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Fair Finale: 4-H'er leaves legacy on county fair

By Lucas Shivers

For the final time as a 4-H member, JaelAnn Hoover, Clay County 4-H'er, will exhibit in the county fair this summer.

"This is my final fair as a 4-H'er," Hoover said. "It's so bittersweet knowing that this is my last time since I'm aging out."

In 2003, Hoover started 4-H as a five-year-old clover bud and eventually as a Countryside Crusaders 4-H Club member.

"When I was little, I remember my mother telling me what she gained from 4-H with life skills and where it took her in life," she said. "She encouraged me to start as a clover bud. She even shared savings bonds that she earned as a 4-H'er, and I used that seed money for feed and supplies."

4-H has played an influential role in Hoover's past, but also her future. Recently completing her freshman year of community college classes, she is studying agricultural communications and journalism to become a motivational speaker.

"I've gained a love for public speaking," Hoover said. "I use the 4-H motto in so many areas of life. 'To make the best better' can translate to so many ways."

As a fifth-generation 4-H'er, the Hoover family legacy in 4-H dates back to when 4-H started in Kansas when they helped out as community volunteers in the early 1900s.

"My grandmother loves to say, and it's true, that my family bleeds green," she said.

The local Clay County Fair in Clay Center has been a long-standing favorite 4-H experience for Hoover.

"I really just enjoy all of the fair," she said. "It feels like you're going 90 miles an hour in a five-mile-an-hour speed zone. So many people get to grow, and you get to see how people work together when there's a need. For example, 4-H'ers walk through the barn and notice an animal is low on water and they fill the buckets."

JaelAnn Hoover is shown with her first heifer calf as she embarked on her 4-H journey.

Hoover will show her cow, Crystal, with her bull calf this year at the Clay County Fair in Clay Center.

Working with livestock and several additional projects, Hoover will go all out in her final year.

"I have two calves that I've been working with on a halter and at least 11 Boer goats – both meat and breeding varieties – that I'll take to the fair," Hoover said.

Goats kick-started her 4-H career more than 14 years ago.

"I begged my mother to buy a goat, and she finally gave in," Hoover said. "She gave me the 'change' bottle that collected our family's loose coins. We thought there'd be enough for one, but instead there was enough to buy five. Now, I have a herd of 30."

Hoover has shown goats in several shows, including the Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show.

"In addition to care and management, I learned last year when I got to travel on the Citizenship Washington Focus trip," she said. "I was gone a month before the fair, I learned it was important to spend time and build a connection with them before a show."

Her Angus cattle herd has also grown over the years.

"The heifer that I have had for a few years calved a bull last fall so I plan to lead a cow/calf pair on a halter," Hoover said. "I had seen this years ago at a fair, and I hoped to do it someday. This is my year!"

Hoover anchors her plans around the fair and knows the strategic ways to meet her goals.

"After the fair, I hope to sell the bull calf," she said. "As a result of 4-H, I've learned to make better decisions. I think about my future and saving money for college is very important to me."

For the 2017 fair, she has also been working on visual arts, needle arts, machine embroidery, needle felting, crocheting, clothing, and foods projects.

"I've been trying to learn from my grandmother," Hoover said. "We're working on a pie dough for cherry or mixed berry blend. It's so neat to learn from my grandmother in that way."

One of her favorite past fair projects was an educational display booth about how all her 4-H projects connected to goats. The title was 'Think Outside the Barn.'

Competing in the shepherd's lead at the Kansas State Fair with her ewe Vanilla was a highlight of Hoover's early 4-H years.

It was the goat project that started Hoover's 4-H career, and she is shown above with her goat Peanut Butter.

"I've found that through 4-H all of my projects work together," she said. "For example, goat hair can be connected to fiber arts; there's plant science needs for their diets; and leadership and citizenship with opportunities to coach others."

From these project links and connections, Hoover said she has learned how to best manage her time.

"It's really neat to see," Hoover shared. "I wanted people to see that when they say they don't have time for 4-H, there're ways that projects can relate together in really creative ways."

Hoover said the magic of the fair brings together 4-H'ers and non-4-H'ers.

"We have a project with 4-H ambassadors called 'Meet Us at the Fair.' We invite childcare centers, day camps, and nursing homes to learn about projects and connections to real life. We educate people in the community about how we take care of livestock and how project work is so much like real life."

After more than a decade of making a positive difference with 4-H fairs, Hoover said she can't wait for the next chapter.

"Through 4-H, my family has prospered, and I hope others have 4-H experiences to get a lot out of," she said. "There's so many opportunities to be a member, volunteer or just take in the fair."

NASS releases planting report – corn, cotton, sunflowers and beans see increase, sorghum down and canola at record high

Kansas corn growers planted 5.30 million acres this year, up 4 percent from 2016, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Biotechnology varieties were used on 95 percent of the area planted, unchanged from 2016. Growers expect to harvest 5.00 million acres for grain, up 2 percent from last year. Soybean plantings are estimated at a record high 4.75 million acres, up 17 percent from last year. Biotechnology varieties were used on 94 percent of the area planted, down 1 percentage point from 2016. Area for harvest, at 4.70 million acres, is up 17 percent from a year ago. Sorghum acreage planted, at 2.70 million acres, is down 13 percent from a year ago. Area expected to be harvested for grain is 2.45 million acres, down 17 percent from last year.

Sunflower acreage planted, at 70.0 thousand acres, is up 11 percent from last year. Oil-type varieties account for 55.0 thousand of the acreage and non-oil, or confectionary varieties, making up the balance of 15.0 thousand acres. Oats planted, at 120 thousand acres, is unchanged from a year ago. Oat acres intended to be harvested for grain, at 20.0 thousand acres, is down 33 percent from the previous year. Alfalfa hay acreage to be cut for dry hay is 650 thousand acres, down 7 percent from last year. Other hay acreage to be cut for dry hay is 1.85 million acres, down 3 percent from last year.

Cotton acreage planted is estimated at 56.0 thousand acres, up 75 percent from last year. Winter wheat seeded in the fall of 2016 totaled 7.50 million acres, down 12 percent from the previous year. Acreage for harvest is forecasted to be 6.90 million acres, down 16 percent from last year.

Summer potato plantings, at 4,000 acres, is down 200 acres from 2016. Area for harvest, at 3,900 acres, is down 300 acres from a year ago.

Canola acres planted are a record high 50.0 thousand, double that of last year. Harvested acres were estimated at 45.0 thousand, up 96 percent from the previous year.

The estimates of planted and harvested acreages in this news release are based primarily on surveys conducted during the first two weeks of June.

Insight

KANSAS FARM BUREAU The Voice of Agriculture

Develop dialogue

By John Schlageck, Kansas Farm Bureau

More often than we'd like to admit we sometimes shoot ourselves in the foot when talking about the challenges we face in farming and ranching. These conversations with friends, neighbors and family take place at the local café, filling station, after church or Friday evening ball games.

During these visits, farmers and ranchers sometimes conclude that consumers and non-aggies don't like them. Or, their urban acquaintances don't listen to them or care one iota about raising crops or caring for livestock.

Most people don't need to know much about farming today. They probably think about agriculture less than 30 seconds a year and 20 seconds of that time is based on misinformation.

Why should they?

Do farmers and ranchers wonder what a Detroit automaker does? Who he or she is? And what about their family?

While non-farm and ranch people harbor misconceptions about agriculture, believe me, they like farmers and ranchers. They admire this profession.

It's important to bridge this informational gap between farm and ranch producers and consumers. But navigate this divide skillfully.

No one wants to be educated or preached to. Humans like to engage in conversations. They like give and take. Usually, if a person is knowledgeable about a profession like raising cattle, another person who doesn't know about the livestock industry may be curious and willing to listen.

And while no one understands agriculture like farmers and ranchers, we must encourage and foster dialogues with those who know little about this profession. This includes people outside our comfort zone – someone we may not talk to about what we do like city cousins, foodies, medics, lawyers, etc.

Take the opportunity to conduct such conversations on a flight to another state or country. Develop dialogue with people at a professional meeting, just about anywhere and with anyone who isn't savvy about agriculture.

Times continue to change and so do attitudes and opinions. Forty years ago, people expressed little interest in agriculture.

As a fledgling photo journalist in the mid-1970s, I can't remember someone asking me about agriculture at a social event. This just didn't happen even though many of my friends knew I worked in journalism and wrote about farming and ranching.

Agriculture wasn't hip, cool or fly back then. Today the tables have turned and people are quite interested in where their food comes from. They don't hesitate to walk up to you, cocktail in hand and ask, "Tell me about antibiotics, beef production, GMOs."

Talk to them. Tell your story. Exude passion about your chosen profession.

But remember – ask them about their profession, who they are and what makes them tick.

Then, listen.

Develop relationships and build on those dialogues. Before we can expect someone to listen to us talk about how important international trade is to our bottom line, we must listen to them tell us about their home and garden, their chosen career or whatever else they choose to talk about at the time.

There is a voice that doesn't use words – listen.

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.

American Soybean Association calls RFS volumes a missed opportunity for biodiesel

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the proposed Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) volumes for biomass-based diesel for 2019 and the advanced biofuels volumes for 2018, calling for biomass-based diesel volumes of 2.1 billion gallons for 2019, the same level established by EPA for 2018. For the advanced biofuels volumes, EPA has proposed 4.24 billion gallons for 2018, below the 4.28 level established for 2017. American Soybean Association (ASA) president and Illinois farmer Ron Moore signaled ASA's frustration with the levels in a statement:

"The lack of growth in the biomass-based diesel volumes and the reduction in advanced biofuels volumes is certainly disappointing and a missed opportunity by the administration to demonstrate their support for the U.S. biodiesel and soybean industries. As a point of reference, there were approximately 2.9 billion gallons of biodiesel and renewable diesel utilized in the U.S. in 2016. ASA and our biodiesel industry partners have urged EPA to set the RFS levels for biomass-based diesel at 2.75 billion gallons for 2019. To have the levels proposed be no higher than called for in 2018 and less than what is being utilized in 2016 is disappointing and would miss an opportunity to utilize surplus soybean oil to diversify our fuel supply and boost jobs, particularly in rural America.

"ASA believes the volumes for the biomass-based diesel category and the over-arching advanced biofuels category should be higher to capitalize on the opportunity to boost domestic biodiesel production. ASA, along with the National Biodiesel Board, supported RFS volumes at a level of 2.75 billion gallons for biomass-based diesel in 2019 and 5.25 billion gallons of total advanced biofuels for 2018. The advanced biofuels volume requirements provide an important market opportunity for soy biodiesel, which is the most prevalent fuel to qualify as an advanced biofuel.

"The levels proposed do not take full advantage of an opportunity to further promote the viable, domestically produced renewable fuel industry that is U.S. biodiesel. This is only the beginning of the process, and in the coming weeks ASA and U.S. soybean farmers will meet with EPA and others in the Administration to demonstrate the value of increased biodiesel volumes for both farmers and consumers nationwide."

