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## Ready for work on the farm



Katie Fehr, Emporia, was the winner of the Boomer 24 tractor given away by KanEquip in Wamego at their Open House. Presenting the keys to Katie is Jerry Schippers of New Holland. Also pictured is Jeff Hoffman, sales, and store manager Mark Besthorn. Fehr works on the family farm with her uncle, father and brother, and lives in her grandmother's farm house. She got a loader and belly mower for the tractor and plans to use it to help with yard work, among other chores around the farm. She says she was utterly surprised and in shock to have won the tractor.

*Courtesy photo*

## USDA trade mission spurs record ethanol exports to China

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced a significant jump in ethanol exports to China in 2015, following a USDA-led trade mission to the country the previous. Representatives from nine state departments of agriculture and 28 U.S. companies, including renewable fuels businesses, traveled to northeast China to explore opportunities for trade in the region.

China is the largest market for U.S. food and farm products – U.S. agricultural exports to the country tripled over the last decade, now ac-

counting for nearly 20 percent of all foreign sales of U.S. agricultural products.

“Our objective for every trade mission is to create new markets for farm products made in rural America,” said USDA Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Michael Scuse, who led the mission. “U.S. ethanol exports to China have jumped from \$8 million to more than \$86 million since our May 2014 visit. In October, we exported more ethanol to China than in the previous ten years combined.”

Scuse led the delegation to promote U.S. agriculture, and explore the role that renewable fuels might play in China’s long-term clean energy strategy. The delegation met with gasoline companies, fuel blenders, oil companies, commodity traders, and government officials to promote the benefits of using higher ethanol blends. During October, the U.S. exported 32.5 million gallons of ethanol to China, valued at \$57 million, or 46 percent of total U.S. ethanol exports for the month. Previous U.S. exports of ethanol to China averaged less than \$3 million annually from 2005 to 2014.

Earlier in 2015, USDA partnered with 21 states through the Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership (BIP) to nearly double the number

of fueling pumps nationwide, expanding the ethanol refueling infrastructure by nearly 5,000 pumps, a \$210 million investment that will give consumers access to clean, American-made biofuels, and provide more choices at the pump.

“These are the kind of initiatives that strengthen our rural communities, and open new doors and help our farmers and ranchers capitalize on the tremendous export potential for American agricultural products,” said Scuse.

The past seven years have represented the strongest period for American agricultural exports in the history of our country, with U.S. agricultural product exports totaling \$911.3 billion between Fiscal Years 2009 and 2015. In fiscal year 2015, American farmers and ranchers exported \$139.7 billion of food and agricultural goods to consumers worldwide. Not only that, U.S. agricultural exports supported more than one million American jobs both on and off the farm, a substantial part of the estimated 11.7 million jobs supported by exports all across our country. Record agricultural productivity and exports are one example of how USDA has helped to bring transformative change to Americans living, working and raising families in rural America.

## Sorghum Checkoff Board invests \$6.198 million in industry

The United Sorghum Checkoff Program board of directors invested \$6.198 million, the largest investment made by the board since its establishment, to fund proposals targeted at furthering sorghum growers’ productivity and demand. The commitment, which was approved during the Dec. 9 board meeting, concludes the request for proposals that began July 2015.

The Sorghum Checkoff board, external committee members and staff dedicated the past several months to reviewing proposals in a two-part process within crop improvement, high value markets and renewables. A total of 114 pre-proposals were received and 37 full proposals were requested.

“This culminates the board’s efforts in requesting, reviewing and establishing funding for projects intended to assist the sorghum industry and more importantly, the sorghum farmer,” said Sorghum Checkoff Executive Director Florentino Lopez.

Lopez said the board continues to emphasize its commitment to funding projects that will support increases in field-level productivity as well as market-level demand and value enhancements, which continue to be seen as a valuable means of increasing opportunities for farmer profitability.

The board of directors made a final decision on 30

projects through the RFP process to address key priorities for the sorghum industry. The following includes approved projects, principal investigators and funding allotment:

Todd Gaines of Colorado State University was funded \$150,000 to develop new over-the-top grass herbicide resistance traits in sorghum using mutagenesis.

Anita Dille of Kansas State University was funded \$160,000 to evaluate ecology of grass weeds in grain sorghum including critical period weed control.

Mithila Jugulam of Kansas State University was funded \$30,000 to evaluate sorghum germplasm for herbicide tolerance.

The Connect Group, Casandre Pallas and The Door were funded \$175,000 to reinforce the momentum created within the food and chef communities to help solidify sorghum messaging, increase marketplace knowledge and consumption to open distribution channels and food sales.

Patricia Alemdar from Nature2Kitchen was funded \$100,000 for promotion of food grade sorghum within farmers’ markets, festivals and shows.

Allison Talley with Ingenuity Worldwide was funded \$100,000 to analyze energy and cost effective pretreatment methods using a rotary compression dryer to increase starch digestibility,

grain efficiency, porosity and total lipid uptake of feed grains.

Kun-Jun Han of Louisiana State University was funded \$68,000 to explore the opportunity of maximizing sorghum grain prebiotics production.

Sajid Alavi of Kansas State University was funded \$150,000 to examine sustainability, oxidative stress mitigation and sensory characteristics of sorghum-based canine diets designed for the international market.

Kenny Xie of International Chemistry Testing LLC was funded \$20,000 to develop sorghum as a functional ingredient and nutraceutical for health promotion and disease prevention.

Fang Zhou of BioResource International was funded \$79,403 to increase the use of grain sorghum in the Mid-Atlantic by reducing anti-nutritional compounds with novel enzyme applications in feed for pigs.

Donghai Wang of Kansas State University was funded \$180,000 to evaluate the potential of pedigree sorghum mutants for biofuel production.

Kansas State University was funded \$2 million to be leveraged with the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission and KSU to implement the Kansas Improvement Program.

The U.S. Grains Council was funded \$127,000 for

*Continued on page 3*

## Still advocating for ag



The Peterson Farm Bros, Greg, Nathan and Kendal, gave two live performances at Nelson’s Landing in Leonardville on Monday, December 28. The event was sponsored by the Alert Covenant Church. Since releasing their first YouTube video in June, 2012, a parody called *I’m Farmin’ and I Grow It* that received five million views within a week, the brothers have traveled all over the United States and several foreign countries spreading the message of agriculture. They have released several more parody videos and speaking engagements have become almost a full-time job for Greg, along with farming alongside his parents. The brothers also share the testimony of their faith with their audiences, relating their belief that God’s hand was on their video projects from the start and they are simply going where He leads.

*Photo by Donna Sullivan*



## Agriculture is up to the task

By John Schlageck,  
Kansas Farm Bureau

The end of agriculture in America is near. American agriculture will soon lose its competitive edge.

The high costs of producing food in America, compared with the costs in other countries, are pushing American producers out of business as competitors around the world develop enough to serve the same markets. Overseas producers with lower input costs will increasingly be able to undersell American producers.

Critics of American agriculture contend that crop yields will not keep up with

population growth. Some predict by the year 2050, arable American farmland will decrease by nearly 200 million acres.

They also say water will become scarcer for agriculture, forcing a shift of farming to regions where rainfall is plentiful. Marginal rainfall regions like the western half of Kansas, eastern Colorado and the panhandles of Oklahoma and Texas may be destined to revert back to grassland.

Should this happen, the United States will cease to be a food exporter. Our new diet will contain less meat and dairy products, more grains and beans and a

sparser variety of vegetables.

Are these startling new revelations or are they predictions of those totally out of touch with the business of farming and ranching?

It is hard for farmers and ranchers to stomach such predictions, especially at this point in history when American agriculture remains the envy of the world.

There is no doubt agriculture, like the rest of the U.S. economy, will continue to face challenges. True, this country is already impacted by higher input costs, dwindling avenues of trade and the constant wrath of Mother Nature.

In spite of these challenges, farmers and ranchers remain dedicated to staying on the land and continuing in their chosen vocation. They, better than anyone, understand the land they depend on for their livelihood is finite.

Care for this critical re-

source continues to improve. Today's farmers are increasing their organic matter in the soil. With the continuing practice of no-till and reduced tillage farming, farmers continue to build organic matter and improve the soil tilth. There is no reason to consider this practice will be discontinued.

New and improved crop varieties are continually coming down the pike. Production practices continue to evolve and improve.

As for the question of scarce water, this is always a major concern in farm and ranch country. Producers constantly chart rainfall amounts and monitor weather conditions. In Kansas, farmers are aware of changes in the Ogallala Aquifer.

They are tuned into water and the conservation of this vital resource. Some, especially in the western half of the state are con-

cerned about the potential of long-term climate change. If such a phenomenon should occur, there is the possibility Kansas could become more arid – more like New Mexico, for example.

Barring a major shift in our climate, crops will continue to be planted in western Kansas. Production could be less than now, but this land will be farmed and farmed wisely.

Without question, today's crop of agricultural detractors raise some interesting possibilities. But American agriculture is up to the task. This country has the minds, machinery and dedication to continue producing for people around the globe.

*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.*

## RANGE magazine photo contest announced

Entries are being accepted for RANGE magazine's annual photo competition, Outback Roundup 2016. Deadline for submissions is Feb. 19. RANGE is an award-winning publication devoted to issues that affect America's food producers and is the recipient of three consecutive Freedom of the Press awards.

Interested photographers can size up the 2015 competition by visiting [www.rangemagazine.com](http://www.rangemagazine.com). A digital version of the winners can be found in the Summer and Fall 2015 issues, and Winter 2016. Look for entry blanks for Outback Roundup 2016 in the Winter issue or online at [www.rangemagazine.com](http://www.rangemagazine.com). Click on "Win Fame, Glory and Money."

In 2015, competition among photographers was stiff. There were entries from 19 states and close to 400 photos. Winners not only receive cash, recognition in the magazine, on the website and Facebook, but are also eligible for RANGE's Real Buckaroo Calendar or for other special projects, for which photographers can be compensated, again. It's definitely a win-win.

Cash prizes are: Best of Show, \$216; first place, \$175; second place, \$150; third place, \$125; and merit awards, \$50. Winners will be announced and displayed at the photo symposium, "Shooting the West," in Winnemucca, Nev., in late April, and will be showcased in the magazine. (You need not be present to win.)

For information on rules, entry fees, and technical information, visit [www.range magazine.com](http://www.range magazine.com). It is important to remember that Outback Roundup is an all-digital contest.



Here we are standing right on the starting line of a new year. I don't know about you but I feel like one of those skiers at the gate of the giant slalom. It is that moment when nothing has happened yet but in a flash the flags (or months) will be flying by. Then all of the sudden, just as quickly as it started, you are standing at the bottom looking back at another year.

What will 2016 bring? I have no idea. If I knew what was going to happen I would be buying contracts on the commodity markets, buying shares on Wall Street and heading to Las Vegas to place bets on the winners of the World Series and Super Bowl. Then the farm could be a tax write-off. Well, maybe not, because I would know what to plant, when to plant it and how to market it.

In any case, 2016 is a mystery to all of us. There are long-range predictions on the weather. I have not picked up a copy of the *Farmer's Almanac* but I intend to at some point. I find their predictions just as insightful and accurate as any. It always puzzles me why we put so much into long range forecasts when our weathermen can't even get it right 24 hours out. I am glad they whiffed on winter storm Goliath especially when they were so sure we would get lots of snow. I guess I better keep that in mind when they miss the other way on the next storm.

Weather is such a mystery and always the unknown factor or risk to those of us in agriculture. We start into each year with the hope that the weather will be favorable and we deal with what we get. I am not sure at all what to expect other than here in Kansas we often live with the extremes and our average weather is only the spot in between those extremes. As my wise old father says, "You can't do anything about the weather, so why worry about it?"

I used to think the weather was the most unpredictable thing we dealt with in agriculture and it used to be. However, I am now convinced that the commodity markets are the most unpredictable thing we deal with. My bachelor's degree is in agri-

cultural economics and I have a lot of course work with commodity markets. I was sure that I would bring home what I learned in college and teach Dad a thing or two. Instead I learned that experience is far more important than anything you learn out of a textbook.

Youthful exuberance led me to believe that all markets ran in cycles and therefore could be explained. I am not sure that was ever true but I am absolutely sure that is not true in this day and age. Weather patterns may be extreme but they pale in comparison with the commodity markets. Maybe the best evidence of this is that weather is a part of what goes into the prices of grains and livestock.

So now I have told you everything that you already know, weather and markets are unpredictable and we have no idea what they will bring in 2016. At this rate I will qualify to be a weatherman or a market analyst. The weather will have periods of cold, mostly in the winter, and periods of heat, mostly in the summer. Precipitation will be heavy at times and sparse at other times. We will have snow and it will be less than average or more than average or somewhere in between.

The markets will be favorable for some and not so much for others. Prices will rise and fall and we will have no idea why. No matter how high the prices get they will not be good enough for some sellers and not matter how much they drop they will never be cheap enough for some buyers. I don't know what to expect but I do know that if you are consistent with your predictions, you will eventually be right.

No, I have no idea what 2016 will bring for me or my farm and I think that is a good thing. Life is unpredictable and we can both deal with that unpredictability and adapt to it or we can worry and be miserable. I think the biggest key for all of us is to take each day as it comes and be grateful that we are here to see it. Now, let's push away from the gate and watch the months whiz by. See you in January.

## COWPOKES® By Ace Reid



"Golly, the temperature's droppin' so fast it's pullin' the thermometer off the wall!"



"DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT THIS STORM!... IF IT WAS NICE WEATHER ALL THEM BANKERS AND INSURANCE MEN WOULD BE OUT HERE WANTIN' TO BE COWBOYS..."

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# The International Year of Soils: Soils, Culture and People

**By Katie Allen**

A look at various types of soils together creates a color palette that alone serves as a work of art. A-horizon soil, or topsoil, comes in a variety of hues and shades, even in Kansas.

Gary Pierzynski, university distinguished professor and head of Kansas State University's Department of Agronomy, said soil color is often determined by the addition or removal of some component.

Dark soils typically indicate the addition of organic matter that absorbs light, he said. Red soils mean the prevalence of iron. White soils that are often sandy in nature likely mean some of the color-inducing elements have been removed.

All soil types have different colors and different levels of productivity, Pierzynski said. People might recognize soil as an essential component for life to exist, as it allows for food production, but they might not realize the relation between soils and culture.

"The quality of the soil influences productivity, or the amount of life that does exist," Pierzynski said. "Productive soils allow us to sustain the population of life that we have, not only humans but all organisms in the environment."

"Culturally, a lot of people might not think about soil's relation," he continued. "Soil can be used as an art medium and also provides for a lot of the recreational activities, which can be anything from outdoor activities on various sports fields to the national park

system and the enjoyment we get from it."

"Soils, Culture and People" is the December theme of the 2015 International Year of Soils, which has brought awareness to people around the world about the importance of soil in their everyday lives.

## Soil in art

While it's difficult to document how long soils have been used in art by various cultures, soils have been used in all types of art forms throughout history. Different soil colors can be used to produce paints, dyes and inks. In addition, the mineral component of soils is categorized by the size of the particles, sand being the largest size and clay being the smallest. Sand can be used to create glass, while clays can be used to make ceramics.

