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GRASS & GRAIN[®]

Published by AG PRESS

59th Year

No. 42

December 9, 2014

\$1.00



Lyons-Blythe encourages listening as agriculture advocacy moves forward

By Donna Sullivan, Editor

Debbie Lyons-Blythe believes the conversation about advocacy in agriculture is changing. Speaking at the Kansas Farm Bureau annual convention, the White City cattle rancher and 2012 Farm Mom of the Year described the evolution of the advocacy movement since she started blogging in 2009.

"Back then it was all about telling your story, getting the word out there and being at the table," she explained. "People were making laws, and making choices at the dinner table that we were not a part of. So it was all about getting out there, getting on the internet, paying attention, making sure that we were a part of that conversation and telling our story."

But pointing out that God gave us two ears and one mouth, Lyons-Blythe believes that it can no longer be a one-sided conversation. As consumers become increasingly interested in how their food is produced, they have many questions; and listening to and taking time to thoughtfully answer those questions needs to be the new direction advocacy takes.

She described handing out beef samples at Ray's Apple Market in Manhattan as well as Chelsea Market in Manhattan, New York. She discovered there was little difference in the questions posed by consumers in the Big Apple compared to those in the Little Apple. "I will tell you that the consumers have the exact same questions in both places," she said. "I was scared to death in Manhattan, New York. I thought that was going to be a really tough audience and a tough place to talk. But really, truly, people are interested in the same things."

Lyons-Blythe believes the conversations need to in-



2012 Farm Mom of the Year Debbie Lyons-Blythe shares her passion for agriculture through her blog and other forms of social media. She was the keynote speaker at the Kansas Farm Bureau annual meeting, held in Manhattan last week.

volve less defending and more educating. While the ag industry has done a good job of defending their practices, she believes that getting out in front of some of the issues and going on the offensive rather than waiting to respond to attacks would be more effective. "I think there are things that we do in our industry that may look bad if we don't explain those in advance," she stated. An issue she foresees arising, and is beginning to address already, is one of pain management in procedures performed on livestock like castration and dehorning. "We're not able to use pain management right now, they're off-label use," she pointed out. "But consumers are worried that it hurts the animal. There are important reasons why we dehorn and why we castrate. So we have to get those topics out there early, and maybe be on the offense instead of being on defense all the time. Because once they've already hear Dr. Oz's point of view, it's really hard to believe us."

Being aware of the mental imagery conjured up by the terms we use, she asserts that those in agriculture need to be less about an industry and more about community. "Industry gives people the connotation that we're a factory farm, we're worried about making money and that's all we're focused on. But you and I both know that the ag community as a whole is an absolutely spectacular community." Not limited

simply to immediate neighbors, she uses community to describe everyone involved in agriculture, wherever they may live. "The people in Georgia may raise cattle a little differently than I do here in Kansas, but I really enjoy seeing how they do it. They are members of the ag community."

Along with not using the word industry, Lyons-Blythe said she also no longer tells people she is a beef producer. "Back in the '90s, we talked about how we were going to change our focus from being cowboys to being beef producers because we had to focus on the end product and how important that was," she elaborated. "But when you tell somebody you're a beef producer, that makes them come up with an image of a factory farm. If I say I'm a rancher, that's a whole lot funner image. I think consumers can relate with that a whole lot better if I say I'm a cattle rancher."

Less facts and more emotion is another change Lyons-Blythe is campaigning for, pointing to ads by the Humane Society of the United States that use images of puppies and kittens to stir the emotions of viewers and motivate them to send money to the organization. "We are all about facts," she said of those in agriculture. "When I'm selecting a bull, I'm looking at his EPDs, the numbers. When you all are talking about a field, you're worried

about the yields, the soil types, everything to do with seed and all those kinds of numbers things. We are scientists in agriculture and scientists are not necessarily good at emotions." She calls on those in agriculture to draw on the emotions they feel about seeing the harvest and sitting at the family afterwards to give thanks. "We have got to share that emotion with consumers," she said.

She also believes there is a perceived divide between producers and consumers that must be overcome, because in reality, we are all consumers. "We need to point that out because they don't necessarily think about the fact that we shop at the same stores. We have to make the connection with the people that are purchasing our products and show them that we also purchase those products. That we also feed our kids the exact same thing and that we are concerned about the exact same issues."

What am I going to make for supper? Is it safe? Is it nutritious? Will it taste good? Can I afford it? Will my kids eat it? These are the common questions running through all shoppers' minds as they enter the grocery store, including shoppers involved in agriculture. Recognizing that commonality can help jumpstart conversations, and Lyons-Blythe sees the grocery store as fertile ground for advocating.

She is adamant that no

than the food that you raise on your farm."

Another vocabulary change she has adopted is replacing the word conventional with traditional. While she does not raise organic or natural beef, she is supportive of the movement, calling it a wonderful opportunity. "We've been feeding corn to cows for over 200 years, the traditional way," she said. "So that's how I raise mine."

She's quick to point out the dangers of one sector of agriculture attacking another. "What I hate is when the organic or natural movement criticizes conventionally raised in order to make their niche market a little better. I think eventually that will shoot us in the foot. Because if you continue to criticize everything else out there except your product, people are not going to trust any of the products."

She cautions against getting defensive when questioned by consumers. "I'd like to point out that questions are really good," she said. "If consumers are asking questions, it means they're interested. Don't get defensive about the answer to those questions. Because, how are they going to learn about things if they don't ask questions?" She compared it to someone wanting to learn what goes on in a steel mill. "Are you going to ask a steel mill owner? Has he ever actually been on the floor of a steel mill? Am I going to ask the activist who's trying to

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Sen. Jerry Moran, right, presents retiring Kansas Farm Bureau president Steve Baccus with a copy of the Congressional Record at the organization's annual meeting last week. Baccus served as president for more than twelve years, fighting on such issues as taxes, eminent domain and property rights. Moran recently honored Baccus from the floor of the Senate.

KFB Courtesy photo



Care and Feeding of Farm Animals

By John Schlageck,
Kansas Farm Bureau

Farmers and ranchers have always adhered to sound principles of animal husbandry while providing the best care for their livestock. Society's views on animal welfare, on the other hand, continue to evolve.

Today, people are becoming more concerned for the animal's quality of life.

While there are extreme fringe groups, "activists" if you will, many people today have honest questions and concerns about the quality of life for animals while they are in the production environment.

Who are these people?

These people are average individuals. Some are like you. Others may be like me. Many are one, two, three or more generations re-

moved from the farm and no longer understand what goes into the care and feeding of farm animals.

Most of these people are not opposed to eating meat. They believe it is okay for people to eat animals for food. They just want to know while that sow is going through the production cycle she has a reasonable quality of life.

Raising livestock on the farm or ranch is a dynamic, specialized profession that has proven one of the most successful in the world. Only in the United States can less than 2 percent of the population feed 100 percent of our population – and other people around the world – as efficiently as we do.

Today's animal husbandry is no accident. Be-

cause our livestock are the best cared for, we can provide such efficiency.

Farmers and ranchers work hard, long hours to care for and nurture their livestock. Farmers and ranchers are neither cruel nor naive. A farmer would compromise his or her own welfare if animals were mistreated.

"We love our animals," says Dana Pieper. "We want to produce healthy animals that will one day feed others. We produce beef animals that are destined to be food for all of us."

Dana and David Pieper operate Pieper Land & Cattle Co. near Palco in northwestern Kansas. The land where they run cattle and farm has been in Dana's family for more than 130 years. Her grandpa's great-uncles settled this land on a timber claim from the Union Pacific Railroad.

Pieper is the fifth generation to farm and ranch in Rooks County. More than anything, she wants to carry on her family livestock operation and provide an opportunity for her children to

continue this legacy.

"I've always known this is where I would one day end up," Dana says. "I hope one day our children, Cody and Cady, will raise and care for cattle here."

Dana is a hands-on producer and their family herd consists of approximately 40 fall calving cows, 150 registered Hereford spring calving cows and 150 commercial black and black baldie spring calving cows.

"Our cattle eat, sleep, drink, walk and reproduce," Pieper says. "They're living creatures. Caring for them gives us a chance to be in charge of each and every animal's welfare."

Many consumers are unaware of a farmer's relationship with their animals. They don't know how meat, milk, eggs and other food products wind up on their dinner table. Few know all that goes into caring, feeding and nurturing of livestock on farms and ranches across Kansas.

Kansas farmers and ranchers are committed to continuing the enhancement of animal well-being



She's the mother of five children under the age of seven and lives in Parker, Colorado; a stay-at-home mom whose husband works hard to support their lively brood. She loves to write but has difficulty carving out the time to do so with her active family, but does manage to make tutus and scarves to sell on her Etsy site. She's also my niece, and someone I have always been able to relate to. We share common observations of life as a big family – how dinner invitations stop coming after the third child is born, and how we felt like we should throw candy when we walked down the

street as people often looked at us like we were a parade. But also how we wouldn't trade a minute of it for all the dinner invitations in the world. I regard her as sort of the city version of the life I lived and she views me as some sort of pioneer woman, who I think she envisions burning buffalo chips in my wood stove.

So when Colorado had a ballot initiative this fall about GMO labeling, she emailed me to ask my opinion. While I'm not overly fluent in the scientific terms to explain genetically modified organisms, I was able to share with her the knowledge I do have, as well as my overall perception of the topic. She also sent me a link of a video that was making the rounds leading up to the vote, which she recognized as being full of scare tactics and hyperbole. Did I mention she's a very smart girl?