It's funny how things work. This past year was Isaac's last in 4-H. Don't get me wrong, he had a great career in 4-H and I would not trade the experiences he had for anything. However, I must admit that I did entertain a couple of entirely selfish thoughts about how much easier (and cheaper) it was going to be with only one child showing livestock this year. Half as many animals, half as much feed, I reasoned, and most importantly, half as many chores. Was I ever wrong.

The reality of my situation did not fully occur to me until this week. Tatum left to go work on her sewing with Grandma, leaving me (at least for the morning chores) by myself with the entire show string. Okay, before I draw a lot of flack, I know our show string is not nearly as big as some out there, but for a moment, allow me to whine. It also gives me a greater appreciation of just what Tatum does every morning.

I was left with a very long, very detailed list of chores from child number two. First thing, catch the steers, tie them up and allow them to eat their feed. Any of you who know me very well know that I have a mental block when it comes to haltering and especially tying animals. I know it is stupid and any "normal" person would have caught on after all these years. Well, I guess I am special. My lack of knot-tying ability is legendary and has led to many escapes over the years. I guess that is why I was involved in 4-H and not Boy Scouts.

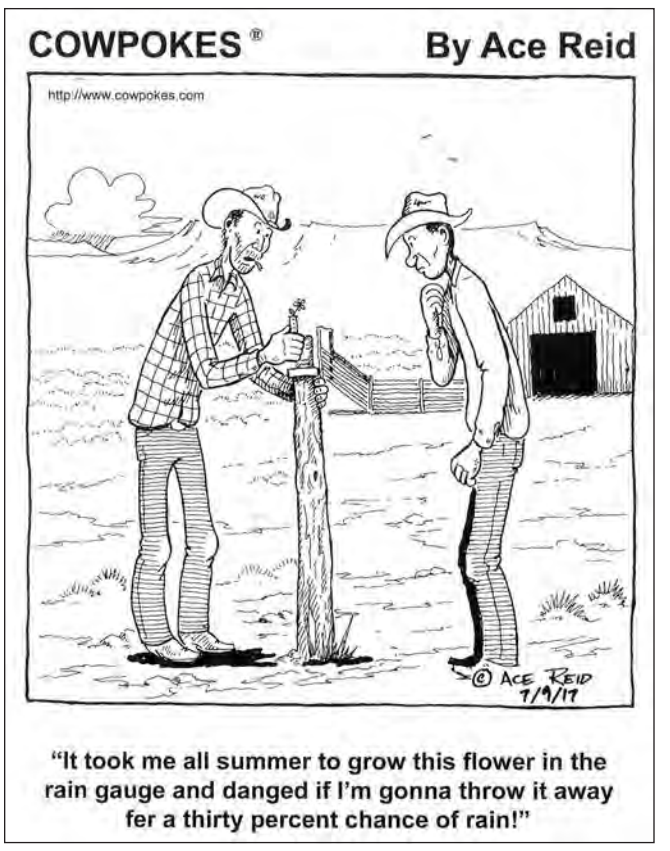
I am proud to report that three days into my solo chores with only two left, we have not had an escape. Yes, I know there is plenty of time and much of my success may be because at this point the steers are too lazy and fat to really want to go anywhere but their shady spot under the fans in the barn. Stay tuned, the next column may be about my adventures tracking and catching two fat, lazy show steers.

While the steers are eating (and hopefully still tied up), it is time to feed the show lambs. Remember how I talked about smaller show string since I had half as many kids showing. That was a pipe dream when it came to the steers, two steers do much better than one and I should have known that. However, when it comes to the sheep somehow, we went from two kids and eight sheep to one kid and, yes, (drum roll please) eight sheep. How does that work?

After feeding the gaggle of show sheep, my attention again turned to the steers. They are rinsed, brushed and blown before being tied up. Tatum does all of this prior to and right after summer weights and her response to my whining is not very sympathetic. In any case, the rinsing, brushing and blowing take forever to do her way but I don't dare do it any other way. Following the spa time, the steers are tied up under their fan with their favorite teeny-bop music (this week it may have been classic country music, I have my limits) blaring over the radio. Thank goodness for a complete pen of four panels to make up for my lack of knot-tying ability. I rather think the steers like being loose and are much more stress free; at least that is what I am telling myself. At that point morning chores are over and I can get on with my life.

I know, it is not that bad and could be much worse. In the spirit of full disclosure, I probably ought to come clean and let you in on another secret. While Tatum was gone, Jennifer took over the exercise program on the show lambs and implemented it after she got home from work along with the evening rinsing, brushing and blowing of the steers.

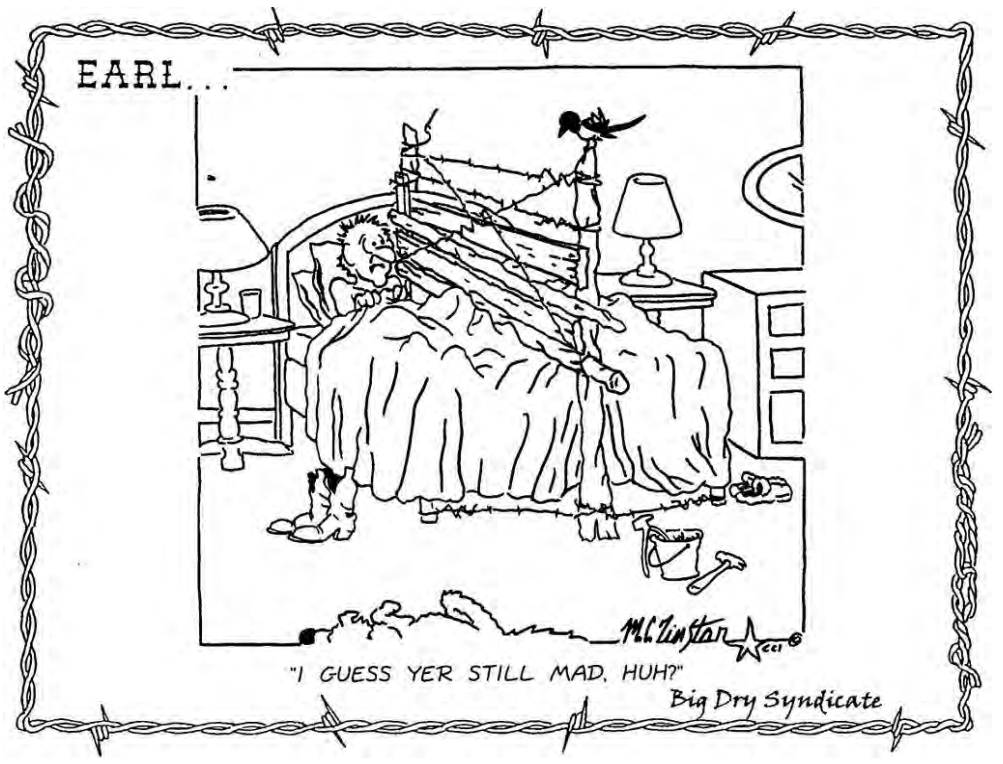
Don't tell anyone in my family, but I really don't mind and I kind of enjoy the 4-H animals. In a little more than a year we will be winding this whole 4-H show thing down and I know at that point I will be a little more nostalgic. I know we will miss this whole routine when it is gone and I am so grateful that my kids got to experience it. There is one nagging question that does continue to run through my beany little non-knot-tying brain. Maybe I am just a little gun-shy since the show string did not reduce when my number of kids was reduced by 50%, but I wonder just how many animals and chores I will have in two years.



"It took me all summer to grow this flower in the rain gauge and danged if I'm gonna throw it away fer a thirty percent chance of rain!"

I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took any excuse.

–Florence Nightingale



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GRASS & GRAIN

Guest Editorial

Today's ag climate: it's tough but different from the 1980s

By Lance Albin

If history repeats itself, we might ask, "Are we witnessing a farm decline similar to what we saw in the 1980s?" The short answer to that question is no. The current agriculture climate is a challenge, but comparing it to the 1980's farm crisis would be a mistake. Let's take a walk back through history for a refresher.

The 1980s farm crisis was born out of the early 1970s grain boom. Demand for nearly all grains took off in the early '70s as several international crops failed and geopolitical conditions made U.S. grain much more valuable.

By 1973, real farm income had reached a record high of $92.1 billion (nationally), nearly double what it was just three years earlier. Exports of U.S. agriculture products grew dramatically in the 1970s as rising incomes and liquidity in developing nations created strong demand.

In 1970, exports contributed only $6.7 billion or 11 percent of the grain produced in the U.S. By 1979, this number had jumped to $31.9 billion and was more than 22 percent of the grain raised in the U.S. that year.

Things were going so well for the American farmer that even Robert Bergland, U.S. ag secretary at the time, commented in 1980 that, "The era of chronic overproduction… is over."

The equation that followed was simple:

Higher grain prices + more available credit = much higher land prices.

The boom eventually went bust, in perhaps one of the most difficult periods in the history of American agriculture. In 1981, there was only one ag bank failure among the 10 bank failures in the U.S.; by 1985, things had become so difficult that the 62 ag bank failures that year accounted for more than half of the bank failures in the U.S.

It may be unbelievable to read this today, but the prime rate averaged 15.3 percent in 1980. Higher interest rates almost automatically drove land prices down by the inherently lower value of the earnings that the land produced. If an investor could receive 13 percent on a CD in the bank, why consider purchasing farm land?

Also, export demand fell precipitously as the U.S. dollar strengthened considerably. In 1981, U.S. ag exports totaled $44 billion and then fell dramatically to $26 billion in 1986. Land values increased every single year from 1970 through 1981, but gross income per acre actually had several year-to-year decreases. Astonishingly, when land prices finally peaked in 1981, returns on investment for corn and soybeans were only one-third of what they had been in 1973. Land was a laggard in terms of decline but eventually succumbed to the industry downturn.

Without question, the greatest assailant on the agriculture sector in the mid-1980s farm crisis, was the skyrocketing interest rate situation that devastated cash flows, credit availability and asset values. By comparison, today's prime rate has been stalled at or below 4 percent for the better part of a decade. Clearly, interest rates are much more favorable for the farm sector today than in the crisis of the 1980s. This is the single greatest and most important difference between the two environments.

Another key distinction to understand when comparing the 1980s to the current environment is the recent trends and current expectations regarding inflation. The consumer price index (CPI) took off in the early 1970s and the Federal Reserve struggled mightily to tame the beast of rampant inflation. Its only real tool to effectively combat inflation turned out to be much higher interest rates. Today's CPI is completely dissimilar when compared to that of the 1970s and the early 1980s. As long as inflation remains subdued, rates may moderately increase, but will be nothing like the rates seen in the 1980s.

The recent ag economy has shown signs of stress including much lower grain prices, declining values for land and equipment, and modestly increasing interest rates. Lower net farm income, oversupply, and rising rates are akin to both the current environment and the 1980s. On the other hand, significant differences can be pointed to:

A current prime rate of 4 percent is very manageable.

Aggregate farm debt in terms of overall leverage is significantly less than it was on the cusp of the last big downturn.