"The American Indians had known deposits (of clay) they would go to," said Michel Ransom, professor of soil classification and mineralogy at K-State. "This is dominantly clay that is of the mineral kaolinite, and they used it to make pottery. In our artwork now, typical pottery is made of special kinds of clays that have been processed, molded and heated."

Amy Santoferraro, assistant professor of art and area coordinator of ceramics at K-State, said a hierarchy of clays exists. Throughout history, artists typically used clays based on their geography and accessibility. Today, artists can easily access and use clays from around the world.

While teaching, Santofer-

raro said she encourages students to find the clay that best suits their needs, whether based on color, workability or plasticity.

"It's a difficult material to work with, and it feels a little clumsy at first," Santoferraro said. "But, the longer you work with it, the more you understand and the better you get. It can be rewarding in the end."

## Soil in recreation

In addition to using soils for art, cultures globally rely on different types of soils for recreation, from enjoying their home lawn, to participating in events on athletic fields, to hiking or biking in parks, as examples.

"Soils support recreation, especially in turfgrass systems," said Jared Hoyle, assistant professor and extension turfgrass specialist at K-State. "Sports fields, recreation fields, parks and golf courses are areas where we can have a wide range of soils."

The type of soil, which can range from sandy to more clay in nature, determines the management practices necessary to achieve a high-quality turfgrass, he said.

Like recreation on land, soils also support water recreation.

"Soil has a tremendous impact on recreational water quality," said Dan Devlin, director of the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment and the Kansas Water Resources Institute. "When we think about the things that harm recreation or soil quality, one of those would

be sediment."

When soils from upland areas or riverbanks get into recreational waters, they often come with nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, Devlin said. Improved soil conservation practices improve soil quality, and ultimately lead to less soil erosion and less sedimentation in lakes, rivers and streams.

## Opportunities in soil science

Many opportunities exist for people who are interested in a career in soils, Pierzynski said. Agronomy, engineering, horticulture,

recreation and art are just a few of the fields that involve people working with soils.

Scientists are needed to study soils directly and advise agricultural producers about conservation practices that help protect the soil resource.

Indirectly, he said agronomists work with the soil resource constantly in relation to crop productivity and to make fertilizer and micronutrient application recommendations.

"Currently, there is a strong demand for agronomists, crop consultants and soil scientists in the indus-

try," Pierzynski said, adding that the K-State Department of Agronomy has had a near 100 percent placement rate for graduates in the last decade.

To watch a video interview about "Soils, Culture and People," log on to the K-State Research and Extension YouTube page (<https://youtu.be/evWAdrZMbx4>). The Soil Science Society of America has numerous resources for the public, teachers and children about soil and each monthly theme for the International Year of Soils. Log on to [www.soils.org](http://www.soils.org).

## Sorghum Checkoff invests \$6.198 million

*Continued from page 1*  
grain sorghum promotion within Mexico.

The U.S. Grains Council was funded \$135,000 for grain sorghum promotion within Europe as a consumer food product and as a commodity.

The U.S. Grains Council was funded \$93,000 to conduct a duck feeding trial in China.

The U.S. Grains Council was funded \$35,000 to develop a Japanese promotional booklet.

The U.S. Grains Council was funded \$88,000 to conduct a catfish feeding trial in Vietnam.

The U.S. Grains Council was funded \$80,000 to create a sorghum quality report.

\$300,000 for continued sugarcane aphid management and a support sys-

tem\*

\$100,000 for best management practices for ALS technology\*

\$120,000 for fungicide yield enhancements, effects on yield and ROI\*

\$50,000 for regional development of herbicide guidelines\*

\$25,000 for multiple projects designed to evaluate and inform producers\*

\$1,150,000 for the continuation of the conversion program\*

\$75,000 for an evaluation of lipids, oils and waxes\*

\$75,000 to determine the ability of sorghum DDGS in replacement of soybean meal\*

\$50,000 for ethanol production with and without oil extraction\*

\$350,000 for leveraged investments with DOE\*

\$120,000 for the continuation of the Prairie Aqua Tech project\*

\$13,000 for qualitative consumer research\*

\*Principal investigators and project specifics to be determined

Funding of these proposals is contingent upon approval from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service.

"The Sorghum Checkoff board and staff do a great job allocating sorghum producers' checkoff dollars," said Sorghum Checkoff chairman David Freemark. "Checkoff dollars give farmers the ability to actively remain engaged in research, promotion and education that will benefit producers and the sorghum industry in the future. We are excited about the opportunity presented by these efforts."

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**GRASS & GRAIN**

# Our Daily Bread

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

## Marcile Shippy, Woodbine, Wins Weekly Grass & Grain Contest

Winner Marcile Shippy, Woodbine: "Enjoy this bread when the snow flies!"

### ORANGE BREAD

5 tablespoons butter, softened  
2/3 cup honey  
2 eggs  
2/3 cup flour  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons orange juice (or milk)  
3/4 cup chopped walnuts  
2 1/2 tablespoons orange peel  
Cream butter and honey, add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Mix dry ingredients together, add to batter alternating with orange juice or milk. After all is mixed add nuts and orange peel. Turn into one flat layer pan or 2 small loaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-45 minutes for small loaf pans and 50-60 minutes for larger pan. Lower by 25 degrees if glass.

\*\*\*\*\*

Linda Kepka, Dorrane:  
**FRUIT PIZZA**  
16-ounce package sugar cookie dough  
8 ounces cream cheese, softened  
1/3 cup sugar  
1/2 teaspoons vanilla  
Fruit toppings (e.g., strawberries, blueber-

ries, grapes, pineapple, kiwi, oranges)  
Spread cookie dough onto a 12-inch pizza pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until edges are light brown. Cool completely. Combine cream cheese, sugar and vanilla. Beat until smooth, then spread on

crust. Refrigerate until chilled. Cut fruit to desired size and dry thoroughly on paper towels. Arrange fruit on crust. Keep refrigerated.

\*\*\*\*\*

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:

### FRENCH TOAST

1 stick butter  
1 cup brown sugar  
2 tablespoons corn syrup  
(6) 1-inch thick slices French bread from a wide 1-pound loaf  
5 eggs  
1 1/2 cups half & half  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 teaspoon orange juice  
Powdered sugar for dusting, optional

Melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add brown sugar and corn syrup and stir until sugar is dissolved. Pour into a 9-by-13-inch baking dish and arrange bread slices over it in a single layer. Whisk together eggs and remaining ingredients in a bowl. Pour over bread then chill, covered, 8 hours or overnight. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Remove dish from refrigerator and bring to room temperature. Bake uncovered until puffed and lightly browned, 35-40 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

\*\*\*\*\*

Lucille Wohler, Clay Center: "Ice cream is sure good with this!"

### QUICK APPLE CRISP

6 or 7 apples, peeled & sliced  
Cinnamon  
1/2 cup (scant) water  
3/4 cup sugar  
6 tablespoons butter  
3/4 cup flour

Put apples in a 9-by-9-inch greased baking dish. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Pour water over. Mix sugar, butter, flour and more cinnamon and spread over apples. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 60 minutes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Pat Adams, Beloit:  
**EGGNOG CHEESE PIE WITH BOURBON CREAM**

Crust:  
32 low-fat graham crackers (8 cookie sheets)

2 tablespoons granulated sugar  
1 1/2 tablespoons butter, melted  
1 large egg white  
Cooking spray  
Filling:

1/2 cup plain fat-free yogurt  
1/2 cup (4 ounces) block-style 1/3-less-fat cream cheese, softened  
1/2 cup (4 ounces) block-style fat-free cream cheese, softened  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 large eggs  
1/3 cup granulated sugar  
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
2/3 cup eggnog  
2 large egg whites  
2 tablespoons granulated sugar  
Bourbon Cream:  
3/4 cup frozen fat-free whipped topping, thawed  
2 tablespoons eggnog  
1 teaspoon bourbon  
1/8 teaspoon grated nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. To prepare crust, place crackers in a food processor; process until crumbly. Add 2 tablespoons sugar, butter and 1 egg white; pulse 5 times or just until moist. Press crumb mixture evenly into a 9-inch pie plate coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 minutes; cool on a wire rack for 15 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 325 degrees.

To prepare filling, spoon yogurt onto several layers of heavy-duty paper towels; spread yogurt to 1/2-inch thickness. Cover with additional paper towels; let stand 5 minutes. Scrape into a bowl using a rubber spatula. Place cream cheeses and vanilla in a bowl; beat with mixer at medium speed until smooth. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine sugar, flour and salt, stirring with a whisk. Add sugar mixture to cheese mixture; beat until combined. Add yogurt to cheese mixture; add eggnog. Beat at low speed just until combined. Beat

2 egg whites with a mixer at medium speed until soft peaks form. Add 2 tablespoons sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, beating until stiff peaks form. Gently fold egg whites into the eggnog mixture. Pour filling into prepared crust. Bake at 325 degrees for 40 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool completely on wire rack. Chill overnight.

To prepare bourbon cream, place the whipped topping in a bowl. Gently fold in 2 tablespoons eggnog and bourbon; chill. Top each pie slice with bourbon cream; sprinkle with nutmeg before serving. Yield: 10 servings (serving size: 1 pie slice and about 2 tablespoons bourbon cream).

Kathy Hogue of Topeka/ Alma prepared this yummy bacon addition for their family Christmas.

## Non-Titled Property Division — What is fair?

"That's not fair!" is a statement we sometimes hear from young children, but have you ever heard adults utter those words after a loved one's possessions are divided up? Too often families are torn apart by a sense of "fairness" because being fair is important to most when transferring property.

There are two divisions of property — titled and non-titled. Titled property including homes, cars, boats, etc., are often divided legally through wills. Non-titled property includes all of our personal belongings — dishes, furniture, photographs, collections, family documents, jewelry, guns, tools, pets, etc. and are too often not discussed.

Many families may not understand the importance of the planning for the non-titled property of ourselves and our loved ones. Personal belongings often have special meaning for individuals and family members. Planning to pass on such items — treasured wedding photos, Grandpa's fishing tackle box, or a well-used yellow pie plate — can be challenging, and may lead to family conflict.

Determining what fair means to you and your family is one of the primary factors research has identified to consider in this process. There are many questions to ask when determining what fair means.

- Does fair mean equal? Equal number of items? Equal dollar amount? Or equal in terms of emotional value?
- Who determines the value of an item? Is it measured in emotional terms, dollars or some combination?
- Does contribution over the years count? Who provided care? Gifts?
- Who has the greatest need?
- Should differences be considered? Financial, physical or emotional need? Birth order, marital status or age?
- Is the process fair?
- Was everyone's viewpoint considered?

Different perceptions about what is fair are inevitable and normal. It can be extremely helpful to identify the unwritten rules or assumptions behind what is considered fair to members of your family.

Recognize that there are no right answers. Property owners, not receivers, have the legal right to decide when and how to transfer their non-titled property. However, understanding different perceptions about what is fair can help avoid making assumptions that are not necessarily true. It can be helpful for owners to let others know what rules they are using to decide who gets what and to communicate clearly what process is being used to make decisions. While there are many points of view, communication can help reduce inaccurate assumptions, misunderstandings and unnecessary tensions. Ultimately, family members may be required to respectfully agree to disagree.

If you or your organization would like more information on planning for passing on personal possessions please contact K-State Research and Extension's Wildcat Extension District's Chuckie Hessong, Family and Child Development agent at 620-724-8233, email chuckiehessong@ksu.edu or see our website at wildcatdistrict.ksu.edu

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mas brunch at the ranch. Her good friend Jeri Mahon, now in Heaven, served it every year at a holiday breakfast for all her friends. May you all enjoy this treasured recipe.

### BROWN SUGARED

#### BACON

Jeri Mahon

1/2 cup brown sugar, packed

1 teaspoon cinnamon

8 slices thick-sliced bacon

Combine sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Cut bacon slices in half. Dip each piece into the mixture to coat. Twist each piece and arrange on an aluminum foil lined broiler pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes, until bacon is crisp and sugar is bubbly. Place bacon on aluminum foil to cool. Makes 16 pieces.

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## Keeping healthy New Year's resolutions

By Martha Murphy  
Wildcat District Extension Agent  
Pittsburg EFNEP office

Each year when January 1 rolls around, about one in three Americans makes a New Year's resolution that includes something about healthier living. A recent study showed that about 75 percent of people stick to their resolution for one week, but that number drops below 50 percent within six months. Many times that downturn is due to people making their goals too difficult, and not looking at short term progress. This year, let's resolve to make realistic goals and stick with them all year.

### Tips to Help You to Keep Your New Year's Resolutions

- Don't make too many resolutions. Pick a realistic, attainable goal with a reasonable time frame.

- Choose your own resolution. Make sure your goal is something that you want to accomplish for yourself and not just for friends or family.

- Make a plan and write it down. Plan what you'd like to accomplish in a certain period of time, like three months. Achieving small goals over time gives you a sense of accomplishment and motivation to keep going. Writing your goals down is a good way to keep track of your progress.

- Involve friends and family. They can support your efforts, and can motivate you to keep going.

- If you get off track, forgive yourself. Review your plan and make adjustments.

- Congratulate yourself. Reward yourself when your intermediate goals or resolutions are met.

### Goals to help you on your way to a healthy and nutritious 2016

- Eat more fruits and vegetables. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommends making half of your plate fruits and vegetables, or about 4.5 cups total a day. Try adding frozen peas or corn to a main dish, or have a fresh salad with dinner. Add more fruit by having an apple as a snack instead of chips.

- Learn to read labels. Many people shop to get the most volume for their dollar, but also think about getting the most nutrient value for your dollar. For example, look for cereals that contain whole grains and less sugar. Also look for items that are lower in sodium. Many canned vegetables and soups now come in reduced sodium options.

- Cut back (or cut out) sugar sweetened beverages. Some beverages contain 10 or more teaspoons of sugar! It may be difficult at first, but start slowly, eliminating

a little at a time. In place of sugary beverages try water with lemon or other citrus, or try a new herbal tea. Cutting the sweetened beverages will help control empty calories and drinking more water will leave your body well hydrated.

- Try growing your own food. If you don't have space or time to manage a whole garden, start with a few small pots on your porch or join a community garden. Tomatoes are easy and produce well. Also try herbs like rosemary and basil that will add flavor to any dish.

- Get more physical activity! There are many ways to do this without joining a gym or making unreachable workout goals. Start by taking a walk during your lunch break a few times a week. Consider starting an office walking group, as it's always easier to get motivated with a group.

For additional information, contact the Wildcat Extension District, Crawford County, 620-724-8233, Labette County, 620-784-5337, Montgomery County, 620-331-2690, Pittsburg Office, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP), 620-232-1930.

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### Spiced Veggies and Beans Quiche

*Quiche is a French word that might as well mean "tasty," but actually means a baked main dish pie that contains eggs and milk. This crustless recipe offers choices for the veggies and spices to use.*

1/2 cup finely chopped onion  
1 cup shredded carrots OR chopped green leafy vegetables of your choice  
2/3 cup cooked pinto OR black beans  
1 1/2 teaspoons curry OR chili powder  
4 eggs  
2/3 cup fat-free milk  
3/4 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Spray a 9-inch round baking pan and a skillet with nonstick cooking spray. Heat oven to 300 degrees. Over medium heat, place the first 4 ingredients into the skillet and cook for 10 minutes, or until onions are softened. Press vegetables into the baking pan. Use a fork to beat eggs and milk in a bowl. Pour the mixture over the vegetables. Bake for 25 minutes. Top with cheese and bake for 15 more minutes, or until firm. Serve hot. Cover and refrigerate, or freeze, leftovers within two hours. Makes 4 servings.

