; 6 small misc. nuts-bolts cases; belt sanders and drills;

SPECIAL CARE ITEMS
Full size Tempurpedic supreme bed "new"; Ever go portable oxygen machine "New"; Afikim electric breeze IV Handicap 4 wheeler with canopy with charger goes up to 30 mph, new 2009; Invare Pronto sure step electric wheel chair; manual wheel chair; Walkers etc.

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Clerk/Cashier: Bob's Auction Service

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 — Construction & farm toys at Sabetha for Ambrose Ernzen Estate; Theresa Ernzen. Auctioneers: Hartter Auction Service.
 February 23 — Tractors, loader & grader, spreader truck, silage equipment, trucks, trailers, hay, grain & cattle equip., machinery S. of Tipton for H M Schmitt, Inc., Harry Schmitt. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.
 February 23 — Guns, clocks & related, brass & wood antique tools, furniture, collectibles, toys & glass at Newton. Auctioneers: Auction Specialists, LLC.
 February 23 — Greenwood County land at Madison for property of CoFank Ranch, LLC & Harry F. Lose Trust. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction Service, LC.
 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 — Tractors, combine, loader, grader & sprayer, pickups, trucks, trailers, skid steer, hay &

livestock equip., machinery, motorcycle, 4 wheeler & tools W. of Concordia for Larry V. Crum Trust. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.
 February 25 — Morris County real estate at Council Grove for Ada Pritchard. Auctioneers: Hallgren Real Estate & Auctions, 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.
 February 28 — Lyon County grassland, brome & CRP at Emporia for property of Earl H. Kayser Revocable Trust. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction Service, LLC.
 March 1 — Production sale at Manhattan for the Legacy Sale.
 March 2 — Nemaha County land at Corning for Vic & Susie Tangeman Heirs. Auctioneers: Cline Realty & Auction, LLC.
 March 2 — Nemaha & Brown County land at Fairview for Florence M. Wertemberger. Auctioneers: Ash Realty & Auctions, LLC.
 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 — Nemaha County farmland & timber at Corning for Gerald M. Di-

voky. Auctioneers: Cline Realty & Auction, LLC.
 March 4 — Bull sale at Manhattan for Lyons Ranch.
 March 5 — Farmland at White City for the Wayne Allen Trust. Auctioneers: Hallgren Real Estate & Auctions.
 March 6 — Butler County land at El Dorado. Auctioneers: Farmers National Company.
 March 6 — Farm & industrial consignments at Beatrice. Auctioneers: Rottinghaus Auction.
 March 6 — Production sale at Agra for Spring Valley, LTD.
 March 7 — Dickinson County farmland at Abilene for Jim & Nancy Curtis. Auctioneers: Reynolds Real Estate & Auction Co.
 March 8 — JD equipment farm equipment dispersal NE of Minneapolis for Stanley & Ruth Briggs. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service.
 March 8 — Production sale at Paradise for Bar S Ranch.
 March 9 — Welding shop equipment at Seneca for Doug & Sharon Jeannert. Auctioneers: Cline Realty & Auction, LLC.
 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 — Real Estate at Wamego for Betty & Leighton Osburn. Auctioneers: Crossroads Real Estate & Auction, LLC.
 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 — Furniture, Native American Indian items, collectibles at Newton. Auctioneers: Auction Specialists, LLC.
 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 May-Way Farms & Woodbury Farms.
 March 21 — Production sale at Mankato for Benoit Angus.
 March 23 — Farm machinery N. of Circleville for Cheryl Slocum. Auctioneers: Cline Realty & Auction, LLC.
 March 23 — Consignments at Belleville for Belleville High Banks Hall of Fame Museum. Auctioneers: Novak Bros. & Gieber.
 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 — GEN-ETRUST@Suhn Cattle Co. 20th Anniversary Ultra-black & Brangus bull sale at Eureka.
 March 27 — Production sale at LaCrosse for Pelton.
 March 28 — Production sale at Strong City for Mushrush 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.