Federal crop insurance and other support programs have been bolstered over the past 35 years and provide meaningful support.

These similarities should cause all of us involved in agriculture to carefully make decisions and double our efforts in working together to ensure satisfactory outcomes. It is important to remember the history of our industry so we can all try to maneuver the current times and pave a way forward. By really understanding the similarities and differences of the 1980s farm crisis to the challenges we are facing today, we can better prepare, understand and plan for the road ahead.

Lance Albin is senior vice president, agribusiness commercial lending officer at UMB Bank and has more than nine years of experience in agriculture financing. He has a master's degree in business administration from Fort Hays State University. UMB Bank is one of the Top 20 Farm Lenders in the United States serving farmers/ranchers, producers, processors, manufacturers and dealers throughout the Midwest and Mississippi Delta regions.

Kansas teacher honored at the National Agriculture in the Classroom conference

Denise Scribner, a high school science teacher from Goddard, was recently honored as a 2017 Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture award winner during the National Agriculture in the Classroom (NAITC) conference held in Kansas City. Pictured (L-R): Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director, Denise Scribner, Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, administrator for the National Institute for Food and Agriculture and Chris Fleming, NAITC President.

Kansas recently stepped into the national spotlight during the National Agriculture in the Classroom (NAITC) conference when Denise Scribner, a biology, ecology and forensic crime science teacher at Eisenhower High School in Goddard, Kan., was honored with the 2017 Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture award. The conference was held June 21-23 at the Sheraton Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

Scribner was one of eight teachers selected for the award, which is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) and Farm Credit. The award recognizes K-12 teachers from across the country that are finding innovative ways to use agricultural concepts to teach core subject areas of reading, writing, math, science, social studies and more.

"Winning this award was truly a high point for me," Scribner said. "The award recognizes my innovative approach to active learning, taking the science off the textbook pages and integrating them with 'real-life' applications of the agricultural industry."

Scribner is the third Kansas teacher to receive the prestigious award. Theresa Farris and Ray Huff, both teachers at Service Valley Charter Academy in Oswego, received the award in 2011 and 2016, respectively. Prior to being named a national winner, all three teachers were selected as the Janet Sims Memorial Teacher of the Year for the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC).

"It is exciting to have another Kansas teacher recognized on the national platform," said Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director. "Denise truly exemplifies innovation with agriculture in the classroom and she is very deserving of this award."

Scribner says its more important now than ever for students to be aware of the role agriculture plays in their lives.

"Ag in the classroom is important because our students need to be aware that when they wear clothes, eat, take medicine or use alternative bio-fuels for their car, it is because of agriculture," she commented. "Without agriculture awareness and innovation, we cannot survive on this planet."

More than 450 educators gathered in Kansas City for the conference to learn updates in the agriculture industry, participate in hands-on workshops presented by teachers across the country and make-and-take sessions.

More information about the conference can be found on the NAITC website at www.agclassroom.org.

To learn more about Scribner's unique classroom approach, watch the video featured on AG am in Kansas: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_Lb8G9xRYk

Our Daily Bread

GRASS & GRAIN — By G&G Area Cooks

This Week's Grass & Grain Contest Winner Is Lydia Miller, Westphalia

Winner Lydia Miller, Westphalia:

WALDORF CHICKEN SALAD

3 cups cubed cooked chicken
1/3 cup chopped celery
3/4 cup coarsely chopped apple, unpeeled
1/3 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup mayonnaise

In a large mixing bowl mix chicken, celery, chopped apples and walnuts. Stir in just enough mayonnaise to moisten. Cover and chill until ready to serve. Makes 4-6 servings.

*****

Sharon Vesecky, Baldwin City:

PECAN PIE MUFFINS (Gluten-Free)

1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup rice flour
1 cup chopped pecans
2/3 cup melted butter
2 eggs, beaten

Combine brown sugar, flour and pecans; mix well. Add butter and eggs; mix well. Fill paper-lined muffin tins two-thirds full and bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes (15 to 18 minutes for mini cupcakes). Cool.

*****

Bernadetta McCollum, Clay Center: "This is a good summer pie. Sometimes I use 1/3 rhubarb and 2/3 mulberries."

MULBERRY PIE

6 cups freshly picked, washed & stemmed mulberries
1 1/4 cups sugar
1/3 cup flour
1/4 cup quick-cooking tapioca
1 tablespoon cinnamon & 3 tablespoons sugar (for top crust)
9-inch unbaked double crust pie shell

Mix berries gently with sugar, flour and tapioca. Put aside while you prepare crust in glass pie pan. Prick the bottom of the crust and pour berries into it. Put second crust on top. Slit several cuts in top crust. Sprinkle with the cinnamon and sugar. Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees and bake for 35 to 40 minutes more.

*****

Kellee George, Lawrence:

SAUSAGE, EGG & CHEESE BREAKFAST ROLLUPS

3 eggs
1 can crescent dinner rolls
8 fully cooked breakfast sausage links
4 slices Cheddar cheese
Salt & pepper

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In a small bowl, beat eggs. Reserve 1 tablespoon beaten egg for brushing on tops of rolls. Scramble remaining eggs. Unroll dough onto work surface and separate into 8 triangles. Cut cheese slices in half. Place 1 half on each triangle. Top each with spoonful of scrambled eggs and 1 sausage link. Loosely roll up as directed on can and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Brush reserved beaten egg on top of each crescent. Sprinkle salt and pepper over each. Bake 15-18 minutes or until golden brown.

*****

Mary Hedberg, Clifton: "This is very good."

PORK CHOP POTATO SUPPER

4 to 5 pork chops
16-ounce can green beans, partially drained
2 cans cream of chicken soup
3 potatoes, peeled, cut into fourths
Salt & pepper

Mix green beans, soup, salt, pepper and potatoes in a small roasting pan. Nestle pork chops into mixture. Bake covered at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours. Serves 4 to 5.

*****

Barbara Barthol, Olathe: "In trying to think about preparing dinner on a hot day, I find myself going to my Crock-Pot Recipe of the Day Calendar, a gift from a dear friend 2 years ago. Love knowing dinner will be ready whenever we decide to eat — crock-pots are wonderful! This recipe uses the original size pots, not the large oblong pots. Delicious."

SLOW ROASTED POTATOES

16 small new potatoes
3 tablespoons butter, cut into small pieces
1 teaspoon paprika
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
Black pepper

Combine all ingredients in crock-pot and mix well. Cover and cook on low 7 hours or on high 4 hours. Remove potatoes with slotted spoon to serving dish. Add 2 tablespoons water to cooking liquid and stir until well blended. Pour over potatoes. Cover with foil to keep warm.

*****

Loretta Shepard, Helena, Oklahoma: "Most families have homemade candy just at Christmas, but my husband likes it year-round. This is his favorite."

PEANUT BRITTLE

1 cup raw peanuts
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup white corn syrup
1/8 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon baking soda

Combine peanuts, sugar, corn syrup and salt in a microwave-safe 1 1/2-quart bowl. Microwave on high for 3 minutes, stir then 4 more minutes. Stir in butter and vanilla. Return to microwave for 1 minute. Stir and add baking soda. Stir well and pour onto a buttered cookie sheet. When cool, break into pieces. Store in an air-tight container.

*****

Legumes: Budget Friendly Nutrition Powerhouses

By Barbara L. Ames
Wildcat District Extension Family & Consumer Sciences Agent

Legumes — a class of vegetables that includes beans, peas and lentils — are among the most versatile and nutritious foods available. Yet legumes are among the least expensive foods to include in your family's meals.

Legumes are nutrition powerhouses and are unique because, nutritionally, they belong to both the protein and vegetable food groups. They have no cholesterol, are high in fiber, and are naturally low in fat. They are also good sources of folate, potassium, iron, and magnesium.

When included in your diet, legumes can help reduce the risk of heart disease and some cancers. They are a good choice for people who must control blood sugar, and a good option for a meatless meal.

Legumes are so versatile. They are inexpensive and available dry, canned, or frozen. One half cup of cooked beans or peas equals 2 ounces of protein or a serving of vegetables and provides 10 grams of dietary fiber.

Though dry beans don't require soaking, doing so reduces cooking time and helps dissolve gas-producing oligosaccharides. For soaking, use 10 cups of water per pound. Beans double or triple in size, so use a large pot. Bring water to a boil and simmer beans 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from heat, cover, and let stand 1 to 4 hours. Drain, add fresh water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer gently until beans are tender but firm. Most beans will cook in 45 minutes to 2 hours.

Lentils and split peas do not require soaking. Sort and remove debris, rinse, and boil lentils 15 to 20 minutes, split peas 30 minutes. Do not add salt during cooking.

While you can add herbs and spices at any time during cooking, wait to add salt until beans are tender as it tends to toughen them. Acidic foods (lemon juice, vinegar, tomatoes, wine, etc.) should be added after beans are cooked because they can prevent beans from becoming tender.

To save time, cook dried beans and peas, divide into small quantities, and freeze. To reduce sodium in canned beans, drain and rinse them. This will remove about 40 percent of the sodium.

There are many ways to add legumes to your diet.

-At the salad bar, add garbanzo and kidney beans;

-Add lentils to spaghetti sauce;

-Include beans and lentils when making soup, stew, or a casserole.

-Enjoy hummus as a snack with vegetable dippers and whole-grain pita bread or crackers, and spread on a sandwich or wrap.

-Prepare legumes as a side dish, and explore how other cultures feature beans by trying an ethnic recipe.

-Edamame (green soybeans) are great as a snack, also add them to salads, casseroles, and rice dishes.

So why not take advantage of the great nutrition and low price of legumes. Plan on including some in your family meals this week!

For more information about this topic or other topics, contact the Wildcat Extension District offices at: 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. Wildcat District Extension is on the Web at http://www.wildcatdistrict.ksu.edu. Or, like our Facebook page at facebook.com/wildcat.extension.district.

***

Old Settlers' Beans

1/2 pound ground beef
1/4 pound turkey bacon, diced
1 medium onion, chopped
1 tablespoon packed brown sugar
1/2 cup barbecue sauce
1 tablespoon prepared mustard
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/2 teaspoon chili powder
16-ounce can pork & beans, undrained
16-ounce can kidney beans, rinsed & drained
16-ounce can Great Northern beans, rinsed & drained

In a large cooking pot, cook ground beef, turkey bacon and onion until meat is done and onion is tender. Drain off any fat. Combine all remaining ingredients except beans. Add to meat mixture; mix well. Stir in beans. Heat to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat and simmer about 20 minutes or until hot, stirring occasionally. Serves 8.

Nutrition Facts: Calories 320; Total Fat 8g; Cholesterol 45 mg; Sodium 800 mg; Carbohydrate 40g; Dietary Fiber 10g; Sugars 11g; Protein 20g; Vitamin A 2%; Vitamin C 2%, Calcium 10%; Iron 25%.

Notes: * Other types of beans may be substituted according to your taste or what you have on hand. * Recipe can also be baked in a greased 2 ½ quart casserole dish, covered, at 350 degrees for an hour.