In one segment it claimed that the damage done to our bodies by GMOs could never be reversed. Several minutes later, a woman gave a testimonial that she started feeling so much better the very day after she stopped eating foods containing GMOs. Hmmm. Seems like a bit of a contradiction to me.

One could ask, what harm is there in requiring GMO labeling? But maybe the better question is, what

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This past week I spent a couple of days with several hundred of my closest friends at the Kansas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. This is an event that I truly look forward to each year and this year was no different. If you walk down the halls during a break almost all of the conversations centered on crops, livestock or family – now that is my kind of crowd. Sure, we had a lot of fun and rekindled old friendships, but at the end of the day a lot of good work was also accomplished.

If it was not for farm organizations like Kansas Farm Bureau, some of the challenges facing agriculture would be too much for us as individual farmers and ranchers. During the two-day conference we learned about and created policy for topics as far reaching as prairie chickens, water and farm data just to name a few. Increasingly our fates are in the hands of politicians, government officials and even our own customers, many of whom do not understand our business or how we go about it.

That is why it is important to become involved with any of our general farm organizations or specific commodity groups. I know it is hard to get away from the farm or ranch and take part in these meetings but it is just as important as the time spent behind the wheel of your tractor or feeding cows. Agriculture must have a seat at the table when issues directly affecting us are discussed and the only way to do that is for our organizations to be strong and the only way that happens is for each of us to become involved.

A great example of that involvement is Steve Baccus, former president of KFB, Ottawa County farmer and a great leader in the agriculture community. Steve retired as president at this meeting and was showered with accolades he richly deserved. His tenure at Kansas Farm Bureau saw our organization face some of its toughest challenges and in the end we came out tougher, stronger and better equipped to han-

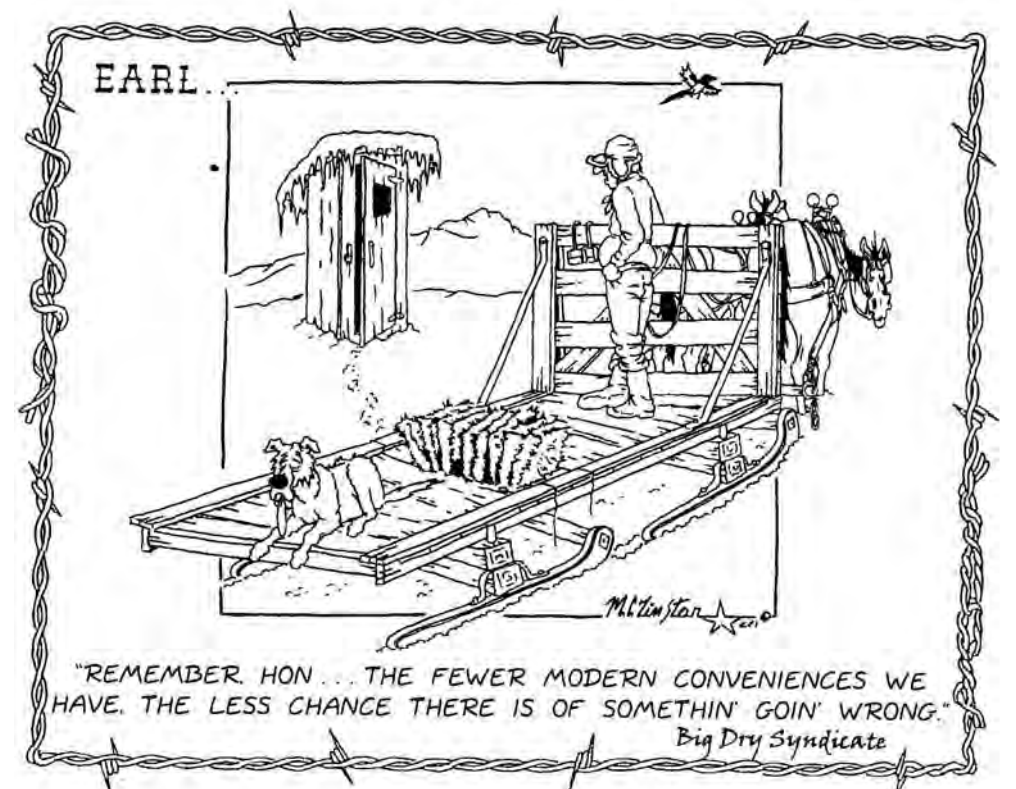
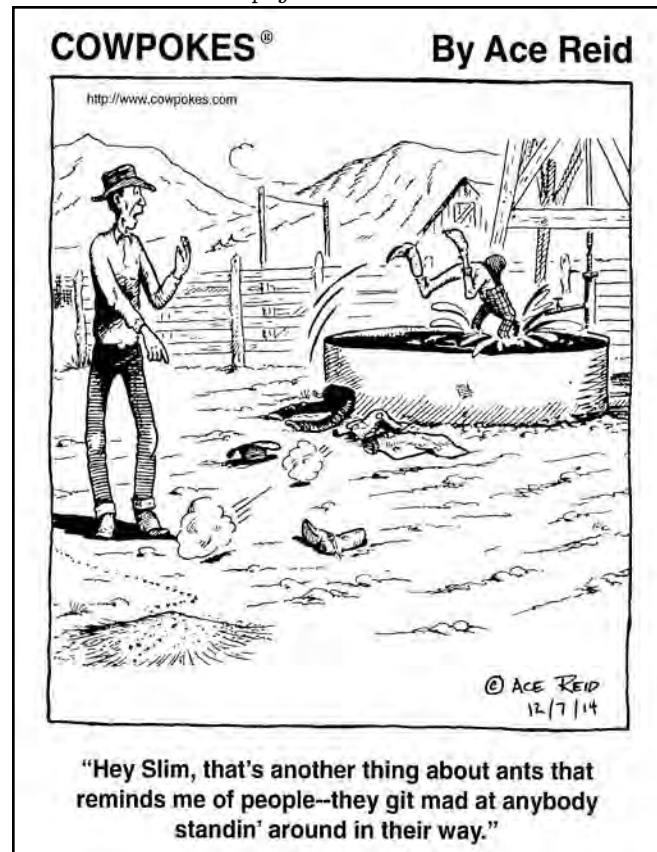
dle future challenges.

I am sure the easiest thing for Steve to do would have been to stay home, focus on his own farm and not get involved. I am glad he did not choose that path, I am not sure where we would have been without his leadership but I am thankful we did not have to find out. He has been the front man for Kansas agriculture for over a decade and served us well in that capacity. I think we would all be surprised if we knew the hours and the sacrifices he has made on behalf of the farming and ranching community.

Personally, I am forever indebted to Steve. He trusted me with some of the most incredible leadership opportunities I have ever had but more importantly he was always there with encouragement and advice. Now, when you ask Steve for advice or an opinion you need to be ready for it. It will be straightforward and honest, just as all opinions and advice should be. In any case, I am grateful that I had the chance to learn leadership from his example.

So how does Kansas Farm Bureau replace a great leader? Elect another great leader. I have known Richard Felts longer than either of us wants to admit and I have the utmost confidence in his leadership. Just like many football coaches like to say, it is next man up. However, the success of Kansas Farm Bureau or any agricultural organization does not rest on one person and it is up to all members to be involved in its leadership.

Finally, let me stress that I believe it is imperative for all of us in the farming and ranching community to become involved in some organization. I am a bit biased when it comes to Farm Bureau and if you want to get active in KFB I would be more than happy to help you. In the end it is more important for you to find the organization you are most comfortable with, have a passion for and roll up your sleeves and get involved. There is plenty of work to do.



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GRASS & GRAIN (USPS 937-880)

The newsweekly for Kansas and southern Nebraska, published each Tuesday at 1531 Yuma (Box 1009), Manhattan, KS by Ag Press, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Manhattan, Kansas. Postmaster send address changes to: Ag Press, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505.

Subscription — \$77 for 2 years. \$42 for 1 year, includes sales tax. Outside Kansas, \$49 for 1 year, \$91 for 2 years.

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ultimate purpose does it serve? Right now it's a hot topic among some people, but honestly, does the vast majority of the busy population, who are just trying to make a living a feed their families, truly understand and care? Or is this just another craze that we, a society with an extremely short attention span, will forget about when the next issue comes along? In the meantime, businesses would incur the cost of the mandatory labeling, which would be passed on to the consumers in higher food prices. Products that contain GMOs might suffer for a time, while the ones that don't might enjoy a short period of increased sales. The people who cared will be happy, while the ones who didn't will be left wondering why their food dollars don't go as far as they used to, or as far as they

need them to. Interestingly, conventional agriculture wasn't the only group opposing the mandatory labeling initiative, which ultimately failed, by the way. There were groups in the organic movement that opposed it, as well. Why? This is pure speculation on my part and I could be wrong, but could it have been that mandatory labeling would have weakened their marketing leverage? If all foods that contain GMOs are labeled as such, how will their products stand out? I closed my response to her by assuring her that I have no fear in feeding my family products that contain GMOs. We aren't big, bad, greedy farmers trying to pull the wool over the eyes of an unsuspecting public. We're moms and dads just trying to take care of our families to the

best of our abilities. Some of us prefer and can afford organic food, and that's just fine. Others of us don't feel so inclined, and that's okay, too. It's when the different sectors within agriculture start to throw rocks at each other that our customers get scared and confused. And as an industry completely dependent on our customers, none of us can afford that.