**Nutrition Facts per serving:** 210 calories, 9g fat, 4g saturated fat, 0g trans fat, 200mg cholesterol, 250mg sodium, 16g carbohydrate, 4g dietary fiber and 16g protein. Daily Values: 100% vitamin A, 6% vitamin C, 25% calcium, 10% iron.

Cut back (or cut out) sugar sweetened beverages. Some beverages contain 10 or more teaspoons of sugar! It may be difficult at first, but start slowly, eliminating

## Expert tips on safely preparing, baking and storing treats

MANHATTAN — According to two Kansas State University experts, cookies can and should be enjoyed in moderation. The experts provide tips to prepare, bake and store cookies safely, and offer advice on how people can alter ingredients to make cookie recipes a bit more healthful.

### A more nutritious cookie

Sandy Procter, a nutrition specialist for K-State Research and Extension and a registered dietitian, said while cooking is often considered an art, which means people can "ebb and flow" with measuring to get the taste just right, baking is a science that takes careful measurement and awareness of ingredients to come up with the perfect cookie, cake or other baked product.

Still, substitutions in baking recipes are possible to add fiber to the product, for example, or to make a product contain less fat and calories. A simple way to add fiber is to take out half of the all-purpose flour for which a recipe calls, and replace it with whole-wheat flour, said Karen Blakeslee, a K-State Research and Extension food scientist.

"You may have to add more moisture, because whole-wheat flour tends to dry up the dough a bit," Blakeslee said.

If the recipe calls for a dairy product, Blakeslee said instead of a full-fat product, try a low-fat, or in some cases, a nonfat product. Sometimes, however, nonfat options don't work well, because the recipe needs some fat to work: case in point, frosting.

"If it's a cream cheese frosting, nonfat cream cheese often doesn't work," she said. "It makes a soft frosting that never sets up."

Procter added that cookie recipes can often be adjusted by replacing half of the fat ingredients, such as butter or shortening, with applesauce. Depending on the type of cookie, it can make for a different texture that can be desirable, such as

making the cookie chewier.

What about the add-ins, such as chocolate chips? Instead of milk chocolate chips, use dark chocolate, the experts suggested, which can have a bolder, richer flavor and may require less use in the recipe.

### Dried fruits are an easy addition to a lot of recipes, even if the recipe doesn't call for them,"

Blakeslee said. "Add a dried fruit that complements the other flavors. Replacing some of the chocolate chips with dried fruit, such as dried cranberries, raisins or even dried apricots, just to change it up a bit, adds a different color to the cookie, too."

Oatmeal and other boxed cereals can add crunch to cookies without extra calories, Procter said.

"A crisp rice cereal, for example, can make an interesting texture and stretch out the sweet and fat parts of the dough, so you have a slightly lower-calorie recipe," Procter said.

Blakeslee said for those people who wish to reduce the cholesterol and fat content of their cookies, there is a way to substitute eggs in recipes.

"One egg substitution I've tried with muffins is using one tablespoon of ground flaxseed and three tablespoons of water to rehydrate the flaxseed, and that replaces one egg," Blakeslee said. "You also get the bonus of a healthy fat and a little extra fiber into your product."

### Portion control

If people want to follow the recipe as-is without making substitutions, that's perfectly fine also, Procter said.

"All foods fit in moderation," Procter said. "Enjoy that sugar cookie that melts in your mouth. Maybe it does that because it's not of the ingredients you eat all of the time."

Try not to make a habit out of having the cookies just sitting out to grab at all times, the experts

said. Portion them out, and consider freezing them in plastic freezer bags or containers to eat later as a tactic to lessen the amount of cookies eaten in one day.

If at a party, consider other options to eat with the cookies, Procter said: "Keep portion size under control, and keep the plate 'not totally cookie.' Fill it with other healthful options, such as fruits and vegetables."

### Baking tips and safety

Always wash hands before, during and after baking and cooking, Blakeslee said. Wash utensils as well. When handling raw materials, such as eggs, this is an important step in baking safety and prevents cross-contamination of pathogens that could lead to foodborne illness.

"I don't make many friends when I say this, but we shouldn't be tasting the cookie dough either because of the raw eggs," Blakeslee added. "Raw eggs could contain salmonella. Resist the temptation to taste the dough. Wait until those cookies are done, and enjoy them that way."

When preparing the recipe, measuring correctly is also important. For instance, stir the flour, scoop it into measuring cups and level it off.

"That way, you are measuring your ingredients accurately," Blakeslee said. "If you dip your measuring cup into the flour sack, shake it out and tap it on the table, you're going to have too much flour or maybe not enough flour in some cases."

Preheat the oven at least 30 minutes before baking, the experts recommended, to ensure it completely heats up to the recommended temperature. For most recipes, it's best to start the oven when beginning to mix the ingredients. Also, be sure to place oven racks in the center to bake the cookies properly and with the right amount of air circulation.

Convection ovens bake

faster and hotter than standard ovens, Blakeslee said, so be sure to turn down the temperature dial about 25 degrees Fahrenheit from what the recipe recommends. If using frozen cookie dough, consider turning standard ovens down 25 F from the recipe recommendation, just to allow the dough to bake properly. Realize it could take cookies a couple of minutes longer to bake when using frozen dough.

An oven thermometer could help in adjusting the temperature properly, Blakeslee added. Don't always rely on the oven's external dial.

For cookie sheets, one cookie sheet is not necessarily better than another, but the experts advise bakers to know how cookies work with a particular cookie sheet and oven.

"Dark pans tend to bake a little hotter, and they'll make the bottoms of your cookies a little darker because of that dark surface," Blakeslee said. "Shiny pans tend to reflect heat off of your cookies, so they will be a lighter brown color."

Therefore, for dark and ceramic stone pans that tend to hold more heat, try turning down the oven temperature 25 F. Realize that cookies could spread more quickly in between batches, as these pans don't cool down as quickly.

Procter said using parchment paper on cookie sheets, particularly the dark sheets, not only speeds up the cleaning afterwards, but it also helps the bottoms of cookies look nice and uniform.

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## THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

### Beneath the Sod

The winter of 1872-1873 was unusually cold. Storms blew in quickly, depositing huge banks of wind-blown snow. The winter wonderland encouraged festive celebrations across many communities in Kansas. The *Saline County Journal* of January 9, 1873, noted that, "Such snow banks have never been witnessed here before." Merry parties "hurried up and down the streets behind jingling bells and 'zooted' horses."

At Ellsworth drifts were measured up to sixteen feet deep. Wagon traffic could not move. Sledding was tolerable but sleighs were few in the young prairie town.

Ah, the joy of winter

pleasures! But the embrace of the season could just as easily bring sorrow. For those away from town, caught on the open prairie, winter's cold could be merciless and cruel.

On "Oxhide" Creek, southwest of Fort Harker in Ellsworth County, George Sanday and his two sons were in the process of building a dugout. They had plans to move to their new land in the spring.

The forenoon was mild and the snow melted from the roof. About 2 p.m. it snowed in the peaceful New England style, the snow flakes being large and feathery. About 3 p.m. there was a sudden change. The wind blew furiously in every direction, whirling the snow in clouds; one could not see across the street and several men who had left the nearby town of Ellsworth were forced to return to town, being unable to make it to their homes. The weather was fearful though the thermometer was not below zero. The Saturday eastbound passenger train was forced to halt overnight at Fort Harker.

The storm caught Sanday and his sons unawares. They held up in the dugout until George could stand it no more. Concerned for the safety of his wife, George Sanday left the security of the warm dugout in an attempt to reach his beloved Mary at Fort Harker. The driving storm turned all his surroundings to a white impenetrable curtain. Not surprisingly George became disoriented soon after he left the dugout. In his wanderings he happened onto a neighbor's home but not before his hands and feet were frozen.

Charles, the oldest son, was not so fortunate. Ignoring his father's warning to

stay in the shelter, Charles also left the safety of the dugout to return home, and also became lost in the storm. The wind and snow swirled mercilessly around him until no trace of his path could be seen. When he realized he was in trouble he found that he could no longer retrace his steps. Seeking the only shelter available, Charles dug a hole in the snow and covered himself up.

Through the fury of the terrible winter storm, news of George's ordeal and survival was carried to Mary, but what of the boys? The storm abated on the following day, allowing her to go for her boys. Along the "Oxhide" she found Charles, "...near the new adobe creeping on his hands and knees endeavoring to make his way home."

The boy was taken to the home of Mr. Jewell where his father was also sick in bed. Mr. T. Ferrell described the boy's condition for the *Ellsworth Reporter*:

"His feet have turned black and are very much swollen, the skin has come off from his hands and wrists. His face was also frozen - He lies in a delirium...and it is thought he cannot live but a few days." The *Reporter* continued, "Mr. Ferrell has visited the family and he represents the suffering of the son as indescribable. We who slept safe and warm through the terrible night of January the 4th, can well afford to contribute something to help along the poor family." A postscript announced: "Later - Charles Sanday died at six o'clock Tuesday morning." His father followed him a short time later. They were laid to rest, the father and his son, in a quiet corner of the Ellsworth cemetery. A granite marker stoically gives only the year of birth and death, revealing nothing of the cruel loss buried beneath the prairie sod on The Way West.

"The Cowboy," Jim Gray is author of the book *Desperate Seed: Ellsworth Kansas on the Violent Frontier* and Executive Director of the National Drovers Hall of Fame. Contact Kansas Cowboy, Box 62, Ellsworth, KS 67439. Phone 785-531-2058.

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*"The Cowboy," Jim Gray is author of the book*



Happy New Year, Kansas!! Hope you had a wonderful holiday. Time to get back to some kind of normal, and we have not skipped a beat at *Around Kansas*. Here are a couple of stories that just aired and can be found on our website.

When you just have to arrive quickly, the Kansas Turnpike is a safe, smooth, scenic ride. One of the most popular sites is the Bazaar Cattle Pens, 16 miles southwest of Emporia and 60 miles northeast of Wichita at mile marker 111.

If you take this exit, you will find cattle pens — and a spectacular view of contented cows grazing. You will not find the Chase County township of Bazaar itself, founded in 1857 between Cottonwood Falls and Matfield Green. To get to the real Bazaar, you must venture off the Turnpike but that is a story for another day...

Earlier this month, a groundbreaking was held at the Bazaar Cattle Pens. Plans call for improvements to the popular scenic overlook, just one piece of improvements all along the highway.

Turnpike CEO Steve Hewitt told the *Emporia Gazette* staff that the Kansas Turnpike Authority was increasing public outreach efforts. He said that the agency would like for customers to know that projects are upcoming rather than just finding out about a project as they drive by.

"We want people to know we are in the process of doing projects, not just all of a sudden the project is in their lap," Hewitt said.

Hewitt stressed the importance of keeping the public informed on how their dollars are being spent.

There are a number of ways for KTA customers to receive communication updates regarding travel and upcoming projects. KTA maintains an up-to-date website at [www.kturnpike.com](http://www.kturnpike.com). Website visitors can sign up for KTA alerts sent via email and text message. Additionally, Twitter updates from KTA can be received by following @KansasTurnpike.

If you're traveling more than the Turnpike, my friend Kim Qualls is the KDOT spokesperson for the northeast corner of the

state. Facebook is a great place to keep up with road conditions as not only official notifications are posted, but those of real folks traveling!

\*\*\*\*

Throughout the Christmas season, the music of John Leavitt filled the air, but then, the same could be said of every season. The composer, conductor, pianist, and teacher, was born and raised in Leavenworth. He received his degree in music education from Emporia State, a master's degree in piano & composition from Wichita State, and the Doctorate of Musical Arts, which translates to conducting, from The Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Among his many honors and appointments, was a year spent with Concordia College in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada where he was Director of choral activities and assistant professor of music.

In 2010, Dr. Leavitt was the recipient of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts' *American Masterpieces*, to write a new choral work in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the State of Kansas. His music has been performed in 30 countries across the globe and his recordings have been featured nationally on many public radio stations.

An extraordinary composer, performer, and clinician for church and school music literature, Leavitt continues to teach, lecture, and guest conduct numerous workshops, festivals, and symposia. He serves as a regular guest conductor in major venues throughout the United States including New York's Carnegie Hall and Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He has served as artistic director for the National Capitol Choral Festival in Washington DC and the Chicago Sings Choral Festival. His compositions are represented in nearly every major music catalog in this country.

*Enjoy these and other stories on Around Kansas every Wednesday morning. Deb and Frank Chaffin work hard to bring you stories of interesting people doing some very interesting things! Thanks for watching and sharing and email Deb with ideas: [author.debgoode@kansasturnpike.com](mailto:author.debgoode@kansasturnpike.com).*

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## Her AgriCULTURE Story: Wisdom, Stewardship, Heritage

Food is cultural. So is the way of life that produces it. Women increasingly represent central roles in the agricultural heritage that builds and sustains communities throughout the world. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, women are the principal operators of 6,783 farms in Kansas, and there are 25,611 total women farm operators in the state. A principal operator is termed as the person in charge of the day-to-day decisions for the farm or ranch.

Experience a conference designed for women with a

vested interest in a farm or ranch operation, whether they are owners, partners or beginners just starting in agriculture. Women Managing the Farm focuses on the active roles women play in all aspects of financial and risk management while also addressing the unique dynamics of the agricultural operation and the household. Topics include: production, management, finances, legal, relationships and health.

The 2016 Women Managing the Farm Conference takes place Feb. 4-5 in Manhattan. This year's theme is

women, business managers and women with family in the military.

Pre-conference workshops will also be offered on February 3 and will focus on "Harnessing the Power of Excel," "Amazing Grazing III: How to Handle Cattle...Without Getting Handled" and "Growing Grain Knowledge: Safety from Farm to Plate." Women Managing the Farm conference information, registration and scholarship applications are available at [womenmanagingthefarm.info](http://womenmanagingthefarm.info) or by calling 785-532-5569.

## Students encouraged to use science to solve the "Honey Bee Challenge" in 2016 4-H Ag Innovators Experience

Ten thousand young people throughout the Midwest will participate in the "Honey Bee Challenge," this year's 2016 4-H Ag Innovators Experience activity, which teaches youth, ages 9-15, about the critical role that honey bees play in growing food and feeding the world. The 4-H Ag Innovators Experience (4-H AIE) is a collaboration between the National 4-H Council and Monsanto Company.

The "Honey Bee Challenge" engages youth in connecting honey bees to the foods they eat, as well as learning best management practices and foraging behaviors.

The activity, created by The Ohio State University, also connects kids with ways to contribute to honey bee health in their own communities. Youth in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska and Ohio will have the opportunity to participate in the "Honey Bee Challenge."