JULY 2017 "Our Daily Bread" Recipe Contest Prize

Creature Comforts Diner Mug "You light up my life"

Enjoy your coffee more when you drink it from this Creature Comforts Diner Mug. The retro mug features a witty saying with related artwork. Made of ceramic, it has off-white glazing on the outside with a pop of color inside. • 15 ounces
• Dishwasher and microwave safe.

The winner each week is selected from the recipes printed.

Send us your favorite recipe. It may be a main dish, leftover, salad, side dish, dessert, or what-have-you.

1. Check your recipe carefully to make certain all ingredients are accurate and instructions are clear.
2. Be sure your name, address and phone number are on the entry. Please include a street address with your recipe entries. A post office box number is not sufficient for prize delivery. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.
3. Send it to: Woman's Page Editor, Grass & Grain, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505.

OR e-mail at: auctions@agpress.com

Variety Is the Spice Of Life And The Key To Healthy Way Of Living

By Gina Aurand

We have all heard that old saying and with your diet it may not be the spice of life, but it can be the key to a healthy life.

When the 2015 Dietary Guidelines were released they really were not a surprise to anyone. They recommended a diet heavy in fruits and vegetables. The MyPlate symbol that replaced the Food Pyramid shared the exact same message. It encourages us to fill our plates half-full with fruits and vegetables.

Sometimes this can be a challenge, however this a perfect time of year to try to form new habits.

Backyard gardens are full of wonderful fresh produce. If you aren't a gardener, that doesn't seem to be a problem. Many of our towns have farmers' markets where you can get a wonderful variety of fresh produce and many people are happy to share their excess.

The River Valley District is also lucky enough to have Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) groups that have formed that are happy to deliver locally grown produce right to your door.

You may wonder how much do you really need to include in your diet? The average person should consume about 2,000 calories a day. So on a daily basis you should have two cups of fruit and 2 1/2 cups of vegetables a day. A serving of fruit is considered 1 cup of fresh, frozen or canned. A cup of 100 percent fruit juice will also count.

If you are eating dried fruit, like raisins, then a half of a cup is a serving. A cup of raw, cooked, frozen, canned or mashed vegetables also counts as a serving. However, it takes two cups of leafy greens, like spinach or romaine, to make a serving. One cup of 100 percent vegetable juice will also work for a serving.

Sometimes it can seem impossible to work more fruits and vegetables into your diet but some small adjustments can make a big difference. Add fruit to your breakfast by adding fresh, frozen, canned or dried fruit to your cereal, yogurt or pancake.

Instead of syrup for French toast, waffles or pancakes make your own by cooking fruit with cornstarch. You can add a little sugar for flavor but you don't have to. This will also help you cut down on added sugar consumption.

Add peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, mushrooms and olives to sandwiches, burgers and pizza.

Snacks are a great way to sneak in a few more fruits and veggies. Keep washed and cut up fruits and vegetables on hand so that they are easy to grab from the fridge. These can provide a cool, refreshing treat on a hot day.

They are also low in calories. For example, a cup of carrots, broccoli, peppers or cucumbers are all less than 100 calories. If you want a high protein, low-fat dip to enjoy with these add two tablespoons of your favorite flavor of hummus for only 46 calories.

Home and Away

Appreciating where you are

By Lou Ann Thomas

While standing in line at the grocery store the other day I casually tuned in to a conversation between two 30-somethings ahead of me. One was lamenting how she would be turning thirty-two soon and how old she would be. I'm grateful neither turned around to notice me listening because they would have no doubt caught me in mid-eye roll.

Thirty-two is not old. At that age you aren't even halfway through this journey and half of what you have lived was before you were allowed to drive without an adult in the car. But I remember being what now seems young, thinking I was old. Maybe it was spotting the first gray hair, or experiencing soreness after doing something I had always done before pain-free. Maybe it was the day I looked down at my hand and saw my mother's in its place. Those things can make us feel as though time is moving along at a good clip. Shortly after that realization you also understand you can't stop it from doing so. We are all doing this time-passing-aging dance.

Our lives are a journey from an easily determined beginning to an often-unknown ending. From beginning to end we age. It's a natural process and one of the few consistencies in life. But even though we all age, we don't have to feel old. Aging is inevitable. Feeling old has an element of choice to it.

And there are some perks to aging. I'm not talking about cashing in on Early Bird Specials for dinner or the nifty senior discounts for movies, lodging and other things -- although I am delighted whenever I can save money simply for having lived this long.

As I walked to my car after overhearing this conversation, I remembered how I too thought myself old as I moved through my 30s and 40s. Looking back now, I realize that wasn't old at all. I was just at the beginning of a lot of good stuff. But I couldn't help but wonder if in another twenty years, God willing I make it that long, would I look back at me now and think I was pretty darn young and spunky at this age too?

So my advice to those 30-somethings complaining about being old is the same advice I give to all of us, no matter how old we are. If we're lucky we will all age. It's what we do. Aging is the investment we make in our lifetime. Instead of whining about it, relax and enjoy the ride.

After all, you are today the spring chicken of your tomorrow.

Fowler joins U.S. Wheat Associates as vice president of overseas operations

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) announces a change to its senior staff, naming Mark Fowler as the new vice president of overseas operations, following the transition of Vince Peterson to president on July 1, 2017. In this role, Fowler will be responsible for providing program and personnel direction to USW's 15 overseas offices, as well as technical and marketing guidance in support of USW's trade servicing activities. USW is the industry's export market development organization, representing the interests of U.S. wheat farmers in more than 100 countries.

"My first memories growing up in a farming family were riding with my grandfather to the grain elevator with a load of wheat," said Fowler. "I am honored to be selected to serve U.S. wheat producers and support the mission of U.S. Wheat Associates."

Fowler is no stranger to the international milling and wheat industries. He earned a bachelor's degree in Milling Science and Management from Kansas State University (KSU), and later returned to complete a master's degree in Agricultural Economics. His career began as a miller first for Cargill, Inc., and then Seaboard Corp. In those roles, Fowler ran flour mills, worked on projects in several developing countries, including Ecuador, Guyana and Haiti, and also worked as a technical director of the Africa Division within Seaboard's Overseas Group in Durban, South Africa. Later, Fowler spent 12 years back at KSU as a milling specialist and associate director at

the IGP Institute, in the university's Grain Science and Industry department.

"USW has worked closely with Mark over the years in his various capacities in milling, education, training and customer consultation work. He clearly distinguished himself by the quality of his work as well as his energy and enthusiasm for the international milling industry," said Peterson. "Mark is a longtime friend to our industry, but in recent months I have had the opportunity to get to know him on a deeper business level and to learn how well he is respected as a manager, executive and leader by the people that he has worked with."

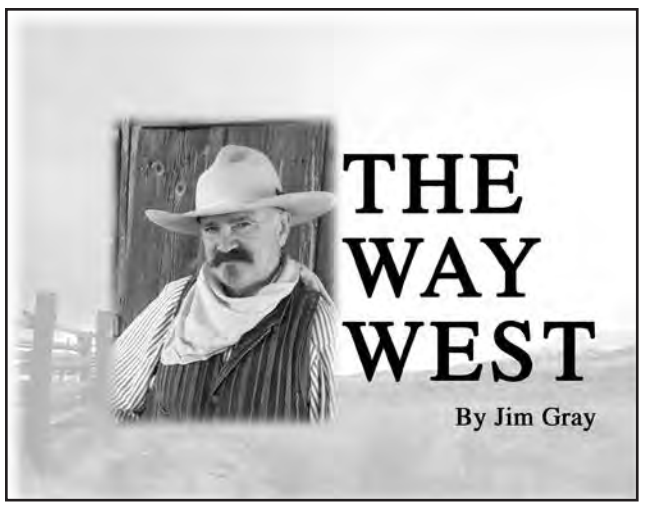
Over the past decade, Fowler has also been a technical milling consultant for USW, as well as the Northern Crops Institute (NCI), allowing him to become well acquainted with many USW staff and overseas customers.

"Throughout my career, I have experienced the global impact of the milling industry from several perspectives" said Fowler. "I am excited to engage with friends and colleagues in the industry, to advance the U.S. wheat export market development mission."

Most recently, Fowler was the president and CEO of Farmer Direct Foods, Inc. a farmer-owned, flour milling company in New Cambria. In this role, Fowler gained critical senior management and executive experience, which Peterson says demonstrates that Fowler has the leadership and capabilities to manage USW's overseas operations.

"I am fully confident that Mark will bring skills, ability and experiences that will prove extremely valuable to U.S. Wheat Associates and U.S. wheat producers in the future," said Peterson.

USW's mission is to "develop, maintain, and expand international markets to enhance the profitability of U.S. wheat producers and their customers." Its activities are made possible by producer checkoff dollars managed by 18 state wheat commissions and through cost-share funding provided by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. For more information, visit www.uswheat.org or contact your state wheat commission.



A New Yorker in Cattle Country

Brothers Doc and Alfred Barton brought the first trail herd into the Arkansas River valley of southwest Kansas in 1872. By way of Texas, through New Mexico, and into Colorado they eventually drifted into Kansas. With the loss of the great buffalo herds luxuriant open prairie grasslands greeted the eye as far as one could see. The brothers settled in to establish the first big cattle ranching operation in the southwestern part of the state.

By 1878, the cattle business had rapidly become something of interest to eastern investors. With that in mind a *New York Times* correspondent traveled to the "noisy cattle mart" of Dodge City. His report was published June 17, 1878, and reproduced in the July 10 *Indiana State Sentinel.*

When the correspondent stepped off the train at Dodge City in the midnight hour he was met by a throng of "swaggering, swearing cow boys and oily confidence men." Considering the late hour the correspondent "rubbed" his way through the crowd as he followed the porter to the Great Western Hotel. As he passed along Front Street he couldn't help but notice the fact that "in all the billiard halls, concert saloons and keno dens the lamp still held out to burn."

The population at Dodge City was estimated to be "not far from 1000", though it was described as increasing rapidly in anticipation of a swift market in the coming months. At its height the cattle shipping season gathered "traders, speculators, gamblers and all sorts." By July Dodge City was expected to be "the liveliest place in the west." One hundred twenty thousand head of "beeves" were already on the surrounding range, ready to be marketed. "The last accounts from the south indicate that there are upward of 225,000 head of cattle moving northward from Red river, fully one half of which will take the trail to Dodge City."

Thirty to forty thousand head would be put on cars for Kansas City, St. Louis, and Chicago beginning in July. However, the New York correspondent explained that, "The greater share of the cattle that are driven to this point from Texas do not go into eastern markets yet. They will be allowed to feed their way westward and northward, and two months later will appear at stations on the Kansas Pacific and Union Pacific roads further east, some to be shipped to Kansas City and Omaha, but the great bulk remain feeding on the plains until next spring."