Insight

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throughout the life cycle of their food-producing animals. Today's producers remain dedicated to using all the scientific measures available to develop long-term management options and short-term production practices based on scientific research findings about animal well-being. That said, today's consumers will continue to regard the profession of farming and ranching highly, and embrace a quality, abundant food source they value second to none. 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.

Lyons-Blythe encourages listening as agriculture advocacy moves forward

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shut the steel mill down? No, I'm going to ask the guy who works in the steel mill. My goal is, as a farmer or rancher, I want to be the person that people come to. I'm the one that's on the front line, as you all are, too. I want them to ask us those questions, so if we continue to be defensive and aggressive in our answers, they're not going to ask us questions

any more. They're going to continue to listen to Dr. Oz, and we don't want that." Lyons-Blythe believes it's important to be yourself when advocating for agriculture. "If you have a mentor in advocacy, that's a wonderful thing to have," she said. "But don't be a carbon copy of that mentor because your experiences and their experiences are not exactly the same. There are different au-

diences that we all reach in our own way. The bottom line is connecting and being a part of the conversation."

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Sandy Coulson, Longford, Wins Holiday Contest

"These cold windy days made me wish for soup to warm us up. I came up with this recipe by combining what sounded good from several on Pinterest. Even my 'what's that green stuff?' hubby loved it! This would be a good addition to a holiday soup supper."

SAUSAGE TORTELLINI SOUP

1 pound carrots, diced
2 cups water
3-4 stalks celery, diced with tops
1/2 diced large red onion
1-2 teaspoons oil
1 pound sausage, browned & drained (I used pre-cooked Jimmy Dean turkey sausage)
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning
48 ounces reduced-sodium chicken broth
20 ounces refrigerated three-cheese tortellini
10 ounces frozen leaf spinach (fresh would be good, but used what I had on hand!)

3/4 cup half & half

Simmer carrots and water uncovered in soup pot until mostly tender (7-8 minutes). Add celery, onion, sausage and oil; saute until vegetables are soft and lightly browned. Add broth, garlic powder, pepper, Italian seasoning and tortellini; bring to a boil and simmer 7-9 minutes, or until pasta is al dente. Add spinach and heat until wilted. Remove from heat and add half & half. Serve with crusty bread or Naan for dipping.

2014 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Joann Bollier, Minneapolis: SWEET POTATO CASEROLE

3 cups cooked & mashed sweet potatoes (about 4 large)
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup melted butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 eggs, well beaten
1/3 cup milk

Topping:

1/3 cup melted butter
1/2 cup flour
1 cup light brown sugar
1 cup chopped pecans

Combine sweet potatoes, sugar, melted butter, vanilla, eggs and milk and place in a 9-by-13-inch pan. Combine topping ingredients and sprinkle over top of potato mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. Serves 10 to 12.

NOTE: Potatoes may be prepared and refrigerated or frozen. Add topping just before baking.

Lorraine Green, Auburn:
"This is great for the holidays."

FROSTED PARTY MIX

10-ounce package mini pretzels
5 cups Cheerios

5 cups Corn Chex
3 cups dry roasted peanuts
1-pound bag M&M's
(2) 12-ounce packages vanilla chips

1 to 3 tablespoons vegetable oil (your choice)

In a large bowl mix the pretzels, cereals, peanuts and M&M's. Heat vanilla chips and oil in microwave on medium-high for 2 minutes, stirring once then on high for 10 seconds until smooth. Pour mixture over cereal mixture. Mix well. Spread on 3 baking sheets. Cool and break apart. Store in an air-tight container. Yields: 5 quarts.

Theresa Langhofer, Her-
ington:

CHOCOLATE CORNFLAKE CANDY

1 cup sugar
1 cup white corn syrup
1 cup peanut butter
5 cups chocolate frosted cornflakes

In a medium saucepan bring sugar and syrup to a boil, stirring well. Remove from heat and add peanut butter, mixing well. Add cereal and stir to coat well. Drop by spoonful onto waxed or parchment paper. After candy sets up, store in refrigerator.

Meri Rhodes, Tampa:
CHRISTMAS CARAMELS

1 stick butter
1 cup corn syrup
1 cup sugar
15 ounces sweetened condensed milk
1/4 cup flour
1 teaspoon vanilla

In a heavy saucepan melt the butter. Add syrup and sugar. Boil for 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Add 2/3 can sweetened condensed milk. Mix flour with remaining milk and add to mixture. Boil to 240 degrees, stirring constantly. Add vanilla and pour into buttered 9-by-9-inch pan. Cool. Cut into small pieces with buttered knife. Wrap in small squares of waxed paper.

Diana Rieschick, Soldier:
"A great way to use left over turkey! Great to take for lunch. Great w/small bowl of soup!"

TURKEY ROLL-UPS

Spread any flavor hummus on white or whole wheat tortillas. Layer with: Chopped turkey

Chopped onion
Chopped avocado
Tomatoes
Shredded lettuce and/or fresh spinach
Shredded cheese
Roll up, wrap and eat
Make several, wrap and keep in refrigerator for 4-5 days.

Doris Shivers, Abilene: APPLE DUMPLING COFFEE CAKE

1 3/4 cups rolled oats
1 cup brown sugar
1 1/2 cups flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

2 teaspoons cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1 egg

1/2 cup whole milk
5-6 tart apples, cored, peeled & sliced

1/3 cup granulated sugar

Put dry ingredients into a large mixing bowl, stirring to combine. Cut butter into dry ingredients. Whisk together egg and milk and stir into butter mixture. Knead a few times by hand or spoon until mixture resembles a wet biscuit dough. Butter bottom and sides of slow cooker. Layer apples over bottom of crock. Sprinkle sugar over apples. Drop spoonfuls of dough over apples so they are mostly covered. Cook in crock-pot on high for 2 to 2 1/2 hours.

Linda Kepka, Dorrance:
APPLESAUCE CAKE

1 cup sugar
1 egg
1/2 cup margarine
1 cup applesauce
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon allspice
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 cups flour
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup nuts (or extra 1/2 cup raisins)

Dash salt

Mix sugar, egg, margarine and applesauce. Add spices. Dissolve soda in 1/4 cup hot water and add to mixture. Mix in flour, raisins, nuts and salt. Pour into floured 9-by-13-inch pan and bake 25-30 minutes at 350 degrees.

Ella Holt, Gypsum: "A friend was fixing lunch, smelled so good. It's a quick skillet meal that's become a favorite of my husband."

TEXAS HASH

1 pound lean hamburger, cooked & drained

1 onion, chopped (cooked a few minutes with hamburger)

14.5-ounce can chopped or stewed tomatoes

1 tomato can of water

1/2 cup raw rice

1/2 cup salsa

1 teaspoon chili powder (or more to taste)

Brown hamburger; add onion for a few minutes. Add tomatoes, water, rice, salsa and chili powder. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes or until rice is done. Check after 15 minutes and stir. May need more water.

Beth Scripper, Abilene:
"Haystacks and spiced apple cider make a great treat!"

TASTY HAYSTACKS

(2) 12-ounce packages butter-scotch morsels

8-ounce package of dry-roasted peanuts

5 ounces chow mein noodles

Melt morsels in large pan over medium heat. Stir in peanuts and chow mein noodles into melted morsels. Drop by teaspoons onto waxed paper to cool.

Barbara Barthol, Olathe:
"A favorite of our 8 kids, their spouses, 23 grandkids and most of the 15 great-grandkids!"

HOT CHOCOLATE MIX

(Regular size batch)

8-quart box of dry milk

6 to 7 ounces coffee cream powder

1 pound cocoa mix (I use Nestle's)

2 cups powdered sugar

Dash of salt

Mix all ingredients well and store in a large ziploc bag. When ready to use add boiling water to a mug and use maybe 3 heaping spoons of mix. Top with marshmallows. Fun to add a candy cane for a stirrer or a plastic spoon that has been dipped in melted chocolate.

To make a huge batch, multiply ingredients 4 times. Need to mix it in an ice chest or something similar because it is a lot to stir and mix.

NOTE: I use the clear frosting cones, put mix and marshmallows in them and tie with a ribbon to decorate for stocking stuffers, to pretty a platter of baked goodies or a little gift for whoever.

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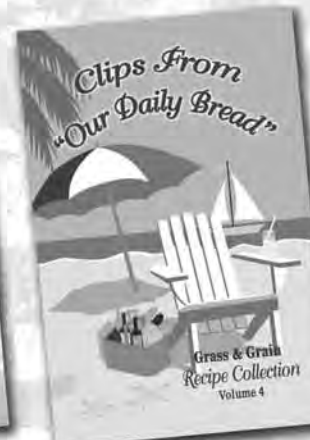
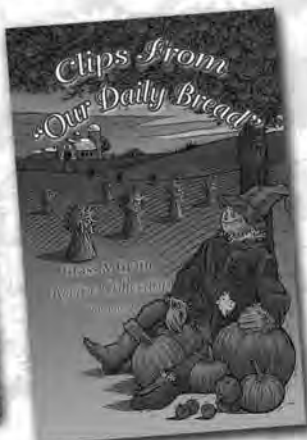
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2014 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Claire Martin, Salina:
AUTUMN BEEF STEW
1 pound stew meat
1/4 cup flour
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 teaspoon onion powder
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon thyme
1 tablespoon dried basil
2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled & cubed
1 medium russet potato, peeled & cubed
3 medium carrots, peeled & sliced
4 beef bouillon cubes
5 cups water
12-ounce can beer

In a shallow dish coat meat with flour, salt and pepper. In a large soup pot brown beef in oil over medium heat. Add rest of ingredients and brings to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for about 2 hours, stirring occasionally until beef is tender.