April 6 — Farm machinery, tools, antiques, household S. of Cuba for Rockin H Trust. Auctioneers: Novak Bros. & Gieber.
 April 13 — Farm machinery, tools, antiques, household S. of Narka for Marvin & Donna Shoemaker. Auctioneers: Novak Bros. & Gieber.
 April 16 — Farm equipment W. of Silsey for Karen Paph. Auctioneers: Hallgren Real Estate & Auctions.
 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.

AUCTION

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WESTERN BUTLER COUNTY KANSAS LAND

130+/- ACRE LAND AUCTION

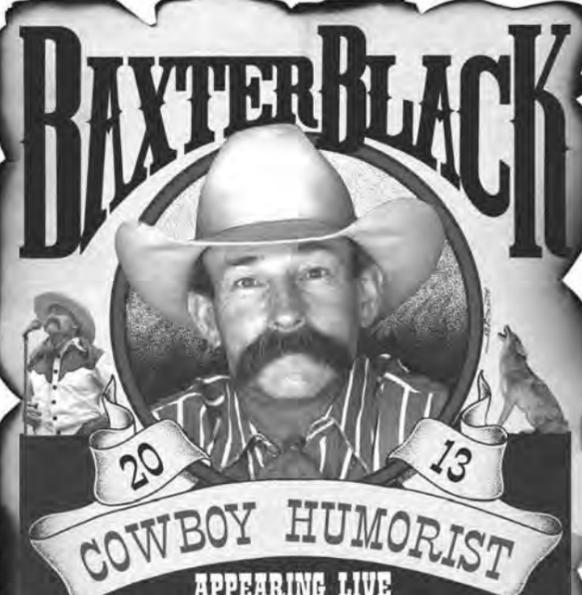
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 — 6:00 PM
 Auction Location: Benton Community Center, 150 S. Main St.
BENTON, KANSAS

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Parsons receives nearly \$228 thousand from Atrazine class action settlement

As the result of a settlement from a class action lawsuit over Atrazine, the city of Parsons has received \$227,850.10 of the \$105 million fund, the potential costs associated with removing pollution caused by the popular herbicide.

In total more than 1,085 water systems throughout the United States will benefit from the settlement. The city entered into the class action lawsuit in August 2012, and received word earlier this week that the case had been settled.

"Initially the city was told it would receive a minimum of \$5,000 plus less than half of one percent of the remaining pro-

ceeds after legal expenses and the other class action members were paid their minimum amounts," said Ross Albertini, city attorney. "Based on such a small percentage, we really didn't anticipate receiving much more than the minimum. We were pleasantly surprised by the actual amount paid."

According to a letter from Stephen Tillery of Korein Tillery, Attorneys at Law, settlement calculations were based generally on the premise that the more water processed by a system the more money the system received. Several other communities in southeast Kansas also received settlements through this class action

lawsuit. (A map pinpointing locations can be found at www.atrazinesettlement.com.)

"KDHE monitors the levels of atrazine on an annual basis, so this is not something new," said Derek Clevenger, director of utilities. "However with the increase in corn being planted in the area over the past few years, it is always good to be proactive rather than reactive when dealing with issues like this. I believe the settlement funds will allow us to be more proactive."

Clevenger went on to explain that over the past few years, Parsons has worked with agencies and area farmers to establish a

buffer zone around Lake Parsons. Buffer zones naturally filter atrazine and other impurities before it ever gets to the water treatment plant.

Atrazine is one of the most widely used herbicides used to control weeds on corn, sorghum, sugar cane and some specialty crops in the United States, and due to runoff from fields where it has been applied, has been found in some ground and surface waters. Atrazine is an herbicide marketed by companies including Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC.

There are no restrictions on how the settlement funds are to be used.

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1400+/- ACRE FLINT HILLS LAND AUCTION * 3 TRACTS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22 — 11:00 AM
 Auction Location: Chase County Community Bldg. in Swope Park
COTTONWOOD FALLS, KANSAS
 Immediately East of Casey's General Store

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