A dozen years earlier at the close of the Civil War, Texas, with an estimated four million head, was expected to be the great supplier of beef for decades to come. Then came the great expansion of the ranching industry into the Great Plains, including the territories of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, the Dakotas, and in fact, the entire west. It was noted that, "In the past three or four years not all the cattle that have come up from Texas have been marketed, but have been multiplying and increasing in the valleys and along the high ranges… The cattle grounds are being transferred to the great buffalo plains and the central portion of the continent with the Pacific states, are becoming the leading producers of beef." Texas had become the seed stock producer, spreading the ranch industry across the country.

Passing beyond Dodge City's bustling streets the great spring roundup was witnessed along the Arkansas River in eastern Colorado. Before fencing was common it was always necessary to scour the open range in the spring to gather the scattered bands of cattle that had drifted here and there with the winter storms. In the valley of the Arkansas River, Los Animas, Colorado, was designated the rendezvous point. "Camps were established, all the leading cattle men, were on hand and the "cow boys" were in their glory." Ownership was easily determined by the ranch brand carried on every animal. Those that had drifted miles away from their home range were picked out in short order by men on accomplished "cutting" horses. Once claimed by the owners, they were started back to the range from whence they came.

The New York reporter compared notes among the herders. He found that over seventy-five thousand head of cattle were grazing "Kit Carson's old hunting grounds… an uninviting and barren looking section," between Fort Lyon and Bent's Fort. Six short years had not only filled the open prairie that greeted the Barton brothers, but by 1878 cattle were taking up nearly every available blade of grass on The Way West.

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

These junior members qualified to represent Kansas at the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest held in conjunction with the National Junior Angus Show this July in Des Moines, Iowa, and are pictured at the 2017 Kansas Junior Angus Association Preview Show, June 3-4 in Hutchinson. Pictured from left are Anna Carpenter, Wamego, and Sarah Loomis, Council Grove.

First signs of trade trouble with Mexico surface

While the U.S., Canada and Mexico gear up for NAFTA renegotiations, Mexico is sending clear signals that it won't roll over in trade disputes, according to *Southwest Farm Press.*

For the first time in four years, U.S. exports of soybean meal used to feed Mexican livestock and poultry has fallen by 15 percent in the first four months of the year. And U.S. chicken meat exports to Mexico dropped 11 percent over the same period, the biggest decline since 2003. U.S. corn exports have also dropped, by an unexpected 6 percent. As most farmers can tell you, Mexico is the largest international buyer of U.S. corn, soybeans and poultry.

The *Wall Street Journal* largely attributes this decline in exports to what they term the growing unease of Mexican buyers who fear that renegotiation of NAFTA will not take place without complications. The *Journal* article illustrates how many Mexican companies are turning to other suppliers, like Brazil, for replacements to U.S. agricultural products in the short term, at least until after NAFTA renegotiation efforts prove to be either a true success or a terrible failure.

Texas exports to Mexico totaled $833.5 million in 2016, of which $270.8 million were animal products and $562.8 million were plant products. The top four Texas agricultural exports to Mexico were beef and veal, valued at $141.7 million; cotton, $125.4 million; sweeteners, $64.5 million; and corn, $62.4 million.

Banks Are A Farmer's Ma
Information, Operating Ca

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ANDERSON
KINCAID . . . Landmark National Bank

ATCHISON
ATCHISON . . . Bank of Atchison

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KIOWA . . . First State Bank

BARTON
GREAT BEND . . . Central National Bank
GREAT BEND-ELLINWOOD . . .Sunflower Bank, NA
GREAT BEND-HOISINGTON . . .Landmark National Bank

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FT. SCOTT . . . Landmark National Bank

BROWN
EVEREST-HORTON . . . Union State Bank

BUTLER
ANDOVER . . . Equity Bank

CHASE
COTTONWOOD FALLS . . . Citizens State Bank

CLAY
CLAY CENTER . . . Union State Bank

CLOUD
CLYDE . . . Elk State Bank
CONCORDIA . . . Central National Bank
CONCORDIA . . . Elk State Bank
GLASCO . . . Citizens State Bank & Trust
MILTONVALE . . . First National Bank of Hope

COFFEY
BURLINGTON . . . Central National Bank
BURLINGTON . . . First National Bank of Kansas
GRIDLEY-LEROY-BURLINGTON-NEW STRAWN . . .
Citizens State Bank

CRAWFORD
PITTSBURG . . . Equity Bank
PITTSBURG . . . Landmark National Bank

DICKINSON
ABILENE . . . First Bank Kansas
ABILENE . . . Pinnacle Bank
ABILENE-SOLOMON . . . Solomon State Bank
HERINGTON . . . Central National Bank
HOPE--HERRINGTON . . . First National Bank of Hope

DONIPHAN
BENDENA . . . Bendena State Bank

DOUGLAS
LAWRENCE . . . Capital City Bank
LAWRENCE . . . Central National Bank
LAWRENCE . . . First State Bank & Trust
LAWRENCE . . . INTRUST Bank
LAWRENCE . . . Landmark National Bank
LAWRENCE . . . Sunflower Bank, NA

ELLIS
HAYS-ELLIS . . . Equity Bank
HAYS-VICTORIA . . . Sunflower Bank, NA

ELLSWORTH
ELLSWORTH . . . Citizens State Bank & Trust
ELLSWORTH . . . First Bank Kansas

FINNEY
GARDEN CITY . . . Landmark National Bank

FORD
DODGE CITY . . . Landmark National Bank
DODGE CITY . . . Sunflower Bank, NA

FRANKLIN
WELLSVILLE . . . Landmark National Bank

GEARY
JUNCTION CITY . . . Central National Bank
JUNCTION CITY . . . INTRUST Bank
JUNCTION CITY . . . Landmark National Bank
JUNCTION CITY . . . Millennium Bank
JUNCTION CITY . . . Sunflower Bank, NA

GREENWOOD
MADISON-HAMILTON . . . Citizens State Bank

HARVEY
NEWTON . . . First Bank of Newton
NEWTON-HALSTEAD-HESSTON . . .
Central National Bank
WASHINGTON . . . First National Bank of Washington

JACKSON
HOLTON . . . Farmers State Bank

JEFFERSON
MCLOUTH . . . Bank of Mclouth
OSKALOOSA . . . Bank of Oskaloosa
PERRY . . . First State Bank & Trust
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TONGANOXIE-BASEHOR . . . Community National Bank
TONGANOXIE-BASEHOR . . . First State Bank & Trust

LINCOLN
LINCOLN . . . Citizens State Bank & Trust
LINCOLN . . . Bank of Tescott
SYLVAN GROVE . . . Bennington State Bank

LINN
MOUND CITY . . . Landmark National Bank

LOGAN
OAKLEY . . . Peoples State Bank

LYON
EMPORIA . . . Citizens State Bank

MARION
MARION-HILLSBORO . . . Central National Bank

MARSHALL
BLUE RAPIDS . . . State Bank of Blue Rapids

MCPHERSON
LINDSBORG . . . Bank of Tescott
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LYNDON . . . Citizens State Bank
LYNDON . . . Lyndon State Bank
OSAGE CITY . . . First National Bank of Kansas
OSAGE CITY . . . Landmark National Bank
OVERBROOK-SCRANTON . . . Kansas State Bank

OSBORNE
NATOMA . . . Southwind Bank
OSBORNE . . . Sunflower Bank, NA

OTTAWA
BENNINGTON-MINNEAPOLIS . . .
Bennington State Bank
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Citizens State Bank & Trust
TESCOTT . . . Bank of Tescott

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RAWLINS
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RENO
HUTCHINSON . . . First Bank
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RICE
LYONS . . . Lyons Federal Bank
LYONS-LITTLE RIVER . . . Lyons State Bank
STERLING . . . Alden State Bank
STERLING . . . First Bank

RILEY
LEONARDVILLE-MANHATTAN . . . Peoples State Bank
MANHATTAN . . . Central National Bank
MANHATTAN . . . Farmers State Bank
MANHATTAN . . . INTRUST Bank
MANHATTAN . . . Landmark National Bank
MANHATTAN . . . Sunflower Bank, NA
RILEY- LEONARDVILLE . . . Riley State Bank

RUSH
LACROSSE . . . Landmark National Bank

RUSSELL
LUCAS . . . Bennington State Bank
RUSSELL . . . Southwind Bank
RUSSELL . . . Sunflower Bank, NA

SALINE
SALINA . . . Bank Of Tescott
SALINA . . . Bank VI
SALINA . . . Bennington State Bank
SALINA . . . Central National Bank
SALINA . . . First Bank Kansas
SALINA . . . Solomon State Bank
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WICHITA . . . Equity Bank
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WICHITA . . . Sunflower Bank, NA
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LIBERAL . . . Sunflower Bank, NA
WAVERLY . . . First National Bank of Kansas

SHAWNEE
AUBURN-TOPEKA . . . Landmark National Bank
TOPEKA . . . Central National Bank
TOPEKA . . . Equity Bank
TOPEKA . . . INTRUST Bank
TOPEKA . . . Sunflower Bank, NA
TOPEKA--SILVER LAKE . . . Silver Lake Bank

SHERMAN
GOODLAND . . . Peoples State Bank
HOXIE . . . Peoples State Bank

STEVENS
HUGOTON . . . First National Bank

SUMNER
ARGONIA . . . Farmers & Merchants State Bank
WELLINGTON . . . Bank of Commerce

THOMAS
COLBY . . . Peoples State Bank
COLBY . . . Sunflower Bank, NA

WABAUNSEE
ALMA . . . Bank of The Flint Hills
ESKRIDGE . . . Flint Hills Bank
HARVEYVILLE . . . First National Bank of Harveyville
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AROUND KANSAS

We have just marked Independence Day and now we look forward to Bastille Day. Vive la France!

A few years ago, I was spending a lot of time at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. I did media training and staff rides. I was fortunate to take part in a staff ride of the Battle of the Blue, essentially Kansas City and environs, for about twenty visiting French majors and their colonel. They each spent time in a CGSC classroom as well. Our officers had been told, No French jokes!!! – A rule they heeded until the last class of the last day. The major who led this particular class called out his French counterpart.

"Hey Yon," he chided, "Check this out!"

The American major had Googled "French military victories" and the results were, well, no results found. The class laughed uproariously.

I had spent some time with Yon. He had spent 20 years in service, much of it in Africa and had endured some horrific times and scenes. I stepped up behind him and said,

"Yon, Google the monument at Yorktown."

Nearly every name on that monument to OUR independence is French. We would not be a country without them.

"Tell your buddies we don't care if you had another victory or not. You were there when we needed you."

And now, fellow Kansans, let's celebrate our French roots, and let us not forget that the flag of France once flew over our prairies and plains.

French Explorer Louis Jolliet first used the names Kansas and Missouri on a map. He did not visit the area himself but helped gather information for others who would come.

The French first entered Kansas looking to create trade relations with the native people. The French traded guns, metal, and alcohol for furs. In great demand across Europe, fur collection from the New World made fortunes for many Frenchmen. Claude Charles du Tisne established trade with the Osage and Pawnee. It proved profitable for all sides.