Katrina Morgan, Americus: "My family has enjoyed these quick butterscotch rolls on Christmas morning for many years. They are so easy to prepare. I have plenty of time to make them while getting ready for our big family dinner."

QUICK BUTTERSCOTCH ROLLS
2 loaves frozen bread
1 box butterscotch pudding (not instant)
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup melted butter or margarine
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 cup milk

Put frozen bread in refrigerator overnight. The next morning cut bread into cubes and put in a 9-by-13-inch pan or bundt pan. Mix remaining ingredients and pour over cubes. Let rise and bake in a 350-degree oven for 30 to 35 minutes until golden brown.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
CARROTS WITH BROWN SUGAR & BACON
2 pounds carrots, peeled & cut in half lengthwise
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons butter, cut into small pieces, divided
1/4 cup brown sugar
1 tablespoon lemon juice
3 slices bacon, cooked & crumbled

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cut carrots in half crosswise. In a 9-by-13-inch baking dish combine carrots, salt and pepper; top with 1 tablespoon butter. Bake cov-

ered until almost tender, about 25 minutes. Uncover, add remaining 1 tablespoon butter, brown sugar and lemon juice, stirring gently to combine. Bake until carrots are tender, about 15 minutes, basting occasionally with brown sugar mixture. Sprinkle bacon over top.

Kellee George, Lawrence:
TURKEY & DRESSING CASSEROLE
3 cups cubed cornbread
3 cups torn white bread
3 cups shredded cooked turkey
2 tablespoons butter
1 1/2 cups frozen vegetables blend (such as celery, bell pepper, onion; your favorite)

1/4 cup flour
2 1/2 cups chicken broth
1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
2 large eggs

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spray a 2 1/2-quart casserole with cooking spray; set aside. In a large bowl, combine cornbread, white bread and turkey. Set aside. In a large deep skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add vegetable blend, cook until most of the liquid is evaporated and vegetables are lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Sprinkle with flour, whisk in broth and poultry seasoning, salt and pepper. Bring to boil, whisking frequently. Reduce heat to medium low, simmer 2 minutes or until thickened, whisking frequently. Remove from heat and let cool 10 minutes. Add eggs and sauce to turkey mixture, stir gently to combine. Spoon mixture into prepared dish. Bake covered 25 minutes. Uncover and bake until set and heated through, about 15 minutes.

Margaret Trojan, Beaver Crossing, Nebraska: "Great for Christmas or anytime."

ALMOND TOFFEE BARS
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, cut up
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
1 tablespoon corn syrup (light)
1 cup chopped almonds
12 ounces milk chocolate, semisweet or butterscotch chips (I use 1 cup milk chocolate and 1 cup butterscotch mixed)

Cook butter, sugar, syrup and 2 tablespoons water over medium to high heat. Use a candy thermometer and cook to golden brown, 12 minutes. Pour toffee mixture quickly onto foil-lined 15-by-10-inch cookie sheet. Cool. Spread melted chocolate (1 cup total) on top of toffee bar. Sprinkle half of chopped almonds on top. Refrigerate then when set (15 minutes or so), turn the toffee bar over and spread with more softened chips and sprinkle last of almonds. Put in refrigerator to set. When ready, break into pieces. Put in containers. Can freeze.

Lucille Wohler, Clay Center: "Another recipe from my cousin in Arkansas."

SOUTHERN CORNBREAD CASSEROLE
1 can whole kernel corn, drained
2 cans cream-style corn
8 ounces sour cream
1 box Jiffy cornbread mix (dry)

Mix all ingredients and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until done.

Shirley Deiser, Kanopolis:
CREAMY CRANBERRY SALAD
3 cups fresh or frozen cranberries, coarsely chopped
20-ounce can crushed pineapple, drained
1 medium apple, peeled & chopped
2 cups miniature marshmallows
2/3 cup sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
2 cups whipping cream (whipped)

In a bowl combine cranberries, pineapple, marshmallows, sugar, salt and walnuts (if desired). Mix well. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Just before serving fold in whipped cream.

Lydia J. Miller, Westphalia:
DIVINITY
4 cups sugar
1 cup corn syrup
3/4 cup water
3 stiffly beaten egg whites
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup nuts

Place sugar, corn syrup and water in saucepan over

low heat. Stir until sugar is dissolved then cook without stirring to 255 degrees (hard ball stage). Remove from heat and pour, stirring constantly, in fine stream into egg whites. Beat until mixture holds its shape and loses its gloss. Add vanilla and nuts and pour into 9-by-13-inch buttered pan. Cut into squares.

Lisa Winberry, Topeka:
HOLIDAY SNACK MIX
3/4 cup chocolate chips
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
1/3 cup butter
4 cups corn & rice cereal
3 cups miniature pretzel twists
3 cups salted mixed nuts
1 cup M&M's
1 cup raisins
2 cups powdered sugar

In a microwave-safe bowl, cook chocolate, peanut butter and butter on high in 30-second intervals, stirring between each until mixture is melted and smooth, about 1 1/2 minutes total. In a large roasting pan, stir cereal, pretzels, nuts, M&M's and raisins. Pour chocolate mixture over cereal mixture stirring well to coat. Sift powdered sugar over cereal mixture one-half cup at a time stirring after each addition, until mixture is fully coated. Store in an air-tight container.

Mary Hedberg, Clifton:
"This is the best hashbrown casserole I ever ate. I used to cook at a care home and they loved this. This is from a cancer survivor who is great and so is this casserole!"
HASHBROWN CASSEROLE
2 pounds frozen southern hashbrowns
1/2 cup melted oleo
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 can cream of chicken soup
2 cups grated Cheddar cheese
1 teaspoon onion flakes
2 cups sour cream

Mix above ingredients and place in a 9-by-13-inch casserole pan. Top with Corn Flake topping.

Corn Flake topping:
2 cups crushed Corn Flakes
1/2 cup butter

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:

QUICK CARAMEL CRUNCH
15 graham crackers
1 cup butter
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup chopped nuts (slivered almonds, pecans or walnuts)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place graham crackers in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet. Fill in gaps with pieces of broken crackers. Melt butter and brown sugar in a saucepan. Stir in nuts. Pour mixture over crackers. Bake 10 minutes. Let cool and break into pieces.

Claire Martin, Salina: "My mother used to make this during the holidays to snack on and to have for when company dropped by."

SPICY CHEESE NUT LOG
1 can bean with bacon soup
4 cups (1 pound) sharp Cheddar cheese, shredded
1/2 cup finely chopped onion
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
1 medium clove garlic, minced
1/2 teaspoon Tabasco
1 cup walnuts, chopped

In a large bowl beat ingredients (except walnuts) together until smooth. Chill. Shape into 2 logs using waxed paper. Roll in chopped walnuts. Refrigerate. Serve with Ritz crackers.

Barbara Barthol, Olathe:
"So moist and easy."
BEST EVER BROWNIES

1 stick oleo
1 cup sugar
4 eggs
1-pound can Hershey chocolate syrup
1 cup plus 1 tablespoon flour
1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix the oleo, sugar and eggs (beating in 2 at a time) well. Add chocolate syrup, flour and vanilla. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes in a

15-by-10-by-3/4-inch jelly roll pan or cookie sheet with sides. When cooled ice with the following:

6 tablespoons oleo
6 tablespoons milk
1 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 cup chocolate bits

Bring all ingredients except chocolate to a rolling boil and cook 30 seconds. Remove from heat and add chocolate bits. Beat until a little thick (it thickens as you put it on the brownies, so work fast).

Shirley Deiser, Kanopolis:
CAJUN PORK ROAST
2 pounds boneless single loin pork roast

3 tablespoons paprika
1/2 teaspoon red pepper (cayenne)
1 tablespoon garlic powder
2 teaspoons oregano
2 teaspoons thyme
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon white pepper, ground
1/2 teaspoon cumin
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

Combine all seasonings and rub well over all surfaces of roast. Place roast in a shallow pan and roast in a 350-degree oven for about 1 hour until internal temperature is 155 to 160 degrees. Remove from oven; let rest 5 to 10 minutes before slicing.

Shirley Deiser, Kanopolis:
KID FRIENDLY SALSA
(3) 14.5-ounce cans diced tomatoes

1 large onion
2 small jalapeno peppers
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon onion salt
1 teaspoon garlic salt

Puree tomatoes in chopper or food processor. Pour into bowl. Chop onion and peppers in chopper then add to tomatoes. Add remaining ingredients and stir together. Serve with tortilla chips.

G&G Announces Its Annual Holiday Recipe Contest

Nov. 25 through Dec. 23

In observance of the holiday season, Grass & Grain will award the weekly winners \$35 in addition to the prize gift.

Recipes received NOW through DECEMBER 12 will be entered in the holiday contest. Enter as often as you like during this period.

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Second chance to win! The names of all contestants will be entered in a drawing from which four names will be chosen. Each of these four contestants will receive \$35. Winners will be announced Dec. 23.

The winner each week is selected from the recipes printed.