Based on the USDA MyPlate model, youth will begin with a "Farm-to-Plate" Honey Bee activity to connect the work of honey bees to the MyPlate food groups. Working in groups, youth will model a colony of worker bees using bristlebot platforms and modeling materials to explore honey

bee habitats in various ecosystems; to understand the important role of honeybees in agriculture and food production; to understand the threats to honey bee habitats and how threats are being addressed; and to identify best practices for preserving and maintaining honey bee habitats. Groups are evaluated on the accuracy of their bee models, efficient use of foraging route materials, collection of pollen and time spent completing.

The 4-H Ag Innovators Experience (4-H AIE) seeks to help youth develop workforce skills and drive innovation using science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). In two years, the program has already engaged nearly 20,000 youth and succeeded in making STEM concepts relevant and fun with activities across select states in the Midwest. "Honey bees help to feed the world's population. One out of every three bites eaten is there because of the work of these pollinators," said National 4-H Council president and CEO Jennifer Sirangelo. "Engaging kids in STEM challenges, like the 4-H Ag Innovators Experience, teaches young people about the importance of pollinators in their own communities. De-

veloping interest and workforce skills in agriculture innovation and agriculture careers is critical as our future belongs to the ingenuity and leadership of young people."

"We're excited about continuing our longstanding partnership with National 4-H Council with the Ag Innovators Experience," said Mark Martino, National 4-H Council board member and Monsanto Company North America Supply Chain Lead.

"With the agriculture industry needing more talented and passionate professionals than ever before, we're happy to help give 4-H members another hands-on opportunity to learn about ag and grow in the industry." The "Honey Bee Challenge" will take place from March-July 2016 at various sites, including traditional 4-H clubs, 4-H camps, school enrichment and 4-H After-school settings. To learn more about the 4-H Ag Innovators Experience, visit [www.4-h.org/about/](http://www.4-h.org/about/) partners/monsanto/.



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Grass &amp; Grain, January 5, 2016

# Open the Sky: Kansas Farmers Union convention focuses on cultivating healthy rural communities

By Tom Parker

When Rosanna Bauman took the stage at the annual Kansas Farmers Union State Convention in Topeka, she wordlessly held up an empty drinking glass and a saucer, placed them before her in a tray and began pouring water into the glass. Within seconds the water spilled over the rim and spread across the bottom of the tray like a rising tide. Despite uneasy laughs from the audience she continued to pour from the pitcher, while behind her a projector screen flashed a single word: Why?

For Bauman, it was less a rhetorical question than a call to action. A young entrepreneur from a family that began farming in 2001 and now operates 18 different enterprises, Bauman is used to asking hard questions and for looking for answers in unlikely places. With a ceaseless curiosity that opens the world to unlimited possibilities and an Anabaptist faith that grounds it in divine strictures, she bridges the gap between Old World farming practices and new industrialized technologies to create a new paradigm for sustainable rural farms and communities whose shared tenet is that the status quo is no longer viable.

The message was not lost on the audience. "Cultivat-

ing Healthy Rural Communities," the theme of this year's convention, reinforced the concept through realistic, manageable and workable solutions that spanned the spectrum of small-scale operators and, as the theme implied, families and communities. It was also a timely message because, as Duane Goossen, senior fellow for the Kansas Center for Economic Growth and former Kansas State Budget Director for 12 years under three governors, said, the state's ongoing budget woes have implications that are sure to impact rural areas.

"We're broke," Goossen said. "We're spending more than we take in year after year and we take money from other things to shore it up. Everything is being downsized and scaled back. It's now called the 'Kansas effect.' As other states explore alternate tax strategies, they ask how they compare to Kansas and take deliberate steps not to do what Kansas has done."

Making matters worse is the toxic political climate in Washington, D.C., where the bipartisan budget agreement of 2015 unveiled nothing less than "an attack on rural America," according to Tom Driscoll, a government relations representative for the National Farmers Union. Between trade

agreements meant to benefit the wealthy, threats of budget sequestration, caps on government spending and congressional resistance, rural producers and communities are being squeezed from all sides.

"I really believe," Goossen said, "that the future of our state hangs in the balance."

And yet, despite all that and more, hope seemed to be in large supply among the speakers and, on the final day of the convention, among a half-dozen farmers, ranchers and dairymen who shared their stories during an all-day bus tour to Tecumseh, Lawrence, Ottawa, Princeton, Garnett and Parker. Driscoll expressed solace in a new incentive bill directed toward young farmers that could forgive student loans, and for a new education program for beginning or transitioning farmers. Both Ron Brown, chairman of the Kansas Farm to Food Task Force, and Kansas Senator Tom Hawk, conveyed hope that the task force could help diversify and strengthen the agricultural economy through the growth of specialty crops, food hubs, farmers' markets and educational opportunities.

"Local food is a growing trend now, but we need more," Brown said. The task force recommends a plan that would make growing, processing and storing locally-grown food more accessible,

as well as a reduction in the state's sales tax on food items. Kansas has the second-highest sales tax on food.

Hawk agreed that the task force has the potential to turn things around. "This is a great economic opportunity," he said. "It's a chance for young people to make a good living running a family business at home."

Ultimately, however, lasting solutions might have to come from communities themselves, said novelist and playwright Robert Gipe. Gipe, director of the Appalachian Program at Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College in Cumberland, Ky., delivered a keynote address that was both hilarious and deeply sobering, and, at first glance, an unusual fit for the convention's theme on rural agriculture. Gipe admitted as much in his opening remarks.

"I come from a part of Kentucky where agriculture is highly regulated," he said, "where it's illegal and mostly marijuana."

For much of Harlan County's existence, coal was the driving economic force. It was dirty, dangerous work, and because of the rural characteristics of the county there was a shortage of health care and an abundance of medicine, much of it funneled toward injured miners. Employment continued to collapse and businesses closed down. But as

bad as it was, the residents of Harlan County hadn't seen anything yet. During 2001 the illegal use of oxycontin and other opioids exploded into an overnight epidemic, and the entire community transformed into something never before seen.

"We're a family-oriented community," Gipe said, "but when prescription drugs came in we suddenly started having a lot of overdose deaths, we started having a lot of drug-related crime, similar to what you'd hear about an inner city when crack or heroin came into the community. Nobody was safe."

A woman who dealt with community issues told him that they had always dealt with drunks, but pill-heads were a different breed. "She said if you found a drunk in the ditch, you'd set him on his feet and point him toward home. These pill-heads, you look them in the eye, you don't see nobody home but the crazy. People didn't know what to do."

Gipe's background in the arts led him to write a grant that would pay for disposable cameras – lots of disposable cameras. The cameras were distributed throughout the county at churches and schools, at boys and girls clubs, anywhere people congregated. The resulting photographic project was a visual census of the community, but more than that, it was a response to what was essentially a cultural crisis.

It was followed by several plays written and performed by residents. Each play was based on community themes colored by drug addiction, poverty and crime, as well as biblical stories such as the prodigal son. And then, in late 2012 and early 2013, the bottom really fell out.

"It was a disaster area," Gipe said. "And it's not coming back. What do we do next?"

While they haven't found any clear-cut answers, the community has grown closer through dialogue – sometimes irrational, sometimes aggressive, sometimes passive, but always continual.

"It's been nice to know that there's 50 or 60 or 70 people in our community that have seen the value of talking with each other," he said. "If I could preach on anything, that's what it

would be, to talk to our young people about things, and say things to each other. And really, the sky doesn't fall. And I think that in some ways the sky is falling anyway, and we don't know what our way out is, but that's what we're trying to figure out, to work together to open the sky up."

There are no easy answers, he said. The theme ran through his story and all the others from Garnett and Parker to Topeka and Washington, D.C., and each had its own unique perplexity and bafflement. Finding solutions will be neither quick nor painless, most speakers stressed, and if they are to come it will be through communities working together, communities talking together, and communities exploring alternative directions together. Gipe's story was another way of asking Bauman's mysterious and wordless why. Why? Because maybe together, rural communities can work hand in hand to open up the sky.

The conference was sponsored by the Kansas Farmers Union and held in downtown Topeka on Dec. 10, 11 and 12. Other guest speakers included freelance journalist Sarah Green on her series, "Telling the Story of Water in Kansas"; Pete Lorenz, a consulting grain marketing expert and senior grain marketing analyst for National Farmers Organization, on marketing opportunities with NFO; EPA Region 7 administrator Mark Hague on regulatory updates on the Clean Water Rule, Clean Power Plan and the Renewable Fuel Standard; and Josh Roe, recipient of a NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant, on the economics of three after-wheat cover-cropping plots in Republic County.

Sponsors for the 2015 convention include the Midwest Regional Agency, QBE NAU, and Kansas State University's Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops.

Kansas Farmers Union is the state's oldest active general farm organization working to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life for family farmers and ranchers and rural communities. For more information, visit their website at [www.kansasfarmersunion.com](http://www.kansasfarmersunion.com) or call 620-241-6630.

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## Red Angus breeders to gather in Denver

Red Angus breeders around the country will come together in Denver to kick off the New Year with the annual BrainTrust conference scheduled Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016, at the DoubleTree Hotel, 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado. The program begins at 2:30 p.m. Central time.

The annual event gives Red Angus seedstock breeders and commercial cattlemen who utilize Red Angus genetics in their breeding programs the opportunity to gather to hear and discuss current issues affecting the industry. The highlight of the program this year will be the intro-

duction of the newly hired RAAA CEO, Tom Brink, who will provide opening remarks.

"BrainTrust is an important event each year for RAAA members and cattlemen and women to gather and have the opportunity to hear about critical issues that are affecting their businesses," said Beth Gaines, communications coordinator. "This program will set the stage as we will be hearing from the new CEO as well as the unveiling of the new strategic plan, which will provide direction for the organization over the next five years."

Dr. Ken Odde, depart-

ment head of the animal sciences and industry at Kansas State University, will address the research abstract regarding the value of Red Angus calves in the marketplace. RAAA staff will wrap up BrainTrust with the presentation of the 2016-2021 RAAA Strategic Plan.

Thanks to the sponsor Datamars, Inc., members in attendance will enjoy a meet-and-greet social with CEO Tom Brink at the conclusion of the afternoon. DVAAuction Inc. has made possible live streaming of the presentations during the afternoon for those individuals unable to travel to

Denver to take part in BrainTrust. The live broadcast can be accessed at DVAAuction.com.

The Red Angus Association of America serves the beef industry by enhancing and promoting the competitive advantages of Red Angus and Red Angus-influenced cattle. RAAA provides commercial producers with the most objectively described cattle in the industry by seeking and implementing new technologies based on sound scientific principles that measure traits of economic importance. For more information, visit redangus.org.

## Agriculture and bees: What is really going on?

River Valley Extension District is hosting a meeting the topic of agriculture systems and pollinators. There has been much news surrounding bee decline and some of the blame has been placed on our agricultural systems, many of which rely heavily on our pollinators to produce a crop. This meeting will provide clarity to the issue by discussing what is truly going on with our pollinators and the interactions of pollinators and agriculture systems. The presenters are Dr. Raymond Cloyd, K-State Entomology Specialist and Tyson Seirer, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist. This meeting is open to the public and will be held at the Cloud County Courthouse basement meeting room on January 19th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Pre-registration is appreciated by January 15th if you plan to attend. Call the River Valley Extension District office at 785-243-8185. If you have questions, please contact Kim Larson, district agent.

## K-State veterinarian discusses how rabies can be in a cow herd

When rabies is mentioned, it often conjures classic images from movies of an infected animal running rabid. While this viral disease seems far from concern, particularly in domestic animals, recent events suggest it is a bigger problem than traditionally thought.

The most commonly diagnosed domestic carrier of rabies in the Midwest is cats; however, in Kansas, there has been a recent increase in cattle confirmed with rabies.

"In Kansas the past two years, cattle have been the most common domestic species we've diagnosed with rabies," said Gregg Hanzlicek, director of production animal field investigations for the veterinary diagnostic laboratory at Kansas State University. "This year, we have 13 confirmed bovine cases. Last year there were nine."

Hanzlicek said that in the state, the skunk is the most likely carrier that spreads the disease to domestic animals such as dogs, cats, horses and cattle. Those species then will show the clinical signs of rabies.

For producers who are interested in where rabies has been located in Kansas, the veterinary diagnostic laboratory's website, www.ksvdl.org, has a tab called "Disease Trends" that showcases the number of recent rabies cases, by species within each county.

"Producers can use that map to see the specific cases of different diseases throughout the state," Hanzlicek explained. "It is updated every Monday morning, and it shows in the state, county-by-county, what species and the number of that species have been confirmed with several important diseases including rabies."

### How infection occurs

The rabies virus is spread through the saliva of

a positive animal, Hanzlicek said. Being bitten by a positive animal is the primary way the virus is spread. However, other methods of spreading the disease are saliva from a positive animal getting into an open wound, or saliva from a positive animal getting into a mucus membrane—the eyes, gums or lips—of another animal or human.

The time between infection and the onset of clinical signs varies, he added. It can range from as early as a few weeks to as late as a few months after infection.

"Many animals will start to carry the virus in their saliva before they start to show clinical signs," Hanzlicek said, adding that the rabies virus is different than most other viruses, because it does not enter the bloodstream. Rather, the rabies virus travels through the nerves from the point of infection.

"Let's say an animal is bitten on its back leg," Hanzlicek said. "Rabies will travel through the nerves of the back leg to the spinal cord, and then from the spinal cord, it will go to the brain. When it gets into the brain is when we start seeing the clinical signs."

He said an animal that is bitten on the nose, as it is believed most cattle are, will start showing clinical signs earlier than an animal bitten on the back leg. This is because the virus has less distance to travel to the brain. This accounts for the time variation between being infected and showing clinical signs.

"Once rabies is in the brain, it will get into the salivary glands," Hanzlicek said. "Then every time that animal bites another animal or human, it is going to spread the virus to those individuals. Toward the end of the disease, we believe all of the organs that have nerves are basically infected with the virus. There-

fore, an animal thought to be rabid should not be salvaged."

### Clinical signs of infection

Hanzlicek said that behavioral changes alone are not definitive for rabies. Other possible signs include anorexia, head pressing, bellowing (rabid cattle many times exhibit a unique vocalization), continually trying to defecate, unproductive defecation and unexplained rear-limb lameness.

"There are many different clinical signs, but we say if an owner sees one of his or her animals acting strangely, behavior-wise, rabies has to be on the list to rule out," Hanzlicek said.

He noted that there are two forms of rabies, furious form and dumb form.

"The furious form is the form we remember from the movies, where the dog becomes rabid," Hanzlicek said. "The infected animal will attack inanimate objects, such as tractors, feed bunks and fences. They will also attack animate objects, including other animals and humans. We do see cattle with the furious form, but it is more rare than the dumb form."

"With the dumb form, they act like they are not aware of their surroundings. They are quiet. They stand off, and they may head press. Often, they will start drooling at the mouth and have difficulty swallowing, and they might become slightly bloated."

Often when producers

see abnormal salivation or trouble swallowing, they think something is stuck at the back of the throat, Hanzlicek said. This can lead to human exposure to rabies, because producers will reach into the mouth of the cow or the calf to see if there is some object present. While they are doing so, they are exposed to the saliva that contains the rabies virus.

### What to do when suspecting infection

Hanzlicek stressed that there is no treatment for rabies. Once an animal shows clinical signs, typically within four to five days that animal will get progressively worse and die.