The French built trade relations with American Indians and intermarried with Native peoples. Eventually, the United States bought the Louisiana Purchase, which included the area of Kansas.

After Kansas was established as a territory, French settlers continued to settle in the state. Ernest Valeton de Boissière, a former French army engineer envisioned a Utopian community where all would share in the responsibilities and the rewards. His Franklin County town of Silkville boomed, then failed, and he returned to France. But many others stayed, forever leaving their marks, and their names, on Kansas.

We hear these words every day often without realizing their origins:

Voltaire was named for Francois Marie Arouet, dit Voltaire, French writer and philosopher and Bourbon County for the French Royal family.

Louisburg was named for King Louis XIV/XVI and was originally called New St. Louis. The name was changed to Louisburg in 1870 when the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad was built through the town.

Marquette was named for Father Jacques Marquette, who with Louis Joliet, found and explored the Mississippi River in 1673.

Frontenac got its name from Louis de Buade de Frontenac, governor of New France in the late 1600s. Labette, Kansas: Pierre Labette, settler, and La Harpe for Bernard de La Harpe, French explorer.

Hugoton was named Hugo for Victor Hugo, French author and poet, who died the year the town site was laid out. When the post office was established, it was given the name of Hugoton lest it be confused with Hugo, Colorado, which is not far away. Hugoton was founded in 1885.

Belle Plaine means beautiful plain in French.

"La Cygne" is French for "the swan." Wild swans once nested on the Marais des Cygnes River by which La Cygne is located. Marais des Cygnes means "marsh of the swans."

Originally Le Loup was named Ferguson for an early day merchant. The railroad company named the station Le Loup which means "the wolf" in French. The French settlers heard wolves howling at night and would exclaim, "Le Loup," so the town was given this name. The post office was established in 1870.

Sedan, established in 1871, received its name from Sedan, France, where the Battle of Sedan was fought.

Zurich was settled by French Canadians who named the town for Zurich, Switzerland.

Happy Bastille Day!

Deb Goodrich is the cohost of Around Kansas, now airing on Cox 22 at 11:30 am in addition to our early morning times. She continues to be astounded by the response to her column in Grass and Grain. Contact her at author.debgoodrich@gmail.com.

Soil health – what does it really mean?

By Gretchen Sassenrath, Kansas State University, Southeast Research and Extension Center

"Soil health" is a term used commonly today. But what does that really mean? The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service has defined soil health as "The continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans." Okay, but what does that mean? To a farmer, soil health is the capacity of the soil to produce a crop – healthy soils produce crops of higher quality and higher yield.

So what makes soil healthy? Soil is composed of physical, chemical and biological components. The physical components are most commonly thought of when we think of soil – it's the rocks and minerals that have been broken up into very small particles of sand, silt and clay. These compounds are regularly measured to determine the texture of the soil. A simple method of determining soil texture is to put a small amount, about a teaspoon full, of soil in the palm of your hand and add enough water to make it muddy. Mixing the soil and water in your hand, soil texture can be determined by how the soil feels. Sand is the coarsest material (50 µm (microns) – 2 mm) and can be easily seen or felt in a soil sample as rough particles. Silt particles are smaller than sand, while clay particles are very small (less than 2 µm). Soils high in clay have a sticky or soapy feel (depending on the type of clay). The relative proportions of sand, silt and clay determine how the soil is classified. For example, a silt loam soil has 20 to 50% sand, 75 to 90% silt, and 0 to 30% clay. In contrast, a silty clay loam has 60 to 70% silt, 0 to 20% sand, and 25 to 40% clay. The textural composition of soil is determined by the soil formation processes, termed "pedogenesis." These processes are regulated by the parent material (for example, the underlying rock; in our area, limestone is a common parent material), time, topography, climate, and living organisms. Some soils are developed from erosion – wind and water can carry soil and deposit it in new areas, creating loess (wind-blown) and alluvial (water-borne) soils. A good physical composition is the first ingredient for a healthy soil.

The second component of soil, and one that is also regularly measured, is the chemical component. This includes the nutrients nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P or DAP), and potassium (K or potash) that are commonly included in added fertilizers. Another important chemical characteristic of soils is the pH. The pH of soils can be adjusted with lime. Soil pH is critical as it changes the availability of the other nutrients. If a soil is too acidic (low pH) or alkaline (high pH), nutrients may be present in high quantities in the soil, but they bind too tightly to the physical components and become unavailable to plants. A similar phenomenon can occur with water in the soil. Clay mineral particles bind things very tightly. Even when clay soils have high water or nutrient content, the plant may not be able to take up the water and nutrients because the clay particles bind them too tightly. This is why it's important to adjust the pH of the soil – to increase the amount of nutrients available to the plant.

The final component that is critical to the overall capacity of soil to provide a "vital living ecosystem" is the biological component. We are learning much more about the factors involved in the biology of soils and their role in soil health. The biological component includes the plants, animals, insects, earthworms, nematodes, arthropods, protozoa, fungi, and bacteria that live in the soil. The biological community is a very important component of soil health. While much of the soil biological community is visible, such as earthworms, the truly dynamic component is too small to be seen without magnification. This microscopic community, the microbial community or microbiome, is responsible for much of the activity that goes on in the soil. A teaspoon of soil can contain a billion bacterial cells, several to hundreds of yards of fungal hyphae, thousands of protozoa, and 10-20 nematodes. Some of these are beneficial, for example the Rhizobia bacteria that work with plants to fix nitrogen in certain plants such as soybeans. Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) are a group of beneficial fungi that form close bonds with plants, actually growing into the root cells of vascular plants and helping the plants take up nutrients. Other micro-organisms are detrimental, such as the fungus that causes charcoal rot. The soil microbiome is truly a very dynamic, active, and diverse community. The microbial community performs much of the activities of breaking up and recycling plant residues, and capturing nutrients and water. The bacteria and fungi form close interactions with plants, creating symbiotic relationships that benefit both the plants and the microbes. The microbes mine nutrients and water from the soil, and transfer these to the plants. In turn, the plants release sugars (carbohydrates) that the microbes need for an energy source. This dense, symbiotic network is the key to soil health.

Much is known about how to manage the physical and chemical characteristics of soils to improve their productive capacity. We are learning the importance of the soil biological components and their contribution to agronomic productivity. Biological soil characteristics are important for their role in integrating physical and chemical characteristics of the soil for optimal productivity. This "vital living ecosystem" must be supported in order for it and increasing the amount of plant residues, for example by planting cover crops, helps nourish the soil microbiome and improves soil health.

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact me at (620)-820-6131 or by email at gsassenrath@ksu.edu.

These junior Angus members will compete as a team at the National Junior Angus Show this July in Des Moines, Iowa, in the team fitting contest and are pictured at the 2017 Kansas Junior Angus Association Preview Show, June 3-4 in Hutchinson. Pictured from left are Laura Carpenter, Wamego; Jayce Dickerson, Paradise; Taylor Nikkel, Maple Hill; and Anna Carpenter, Wamego.

Winter cover crop good for soil, cows, profit

Farming is risky business. There's a need to maximize the quality and quantity of production, within the strict realities of time and environmental health. Finding the right combination of crops is part of the gamble, and one that's important to keep farmers' livelihood going. Triticale is a winter cover crop that limits the gamble with a trifecta of benefits. Triticale is a wheat-rye hybrid from the late 1800s. In New York State, 15 years of research finds triticale brings benefits to the field, the growers' pockets, and dairy cows' diets.

"It's like a ball of string," explains Tom Kilcer. "We've been unwinding the ball for a while and the more we unwind, the more we find good things happening."

Kilcer is a private consultant with Advanced Ag Systems LLC. He and Cornell Cooperative Extension's Quirine Kettering collaborated to tease out the growing details.

Triticale is mostly used as forage for cattle, but you might also see it in breakfast cereal ingredient lists. It has both the high yield of wheat and the cold tolerance of rye. It is this ability to overwinter — and do it well – that sets triticale apart.

In the fall, many fields contain nitrogen fertilizer left over from the summer's crop growth. Manure or compost added during the warm months will continue to release nitrogen until slowed by the cold. Fields that are left empty lose that nitrogen back to the atmosphere – or worse, with the natural flow of water, through and off the field. The latter can contribute to poor water quality and algal blooms downstream. And since algae removes oxygen from the water, other aquatic life is unable to survive. Dead zones can be the tragic end. This is a huge loss for the environment and for the farmers that depend on it.

"Anytime we have nutrients leaving the field, it's money running off the farm," Kilcer says. "It has to go someplace—is it the local town watershed, stream, the Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico?"

Instead, Kilcer suggests keeping the nitrogen local. "By planting a crop of winter triticale, we are able to capture and store that nitrogen," he says. His goal is to plant the triticale so it can grow as much as possible between the harvest of the main summer crop and the arrival of forbidding winter cold. In fact, Kilcer has found that adding an extra kick of fertilizer in the fall brings more efficiency to the process, giving an extra growth spurt in triticale before the cold hits.

"What we have is a manure storage unit," he says, pointing out the strong green triticale in a wintry field. The new triticale growth picks up the leftover nitrogen from the previous crop as well as the added fertilizer. His research suggests 50-60 pounds of nitrogen is kept out of waterways.

In his area, near Albany, N.Y., planting a cover crop of triticale before mid-September is key. Planting it in October doesn't give enough growth time to the emerging triticale, and nutrients are lost.

The autumn growth of triticale has another benefit: soil health. Triticale's roots are tenacious, holding the soil in place through difficult winter and spring months. Further, when left in the field, the roots and top growth decompose. This returns more organic matter and nutrients to the soil.

For growers, an added attraction with triticale is the economic return. "Most cover crops cost money to establish and stop in the spring, without an immediate return to the farmer. Triticale, while having all the great benefits of cover crops, also gives a direct return in spring to the farmer's checkbook by producing forage," Kilcer says. This can lessen the economic impact if severe weather, such as drought, affects the primary summer crop.

Adding to this return is triticale's high quality as feed for cows—especially lactating cows who need easily digestible energy and fiber. "We are talking really good feed, nutritionally, that's more digestible for cows," Kilcer asserts. "It helps the cows keep producing milk even in summer's heat." That means more milk production, and economic security.

One word of caution from Kilcer: allelopathy. This term refers to a plant's ability to release natural chemicals that inhibit growth of another plant. Some might call it plant warfare. Not all plants can do this, but triticale can.

Triticale releases its natural chemicals to the soil to eliminate competitor plants. The result is corn, sorghum, teff, and some cool season grasses, as well as some weeds, will not grow at all or grow poorly. Kilcer found growth of these crops can still be successful by planting between the triticale rows. Legumes, including soy and alfalfa, are not affected and can be directly planted into the harvested triticale stubble.

Kilcer continues to push the timeline on how early to plant the triticale. This past winter, however, two of his three research sites had uninvited dinner guests: deer cleared the fields. Another winter, deer-free, will need to pass to refine the research further.