Send us your favorite recipe. It may be a main dish, leftover, salad, side dish, dessert, or what-have-you.
1. Check your recipe carefully to make certain all ingredients are accurate and instructions are clear.

2. Be sure your name, address and phone number are on the entry. Please include a street address with your recipe entries. A post office box number is not sufficient for prize delivery. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.
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USDA announces support for producers of advanced biofuel

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that USDA is making \$5.6 million in grants to 220 producers across the nation to support the production of advanced biofuels, and is awarding more than \$4 million in additional grants that will advance the bioeconomy and reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

"Producing advanced biofuel is a major component of the drive to take

control of America's energy future by developing domestic, renewable energy sources," Vilsack said. "These resources represent the Obama administration's commitment to support an 'all-of-the-above' energy strategy that seeks to build a robust bio-based economy. Investments in biofuels will also help create jobs and further diversify the economy in our rural communities."

The funding for produc-

ers is being provided through USDA's Advanced Biofuel Payment Program, which was established in the 2008 Farm Bill. Under this program, payments are made to eligible producers based on the amount of advanced biofuel produced from renewable biomass, other than corn kernel starch. Examples of eligible feedstocks include but are not limited to: crop residue; animal, food and yard waste; vegetable oil;

and animal fat.

Through the Advanced Biofuel Payment Program, USDA supports the research, investment and infrastructure necessary to build a strong biofuel industry that creates jobs and broadens the range of feedstocks used to produce renewable fuel. USDA has made more than \$280 million in payments to more than 350 producers (more than 3,100 total payments) in 47 states and territories

since the program's inception. These payments have supported the production of more than 5.8 billion gallons of advanced biofuel and the equivalent of more than 58 billion kilowatt hours of electric energy.

Also, USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced the award of fiscal year 2014 grants through three other programs supporting bioenergy initiatives.

The National Biodiesel

Board and Regents of the University of Idaho received \$768,000 and \$192,000 respectively, through the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program. The program was established to stimulate biodiesel consumption and the development of a biodiesel infrastructure. The funded education and outreach activities will raise awareness of biodiesel fuel use among governmental and private entities that operate vehicle fleets and the public. Funded projects also focus on educational programs supporting advances in infrastructure, technology transfer, fuel quality, fuel safety and increasing feedstock production.

South Dakota State University (SDSU) received \$2.3 million through the Sun Grant Program. This program encourages bioenergy and biomass research collaboration between government agencies, land-grant colleges and universities, and the private sector. SDSU will lead a consortium of five regional grant centers and one subcenter that makes competitive grants to projects that contribute to research, education and outreach for the regional production and sustainability of possible biobased feedstocks. The project period will not exceed five years.

Through the Critical Agricultural Materials program, Iowa State University of Science and Technology received \$1 million for the development of new paint, coating, and adhesive products that are derived from acrylated glycerol, which is a co-product of the biodiesel industry. The Critical Agricultural Materials program supports the development of products that are manufactured from domestically-produced agricultural materials and are of strategic and industrial importance to benefit the economy, defense, and general well-being of the nation. Many such products replace petroleum-based products and offer opportunities to create new businesses and new markets for agricultural materials.

Examples of producers receiving USDA Advanced Biofuel payments today are Appling County Pellets, in Baxley, Ga. It received \$22,475 for its production of more than 358,000 metric tons of wood pellets. Appling sells premium-grade wood pellets for sustainable wood fuel use to markets in the northeastern United States and Europe.

AgPower Jerome of Shoshone, Idaho, is receiving \$3,027 for the conversion of nearly 137 million gallons of dairy cattle manure into 25.5 million kWh of electricity that is sold to a local utility.

White Mountain Biodiesel, LLC of North Haverhill, N.H., a producer of biodiesel from waste vegetable oil, received \$8,655. The company produced almost 1.8 million gallons of biodiesel from almost 2 million gallons of waste vegetable oil. The biodiesel is distributed throughout Vermont and New Hampshire.

Prairie Horizon Agri-Energy, LLC of Phillipsburg, produced 6.9 million gallons of ethanol from almost 2.6 million bushels of sorghum and received \$18,128.



Dan Yunk signed copies of his newest book in the *Kailey's Ag Adventures* series, *Kailey's Pig 'Tales'* at the Kansas Farm Bureau annual convention last week in Manhattan. The sixth book in the series, the latest adventures for Kailey is a visit to a hog farm. Yunk is the former executive director-CEO of Kansas Farm Bureau.

Photo by Donna Sullivan

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NATRC holds competitive trail ride

The first-ever North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) competitive trail ride was held this past October at Sand Hills State Park in Hutchinson. There were 41 competitors coming from California, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri, Colorado, Kansas, and Texas. The Sand Hills State Park has brand-new equine camping facilities with stalls. The trails are also very well-maintained and make a great area for either a family outing or an equine scheduled event. Event coordinator Liz Klamm is planning to hold another competitive trail ride April 10, 11 and 12, 2015. First-time competitors and youth are welcome to participate and will receive a short introductory clinic on Friday afternoon. First-time riders will also receive a ride discount as well as a completion award. Both one- and two-day ride competitions will be available. There is a video on the NATRC web site, http://natrc.org/what_to_expect_Video.htm to give interested riders a glimpse of what the rides entail.



The novice sweepstakes class was won by junior rider Jason Klamm riding his American Paint horse Risky Snickers.



Noreen Altwegg won the competitive pleasure hi point combination class, riding her Missouri Fox Trotter D.M.'S Eye of The Tiger.



The open sweepstakes class was won by Trish Cleveland riding her Spanish Mustang Cito Mocha Raton.

The gluten craze exposed

Consumer Reports says that about seven percent of Americans suffer from an autoimmune condition that causes gluten sensitivity or celiac disease, but that 63% of the population believe a gluten-free diet is beneficial. They think that cutting or reducing gluten intake has all sorts of physical and mental benefits, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens.

But, says AMAC, it ain't necessarily so. In fact, the Food and Drug Administration agrees with the Consumer Reports study. Rhonda Kane, a registered dietitian and consumer safety officer at FDA, says that "eating gluten-free is not meant to be a diet craze. It's a medical necessity for those who have celiac disease."

"There are no nutritional advantages for a person not sensitive to gluten to be on a gluten-free diet," she adds. "The Truth About Gluten," the Consumer Reports research document, is available on its website and in the January 2015 edition of its magazine, which is available on newsstands.

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Book chronicles grasses of the Central Plains

Historically the heart of North America was covered entirely by wild grasses. The state of Kansas is centrally located in this once ocean of grass, yet it has been more than 70 years since Kansas has had a field guide dedicated exclusively to grasses. It was 1936 when *Grasses in Kansas* was published by the Kansas State Board of

Agriculture.

This year a new book devoted to the dominant and most frequently encountered grasses of the central grasslands was published, *A Field Guide to the Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska* by Irilee Barnard.

The guide describes grass basics well, but it is not just a technical book.

The book is intended to make learning about grasses available to everyone. The glossary is illustrated with color photos to show important grass features. The information and illustrations address a broad range of expertise as well as interests from home landscaping to range man-

Continued on page 8



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Book chronicles grasses of the Central Plains

Continued from page 7

agement to wildlife associations. Grasses are notoriously difficult to identify, making the book's 415 color photographs vital in visually demonstrating the specific differences that separate the species. It is the photographic details that set this guide

apart from all others.

Field Guide to the Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska is available from online dealers and from the publisher, University Press of Kansas, 2502 Westbrooke Circle, Lawrence, KS 66045 (www.kansaspress.ku.edu/order.html).



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THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

Tipi Life

The tipi is one of the most iconic images of the Plains. The hourglass figure of lodge poles reaching for the sky above a conical "tent" made of buffalo hides is immediately recognized. Spanish explorer Francisco Vázquez de Coronado was the first European to encounter tipi dwelling people when he ventured into the vast expanse of the North American prairie in 1541. The Queracho-Teya followed the "wild cows," (buffalo) living a nomadic life in their portable "skin" shelters as they probably had done for hundreds of years. Hide-working tools have been found in archeological sites dating back to the last ice age.

Later, explorers found the tipi culture well established wherever they traveled across the plains. By the time settlers moved west

the "wild" tribes of the western prairie were in many cases different people from the ones encountered by early explorers. No matter the original home, tribes that conquered the plains found the plains tipi the most useful dwelling when following the buffalo. Short-term village or hunting sites could be easily moved when living in the tipi.

Most of the tribes moving into the plains completely abandoned their woodland lodges of bark and timber, finding that the tipi served them just as well in permanent camps as it did in temporary hunting camps. The tipi or lodge was a comfortable and well-ventilated "all-weather" home.

Officially, the tipi was a woman's property. Buffalo hides taken in a summer hunt, thinner than those from a winter kill, were pre-

ferred to keep the weight of the tipi as light as possible. Each hide was carefully tanned until enough tanned skins were collected to produce a finished tipi. Other women of the tribe were then invited to a feast where everyone chipped in to "sew" the skins together, much like a pioneer quilting bee. When the cover was completed it was lifted in place on the poles and "smoked" by kindling a fire within a completely closed tipi. Smoke cured the cover with a waterproofing that made the tipi impervious to even the heaviest rain storm.

When finished the tipi was a snug refuge from the changing weather of the Great Plains. An interior "wall" or lining was hung from the inside to add to the warmth and provide extra privacy by preventing shadows from being cast on the cover. The fire was centrally located slightly closer to the front opening than to the back. The tipi was not a perfect circle but more of an oval that allowed slightly more room in front than in back. The smoke hole at the top was directly above the fire, usually carrying smoke safely above anyone standing in the tipi. Flaps extended from the smoke hole with poles attached to allow adjustment from the outside. Draft for the fire could be controlled according to wind and weather conditions.