"If I am a producer, and I see a behavioral change in one of my animals, I will put rabies on the list of possible causes and call a veterinarian," Hanzlicek said. "Veterinarians can help identify rabies, but also most veterinarians are vaccinated for rabies. They know what precautions to take to avoid contamination when examining the rabies suspect animal."

Therefore, let the veterinarian look into the mouth of a potentially infected animal; don't personally do those examinations. Unfortunately, the only way to definitively diagnose rabies is in a deceased animal, where a specific portion of the brain is required for testing, he said. Veterinarians are trained to sample the appropriate portion of the brain for a diagnosis.

There are effective ra-

bies vaccinations available for humans, dogs, cats, horses and cattle. Hanzlicek recommends that producers who show cattle consider vaccinating those cattle for rabies. If those show animals contract rabies, there is more of a chance of exposure to humans.

"While it isn't always practical to vaccinate the

whole cow herd, some herds in Kansas have started due to the number of skunks that are present in their area," he said. "However, there are certain states where rabies is more prevalent than in Kansas, and veterinarians in some states do recommend all cattle receive the rabies vaccine."

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Grass &amp; Grain, January 5, 2016

## Kansas Graziers Association Winter Conference set for January 16 in Salina

By Tom Parker

At first glance, Courtney White might not seem like the ideal candidate to address the Kansas Graziers Association during their annual winter conference in January. He grew up in the city where the only agriculture was the occasional family garden, and the only wildlife were the neighborhood cats and dogs. His only interaction with livestock was with the horses his family owned for trail-riding. He was a hard-driving activist for the Sierra Club, lobbying for new wilderness areas, protesting clear-cut logging in national forests and writing handbooks that were used by grassroots organizations to oppose hard-rock mining. As an activist, agriculture and livestock were barely on his radar, and when they were it wasn't in a positive light.

But people change and times change, and divisive wars eventually take their toll, leaving only the wounded and the coppery taste of defeat.

The constant battle between environmental activists and ranchers, loggers and other rural residents was an endless war of attrition. "No one was winning," White wrote in the introduction to his book, *Grass, Soil and Hope*. "Everyone and everything was losing, especially the land."

Even worse was the negative energy being expended. It was like a toxic cloud sucking the life out of everything it touched.

Dispirited and not a little jaded, White was in-

creasingly aware of the hopelessness of the struggle. Just when it seemed that neither side was capable of listening to the other without threats of lawsuits or personal violence, he met a free-thinking rancher who had reached out to the environmentalists as equals. The meeting set White on the path to becoming a rancher himself, wading into the middle of the grazing wars and co-founding the Quivira Coalition, a Santa Fe-based non-profit organization devoted to finding a "third position." They called it the New Ranch, where people interested in innovative ideas and fruitful dialogue could meet, discuss, and learn. His latest book, *Two Percent Solutions for the Planet*, expands his unique outlook from the American West to a global vision for simple, low-cost solutions for environmental regeneration.

Having experienced both sides of the environmental debate gives him a perspective that allows him to reach consensus among conservationists and ranchers alike.

"I bridged those two worlds," White said. "Now I want to show farmers and ranchers that there is common ground with conservationists. I try very hard to work with what I call the radical center, those people who come together to solve problems pragmatically. As far as farmers and ranchers were concerned, I wanted to give them some ideas they haven't thought of, an alternate narrative. Generally, the whole idea is that we

"Grass, Soil, and Hope."

the theme for the Kansas Graziers Association Winter Conference in Salina, on Saturday, Jan. 16, expands on White's experiences in the Southwest and, more recently, around the world, to the Midwest. The lessons he and others have learned are applicable everywhere on the planet within specific or generalized ecosystems, he said, and for the most part require reasonably cost-effective and simple solutions.

Mostly importantly, the solutions laid out in the book are based upon nature's own carbon-based model, and can be implemented with technologies that already exist. In other words, he said, "We don't have to invent anything new."

While writing the book, White began to look at a wider variety of farming that he didn't know much about, from holistic grazing, edible backyard forests, biochar, weed-eating livestock, food co-ops, bio-energy and rainwater harvesting to animal power, bees, bears, wildlife corridors and a wide variety of other regenerative practices that have been field-tested and proven to be practical and profitable.

"When I was in conservation, I wanted the public to understand the issues," he said. "With the book I wanted to do the same thing. As far as farmers and ranchers were concerned, I wanted to give them some ideas they haven't thought of, an alternate narrative. Generally, the whole idea is that we

can address a lot of these problems with fairly simple systems."

By taking his message to the Midwest, he said, he wanted to provide a "different perspective to Kansas."

Other guest speakers will be Gail Fuller and Dale Strickler.

Fuller, of Fuller Farms near Emporia, began experimenting with no-till farming during the early 1980s, and has since gone on to practice holistic management techniques for his operation. His presentation, "Soil Health: Makes Dollars and Sense," will center on why soil regeneration should be a priority for everyone and which management techniques have been proven successful on his farm. Soil health, Fuller believes, equates to farm health. Without soil regeneration, the future of farming is at risk.

Putting it bluntly, Fuller said, "The only reason to focus on soil health is if you have an interest in your children and grandchildren's survival."

Dale Strickler, a former agronomy instructor at Concordia's Cloud County Community College and now cover crop and forage specialist, will discuss livestock management from an environmental standpoint

in his presentation, "Livestock: The Four-Legged Bandage for a Wounded Planet."

"Livestock agriculture, with cattle in particular, has been given a black eye in the press over the past few decades," Strickler said.

"Cattle have been blamed for global warming, soil erosion, depletion of water resources, habitat loss, and a whole host of environmental problems. Many people have chosen to reduce or eliminate their beef consumption out of environmental concerns, because they have believed these media half-truths. However, the actual truth of the matter is that well-managed cattle grazing can be used to reduce potential climate change, reduce soil erosion, improve water availability, and increase wildlife habitat and biodiversity. Cattle can be put to use for environmental benefit."

Together, the three speakers will provide dynamic information that Kansas Graziers can implement to increase grazing performance as well as improve the environment.

The Kansas Graziers Association Winter Conference in Salina, sponsored by Amazing Grazing III, opens at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16 at the Salina

Ambassador Hotel, 1616 W. Crawford, Salina. Registration can be made online at [kansasfarmersunion.com/events](http://kansasfarmersunion.com/events) or by contacting Mary Howell at 785-562-8726 or by e-mail at [kfu.mary@gmail.com](mailto:kfu.mary@gmail.com). The cost of the single-day event is \$50 for the first person, \$25 for spouses and \$15 for students.

For more information on this or other upcoming workshops sponsored by Amazing Grazing, call Howell at 785-562-8726 or visit Amazing Grazing's website at [www.kansasfarmersunion.com/amazing-grazing](http://www.kansasfarmersunion.com/amazing-grazing).

Amazing Grazing is a collaboration of the Kansas Farmers Union and the Kansas Graziers Association. Funding for this project was provided by the North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center and USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture under Award Number 2012-49200-20032.

Project partners include the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, K-State Research and Extension, Farm Credit Associations of Kansas, Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops, and NRCS-Kansas.

## Women in Agriculture Series to be held in Clay Center

The share of U.S. farms operated by women nearly tripled over the past three decades, from 5 percent in 1978 to 13.7 percent by 2012, according to USDA's "Characteristics of Women Farm Operators and Their Farms." Since 2012, the trend is certainly continuing. Whether it be from inheriting farm ground, continuing the family operation, marrying into a farm family, or a host of other reasons, women find themselves in a position that requires knowledge of managing a farm operation. The Women in Agriculture educational series is designed to provide information and training on a wide variety of farm management topics that are catered directly to farm women. Participants are provided a comfortable environment where they feel free to ask questions and learn critical skills. Women with any level of experience in farm management or with any degree of farm involvement are invited to attend; there is something for everyone to learn.

You must sign up to attend the entire series. Sessions will be held on Thursdays, beginning February 4th, from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the CTI John Deere meeting room in Clay Center. Topics include:

Session One - February 4th: True Colors (personality profile), Agricultural Advocacy, Social Media, Farm Technology

Session Two - February 11th: Ag. Marketing and Risk Management, Calculating Cost of Production, Crop Insurance

Session Three - February 18th: Kansas Lease Law, Developing Equitable Farm Leases, Farm Safety

Session Four - February 25th: Quicken for Farm Record-keeping, Financial Management

Session Five - March 3rd: Livestock Management, FSA and NRCS Programs

Session Six - March 10th: Family Communication, Farm Succession and Estate Planning

The last session will also be open for family members of participants to attend at

no additional cost. Registration for the series will continue until a maximum of 25 participants is reached. A registration fee of \$50 will cover a notebook of materials, snacks, and meals at all six sessions and must be received at registration to reserve your seat. Please contact any River Valley Extension District office for more information or to register.

The office can be reached at 785-243-8185. The RVED website, [www.rivervalley.ksu.edu](http://www.rivervalley.ksu.edu), also has registration forms that can be mailed or brought in to the office.

Sponsors to make this educational series possible include K-State Research and Extension, AgMark LLC., Crop Production Services, Kansas Crossroads RC&D, Dr. Dean Klentz-VitaFerm Dealer/ Noffsinger Veterinary Hospital, the Citizens National Bank, Crop Protection Agency, Wilbur-Ellis, Reed Seed, and Concordia Tractor Inc. A special thank you goes out to the organizing committee of Katelyn Brockus, Jericho Hammond, Rebecca Frerking, Kim Larson, Suzanne Larson, and Barb Lenhart.

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# Farm transition program to be held in Dover

The Shawnee County Extension Office and the Shawnee County Conservation District, with assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, will host a Farm Transition for Women and Ag Law program at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 21, at the Sommerset Hall Cafe, Dover.

Topics to be addressed include:

- Steps to have a successful farm transition to the next generation with as little family conflict as possible. Examples of transition mechanisms that can be used in various farming operations.

- Agricultural Law to include the fencing law, environmental regulations, transportation, zoning regulations, and corporate farm tax.

- Who Gets Grandma's Pie Plate? This program provides

suggestions on how to manage the distribution of non-titled property, which is a common source of conflict in families. However, that conflict is of particular concern to farm families as it can adversely affect a multi-family farming operation.

These programs will have a special emphasis for women, but men are welcome. Presenters for the afternoon will be Allie Devine, with Devine and Donley, LLC, Attorneys at Law and Cindy Evans, Shawnee County Extension Director. Allie received her Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law and then her LLM in Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas School of Law. Allie has worked in Washington, D.C., then returned to Kansas as the Director of Research for the Kansas Livestock Association. She served

as the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture under Gov. Bill Graves and has taught Agriculture Law at Washburn University.

Cindy grew up on a diversified farm in western Kansas and has been a Family and Consumer Science teacher at Kansas high schools. She was the Shawnee County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences agent for the past twenty-five years and recently became the Shawnee County Extension director.

This is a free event open to interested land owners and crop and livestock producers. We do ask that attendees pre-register by January 12 to guarantee adequate materials and refreshments. Call Shawnee County Extension at 785-232-0062. Participants may also contact Leroy Russell at lrus@ksu.edu with questions.

## U.S. Wheat Associates welcomes WTO elimination of export subsidies

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), the export market development organization for the U.S. wheat industry, is very pleased with the recent decision by WTO members to eliminate agricultural export subsidies. Long banned for industrial goods, export subsidies are, along with guaranteed prices above world market levels and input subsidies, among the most harmful and distorting practices for world agricultural trade. Although the WTO already banned ex-

port subsidies for industrial goods, many member countries are still authorized to use agricultural export subsidies. While authorized subsidies are rarely used anymore, agreeing to eliminate them is no small matter. For example, while the European Union, collectively, is the world's largest wheat producer, no longer uses export subsidies it still has standby authority to do so. Other countries are using unauthorized export subsidies and should be challenged to

prevent continued violations of current disciplines. Certainly, eliminating export subsidy authority at once for developed countries and by the end of 2018 for developing countries is a major step forward for world wheat trade.

USW is concerned, however, that the Nairobi Ministerial also reauthorized developing and least developed countries' use of processing and transport subsidies for agricultural products, an authority that had

expired in 2004. While this reauthorization is limited and temporary, it is still a step backward for agricultural trade similar to the setback of the 2013 Bali Declaration. There were also changes in language affecting food aid and export credits, but our negotiators successfully defended U.S. practices in those areas.

While further negotiations will take place on special safeguards and government food stockholding for developing and least developed

countries, no commitment was made to continue the Doha Development Agenda as such, which we consider a positive outcome. It is long past time for countries to shelve the failed Doha negotiations and move on to more productive trade liberalization efforts to address the challenges of the 21st century.

USW's mission is to "develop, maintain, and expand international markets to enhance the profitability of U.S. wheat producers and their customers." USW ac-

## This winter, use firewise thinking

Although many Kansans have enjoyed warmer-than-usual weather in recent fall months, cold winter temperatures have begun to take hold in many parts of the state. With this in mind, it's time to consider home fire safety for the winter, as well as how to manage the controlled burning season in the upcoming spring.

Winter is often the most dangerous time of the year for house fires. By December, every furnace in the country may be working at capacity, the fuel bill is probably causing sticker shock and every alternative-heating source at our disposal is likely being used.

Home and shop heating system maintenance should be done prior to winter, but it's never too late to start that maintenance. Most fires are the result of lack of maintenance. Because the furnace worked last winter is not assurance that it will be functional for another year without maintenance. The old adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" rings true in this situation.

If you burn wood, corn, or other fuel in your fireplace or freestanding stove, clean the flue at least annually and more frequently if you burn a fuel that creates a buildup of byproducts in the flue. Chimney fires are preventable, and proper maintenance and monitoring will go a long way toward that prevention.

It's also important to remember carbon monoxide

this time of year. Carbon monoxide is known as the "silent killer" for good reason. One symptom of carbon monoxide poisoning is waking up in the morning with a headache.

Every year, faulty heaters cause unnecessary deaths. Frequently, when an ice storm occurs in Kansas and the electricity goes out, portable generators are moved into garages and plugged into a furnace. Often, people run gas space heaters in closed rooms. These scenarios are extremely dangerous and should never be practiced.

People can also suffer carbon monoxide poisoning from running cars inside of an enclosed garage. If you want to warm up the car before getting in, park it in the driveway and not the closed garage. Even with the door open, carbon monoxide can build to a toxic level.

### Prepare for controlled burning

Springtime is traditionally when most controlled burning takes place. A controlled burn is a fire that serves a specific purpose, stays where it's designated and is contained from start to finish. Unfortunately, many controlled burns start properly, but can get out of control and become wildfires. At that point, they can destroy property, require tax dollars to control, and in many cases, cause volunteer firefighters to miss work and time with their families.

Planning is crucial to having a successful burn,

and it needs to start well before the first match strike. Is there enough help to control the burn? A brush pile surrounded by snow may be a one-person job; that same brush pile after the snow melts may require several hands.

Are there enough adequate forms of suppression? Would you need help from a fire department to put the fire out? Are the authorities aware of the planned burn? There are requirements for controlled burning in Kansas, so check what pertains to your burn. You'll also be notified of impending weather that may affect your burn when you contact the authorities.

The Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal has noted that wildfires seem to frequently occur the day following a red flag warning. Red flag warnings mean that if a fire starts on that day, it may be more difficult to control. Wildfires often occur the following day, because while people are vigilant on the red flag day, they tend to forget about the heavy fuels that carry over

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## Registration open for Agriculture Technologies Conference

The Kansas Ag Research and Technology Association (KARTA) and K-State Research and Extension announce that the 19th Annual Kansas Agricultural Technologies Conference will be held January 21-22, 2016, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Junction City.

This annual event brings hundreds of agricultural producers and industry leaders for a two-day interactive workshop on the ever-changing precision agriculture industry. Those in attendance at the conference will hear presentations from dynamic speakers on a wide variety of topics dealing with precision agriculture.

The two-day event also includes vendor displays, the KARTA Annual Meeting, research presentations from grant recipients, and an interactive evening discussion that is always an attendee favorite.

For the conference agenda or to register visit [www.icontact-archive.com/SI59-ZYTxF4VOEHfM1oVNkvOgg1d4Ivv?w=3](http://www.icontact-archive.com/SI59-ZYTxF4VOEHfM1oVNkvOgg1d4Ivv?w=3)

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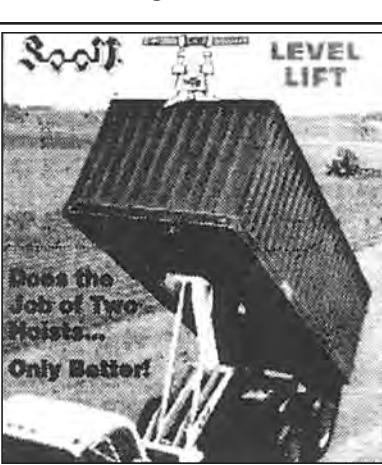
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## ASA and fellow farm groups press EPA on Enlist Duo scrutiny

In a recent letter to Environmental Protection Agency administrator Gina McCarthy, the American Soybean Association (ASA) worked with a coalition of major farm groups in pressing the agency to withdraw its request to vacate the registration for Dow's Enlist Duo herbicide, highlighting the urgent need for new modes of action to tackle resistant weeds on farms across the country.

"U.S. growers have an urgent need for a new mode of action as these regulatory delays have exacerbated the proliferation of hard-to-control weed populations. These delays are necessitating more intense weed control practices that complicate environmental management," wrote the groups in the letter. "Herbicide tolerant cropping systems allow growers to more efficiently use active ingredients for weed control while providing environmental benefits like reduced tillage that improves soil health and limits nutrient run-off. Additional herbicide modes of action will help proactively manage weed herbicide resistance."

The groups cited the already-exhaustive review undertaken by both USDA and EPA on the Enlist family of products.

"Among the many new requirements for registration of Enlist Duo at EPA was an unprecedented review of the potential effects of the product on threatened and endangered species. After an exhaustive state-by-state review, EPA concluded that use of Enlist Duo in accordance with the product label, which imposed a 30-foot wind directional buffer zone, would have no effect on threatened and endangered species. This review took place on a product that simply combines two herbicides that have each been on the market for decades..." wrote the groups.

The groups also took issue with EPA's reference to additional and new data in its decision to re-evaluate Enlist Duo.

"There will always be new information to be considered about products EPA has registered. Congress has recognized this, and included in FIFRA several vehicles for reviewing products. But none of these vehicles authorize the agency to withdraw a previously approved product in the absence of an 'imminent hazard,'" wrote the groups. "... No one has suggested that the information EPA now is considering with Enlist Duo comes close to meeting that threshold."

Joining ASA on the letter is the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council and the National Farmers Union.

## TWO-DAY AUCTION SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 & 10, 2016 9:30 AM BOTH DAYS!

Dg. Fairgrounds 2110 Harper Bldg. 21 — LAWRENCE, KS

**ONE-MINUTE** Kellogg Service Station Shammy stand/washer (RARE!!); 30" Texaco lighted button sign; double sided Valvoline Motor Oil & Smith Oil Service signs; 24 & 36" Texaco Petroleum signs; Scorpion & Mor-Power Muffler signs; Coke & AC-Delco signs; several highway marker signs; Falcon, Swift, Mother Penn, Cen-Pe-Co oil cans; metal oil can display stand; Golden Acres Seeds rain gauge; license plate signs; Pro-Tex cord winder; Winchester brass emblem; Mechanical Duck Decoy w/manual; vintage duck decoys; Salesman Sample ducks; Large Quaker Oats collections; Confection gumball machine; Dazey 4 qt. Sunflower Top butter-churn; 1 qt. butter churn; large Carousel Horse & stand; Simplex ironer; **EASY** Syracuse copper washer & Maytag vintage electric washer; cream separators; wooden printer boxes; 1930's Popeye wind-up toy; Frankie remote control toy & Indian Joe battery operated toy both w/boxes; Wyandotte, Auburn, Marx, Nylint toys; pedal tractor; metal slide sleds; wagons/tricycles; Jay-Mar child's toy piano; vintage pull-type toys; dolls in trunks; Wolverine child's set (washer, sink, stove, refrigerator); Hot-Wheels; several NIB die-cast cars, trucks; salesman sample fainting couch; quilting feed-sacks; Pendleton blankets; oil lamps; vintage globes/lights; marbles; **VERY LARGE AMOUNT** Sterling & Costume Jewelry; several Turquoise Tie Bolo's; Al-

addin lamps; lead lamp; several styles of pedestal lamps; Bradford Exchange figurines; Venetian glass flowers; Brass Items: Fire Nozzle, sledge hammer, hose nozzles; Stanley plane w/box; Keen Kutter axe; pocket knives; several sizes of crocks; stereoscope & optics; fishing lures; advertising items; pipes; postcards; stamp album; 1985 KC Royals pictures; Sports Cards; 2008 KU Jayhawk framed picture; 1986 Final Four & Pay Heed All Who Enter framed pictures; 600 lb. Fairbanks scales; wash-tubs; metal buckets; cream cans; saw blades; sewing machine stands; Lawrence milk box; woven baskets; 1976-2008 National Wild Turkey Federation Medallion Collection; vintage Remington, Winchester, Peters ammo in paper boxes; **Vintage Furniture:** table w/marble center, seven drawer triple dresser w/oval mirror, gold velvet chair w/Flemish scroll, five shelf decorative bookcase, side table, telephone table, coffee table w/glass ball eagle feet; steamer trunks; wooden beds; vanity's/dressing cabinets; oak bookcase w/glass doors; oak dining table w/chairs; plant stand; end tables; smoke stand; Pfaltzgraff Blue stoneware place setting; lighted waterfall picture; oriental large framed picture; Norman Rockwell pictures; several vintage pictures/frames; glassware, pottery; Beanie, McDonald's toys; large amount household items; **LARGE AMOUNT OF UNLISTED ITEMS!!!**

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## KBC, BCI to host BQA training in February

The Kansas Beef Council and the Beef Cattle Institute (BCI) at Kansas State University are partnering to host three Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training and certification sessions throughout the state next month. The checkoff-funded sessions will be led by K-State veterinarian Dave Rethorst.

Producers and veterinarians will receive information relevant to the cow-calf, stocker and feedlot segments; animal husbandry best management practices; and downed animal care and humane euthanasia training. In addition, stockmanship principles and low-stress cattle-handling

techniques will be highlighted.

BQA training sessions have been scheduled for the following dates and locations: January 13, Sylvan Sales Commission, Sylvan Grove; January 18, Pratt Livestock; and January 21, Anderson County Livestock Auction, Garnett. All meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m., are free of charge and include a complimentary meal.

Pre-registration one week or more prior to the event is requested by contacting BCI at (785) 564-7459 or emailing Kelly Oliver at [kjoliver@vet.ksu.edu](mailto:kjoliver@vet.ksu.edu). Walk-in attendees are welcome but are not guaranteed a meal.

## KPA's Ibotta campaign sees positive results

In October, the Kansas Pork Association launched a retail campaign through Ibotta, a coupon app for smart phones. The app allows customers to earn a rebate after taking an action, such as watching a video or reading a recipe. The campaign has been running statewide at participating stores, including Walmart,

HyVee and Dillons.

Since its launch, the campaign has generated over 95,000 brand impressions, over 4,500 shopping list placements and a 30% redemption rate, above Ibotta's average 21% redemption rate.

"We are really excited about the potential of this program," said Jodi Oleen,

KPA director of Consumer Outreach.

So far, rebates have been given on fresh pork chops and fresh pork tenderloin, with an added bonus given for purchasing pork on two or more shopping trips.

"Our goal with this campaign is to increase awareness and understanding of modern pork production

practices while encouraging pork purchases at the retail counter," Oleen said.

To earn the rebates, customers must watch a pig farming video and read a pork recipe. The rebate amounts and purchase requirements vary and can be changed at KPA's discretion.

To download the Ibotta app, visit <https://ibotta.com/>.

## Apply for 2016 Beef Leaders Institute by March 1

The Beef Leaders Institute (BLI) is a premier leadership experience for American Angus Association® members that provides a look into the entire beef supply chain, while enhancing participant knowledge of the Association and strengthening their leadership skills. Angus producers between 25-45 years old are encouraged to apply for the ninth annual BLI scheduled for June 20-24, 2016. Applications are due back to the Association by March 1.

"The Beef Leaders Institute is an annual highlight, as we bring together Angus

breeders from across the country for an in-depth look at our business," says Jaclyn Clark, Association director of events and education. "Participants gain practical knowledge, valuable connections and a greater appreciation for the role of quality beef in today's marketplace."

The program brings Angus producers together in Saint Joseph, Mo., for a series of informative sessions, followed by a three-day tour across several industry segments.

During the event, BLI participants are able to tour a beef harvesting and

packing facility, retailer, fabricator, feedlots and other industry segments, including the American Angus Association. Those selected will also learn about the ultimate end product — the Certified Angus Beef® brand — and how the branded beef program drives demand for quality Angus genetics.

"BLI overall has been an excellent experience, and I encourage other producers to attend," said Jed Connealy of Whitman, Neb. "It's a unique opportunity to see many different sectors of the industry, and most of the things we've

seen on BLI are things you don't just walk in and see by yourself. It's a really neat opportunity that cattlemen on all levels should take advantage of."

The Association provides transportation, lodging, meals and materials during BLI. Attendees will be responsible for round-trip transportation between their home and either Kansas City or Saint Joseph, Mo.

To apply, download an application or contact the American Angus Association at 816-383-5100. Information can also be found on [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org).

## NCGA announces 2015 yield contest winners

Improved seed varieties, advanced production techniques and innovative growing practices helped corn growers achieve ever-higher yields in the National Corn Growers Association 2015 National Corn Yield Contest. Entrants continued to far surpass the national average corn yield, setting a contest record with a new all-time high yield of just over 532 bushels per acre. Additionally, a record five national entries surpassed the 400-plus bushel per acre mark.

The National Corn Yield



subscribe online at:  
[grassandgrain.com](http://grassandgrain.com)

Contest is now in its 51st year and remains NCGA's most popular program for members. Participation in the contest remained strong in 2015, with 7,729 entries received.

"The contest does more than just provide farmers an opportunity for friendly competition; it generates information that shapes future production practices across the industry," said Brent Hostetler, chairman of NCGA's Production and Stewardship Action Team. "The techniques contest winners first develop grow into broad advances that help farmers across the country excel in a variety of situations. Our contest emphasizes how innovation, from growers and technology providers alike, enables us to meet the growing demand for food, feed, fuel and fiber."

The 18 winners in six production categories had verified yields averaging more than 386.4 bushels per

acre, compared to the projected national average of 169.3 bushels per acre in 2015. While there is no overall contest winner, yields from first, second and third place farmers overall production categories topped out at 532.0271.

This record was set by David Hula of Charles City, Va.

"The National Corn Yield Contest drives so many corn farmers to initially join NCGA," said Patty Mann, chairwoman of NCGA's Grower Services Action Team. "While they may initially join to gain contest entry, these members become increasingly involved and supportive as they learn more about the breadth of activities NCGA carries out on farmers' behalf. Just as the contest promotes the on-farm techniques developed by many single growers to benefit all corn farmers, NCGA's grassroots efforts join the single voices of members together to create positive change and real op-

portunities for our industry."

For more than half of a century, NCGA's National Corn Yield Contest has provided corn growers the opportunity to compete with their colleagues to grow the most corn per acre, helping feed and fuel the world. This has given participants not only the recognition they deserved, but the opportunity to learn from their peers.

Winners receive national recognition in publications such as the NCYC Corn Yield Guide, as well as cash trips or other awards from participating sponsoring seed, chemical and crop protection companies. In New Orleans, during the 2016 Commodity Classic, winners will be honored during the NCGA Awards Banquet and the NCYC State Winners Breakfast.

Please visit National Corn Growers Association website [www.ncga.com](http://www.ncga.com) for the complete list of national and state winners.



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Greg Vering	Marysville	785-562-7164
Lincoln Farm Supply	Lincoln	785-569-1161
Midwest Farm & Dairy	Hutchinson	877-221-7221
Tim Deters	Baileyville	785-294-0523
Valley Auto Sales	Fredonia	620-378-4470

## American Hereford Association names Bedwell COO and Director of Breed Improvement

Shane Bedwell has been named Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Director of Breed Improvement of the American Hereford Association (AHA). In this role, Shane will lead the AHA performance department and oversee the National Reference Sire Program and Whole Herd Total Performance Records program.

"I feel very humbled and honored to take the job as Director of Breed Improvement and COO for the American Hereford Association," Shane says. "I look forward to serving the membership and working for a first-class organization. I believe that because of AHA's outstanding leadership, the breed is currently positioned very well in the industry and envision continued growth for the years to come."

Prior joining the AHA staff, Bedwell coached the livestock judging team at Colorado State University. In that role since August 2007, he has led many successful and championship teams. He also was an instructor for two livestock selection classes, as well as co-taught animal nutrition while serving as advisor for CSU's Block & Bridle club.

A Kansas State University graduate, Bedwell was a member of the 2003 Reserve National Champion Judging Team. He earned a master's degree in beef cattle nutrition from the University of

Illinois in 2007.

Bedwell was raised on a cow-calf and stocker ranch near Medicine Lodge and continues to help manage his family's 350 head cow-calf operation, which consists of a rotational cross of Hereford, Angus and Red Angus.

Shane has had the opportunity to judge cattle in 30 states including the National Western Stock Show, American Royal, North American, Fort Worth Stock Show, San Antonio Livestock Show and the Houston Livestock and Rodeo. He says he enjoys youth events and working with students who are focused on pursuing a career in the livestock industry.

"We are excited to have Shane join our Hereford team," says Jack Ward, American Hereford Association executive vice president. "He brings a wealth of commercial industry knowledge to our organization as well as a unique ability to communicate technology and science in beef-producer terms. He will lead our research projects as we continue to document and prove the Hereford advantage."

Bedwell and his wife Lacey have a four-year-old daughter, Cealy Rose, and a one-year-old son, Chisum. The family has relocated to the Kansas City area.

## Onaga grower tops Kansas Corn Yield Contest entrants

With a yield of 318 bushels per acre, Jeff Koelzer of Onaga turned in the top yield for Kansas growers in the National Corn Growers Association Corn Yield Contest. Koelzer's 318 bushel per acre yield came in No-Till/Strip Till Non-Irrigated division. Vern Nightengale of Copeland had the state's second highest yield in the No-Till/Strip-Till Irrigated division with a yield of 302 bushels per acre. While the Kansas entries were impressive, none won national honors. The top yield on the national level was 532 bushels per acre from an irrigated entry by David Hula of Charles City, Va.