Kilcer's webinar about the soil, feed, and economic trifecta, "Winter Triticale – Maximizing Forage, Protect the Environment 365 Days a Year" can be viewed at https://www.agronomy.org/education/classroom/classes. It qualifies as a continuing education credit for Certified Crop Advisers.

These junior Angus members received the Kansas Angus Auxiliary Scholarship at the 2017 Kansas Junior Angus Association Preview Show, June 3-4 in Hutchinson. Pictured from left are Grady Dickerson, Paradise; Cale Hinrichsen, Westmoreland; Morgan Woodbury, Quenemo; and Ann Sankey, Kansas Angus Auxiliary scholarship chairperson, presenting the awards.

Morgan Woodbury, Quenemo, left, received the junior challenge award and the premier exhibitor award at the 2017 Kansas Junior Angus Association Preview Show, June 3-4 in Hutchinson. These awards are sponsored by the Kansas Angus Auxiliary, and presenting the awards is Beverly Figge, Kansas Angus Auxiliary.

These juniors received their Bronze and Silver Awards at the 2017 Kansas Junior Angus Association Preview Show, June 3-4 in Hutchinson. Pictured from left are Cale Hinrichsen, Westmoreland; Alexandria Cozzitorto, Lawrence; and Caleb Flory, Baldwin City. The Bronze and Silver Awards are the first two levels of the National Junior Angus Association Recognition Program. Juniors must apply for the awards and then meet point requirements in many areas of participation before receiving them.

Trick roper, gun spinner, bullwhip cracker to entertain at Phillipsburg Rodeo

When the Phillipsburg Rodeo stampedes into town August 3-4-5, it'll bring a treat for western fans!

Western showman Rider Kiesner will be on hand during every performance of the rodeo to enthrall crowds with his western-style art.

Kansas Biggest Rodeo-goers will see him trick-rope, spin guns, and do some good old fashioned whip-crackin'! He'll even bring his fire whips: two six-foot whips, soaked in lighter fluid, that he lights during his show as he cracks them. "They throw a big flame," he said. "They're pretty cool."

The 25-year-old cowboy knows how to entertain. He first learned how to trick-rope from a Will Rogers trick roping kit his parents gave him when he was nine years old and the family lived in Colorado. "It was cold that winter and we moved all the furniture back (in the living room), and I trick-roped in the house," he remembers.

From there it only grew. He polished his showmanship and learned the art of gun spinning and bullwhip cracking to add to his repertoire.

And since then, he's entertained at some of the biggest rodeos and wild west shows in the nation and across the world: the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas the last three years, Cheyenne (Wyo.) Frontier Days, Clovis, Calif., San Angelo, Texas, and Prescott, Ariz., and at the Cavalia, an equestrian and performing art show that toured last year in South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

He's also won numerous awards: four times as world champion trick roper, twice as world champion gun spinner, and the all-around western performer twice, at the world finals in Las Vegas and Tombstone, Ariz.

Kiesner loves to entertain. "It's something I've always done," he said. "To be able to make a living by performing is the best."

Kiesner will perform with his western arts during each night of rodeo at the rodeo grounds north of town, August 3-5. The rodeo begins each night at 8 p.m.

Tickets for the rodeo are on sale at Heritage Insurance in Phillipsburg and at the gate. They range in price from $12 to $18.

For more information, visit the rodeo's website at KansasBiggestRodeo.com or its Facebook page (search for Kansas Biggest Rodeo).

National DHIA raises scholarship value to $1,000

National Dairy Herd Information Association (DHIA) is offering $1,000 scholarships to full-time, incoming and continuing students at technical and two-year and four-year colleges/universities. To be eligible for a National DHIA scholarship, the applicant must be a family member or employee of a herd on DHI test, family member of a DHI employee, or employee of a DHI affiliate. The DHI affiliate for the herd or affiliate employee must be a member of National DHIA. (AgSource Cooperative Services, Arizona DHIA, Dairy Lab Services, Dairy One Cooperative Inc., DHI Cooperative Inc., Idaho DHIA, Indiana State Dairy Association, Lancaster DHIA, Minnesota DHIA, NorthStar Cooperative DHI Services, Puerto Rico DHIA, Rocky Mountain DHIA, Tennessee DHIA, Texas DHIA, United Federation of DHIAs and Washington State DHIA are National DHIA members.)

Judges will evaluate applicants based on scholastic achievements, leadership, community activities and work experience, knowledge of and experience with DHIA, and responses to questions on the application. Applications are due Nov. 30, 2017. Recipients will be announced at the 2018 National DHIA annual meeting.

To apply for a National DHIA scholarship, log on to: www.dhia.org and download and complete the electronic application form. For more information, contact JoDee Sattler, National DHIA scholarship coordinator, at 414-587-5839 or jdsattler@dhia.org.

National DHIA will award approximately 20 $1,000 scholarships. Generous contributions from National DHIA members, friends and supporters help fund these scholarships.

National Dairy Herd Information Association, a trade association for the dairy records industry, serves the best interests of its members and the dairy industry by maintaining the integrity of dairy records and advancing dairy information systems.

These young ladies and gentlemen were elected to serve on the Kansas Junior Angus Association board of directors and are pictured at the 2017 Kansas Junior Angus Association Preview Show, June 3-4 in Hutchinson. Pictured front row from left are Megan Green, Leavenworth, president; Anna Carpenter, Wamego, president elect; Grady Dickerson, Paradise, vice president; Cale Hinrichsen, Westmoreland, second vice president; Morgan Woodbury, Quenemo, secretary; Alexandria Cozzitorto, Lawrence, treasurer; Ethan Dickerson, Paradise, reporter; and Eva Hinrichsen, Westmoreland, historian. Second row from left are Chelsey Figge, Onaga, past president; Jayce Dickerson, Paradise, membership director; Kady Figge, Onaga, membership director; and Kelsey Theis, Leavenworth, membership director. District directors third row from left are Daniel Maier, Natoma; Elyse Louderback, Saint George; Baylee Wulfkuhle, Berryton; Kelly Newton, Elk City; Nicholas Siemens, Towanda; Greta Rosenhagen, Cheney; and Brandon Frederick, Sterling.

Train employees, others before livestock disease outbreaks occur

One small breach of protocol can lead to a disease outbreak and financial loss for livestock producers.

An MU Extension team teaches livestock producers throughout Missouri to follow protocols that protect animal and human health, food, and the environment.

The team received USDA Extension Education funding to offer a series of biosecurity workshops in Missouri recently.

Prevention of disease outbreaks saves animal lives and money, says Joe Zulovich, principal investigator on the grant. Training staff and putting protocols in place can prevent or reduce losses.

The first step is to assess risks by reviewing workflow and traffic flow across farm and barn boundaries, says Zulovich.

Biosecurity begins with creation of "clean zones" and "dirty zones," he says.

Livestock producers should create clearly defined boundaries inside and outside of the farm to prevent visitors and workers from carrying disease directly into areas where animals live.

Restricted access to the farm and buildings creates a buffer of protection to animals. Post warning signs at farm entrances and buildings where animals live, Zulovich says. Train employees, service personnel such as delivery drivers, and general visitors to break the chain of contamination. Keep supplies such as soap, sanitizer and plastic boots readily available to visitors.

Workers and approved visitors should wear clean, site-specific booties and clothing to prevent the spread of disease into animal-raising areas. People can carry disease on their boots, clothing, supplies, equipment and other objects. It can be airborne or brought in through animal food and water. Rodents, pests and birds also create risks.

Some systems require workers to shower on-site before entering the clean zone, and again when leaving the clean zone.

Establish barriers that limit access to the farm. Examine the workflow of your farm to consider openings where disease can come in. Restrict feed trucks by placing feed bins close to a perimeter fence, Zulovich says. Arrange for packages to be delivered off-site.

Zulovich says most swine and poultry producers have good systems in place. The challenge is in getting employees to follow the rules. Disease risk increases when employees do not strictly follow protocol at all times.

"Make sure you train your employees," says Teng Lim, co-principal investigator on the USDA grant. "Details matter." He urges producers to establish a written plan for training and response. Test and audit the plan on a regular basis, he says.

The materials presented in the workshops can be found at faculty.missouri.edu/limt/Biosecurity.shtml. The webpage includes a short animated video illustrating the biosecurity checklist. The video can be used for quick reminders or in-house training, Lim says.

Producers should be on the lookout for disease presence, especially when other states and countries report disease. Producers should alert the state veterinarian when they see unusual symptoms or unexplained death losses in their herds or flocks, or when there is any suspicion of foreign animal disease. Contact the state veterinarian immediately when a mass mortality occurs due to disease, Zulovich adds.

When a disease outbreak happens, the most feasible option may be burning or composting dead animals on-farm. Mortality composters are large, heated drums that rotate similarly to a concrete mixer.

Zulovich and Lim recommend that producers review biosecurity protocols before an outbreak occurs. "Plan ahead," Lim says.

Leading swine industry experts will discuss diseases at the Swine Health Symposium in Sedalia, Mo. For more information on the July 17 event, go to mopork.com/education/missouri-swine-health-symposium.

Kansas Water Authority RAC membership drive drawing to a close

The Kansas Water Office is accepting applications from those who would like to participate as a member of one of the 14 Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) established by the Kansas Water Authority (KWA). Interested individuals are encouraged to apply soon as the deadline for the Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) is only days away.

These committees play a key role in advising the KWA on implementation of each region's water supply priorities as part of the Vision for the Future of the Water Supply in Kansas as well as provide advice on the identification of water-related problems, issues and concerns. The committee selection process will ensure all of the water users and interests within the region are represented.

Interested persons can find the application at www.kwo.org. The application deadline is July 15, 2017.

Kansans can have a definite impact on the future of water resources through RAC membership. For further information please visit www.kwo.org or call: (785) 296-3185 or 1-888-526-9283.

Moran urges USTR to strengthen agricultural trade in NAFTA negotiations

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) joined his colleagues to urge U.S. trade representative Robert Lighthizer to strengthen agricultural trade as the administration prepares to begin negotiations to update the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The letter was led by U.S. senators John Thune (R-S.D.) and Pat Roberts (R-Kan.).

"As senators representing states with significant agricultural exports, we appreciate the careful approach the administration is taking to strengthen the NAFTA agreement, while ensuring that no changes are made that could result in harm to U.S. agriculture," the senators wrote. "We look forward to working with you throughout the congressional consultation process to ensure that NAFTA continues its substantial economic contributions to U.S. farmers and ranchers and to the growth of our agricultural economy."

Last month, the Trump administration notified Congress of its intent to open negotiations with Canada and Mexico with respect to NAFTA. The notification triggers a 90-day consultation period under the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (TPA), and the administration is required to provide specific negotiating objectives at least 30 days before any negotiations begin.

Since NAFTA was signed into law in 1993, Canada and Mexico have been two of the top five destinations for U.S. agriculture products. Last year, the two countries accounted for 28 percent of the value of total agriculture exports from the United States. Since NAFTA's enactment, livestock and meat exports to Canada have doubled and agriculture commodity exports to Mexico have increased significantly.