The "door," an extra flap over an oval opening, usual-

ly faced east toward the rising sun. Buffalo robes served as rugs. Back rests made of willow allowed for comfortable sitting on the robes, with beds made of robes arranged near the lining. As with any culture, all kinds of material collections were among their possessions, such as rawhide boxes, cooking utensils, clothing, weapons, and ceremonial items. Everything was designed for portability and could be "packed" for transportation at a moment's notice.

On a sweltering summer day the sides of the cover could be lifted to allow a breeze to flow through the living quarters while maintaining a shady refuge from the heat of the sun. The outdoor life of hunting, fishing, gaming, horsemanship, and skirmishes with enemy tribes in the spring, summer, and fall gave way to a very sedentary life in the winter.

The late summer and fall hunt was critical to winter survival when supplies of dried meat as well as other fare provided by nature were stored. It was also time to prepare the tipi for the cold of winter. The village was located near good fresh water, usually in a valley with protection from prevailing northerly winds.

Firewood was gathered and placed in a communal pile easily accessed by one and all. A "fence" of poles and saplings was built around the perimeter of the tipi as a windbreak. The fire pit was dug deep into the ground with a trench extending toward the back and outside of the tipi. The trench is covered with rawhide or robes leaving an outside opening. The trench provided fresh air to the fire, keeping the living quarters warm and cozy until the return of warm spring breezes and another summer of paradise on The Way West.

"The Cowboy," Jim Gray is author of *Desperate Seed: Ellsworth Kansas on the Violent Frontier*, publishes *Kansas Cowboy*, *Old West history from a Kansas perspective*, and is *Executive Director of the National Drivers Hall of Fame*. Contact *Kansas Cowboy*, Box 62, Ellsworth, KS 67439. Phone 785-531-2058

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Remember this

The gray-haired man in the hospital bed looked more dead than alive but I discerned a slight twinkle in his eye as he studied the photo I'd given him. It was him in a better day, and not long past, when he stood in a faux-saloon in a little town in northeastern Kansas with a pretty dancehall girl at his side, her all gleaming ivories and batty eyelashes and him grim-faced and square-jawed in his knee-length duster, the Colt .45 single-action at his side just itching to clear leather.

"When I get out of here," he said with a rasp, "I'm going to forget about this place. I'm going to pretend it never happened."

"I'd do the same," I said, and though I meant it at the time, I didn't know what I was saying. I do now. And if I had it to do all over again I'd tell him to remember. I'd tell him to never forget, not the valleys, not the summits, not the long hard scramble from the lowest, deepest depths.

One night I went out for a walk. Not far, only to the nursing home and back, maybe a quarter mile. I slipped into my jacket, donned a wool hat, put a flashlight in one pocket and, almost as an afterthought, grabbed the cane.

It was the first time I'd been out with a cane and it felt intrusive and unwieldy, maybe even a little pretentious. Not that I had to worry much about being seen with it because the night was dark and traffic almost non-existent. For the first hun-

dred yards or so I swung it jauntily as I'd seen British officers do in old war movies, but after almost launching it into space I decided to play it more circumspect. It wasn't a fashion statement, for Pete's sake. The unevenness of the gravel road was a real test to my imbalance, and more so in the darkness. Surprisingly, I found the cane to be a real help. By the time I crossed the long black void between street lights (and almost died of fright when the cattle resting against the fence stampeded at my sudden presence), it became my third leg. By the time I limped up the driveway cursing myself for having pushed myself beyond my physical limitations, the cane was the only thing holding me up.

Pushing myself, though, was necessary. It's how we grow, how we mature, how

we heal. My walks were infrequent but welcome, and incrementally easier. Everything, in fact, was incrementally easier. There were days when I paid the price but those days were shorter and more spread out, and though they were as intense as anything I'd experienced previously they were impermanent, and I knew it. They could hurt me, but they could not defeat me. This, too, shall pass, I'd say, and it did.

A week later, after unconsciously navigating the stairs to the basement without thought or pain or struggle, the sudden realization made me delirious with joy. I did it twice more in spite of being winded, and gasping in the kitchen I remembered what my friend in the hospital said. Forget this? I thought. I want to remember this until the day I die.

And I also want to to re-

member the pain, how it turned the world white like an ocular lake effect blizzard, how it seared through my body like lightning bolts or supernovas, how my nerves went mad and fired up until painkillers slowly returned existence to its corrupted state of being, and how a few hours later the process would repeat, repeat, repeat. But most of all I want to remember the Barnes Lighted Horse Christmas Parade, how we parked north of the downtown area and walked through the alley to the fire station on Highway 9 and back up Center Street to the shops and boutiques where Santa enthralled the children with his jolly old self and up and down the street filling with cars and throngs of people and then, with special permission, climbed the steep, treacherous stairs to the second floor opera house where I popped out a screen and leaned far out to frame the entire length and breadth of the downtown with a superwide lens and captured it all, the colorful

lights, the decorations, Mrs. Claus following the procession with a diminutive elf at her side, the temporary population explosion of a small rural town, and then made it back down without mishap or wince or groan or imbalance, and went on the following day to photograph a high school senior in another opera house with a sloping ramp that was for the first time in two months not an insurmountable obstacle. I want to remember the immense sense of accom-

plishment I felt when skipping painkillers for an entire day, and then another. I want to remember the moment when ramps and stairs were no longer a problem. I want to remember it all, the valleys as much as the summits, so that in the future when some slight, trivial thing injects itself into my doings I can shrug it off as easily as removing my jacket. You'll have to do better than that, I'll say, and I'll carry on as if it never happened.

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Local Food and Farm Task Force to meet Dec. 7

The Local Food and Farm Task Force will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, December 12, 2014. The meeting will be held at the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan.

This task force was established with the passage of SB 286 in the 2014 session of the Kansas Legislature. The Task Force is responsible for preparing a local food and farm plan containing policy and funding recommendations in order to increase locally grown food production.

The meeting is open to the public. A break for lunch is scheduled and will be provided for appointed members of the task force.

Individuals who have questions regarding the meeting should contact KDA marketing director Kerry Wefald at Kerry.wefald@kda.ks.gov for more information. Persons who require special accommodations must make their needs known at least two days prior to the meeting.

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OSU offers in-depth view of agriculture through ‘Farm to Fork’ Massive Open Online Course

Bailey Norwood, associate professor in the department of agricultural education for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University, will be using the latest teaching methods to take learning to a new level with a Massive Open Online Course titled *Farm to Fork: A Panoramic View of Agriculture*.

The 16-week course will be conducted entirely online and is open to anyone. It will focus on topics including livestock-care techniques, the industrializa-

tion of agriculture, the impact of local food on the local economy and the role of politics and culture in food. The format of the online course provides Norwood with an opportunity to explore new and contemporary teaching methods.

“OSU has been creative about using technology in the classroom, but this course has given me the ability to use technology to take us out of the classroom onto dairy, beef and swine farms, and into DNA and soil test laboratories,” said Norwood. “Ironically, the

Internet-based course will take participants outside more than a traditional class. The course is conducted through a robust Internet platform that facilitates discussion within virtual field trips, video lectures and reading.”

The course will be separated into modules and will include videos, readings, virtual farm tours and online office hours. Students will engage in the course by uploading photos related to assignments and will participate in forums to discuss topics covered in the class.

The course is available

and open to the public. Participants are able to participate for free or to enroll for a reasonable online tuition cost to earn OSU credit. The course will begin Jan. 12. Additional information and registration is available online at <http://casnr.okstate.edu/farmtofork>.

“A MOOC is a very effective way of engaging students with varied interests, locations and motivations to learn at their convenience,” said Thomas Coon, vice president, dean and director of OSU’s Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. “Dr.

Norwood and his team have invested considerable time and energy into the development of the course materials.”

Coon said the result is an effective and creative opportunity for participants to become engaged in the learning process.

“Course participants are able to learn not only from the curriculum provided by Dr. Norwood, but also from one another,” he said.

As a land-grant institution, OSU views the MOOC as a way to expand its reach and ability to educate the public.

“Rooted in Oklahoma State University’s land-grant mission to serve and improve society, we are utilizing new technologies and curricular models such as MOOCs to reach an even larger number of constituents who can benefit from this knowledge,” said Gary Sandefur, OSU provost. “OSU continues to serve as an international leader in agricultural sciences, and this course, taught by one of the field’s most notable experts, will present the most up-to-date knowledge available about food production and safety.”



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Variety of useful electronic apps available for farmers

(AP) – Even across the most remote landscapes, technology is spiraling.

And in a world of information technology, there is no need to leave the field when muddled by an unfamiliar disease or insect infestation. Nor do you, these days, need a tablet and pencil to figure things like estimating corn yields or even calculating fertilizer rates.

Yes, there is an app for just about anything – even on the farm.

“We have seen a growing sector of farmers who are using apps,” said Ignacio Ciampitti, associate professor of agronomy at Kansas State University.

Maybe it is a weed or disease problem they want to identify, he said. Apps are being made by universities, commercial companies and organizations, giving farmers detailed information through a smartphone or tablet, *The Hutchinson News* reported.

There are many useful apps in the farm world, he said, but he noted that if an app takes more than a few minutes to figure out, it isn’t worth keeping.