The Kansas winners of the NCGA Corn Yield Contest are below:

\*Entrants with an asterisk were not eligible to win because they won in another category. Entrants can only win one category.

### No-Irrigated

1. Jason Taylor, White Cloud; Taylor Seed Farms 8012 VT2PRO; yield 277.5944
2. Alex Noll, Winchester; DeKalb DKC63-33RIB; yield 259.2684
3. Doug Rethman, Seneca; Pioneer P1479AM™; yield 239.2351

### No-Till/Strip-Till Non-Irrigated

1. Jeff Koelzer, Onaga; DeKalb DKC66-59RIB; yield 318.0486
2. Clem Koelzer, Onaga; DeKalb DKC63-55RIB; yield 285.0504
3. Glenn Heinen, Seneca; Pioneer P1751AMT™\*; yield 278.8584

### No-Till/Strip-Till Irrigated

1. Vern Nightengale, Copeland; Pioneer P1311AMXT™; yield 302.3733
2. Rusty Sherwood, Sublette; Pioneer P1197AM™; yield 301.2998
3. Max Linin, Goodland; Pioneer P1197CHR; yield 300.8176

### Irrigated

- \* Vern Nightengale, Copeland; Pioneer P1602AM™; yield 298.6140
1. Todd Cyr, Clyde; Pioneer P2089AM™; yield 298.2978
2. Dennis Hamlin, Hugoton; DeKalb DKC64-87RIB; yield 277.3044
3. Gale Walz, Saint Francis; Pioneer P1625CHR; yield 273.3460

State winners will be recognized at the NCYC State Winners Breakfast during the 2016 Commodity Classic in New Orleans in early March.

Grass & Grain, January 5, 2016

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## Kansas farmers to give Agritechnica report at KARTA Conference Jan. 21-22

Last month, more than a dozen members and friends of the Kansas Ag Research and Technology Association (KARTA) traveled to Germany to attend Agritechnica, the world's largest agriculture exposition in the world. The global event happens every other year and draws 2,900 exhibitors from 47 countries with an estimated 100,000 visitors from around the world.

Twelve people participated in the group travel opportunity, representing all parts of the state of Kansas. Included in the group were Terry and Marilyn Kastens, Gary and Dianna Kastens, Mark and Kim Viets, Tony Stueve, John Krueger, Lee Scheufler, Dan Taylor, Denton Haag, and Matt Wolters. Each participant received a small scholarship from KARTA to help underwrite the cost of the trip.

Two of KARTA's volunteer board members, Matt Wolters and Ajay Sharda, organized the educational travel experience. "The goal for the trip was to provide our members with an opportunity to experience the premiere agriculture equipment show and learn alongside other producers and researchers," Wolters says. "We also incorporated numerous tours, sightseeing

opportunities, and experiences with the food and culture of Germany. It was a memorable trip for everyone."

In addition to spending two days at Agritechnica, the group toured both Fendt and Horsch manufacturing facilities along with the KWS Global Headquarters and several German farming operations. "A portion of this travel experience was in conjunction with a group of agriculture engineering faculty from land grant institutions across the country," Wolters says. "This provided participants a unique opportunity to interact and build relationships with the precision ag, technology, and academic leaders from across the United States."

The group will share a report on their trip, along with lots of interesting photos, during a presentation at the 19th Annual Kansas Agricultural Technologies Conference January 21-22, 2016 in Junction City. Registration for the conference is now open online at [www.kartaonline.org](http://www.kartaonline.org). For more information, email [kartaonline@yahoo.com](mailto:kartaonline@yahoo.com) or contact Wolters at 785-626-2791. A complete photo gallery is available on their Facebook page.



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Grass &amp; Grain, January 5, 2016

## Kansas State University researchers develop method for higher purity in wheat flour

Kansas State University researchers have developed a new testing method to help millers assure wheat flour purity that will meet baking industry standards and consumers' expectations.

The test introduces sophisticated molecular methods that focus on high, endosperm purity in flour extracted from wheat kernels.

"We are helping the miller by measuring the en-

dosperm purity for flour streams coming from each stage of the milling process," said Mark Boatwright, a Kansas State University doctoral candidate in biochemistry and molecular biophysics from Runnels, Iowa. "This will allow the miller to optimize settings on equipment and make decisions to meet the baker's specifications for quality flour."

When completed, the work being done at the uni-

versity will allow the miller to exclude inferior flour streams from the final product.

"If a miller hasn't met the baker's specifications, the effort is wasted," said David Wetzel, professor of grain science and industry. "We are enabling the miller to meet purity specifications by giving him a selective analytical test."

The Kansas State Uni-

versity scientists analyzed 29 flour streams from a commercial wheat mill to determine the endosperm purity as it moves closer to becoming flour for bread or other products.

"The result is an endosperm purity profile that enables the miller to determine the point at which a cutoff is required to maintain purity for the baker and, ultimately, the consumer," Boatwright said.

Wetzel said that giving millers greater ability to optimize equipment set-

tings for the milling process pays off with a higher yield of flour at the desired purity.

"In the economy of Kansas, the production of bread-quality wheat is a big deal," Wetzel said. "We have shown that by using recently developed technology, the efficiency in a mill can be improved without reducing the flour yield."

Boatwright is the lead author in the study "Profiling Endosperm Purity of

Commercial Mill Streams Preceded by Debranning Using Quantitative Chemical Imaging," published in *Cereal Foods World*, the official publication of the American Association of Cereal Chemists.

The research was supported by K-State Research and Extension. Chemical imaging of endosperm was completed in Wetzel's Microbeam Molecular Spectroscopy Laboratory.

## NSP announces annual yield contest winners – Kansas producer wins

National Sorghum Producers is proud to announce the winners of the 2015 NSP Yield Contest. Farmers from 29 states entered to win this year's contest. Producer yields are highlighted in seven different categories with this year's top yield at 239.85 bushels per acre, which is a new world record non-irrigated sorghum yield.

"I congratulate all of the

2015 Yield Contest winners," said NSP board of directors chairman James Born. "The yield contest year-after-year demonstrates the yield potential of sorghum and allows us to recognize outstanding growers across the nation for their dedication to management and the yields they have been able to achieve in doing so."

The 2015 first place win-

ners of the NSP Yield Contest were Jim Boehlke – Bell-Key Farms of Idaho in the Conventional-Till Irrigated category with a yield of 233.39 bushels per acre; Robert Hoffines of Pennsylvania in the Double Crop Non-Irrigated category with a yield of 172.13 bushels per acre; Robert Santini, Jr. of New Jersey in the Mulch-Till Non-Irrigated category with a yield of 198.08 bushels per acre; and Chris Santini of New Jersey

acre; Ki Gamble of Kansas who won the Reduced-Till Irrigated category with a yield of 233.39 bushels per acre; Robert Hoffines of Pennsylvania in the Double Crop Non-Irrigated category with a yield of 172.13 bushels per acre; Robert Santini, Jr. of New Jersey in the Mulch-Till Non-Irrigated category with a yield of 198.08 bushels per acre; and Chris Santini of New Jersey

in the Double Crop Irrigated category with a yield of 183.00 bushels per acre.

"Yields continue to improve each year since we set out to reach 250 bushels per acre," said NSP chairman James Born. "The number of entries surpassing 200 bushels plus has increased, and we look forward to the potential in next year's contest."

The national winners

will be further recognized at Commodity Classic in New Orleans, Louisiana, on March 4, 2016, at an awards dinner sponsored by Dupont Pioneer.

To see a complete list of the NSP Yield Contest national, state and county results, or to learn more about the contest, visit [www.sorghumgrowers.com/yield-contest](http://www.sorghumgrowers.com/yield-contest).

## U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance® and Food52 bring viewers to America's farms

A single produce farm that raises GMO, conventional and organic crops. A cattle ranch that perseveres through the serious California drought. A pig farm that specializes in day-one animal care. A family dairy farm where producing quality milk is job #1, every day of the year. These are America's farms and ranches.

People can now learn

more about where their food comes from through U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance's® (USFRA®) new "Day on a Farm" online video series, created in collaboration with the popular online kitchen and home destination Food52. All four videos are now live on USFRA's FoodDialogues.com website and USFRA's Facebook page, and also on

Food52's YouTube channel. "More than ever, people are interested in learning how their food is grown and raised, but most don't have an opportunity to hear directly from farmers and ranchers or to see food production in action," said USFRA CEO Randy Krotz.

"America's farms and ranches are as diverse as the consumers who eat their food – and our goal is to show a variety of farming and ranching practices and the people at the forefront of these practices. USFRA is excited to partner with the Food52 community to bring food production to life." The video series highlights farmers and ranchers who share stories about how they personally manage common food production practices like antibiotics, GMOs, sustainability, and animal welfare while growing and raising food. The videos add to the library of

educational resources that USFRA launched in 2014, entitled *How To Farm*, and now include:

*A Day on a Produce Farm* - (filmed with Don Cameron at Terranova Ranch in California)

*A Day on a Dairy Farm* - (filmed with Jessica and Stuart Ziehm at Tiashoke Farm in New York)

*A Day on a Pig Farm* - (filmed with Erin Brenneman and Thomas Titus at Brenneman Pork in Iowa)

*A Day on a Cattle Ranch* - (filmed with Kevin and June Kester at Bear Valley Ranch in California)

"At Food52 we're focused on inspiring the cook in everyone, and partnering with USFRA gives us the opportunity to share with our community so much about the food they eat, where it comes from and how it is grown," said Food52 CEO and co-founder Amanda Hesser.

## ESTATE AUCTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2016 — 9:30 AM  
415 S. Ash (OLG Hall) — NEWTON, KS

This is a very large auction with many quality items. Times listed are approximate. Preview only at 8:00 a.m. day of auction!! For complete list of coins check on-line or call 316.283.6700.

### VEHICLES (11:00 a.m.)

• 2014 Ford F150 XLT/chrome pkg, 3.5 Ecoboost, V6, 2,950 miles, Vin-1FTFX1ET8EFB 16923

• 2003 Ford Expedition XLT, new tires, Loaded, 91,500 miles, Vin-1FMRU15W13LC 62154

### COLLECTIBLES & JEWELRY (9:30)

DIAMOND PHILLIPS 66 SERVICE RING; Diamond Dinner Ring/Gothic 14K; Other 14K Diamonds; Opals, Amethyst, Garnet, Ruby, Jade, Sterling, Turquoise, Marcasite Rings; Garnet Necklace; More ... check web for pics. Several Pieces Phillips 66 Memorabilia; Several Pieces Peabody & Marion Co. Memorabilia; Roseville 665-4, 175-8, 135-9, 669-4; Coleman Arc Lantern; Hanging Gas Lamp; 3 Art Deco Ceiling Lights; 181 Pcs. American Sweetheart Depression Dishes; Hall Red Poppy; 47 Pcs. Golden Wheat Dishes; 67 Pcs. Banquet Shuman Bavaria USA Dishes; 24 Budweiser Steins-Collector Series; 9 Coors Steins Collector Series; Beer Taps Handles; Colonial Grandfather Clock #7903129, 3 Chime; Gold Buckles & Others; De Laval Guernsey Cow; Peabody Hardware Safe 24x24x60; Victor Safe 20x20x26; Postal Scales; Marbles; Pocket Knives; Cigarette Lighters; 2 Wooden Beer Cases; 50's Lamp Ash tray; Premo Camera/Long Focus; German Immigrant Trunk; Childs' Carpenter Case; Parlor Chair/Carved Dog Head Arms; Glass Display Case; Unique Horner Harmonica Store Display Box; 3 Drawer Chest/Tear Drop Pulls; Large & Small Beer Signs; Portable Gas Fireplace; 48" Ant. Glass Front China Cabinet; 60" Oak S Roll Top Desk; Large Claw Foot Parlor Table 28x28"; Serta King Posturepedic Bed; (2) 6 Gun Cabinets/Glass Front; Sanyo Flat Screen TV; Whirlpool Refrigerator/Ice & Water Dispenser; 2010 Amana Upright Deep Freeze; Oak 48x18" Wide Glass Front China Cabinets; 40" Oak Glass Front, Sides & Shelves China Cabinet.

### GUNS (11:45 a.m.)

1. Remington 1100 12ga, #315117V, Barrel Code LWN-Full Choke

2. Winchester Single Shot Model 37A, 410GA, 3", #HC497643

3. Townley American Boy Single, 16GA (wall hanger)

4. Ruger Model 10/22 Auto 22 Cal, #117732

5. Marlin Lever Action Model 336-30 Cal, #72011423, 1972

6. Model Golden 39A, 22 Cal Lever, #27135699, Mfg. 1973

7. Winchester Lever Action 9422M, 22 Magnum, #F95108, 1972

8. H & R Sportsman 22LR Model 999, Double Action Revolver #AT 147473

9. Derringer 22 Cal, #51171 Germany

10. FIE 22 Single Action #44543 (not working)

11. Constable-Spain Auto 7.65 MM Astra #1058270

12. J B Sauer & Son Silver City Marshall 22LR, #3491712, West Germany

13. Rohm-Germany 22 LR Double Action #134973 (not working)

14. Smith & Wesson Model 10-5 38 Special, Double Action, #D363973/Holster

15. Colt Army Special, 38 Cal, Double Action, #493250

16. Single Shot Pellet Rifle

### COINS (12:30 P.M.)

Gold 1888 \$20; Gold 1908 \$5; Gold 1914 \$5; Silver Dollars; 1oz. Silver Dollars; Silver Certificates; Red Seals; State Quarters; bag Foreign Coins; Indian Heads; Silver Dimes; 1 oz. Fine Silver American Eagle, 1987 & 1999; John Wayne, Ben Franklin, US Postal Service; American Eagle Coins, Liberty Dollars; Mint Sets, Proof Sets; Eisenhower Unc. Silver Dollars; 1922 & .35 Silver Dollar Necklaces; 1908D Barber 1/2 Dollar; large cents, 2 Cents, 1200+ Wheat Cents; Kennedy Halves; Walking Liberties; Total 178 Lots-some multiple choices. Go on line or call for complete list.

## LAND AUCTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016 — 10:00 AM  
Waterville Community Center - WATERVILLE, KS

### 683± Acres Marshall County Kansas

#### TRACT 1: 160 acres ± Pasture & Hunting

**Legal Description:** S22, T05, R07, ACRES 159.9±, NW4 LESS R/W  
**Location:** From Blue Rapids go south on 8th Rd to Cyclone Lane then 2 miles East to 10th Rd then 1/2 mile north. Property sets on east side of 10th Rd.

**2015 Taxes:** \$246.85

#### TRACT 2: 523 acres± with 428 acres± Pasture & Hunting with 95± acres of cropland

**Legal Description:**

S35, T04, R06, ACRES 243.1±, E2 SW4 & SE4

S36, T04, R06, ACRES 158.6±, SW4

S02, T05, R06, ACRES 121.2±, NW4 NE4 & E2 NW4

**Location:** From Waterville Golf Course go south on 5th Rd approximately 1 mile, turn left at the "T" in the road, follow past Or-Al Quarries entrance, proceed 1/2 mile south till you reach gate at north end of property.