Auction Sales Scheduled

July 11 — Commercial real estate (2 story stone building) at Alma. Auctioneers: Simnitt Real Estate & Auction, Inc., Countrywide Realty, Inc.

July 12 — Online unreserved auction — Farm machinery at www.bigiron.com. Auctioneers: Big Iron Online Auction.

July 13 — Guns, glass, collectibles, antiques, household items & tools at Burlingame for Larry & Katy Smith. Auctioneers: Wischropp Auctions.

July 15 — Vehicles, skid loader trailer, pickup trailer, household, antiques, collectibles & misc. at Abilene. Auctioneers: Ron Shivers Auction Co.

July 15 — Antiques, furniture, collectibles, shop & guns at Goessel for Wesley & Donna Duerksen, Norman & Patsy Schmidt & others. Auctioneers: Van Schmidt Auction.

July 15 — Vehicle, furniture, appliances, coins, guns, collectibles & toys, tools & misc. at Junction City for Ashley & Others. Auctioneers: Brown Real Estate & Auction Service, LLC.

July 15 — Real Estate (3BR home on corner lot), household, collectibles, shop, yard & misc. at Lyons for Sharon Pearsall. Auctioneers: Stroh's Real Estate & Auctions, LLC.

July 15 — 3BR home, buildings & approx. 30 acres; Tract 2, 130 acres; Studebaker wood wheel box wagon, tractors, mowers, trailers, old 3-wheel Cushman w/bed, motorcycles, slate top pool table, jukebox, furniture, books, K-State memorabilia, tools & shop items at Salina for Allen Webber Estate. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.

July 15 — personal property, furniture, hardware, sportsman, antiques, collectibles at Cottonwood Falls for Croy's, Inc. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction Service, Inc.

July 15 — Car, pickup, guns, ammo, furniture, pictures & more, tools, outdoor just North of Salina. Auctioneers: Baxa Auctions, LLC.

July 15 — Great furniture (some from a hotel), household, patio, garage items, appliances, mobility assist electric chair & more at Herington for Gerald & Sherry Rindt, IRS-Strand. Auctioneers: Bob's Auction Service, Bob Kickhaefer.

July 15 — Trailers, skid steer attachments, nice construction supplies & building materials at Clay Center for Junior & Debbie Charest. Auctioneers: Kretz & Bloom Auction Service.

July 15 — Furniture, household, antiques, collectibles, appliances, yard & shop, carpenter items & more at Neosho Rapids for Loris (Shorty) & the late Norma Gilbert. Auctioneers: Swisher Auction Service.

July 15 — Real estate, guns, cars, trucks, mower, tools, antiques & household at Osborne for Bennie Norton Estate. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction LLC.

July 16 — Tractors, vehicles, 1949 H Farmall, coins, antiques, primitives, furniture, button collection, appliances & much more at Elmdale for property of Gertrude Weber. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction Service, LC.

July 16 — 2004 Ford pickup & Merc car, collectibles, coins, furniture, antiques & household items at Osage City for property of the late Mr. & Mrs. Jim Henry. Auctioneers: Wischropp Auctions.

July 17 — 8N Ford tractor, trencher backhoe, flatbed truck, mini truck 4x4, machinery, equipment, 6 burner commercial gas stove, kitchen equipment, furniture, janitorial items & misc. at St. Marys for St. Mary's Academy & College. Auctioneers: Gannon Auctions.

July 17 — 630 acres m/l in Ellis County held at Hays for Anna M. Pyle & Charles L. Pyle Trusts. Auctioneers: Hill Realty.

July 22 — Boat, lawn equip., machinery, carpenter tools & misc., antiques & household at Belleville for C.L. Adams Estate. Auctioneers: Novak Bros. & Gieber.

July 22 — Huge gun & ammo retirement auction at Manhattan for Pat's Pawn & Gun. Auctioneers: Ruckert Realty & Auction.

July 22 — Farm machinery, tractors, farm equipment at Beattie for Steve O'Neil. Auctioneers: Olmsteds & Sandstrom.

July 22 — 1486 IH tractor, antique tractor & other antique farm machinery, antique engines, antiques & collectibles, antique metal farm signs, large amount of good tools & shop equipment & more at Westphalia for Tom Highberger. Auctioneers: Kurtz Auction & Realty Service.

July 22 — Tractors, combine, trucks, Corvairs, machinery, guns, coins & tools East of Scandia for Ray & Jean Mach Estate. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

July 22 — Tools, locksmith supplies, sportsman equipment, Army surplus, antiques, household goods at Wakefield for Rolland Camp Estate. Auctioneers: Kretz & Bloom Auction Service.

July 22 — 3BR, 2BA ranch-style home; vehicles, furniture, appliances, collectibles, household & shop at Manhattan for Maureen & the late Ivan Woellhof. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.

July 22 — Real estate (1968 3BR, 2 1/2BA ranch home, buildings & more), household, shop equipment & more held at Valley Falls for Estate of Leone James, Russel James, seller. Auctioneers: Harris Auction Service.

July 23 — Guns at Salina. Auctioneers: Wilson Realty & Auction Service.

July 24 — Pratt County land - Natrona area, CRP, trees, mineral rights held at Pratt for heirs of Dikeman/Pinkerton. Auctioneers: Hamm Auction & Real Estate, LLC.

July 28 — Land auction at Beattie for Steve O'Neil. Auctioneers: Olmsteds Auction.

July 28 & 29 — (selling July 28: Cars, airboat, trailers, tools & other; selling July 29: Antiques & collectibles, 1860 rare "New York" kit home) at Clifton for Daniel & Judy Deaver. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

July 29 — Tractors, combine & swather, trailers, trucks, pickups, farm equipment, misc. farm items, steel bins, hog house, cattle equipment, tools, household, antiques, collectibles held north of Esbon for Gary Bartcher Estate. Auctioneers: Wolters Auction & Realty.

July 29 — Tractors, combines, platforms & corn heads, planters & drills, tillage tools hay equipment, rotary cutters, construction pieces, lawn, garden & ATVs, grain, feed & material handling, sprayers & applicators, trucks, trailers, lots of livestock equipment near Paris, Missouri for July consignment auction. Auctioneers: Wheeler Auctions & Real Estate.

July 29 — Elmco Royal Ride golf cart, Gravely zero turn mower, boat, Chevy Monza, tools & tool chests, Harley Davidson collection & motorcycle items, St. Gregory's china hutch, collectibles, household, coin operated arcade games, gun at Home for Ronnie & the late Carla Scheller. Auctioneers: Donald Prell Realty & Auction.

August 3 — Historic Council Grove National Bank building held at Council Grove. Auctioneers: Gene Francis & Associates Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers.

August 5 — Consignments at Salina. Auctioneers: Wilson Realty & Auction Service.

August 8 — Tractors, combine, trucks, machinery & other held near Hunter for D. Eugene Tuttle. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

August 12 — Antiques, collectibles & tools for Bob Kastrup; Guns, jewelry, toy guns & collectibles, trailer, generator, yard equipment for Richelle & Danielle Russell held at Jewell. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

August 12 — Estate auction: full line of mostly late model farm machinery at Frankfort for Dan Studer Estate. Auctioneers: Joe Horigan.

August 14 — Ranch & land auction (8,000 m/l acres) held at Sharon Springs for Spring Valley Ranch. BARigby Auction.

August 15 — 5,150 m/l acres Hamilton & Kearny counties sold in 10 tracts & combinations held at Lakin for Englert Farm & Ranch. Auctioneers: Hall & Hall.

October 25 — Fink Beef Genetics Angus and Charolais Bull sale at Randolph.

November 16 — Clay County Real Estate for Helen Schurle Trust in Green, KS. Auctioneers: Greg Kretz.

BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Pestilence

Piojos! Lice! The biting kind. You see 'em everywhere

They're thick as thieves on cattle's backs and crawlin' in their hair!

And ticks the size of Tootsie Pops transfuse a cow a day!

And two can pack a yearlin' off or pull a two-horse sleigh!

A team of scabies mites can slick, a pen of weaners clean

And make you wish you'd never heard of two-dip quarantine!

But sheep don't get off easier, there's nasal bots and keds

Plus maggots from a screwworm strike that every herder dreads.

There's deer flies, blow flies, horn flies, house, face flies, horse flies, warbles.

There's pinworms, hookworms, lungworms, tapes, nasty, horrid, horribles!

As if them buggers ain't enough row croppin' can be worse!

It's hard to make a cotton crop if ballworms get there first!

And if you think I'm blowin' smoke try growin' grapes or pears

When aphids, thrips and nematodes all take their rightful shares.

They took ol' Noah at his word, "Go forth and multiply!"

But man has stepped into the breach and raised the battle cry!

We're fighting back with pesticides, with dips and sprays and dust.

With tags and bags and fogging guns,"Insecticides or Bust!"

We applicate them airily, we mix it from a sack,

We give it in a shot nowdays or pour it down their back.

We hire consultants left and right to give us sound advice

So we can fight this pestilence of worms and flies and lice

We tell ourselves God gave us brains to halt their ill effect

And, though he made all living things he gave us intellect.

So, how come we can't beat these bugs? Methinks we've too much pride.

Though God made us, remember, he ain't always on our side!

Start planning now to enter the market alfalfa show at the Kansas State Fair

"Now's the time to start getting your entry in for the Kansas State Fair's Market Alfalfa Show," says Gene Algrim, contest manager.

Entries for the contest must be pre-entered and the sample mailed by August 15 to the Kansas State Fair, Competitive Exhibits Department, 2000 N. Poplar, Hutchinson, 67502-5598. Please write "Market Alfalfa Show" on the package.

"Alfalfa is a vital forage crop in the state and the contest helps to recognize and reward the importance of quality alfalfa," adds Roger Black, president of the Kansas Forage and Grassland Council. The council sponsors the judge for the Market Alfalfa Show along with providing a plaque for the winner.

All samples are analyzed by SDK in Hutchinson and judged based on relative feed value, crude protein and a visual observation. Judging for this year's contest will be done by Dr. Doohong Min, Assistant Professor, Forages, at Kansas State University.

Sampling should be done using a forage core sampler. Samples not exhibiting evidence of being collected with a forage core sampler will be disqualified. It is recommended that ten bales be sampled and mixed. For help in sampling, contact your local county Extension office.

Kansas hog inventory up 2 percent

Kansas inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 2017, was 1.97 million head, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This was up 2 percent from June 1, 2016, but down 1 percent from March 1, 2017. Breeding hog inventory, at 160,000 head, was down 9 percent from June 1, 2016, and down 3 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 1.81 million head, was up 3 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The March-May 2017 Kansas pig crop, at 820,000 head, was down 8 percent from 2016. Sows farrowed during the period totaled 82,000 head, down 4 percent from last year. The average pigs saved per litter was 10.00 for the March-May period, compared to 10.50 last year. Kansas hog producers intend to farrow 80,000 sows during the June-August 2017 quarter, down 10 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period a year ago. Intended farrowings for September-November 2017 quarter are 83,000 sows, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period the previous year.