Here’s a list that Ciampitti finds useful, along with descriptions from the maker:

Identification apps
ID Weeds – The Universi-

ty of Missouri app is a good one for weed ID purposes. This app allows farmers to search weeds by their common or Latin name, view a list of weeds, and identify weeds based upon a number of different characteristics. The app provides details along with photographs.

Weedalert.com – Weed-alert features detailed color photos of more than 100 weeds, allowing users to search for and identify weeds by name, appearance or region. There is detailed information about each weed, including how to control it and the recommended control products.

Aphid Speed Scout – Speed scouting is a different way to determine if soybean aphids have reached the 250-aphids-per-plant threshold, according to the University of Nebraska, which developed the app. It relies on the number of “infested” plants. The app also recommends further scouting or treatment options based on the number of infested plants in a given area.

Ground Spray – Another University of Nebraska app, this one helps pesticide applicators making ground applications with decisions relating to droplet size and potential drift of pesticides.

Soy Diseases App – From South Dakota State University, this app provides easy-to-use and handy diagnostic information for a number of problematic soybean diseases.

Crop Diseases app – This provides information for wheat, barley, oats, triticale

and canola, plus several other crops.

The IPM toolkit – This app developed by the University of Wisconsin is broader than disease ID alone. It also includes a list of Extension activities such as meetings, publications, videos and news, which Ciampitti highly recommends.

Crop production apps
Extreme Beans – This University of Minnesota app allows farmers to calculate the number of soybeans to plant per acre in order to generate the highest yield.

Corn Advisor – From the University of Arkansas, this app has different features such as calculating lime and nutrient rates and identifying nutrient deficiencies, diseases and insects.

Pioneer Plantability – This app works as a planter settings calculator to give farmers precise planter settings for corn and sunflower seeds of all sizes and shapes.

Ag PhD Planting Population – The calculator has two functions. First, during planting season the app can determine optimum in-row spacing between seeds based upon row width and the desired planting population per acre. Second, after crop emergence, it allows farmers to determine a stand count by helping them count the number of plants that have emerged in a specific row length.

Ag PhD Harvest Loss Calculator – This app allows farmers to estimate yield loss before and during harvest by recording the

number of individual corn, soybean, wheat, sorghum, barley or oat seeds found on the ground in a square foot. With this information, the app calculates the number of bushels farmers have lost per acre.

Growing Degree Days app – This app measures the maturity of crops by viewing current and past “growing degree days” data at a farm’s location. Growing degree days are a measure of heat accumulation used in agriculture to predict the date that crops will reach maturity.

Other apps
TankMix app – By DuPont, this app lets you quickly and easily calculate how much product and water you need for effective applications based on your acreage or spray tank size.

The Manure Valuator – Developed by the University of Arkansas, this app provides assistance in valuing the nutrient content of manure.

Corn In Rate Calculator – Developed by the University of Wisconsin, this app is designed to help producers select a nitrogen rate that improves profitability when “N” and corn prices fluctuate.

SpraySelect app – From TeeJet Technologies, this app allows farmers to quickly and easily choose the proper tip or nozzle for your application.

ConnectedFarm Scout app – This is useful for preparing maps, scouting and geo-positioning points within your field.

eCropScout – This easy-to-use app allows farmers, agronomists and agricultural professionals to save all their information: field scouting, insect and disease scouting, chemical applications, fertilizer/manure applications, planting data and harvesting data.

YieldCheck – This provides growers with a simple way to calculate and store corn-yield estimates. Users can organize estimates based on client, farm and field, as well as see the location of all estimates on a map with satellite imagery. Also, growers can use the field-report feature to see just how much of a difference one additional ear per acre can mean to their operation.

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AUCTION CALENDAR
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 — 1:00 PM
+/- 197.9 ACRE COWLEY CO. FARM
AUCTION HELD ONSITE:
O 11TH ROAD — UDALL KANSAS

This farm is located approximately 7 miles East of Mulvane, 1 1/2 mile North of K-15 or 8 miles South of Rose Hill on the blacktop in Section 19-30S-3E, Cowley County, KS. The land is rolling cropland seeded to brome. It is terraced fenced and cross-fenced. There is excellent fencing on 95% of the perimeter; it has 5 barb wires & steel T-posts, steel corners & gates. Cross fencing is the same w/pipe corners. The property is fenced and cross-fenced from the center out to make up 4 pastures. At the center is a 16'x65' cattle barn, corrals, pond & water well. The farm has not been hayed, grazed or farmed since July of 2011. The land could be grazed, broke out and farmed or developed for homes. The land on all sides is hi-producing cropland. There are no leases, giving immediate possession at closing.

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December 9 — 155 m/l acres Shawnee County held at Rossville. Auctioneers: Farmers National Company.

December 10 — Tractors, combines, trucks, trailers, farm equipment of all kinds, lawn & garden & more online at (www.bigiron.com). Auctioneers: Stock Auction Co.

December 11 — 275 acres Riley County, Tuttle Creek area (hunting, fishing, 3 ponds, ranch style house, building site) held at Manhattan for Jane Laman Trust. Auctioneers: Pearl Real Estate & Appraisal Service, Inc.

December 11 — +/- 197.9 Acres Cowley Co. Farm Real Estate at Udall for Lila Johnson. Auctioneers: Chuck Korte Real Estate and Auction Service.

December 12 — Tractors, combiners, platforms & cornheads, sprayers, hay & forage, tillage, planters, grain handling, rotary cutters, lawn mowers & Gators, skid steer & more at Marshall, Missouri for Ag-Power inventory reduction. Auctioneers: Wheeler Auction & Real Estate.

December 12 — 238 +/- acres Butler County land (grassland, pond, small shed, tillable cropland) held at Douglass. Auctioneers: Farmers National Company.

December 13 — Antique furniture, glassware, crocks, vases, guns, vehicle at Abilene for Marty Foreman. Auctioneers: Ron Shivers Realty & Auction.

December 13 — Craftsman tool boxes, Craftsman tools, socket sets, wood saws, wheel balancing machine, jacks, air compressors, riding lawn mower, furniture, glassware, truck & much more at Manhattan for Estates of Bud Umscheid & Bob Barr. Auctioneers: Jeff Ruckert.

December 13 — Pickup, au-

tomobile, riding mower, snow blower, bicycles, household, collectibles, coins & misc. for Albert & Hilda Schuster Estate; guns, Ertl toy collection, snow blower & tools, collectibles & misc. for Willard Lenner's Estate at Beatrice, Nebraska. Auctioneers: Jurgens, Heinrichs, Hardin.

December 13 — 160 acres m/l of Western Atchison County creek bottom farmland held at Effingham for Eric Featherston. Auctioneers: Cline Real & Auction, LLC.

December 13 — Signs & collectibles at Concordia for Gene Lahodny Estate. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

December 13 — Glassware, collectibles, furniture & misc. household, 1996 Crown Vic car & more at Council Grove for Olive M. Schoof. Auctioneers: Macy Realty & Auction.

December 13 — Real estate (pasture near Topeka; native grass, springs, timber, metal barns, utilities) held at Topeka. Auctioneers: Bill Fair & Company, Inc.

December 13 — Machinery, equipment, tools, household, collectibles, etc. at Topeka for Leonard & Laura Walker. Auctioneers: Wischropp Auctions.

December 13 — Tractor, loader, equipment, 4 wheeler, trailer, tools, etc at Garnett for Don and Pat Penson. Auctioneers: Buddy Griffin Auctions.

December 13 — Antiques, collectibles, furniture, toys & miscellaneous at Abilene for Marty Foreman. Auctioneers: Ron Shivers Realty and Auction.

December 13 — Real Estate; automotive parts, cars, etc at Leon for John Powe Estate. Auctioneers: Chuck Korte Real Estate and Auction Service.

December 14 — Riding mower, pickup, guns, ammo, supplies, boat, motor, trailer, fishing supplies, tools, household & misc. East of Beatrice, Nebraska for Mark J. Jurgens Estate. Auctioneers: Jurgens, Heinrichs, Hardin.

December 17 — Tractors, combines, trucks, trailers, farm equipment of all kinds, lawn & garden & more online at (www.bigiron.com). Auctioneers: Stock Auction Co.

December 18 — 225 +/- acres Sumner County (tillable, CRP, pasture w/pond) held at Wellington for Neville Farms, LLC. Auctioneers: Theurer Auction & Realty.

December 20 — Tractors, Telehandlers, farm equipment, trucks, pickups,

trailers, Antique Tractor, 4 wheelers, mowers, shop equipment, & tools at Lewis for Butch's Hay Service. Auctioneers: Carr Auction & Real Estate.

December 22 — 214.90 acres in Coffey County (sold in 2 tracts, cropland, native grass & other mixed grasses) held at Burlington for Wanda Chambers Rev. Trust (ESB Financial Trustee formerly known as King property). Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction Service, LC.

January 1, 2015 — Harley Gerdes 30th annual New Years Day Consignment Auction at Lyndon.

January 26 — 275 ac. Osborne County cropland & pasture at Alton. Auctioneers: Hill Realty.

February 24 — Hereford & Angus Bulls & Females at Manhattan for Mill Creek Ranch "Brand that Works" Production Sale.

March 2 — 27th annual Superior Genetics Angus bull sale at the ranch South of Manhattan for Lyons Ranch.

March 5 — Bull sale at Courtland for Jensen Brother Herefords.