**2015 Taxes:** \$2526.45

**Listing Agent's Notes:** These property consists of tillable bottom ground, native grass pasture, beautiful flowing crystal clear creeks, and incredible wildlife habitat suitable for producing MONSTER whitetail year after year. While touring the property I saw whitetail deer, turkey, quail, bobcat, and even a mature bald eagle. The pastures have excellent fencing in place. Cropland is mostly highly productive creek bottom. If you've been looking for that perfect hunting piece or cattle ranch with great wintering possibilities come take a look at this one – it won't disappoint you.

**Give me a call to set up a viewing of these GREAT properties... Jeff Dankenbring - 785-562-8386**

**Terms & Possession:** 10% down day of the sale, balance due at closing on or before February 23, 2016. Seller to pay 2015 taxes. Title insurance, escrow and closing costs to be split equally between buyer and sellers. Possession on closing. This property to be sold as-is. All inspections should be made prior to the day of the sale. This is a cash sale and will not be subject to financing, buyer is responsible for financing arrangements made prior to sale day. Midwest Land and Home is acting as a Seller's Agent and represents the seller's interest. All information has come from reliable sources; potential bidders are encouraged to verify all information independently. Marshall County Abstract Company will act as escrow and closing agent.

**COLLEEN SEEMATTER (Late Roger Seematter),  
DELMAR & BARBARA SEEMATTER,  
SEEMATTER FARMS INC. - SELLERS**

Midwest Land  
and Home  
Jeff Dankenbring - Listing Agent 785-562-8386  
Mark Uhlik - Broker/Auctioneer  
[www.MidwestLandandHome.com](http://www.MidwestLandandHome.com)

## ABSOLUTE AUCTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2016 — 10:00 AM

121 Wilson Road — CARBONDALE, KANSAS

Real Estate Sells at Noon. OPEN HOUSE: Jan 6th (5-7 PM)  
or by appointment

This is a very comfortable (2,179 sf) home with 3 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths, 2 Car Detached Garage, plus a 30'x40' Shop Building. Includes Basement & Cellar. Has a newer 50 Year Timberline Asphalt Roof. All located on a large 145'x165' lot on the western edge of Carbondale. **BIDDERS:** This property will sell "as is" "where is" without any warranties or inspections provided. All prospective bidders are encouraged to personally inspect the property and have any desired inspections completed prior to the auction. Purchaser agrees to sign a waiver to conduct a lead base paint inspection at the time of signing the real estate contract. Any financial arrangements must be made prior to auction. **No finance contingencies will be accepted.** Terms: 10% down day of Auction, balance at closing on or before February 10th, 2016. Owner's title policy paid 1/2 by Seller & 1/2 by Buyer. Kellner Realty agents are agents of the Seller. Statements made day of sale take precedence --- Home sells absolute without reserve or minimum.

**Also selling: FURNITURE, CONTENTS & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**  
Kitchen Island/Table (Amish Made – Unique); Frigidaire Refrigerator; Frigidaire Kitchen Range; Newer Maytag Washer & Dryer; China Hutch; GE Microwave; Dining Table w/8 Swivel Cushioned Chairs; 3 Twin Beds; End Tables/Night Stands; Glass Lamp Table; Dressers; Metal Lamp; Lamps; Lamp Stands; Coffee Table Sectional Couch; Corner Display Cabinet; Wooden Rocking Chair; 32" Visio Flat Screen TV; 32" Sony "Smart" TV; 17" Sigma Waterproof TV; HP Desktop Computer Tower & Monitor; Kodak Printer; Computer Desk Computer Desk Chair; Wooden File Cabinet; Elephant Statue; Lots & Lots of Knick Knacks; **Lots of Automotive Parts (Late 50s to mid 70s):** Shop Shelves; Snapper 10 HP 32" Mower; Husqvarna Weed Trimmer; Lawn Cart; Grass Seeder; 4'x6' Trailer (Used Once); Primitive Tools; Old Jacks; Lots of Misc. Hand Tool; Yard Tools; Plus Lots & Lots More Items Too Numerous to List.

**AUCTIONEERS NOTE:** Brad Studebaker, after losing his mother & fighting serious health problems, is downsizing to a smaller home and must sacrifice his home to move to a home more suitable to his needs. The home offers a lot of potential and many of his personal items are top of the line and his appliances are in like new condition. Here's the opportunity to live in a great town, good location and lots of potential.

**OWNER: BRAD STUDEBAKER**

**KELLNER REALTY & AUCTION SERVICE**  
100 Center Dr., Silver Lake, KS 66539  
Wayne Kellner, Broker & Auctioneer  
785-582-4013 • [wayne@waynekellner.net](mailto:wayne@waynekellner.net)



# Auction Sales Scheduled

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

January 5 — 243 acres Saline & Dickinson County farmland held at Salina for Margaret M. Kelley Trust, Tom Kelley, trustee. Auctioneers: Riordan Auction & Realty.

January 7 — 153 acres m/l northeast Kansas grassland held at Denison. Auctioneers: United Country Real Estate, Heart of America Real Estate & Auction.

January 7 — 76 acres Marion County cropland held at Hope for children of Clara Doman Bechtel. Auctioneers: Riordan Auction & Realty.

January 7 — 80 acres native sandhill Rice County pasture held at Alden for Lowell (Mike) Smith. Auctioneers: Stroh's Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

January 9 — Vehicles, collectibles, jewelry, guns, coins at Newton for Shirley A. Strotkamp Estate. Auctioneers: Auction Specialists, LLC.

January 9 — Real estate, furniture, contests & household, automotive

parts at Carbondale for Brad Studebaker. Auctioneers: Kellner Realty & Auction Service.

January 9 — Crystal, furniture, saddles, silverplate, much more at Osage City for property of the late Michael Newman. Auctioneers: Wischropp Auctions.

January 9 — Guns held at Salina. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

January 9 — Store real estate & contents at Salina for Carmelita's Mexican Goods. Auctioneers: Wilson Realty & Auction Service.

January 9 — 720 ± acres of Barber County land (cropland, ponds, mineral production, pasture, air strip) held at Medicine Lodge for Steve & Pam Dixon. Auctioneers: Hamm Auction and Real Estate.

January 9 — 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home on 3 ½ Acres; 2008 Ford Expedition, ATV, mower, furniture, antiques, household at Manhattan (west of Keats) for

the late Raydon & Barb Robel Family. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.

January 9 & 10 — 2-day auction: collectibles, primitives, furniture, toys & much more at Lawrence. Auctioneers: Elston Auction Co.

January 10 — Furniture, primitives, advertising, crocks & glass at Salina. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

January 12 — 945 +/- acres cropland, grass & CRP (Russell & Osborne counties) held at Russell for Mitchell Family. Auctioneers: Farm & Ranch Realty, Inc.

January 14 — 156 acres Dickinson County farmland held at Abilene for Ronald Derrick Trust. Auctioneers: Riordan Auction & Realty.

January 16 — Coins at Portis for Wayne Boehmer Estate. Auctioneers: Wolters Auction.

January 16 — Precision & shop tools, guns, lawn &

## Junior judging contest tests students' bison knowledge

Students attending the National Western Stock Show in Denver this January 20th will have an opportunity to test their bison knowledge — and to compete for \$3,600 in college scholarship money — at the annual National Bison Association Junior Judging Contest.

Contestants in the competition will judge four to five classes of bison that will be selected by the National Western Stock Show Bison Superintendent. Points will be awarded based upon the contestant's ability to evaluate the classes. Additional points will be awarded for each participant's Oral Reasons presentation.

The first place contestant will receive a \$1,500 scholarship donated by the National Buffalo Foundation. The Denver-based Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association has donated \$1,200 for the scholarship for the second place contestant, and Rocky Mountain Natural Meats has donated \$900

for a scholarship to the third-place contestant. The competition is open to students from ages 8-21, and registration for the competition is simple and free. Participants not accompanied by their parents will need to bring with them a letter from their parent, FFA adviser, or 4-H leader stating that the participant is academically eligible (passing all classes).

Gerald Parsons, DVM, of Oklahoma, who will serve as the primary judge for the contest, noted, "With the growing popularity of bison, customers are looking for top quality meat. Successful producers become skilled at being able to judge quality by looking at the live animal. Those are the skills we

want to instill in our Junior Students may obtain more information on the contest and can register to participate by contacting National Bison Association Assistant Director Jim Matheson at [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com).

Please register by January 13th. The Junior Judging contest is being conducted in conjunction with the annual National Bison Association Gold Trophy Show and Sale, which runs January 22-23 in the Yards at the National Western Stock Show. The association's annual Gold Trophy Auction will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23rd, with a carcass sale auction at 10 a.m. Learn more at [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com).

## 945+- ACRES CROPLAND, GRASS & CRP ABSOLUTE LAND AUCTION

RUSSELL & OSBORNE COUNTIES, KANSAS  
Tues, Jan. 12, 2016 at 10:30 AM, CST  
AUCTION LOCATION:

Dole-Specter Conference Center, Russell, Kansas

**SELLER:**  
Mitchell Family

Land will be offered in 6 individual tracts

**LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS:**

TRACT 1: W/2 of 36-11-14,

TRACT 2: NE/4 of 36-11-14,

TRACT 3: NE/4 of 20-11-13,

TRACT 4: W/2, less

NE/4NW/4 of 26-10-14.

TRACT 5: 9.1 ac in

NE/4SE/4 in 6-11-13

TRACT 6: All of lots 19, 21

& 23 in Block 19

These farms include cropland and grass. Tracts 1 and 2 are being split but can be put together at the auction by being the highest bidder on both tracts. There is a well and pond on Tract 1 and a large pond on Tract 4. There is 105 acres of CRP located on Tract 4 in Osborne County. There are land and building lots at Waldo being offered as Tracts 5 and 6. The parcels will have signs posted for your convenience.

INTERNET BIDDING AVAILABLE!

For auction bill & drone video visit  
[www.farmandranchrealty.com](http://www.farmandranchrealty.com)

**FARM & RANCH REALTY, INC.**

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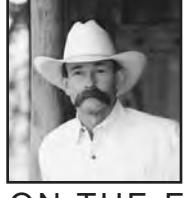
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"When you list with Farm & Ranch, it's as good as SOLD!"



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Grass &amp; Grain, January 5, 2016



# BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

## Cowboy Christianity

A funny thing happened at the rodeo. I saw the power of prayer.

The National Finals Rodeo (NFR) last December in Las Vegas came at the end of a tumultuous year of savage terrorism around the world and in our own front yard. The news media has been awash with violence. The deliverers of the death

and chaos claim that their God, Mohammad, and their 'bible' the Quran, commands Muslims to "kill the infidels" and thus are justified in doing it.

Obviously, most Muslims don't translate it that way, nor do the victims of what is now known as radical Islam. Yet the shootings, bombings and murders continue un-

abated.

Americans are walkin' circles on the sidewalk waiting for someone in our government to give us marching orders, some direction to protect ourselves, someone willing to take a stand. Washington D.C. is dizzy. Protesters would have the first Amendment selectively eliminated so only they can talk. And amidst all this, our leaders threaten us with politically correct "no, no's" that turn us into liars, deceivers and fools.

What is missing in this picture?

Our government has forsaken the strongest force that unites us... God. It is Christians the terrorists fear the most. Terrorists

watch with glee as America continues to desert the bedrock of our country. Christianity is the backbone of our Constitution, our laws, our moral compass and our daily lives. ISIS knows it and is sworn to wipe us out.

The NFR rodeo is a sport born, supported and loved by primarily rural people. It is the "super bowl" of rodeos. 77% of Americans are Christians, three out of four. The belief in God is obvious at the performances. The rodeo begins with a prayer. How many other sporting events from Little League to the World Series begin with a prayer? How many grade school days start with a prayer? How

many political speeches begin with a prayer?

Muslims pray publicly five times a day. Are Muslims forced to join Christians in prayer? No. This is a free country. But it is a Christian country. The final night, none other than the winningest professional rodeo cowboy in the world, reigning All Around Champion Trevor Brazile, in front of 15,000 plus television, spoke for most of us during his acceptance speech (I paraphrase). He gave thanks to God, said America was built on Christian faith, that we can be merciful and forgiving to others but that does not include forsaking our beliefs just because it offends somebody.

In times of war our armed forces are visible. At the rodeo they are recognized for their service. 15,000 flags were passed out. When Lee Greenwood sings *God Bless the USA* the roof comes off Thomas & Mack Arena...you can hear it as far away as Tulsa!

Iran and Saudi Arabia are described as Muslim countries. In our world the United States is described as a Christian country. In our world God and Country are inseparable... as are America and Christianity.

It is common in rodeo for a rider or roper to genuflect or point upward after his run...do a Tebow, I guess. We don't mock him... we know who he is talkin' to.



## Guest Editorial

To the editor:

In the Dec. 15 issue of *Grass and Grain*, I read "Animal rights activists targeting law enforcement, religious groups." It was very disturbing to me. How do we in our industry and the Animal Ag Alliance think to persuade the consumer of the value of animal production and meat consumption if we use the same terminology that the humane society and animal rights people use? Aren't we admitting with them that animals aren't animals and have to be treated like human beings? How then can we defend killing and eating them?

If we really believe that

these groups care about animals, somebody ought to investigate and research how they themselves live and indulge themselves. Aren't they just using us to cover for how they really are? Do they ever decry massive urbanization and the destruction of natural habitat and clean environment by the building of big cities?

An example of how they use us is the recent big climate change conference in Paris where world leaders came from all over. What example did they set, and who paid?

We are out here only because of the demand the government has created by a policy of easy money and

mass consumption! And we are the guilty ones and have to prove how humanely we treat our animals?

When you read the fine print, what it is coming down to in 2017 is that it will be impossible to raise livestock. I've had cows all my life and am going on 80. In the early days, I remember very well how the kill numbers were reported weekly. Nothing was said in opposition. What has changed? Continuing the way the industry leaders are going with this, we're losers! Period!

**Jerry Plett,**  
Lincolnville

## Kansas Junior Sheep Producer Day set for March 19 at K-State

March 19, 2016 is the date for the Kansas Junior Sheep Producer Day to be held at Kansas State University's Weber Arena in Manhattan.

The day brings together youth, parents, sheep project leaders and others to increase their knowledge about sheep production and management. The event is designed for all ages and skill levels and provides an engaging educational experience.

Registration begins at 8:45 a.m., with the program starting at 9:30 a.m. Featured speakers and K-State faculty and staff will cover such topics:

- Selecting Your Youth Sheep Project
- Health, Wellness, & Disease Prevention
- Feeding, Nutrition, Facilities, & Management
- Breeds and Sheep Identification
- Wool Education & Judging
- Meat Science
- Showmanship and Grooming
- State Youth Livestock Nomination Process

Participants will receive a t-shirt and a complimentary lunch.

The cost to register is \$15 per person if postmarked by February 24, 2016; \$20 if postmarked after that date. Participants who register after February 24 cannot be guaranteed a t-shirt. More information, online registration, and printable registration forms are available on the website, [www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu](http://www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu).

For more information contact Lexie Hayes via email at [adhayes@ksu.edu](mailto:adhayes@ksu.edu) or by phone at 785-532-1264.

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