March 7 — 37th Gelbvieh Balancer Red Angus bull sale at Pomona for Judd Ranch.

March 14 — 29th Annual Concordia Optimist Club Consignment auction held at Concordia.

March 14 — Bull & female sale at Maple Hill for Mill Brae Ranch.

AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 — 10:00 AM
Auction will be held in the National Guard Armory at the South edge of **CONCORDIA, KANSAS**

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hats; Fordson tool box & radiator; Allis chain saws; Allis Chalmers refrigerator; sev. 100s manuals, brochures, Allis advertising; Microfilm & machine; 50s boys bike w/gas tank; Phillips 2 1/2 gal; 5 gal cans; red globe lantern; Winchester flashlight; 2 brass grain probes; Agenda nail apron.

See last week's Grass & Grain for listings & Check our website for pictures www.thummelauction.com

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AUCTION CALENDAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 — 10:00 AM
991 SE 137TH TERRACE — LEON, KANSAS

From Augusta: 5 mi E on Hwy. 400, 3.5 mi. S on Haverhill, to 140th, 3.2 mi. E. +/- 5 ac Suburban w/4 bdrm, 1 1/2 story hm; 30x45 heated Wick bldg., secluded, w/great view along creek. **Classic Cars inc.:** 1955 Chevy 4 door, no title, 3 speed manual, floor shift, runs good; 2002 Ford F-150 XLT ext. cab, 130K, V-8; 1965 Chevy Bel Air, 4 door, auto, 283 CU; 1953 Chevy Coupe, 6 cyl., manual; 1950 Chevy Coupe, 6 cyl., manual; 1950 Ford, 4 dr., flathead; 1964 Chevy Impala, 4 door, hard top, not running, excellent dash; Timpote semi van trailer, 44 ft. **Car parts inc.:** 3 Chevy small block engines; 1 Chevy big block; 1 Chevy 6 cyl., believed to be 1950's 265 CU; Chevelle parts & 3 hoods for 1969 to 1972 series. **Lawn Equipment inc.:** Husqvarna lawn tractor. **Tools & other inc.:** AC Delco engine hoist; engine stand; Campbell Hausfeld air compressor; Kuker power sprayer w/ Briggs. **Antiques & Furniture inc.:** over 25 oil lamps ranging in sizes from 4"-18". **40-50 Collectible Model Cars inc.:** 1961 Corvette conv.-Ertl, 1962 Chevy Bel Air- Maisto, 1957 Corvette- Road Tough, 1953 Chevy pickup- Die cast, 1955 Bel Air-Ertl., 1958 Chevy Impala- Motor Max, 1966 Chevy Chevelle SS 396; Dale Earnhardt & NASCAR collection; **old collectible coins inc. silver dollars & others & More.**

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TR 1: E/2 NW/4 Sec 13-T32S-R1E: 72+/- ac, all tillable
TR 2: E/2 SW/4 Sec 11-T32S-R1E - 78+/- ac tillable, 5+/- ac CRP
TR 3: S/2 SE/4 Sec 6-T32-R2E - 50+/- ac tillable, 23+/- ac pasture w/pond

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TUTTLE CREEK AREA - RILEY COUNTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 — 7:00 PM
Pottorf Hall, Clover Room, Riley County Fair Grounds — CiCo Park — MANHATTAN, KANSAS
Property located at: 4670 Harbour Hills Drive, Manhattan, KS

275 Acres with all-weather paved roads of pristine unbroken Native grass prairie that will be preserved for generations to come with Conservation Easements through the USDA and Kansas Land Trust. This property offers hill top views of Tuttle Creek and deep tree lined draws with mostly hardwoods and five ponds that provide water for livestock and wildlife. Mill Cove Drive, an all-weather paved road, separates the land into two pastures for grazing. The conservation easements will allow the current home site with 5.3 acres plus a 2nd home site of 3 acres from W 59th Ave. This sale includes a Ranch style 2 bedroom home that needs work, built in 1973 with 912 sq. ft., 2 car attached garage, full basement that could be used for a weekend cabin. There are 14 covered fenced dog kennels with concrete floors and related buildings.

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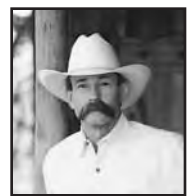
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ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Try Me, A Rodeo Story

When Marvin Garrett nodded his head, no one knew that eight seconds later the Thomas and Mack Arena would be covered with goosebumps.

Marvin drew "Try Me" in the fourth round at the National Finals Rodeo 1989. He marked her out and hung the steel to 'er like the rods on a Union Pacific driver! "Try Me" jumped the track! She slid, slipped and rolled around inside her skin! She punched holes in the arena dirt!

Somewhere in the last two seconds Marvin reached his limit. Everything in his firebox... experience, intuition, talent and training were at full throttle and blowin' blue smoke! It was then, over the din of 15,000 rabid fans, Marvin reached down inside himself, I heard him whisper, "Yer mine..."

The hair stood up on the back of my neck. The buckin' horse went down! From where I sat sixty rows up it looked like Marvin's shoulders actually hit the ground! His legs pistoned. The horse exploded. She climbed out of that hold with Marvin stuck to 'er like a remora on a shark's belly.

I don't believe you could 'a cut Marvin loose with an acetylene torch.

The whistle blew. The crowd went wild! Marvin tipped his hat. But if you'd touched him at that moment it would 'a been like layin' your hand on an electric motor. He was hummin'!

Kansas State Board of Agriculture meeting to be held December 17

The Kansas Department of Agriculture's (KDA) Board of Agriculture will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 17, in Manhattan. The meeting will be held at agency headquarters 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan.

The meeting is open to the public. Individuals who have questions about the meeting should contact KDA assistant secretary Jake Worcester at Jake.Worcester@kda.ks.gov.

Persons who require special accommodations must make their needs known at least two days prior to the meeting.

Marvin had ridden "Try Me" with all he had left... will. Will, want-to, gumption, grit, whatever it is that allows housewives to lift cars off babies and Samsons to pull down temples.

The crowd waited nervously for the score to be posted. We were nervous because of a loose brick in the façade of rodeo rules which says: hard-to-ride horses don't always score the best. Most of us in the arena that night would have been disgruntled but not surprised if Marvin's ride had scored out of the money. Style often counts more than difficulty.

But rodeo is not like making a centerpiece out of angel hair and glitter. We're talkin' about a horse that can buck you off and a cowboy that claims she can't. That's how rodeo began and that night at the National Finals the judges didn't forget it.

Marvin and his pardner "Try Me" scored an 82... good for top money in the go-round. They deserved it.

As harvest ends, NASS switches to monthly reports

For the week ending November 30, 2014, temperatures averaged four to six degrees below normal across the eastern half of the state, while the west remained near normal, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Activities included harvesting remaining row crops and moving cattle to crop residue. There were 6.6 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture

rated 13 percent very short, 33 percent short, 54 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture rated 16 percent very short, 32 percent short, 52 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus.

This is the last weekly Crop Progress and Condition report for the 2014 growing season. We would like to extend our appreciation to the dedicated county FSA and Extension staff

who supplied the necessary information for these reports. For December through February, we will issue monthly reports. The first monthly report (December) will be issued January 5, 2015. Weekly reports will begin March 2nd for the 2015 season.

Field Crops Report: Sorghum harvested was 95 percent.

Sunflowers harvested was at 92 percent.

Cotton conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 5 poor, 34 fair, 55 good, and 5 excellent. Cotton harvested was 65 percent.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions rated 8 percent very poor, 16 poor, 43 fair, 31 good, and 2 excellent.

Stock water supplies rated 8 percent very short, 21 short, 71 adequate, and 0 surplus.

China signs agreement to import Argentine sorghum

China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) signed an agreement with the Argentine minister of agriculture Nov. 24, 2014, indicating China will begin importing sorghum from an approved list of Argentine companies.

The agreement included the inspection and quarantine requirements for imported sorghum from Argentina as well as a published list of 25 registered Argentine companies allowed to export sorghum to China. While no start date for the agreement is specified, it appears as though it will begin immediately.

"Argentina's supply alone cannot meet the growing needs of China's

sorghum demand," Sorghum Checkoff executive director Florentino Lopez said. "Efforts by the Sorghum Checkoff and the U.S. Grains Council have helped U.S. sorghum become a valued feed ingredient and will assure U.S. sorghum remains so into the future."

Lopez said an increase in world sorghum demand helps promote sorghum in general, and Argentina exports will help competition of U.S. sorghum in other markets both domestically and internationally.

"This can be a turning point for U.S. sorghum," Lopez said. "China's demand and potential price shifts will help increase overall demand for sorghum and industry growth while

also allowing the checkoff to share more information about U.S. sorghum."

According to a recent report from the Foreign Agricultural Service, China imported 569 million bushels of coarse grains last marketing year. Of the total bushels, 169 million were reported as U.S. sorghum.

Sorghum appears to be in even stronger demand this marketing year, which began Sept. 1, 2014. In fact, the most recent FAS export sales report indicated sorghum sales have surpassed 166 million bushels, of which China represents 84 percent of the total commitments. The Nov. 28, 2014, reporting period signified a marketing year high for sorghum, with commitments

for the week reaching 18 million bushels.

If China continues to increase the amount of sorghum they buy, Lopez said it will reduce their dependency on other coarse grains. He said with China's current policies against unapproved traits, sorghum should benefit due to its non-transgenic qualities.



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