



Geary County Farm Bureau forum introduces gubernatorial candidates to ag producers

By Donna Sullivan,
Editor

Three Republicans, three Democrats and one Independent were represented at the gubernatorial forum hosted by Geary County Farm Bureau on March 15. Gathered in the large machine shed owned by Craig Dibben of Flint Hills Ag Services southeast of Junction City was a large audience of agriculture producers eager to hear how the candidates would address the challenges facing agriculture, rural communities and Kansas as a whole.

The forum was moderated by Mark Ediger, general manager of 1420 KJCK radio in Junction City. Those in attendance were Republican candidates Ken Selzer, Lt. Gov. Tracey Mann, representing Gov. Colyer, who was on a drought tour in southwest Kansas that day, and Jim Barnett; Democratic candidates Arden Anderson, Carl Brewer and Josh Svaty and Greg Doll, representing Independent candidate Greg Orman.

The candidates bring a variety of skills and experience to the table, from military to business to political. While their approaches may have differed, they were in agreement that a new direction was in order to restore fiscal stability to the state, as well as foster renewed economic growth and development.

“Our goal was to get exposure of the candidates to ag producers and ag producers to the candidates,” said Jim Schmidt, one of the event organizers. “I don’t think any voter decisions were made that day, but I think we got people thinking. Who as our next governor will be a champion for agriculture? Do they have a good understanding of the challenges ag producers face?”

Following a lunch sponsored by Central National Bank, the candidates were each given three minutes to make an opening statement which was followed by a round robin question-and-answer session.

Kicking off the opening statements was Kansas Insurance Commissioner Ken Selzer, a CPA who says he will bring the same responsiveness, transparency and efficiency to the governor’s office for which his insurance commission was recognized as second in the nation by an independent third party. “We



Arden Andersen

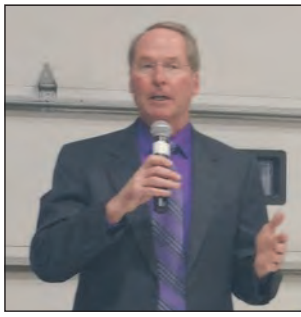
operated the department just like a business,” the Republican candidate said. “We thoughtfully reduced the number of employees and thoughtfully reduced our costs. At the same time the number of customer concerns and complaints in the industry were going up and we serviced 30% more inquiries with 20% fewer people.”

Democratic candidate Arden Andersen is a colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve as well as a practicing family physician in Leavenworth. Prior to entering medical school at age 34, he worked as an ag consultant as well as a high school vocational agriculture teacher. He grew up on a small farm in Michigan. Andersen believes that if the current Medicaid system were overhauled correctly, coverage could be extended to an additional 370,000 Kansans with the same budget. “So that satisfies both Democrats and Republicans, relative to the budget and getting more health care to the people,” he said.

John Doll announced on March 7 that he would register as an Independent in order to run with Greg Orman. Property taxes and events in Washington that have a negative effect on agriculture are in the crosshairs for the Orman-Doll ticket. While he agreed with Gov. Brownback that tax relief was necessary, Doll says he told the governor he just picked the wrong tax. “Property taxes are killing us in agriculture,” he said. He also cited the ripple effect of a tariff placed on washing machines made in China. “China said fine, we’re not buying any more milo, and the price dropped,” he stated. He believes in finding new markets for cattle, as well as developing new crops and hybrids to address water use issues.

Former Wichita mayor Carl Brewer is running for the Democratic nomination and says he is no stranger to hard work. He also came to politics from the corporate world, with more than 30 years at Spirit Aviation, where he managed multimillion dollar budgets. Brewer was also a commissioned officer in Kansas Army National Guard. Growing up he spent many summers working on his grandparents’ ranch in Oklahoma.

Lt. Gov. Tracy Mann grew up on a family farm in Quinter and graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in agriculture economics. With the family farm able to support two families but not three, Mann instead went into commercial real estate brokerage in Salina. “Our governor wants to run this state more like a business,” he said. “I don’t have a political background, I have a business background.



Jim Barnett

That’s something I bring to our ticket. I’m also focusing on agriculture and rural issues on his behalf.”

Republican candidate Jim Barnett says he spent a year traveling the state asking people what they want in the next governor before deciding to run. Barnett made an unsuccessful run for the office against incumbent Kathleen Sebelius in 2006. Barnett says the six topics at the core of his campaign will be agriculture and livestock, economic development, education, health care, tourism and last but not least, keeping young professionals in the state. “We raise all these great kids, and then lose them,” he said. “How do we attract and retain young people?”

Ellsworth County farmer Josh Svaty entered politics at the age of 22 when he was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 2002 and served until 2009 when he was appointed Secretary of Agriculture by Gov. Mark Parkinson. He then went on to work as a senior advisor at the Environmental Protection Agency, where he says he got to tout the work of companies like USC Seeds of Sabetha. “Not only is it a great success story of business, but it was one of my success stories as a senior advisor EPA and we were talking about pesticides and I could say, ‘Listen, there are companies that are doing really cool, innovative things to be more efficient.’”

When it comes to the current state of the Kansas economy, particularly as it pertains to agriculture, there was agreement among the candidates that, while some sectors of the economy have fared well for the past seven and a half years, others have struggled.

“I hear people say we need to run the government like a business,” Anderson said. “So how has that worked for us the past eight years? We almost bankrupted the state. One thing about business, you have to first make sure you don’t retire your income before you pay your bills. We haven’t paid for education funds and particularly the retirement funds. We’re also obligated to taking care of the infrastructure.”

Doll believes a fairer tax structure is in order. “What we’ve done because of the unfair tax system is we’ve made unfunded mandates for local government and have increased your property taxes immensely.” He says we need to balance what is known as the three-legged stool of taxation – property tax, income tax and sales tax. “We’re a smart people and a hard-working people,” he continued. “All we need government to do is stay out of our business and we just need them to be an aid for us and not screw things



Carl Brewer

up.” “Our economy here in the state of Kansas is a disaster,” Brewer said, adding that he believes the job of leaders is to promote businesses. “Be the best ambassadors we can possibly be, because when you’re successful, believe me, Kansas is going to be successful.”

Mann agreed that the state of the economy is mixed. “Specifically to ag and farming as we all know, we’re not doing very well, mostly due to low commodity prices,” he said. “Ag makes up 44.5% of the Kansas economy, so I think if you have the conversation about how’s the economy doing, you have to ask how ag is doing.” Mann said he looks at his job through the lens of four people – his children. “I’m constantly thinking and the governor is constantly thinking about how do we build a Kansas and an economy that our children and the people in this room and our grandchildren want to live and raise a family and have an economy where they can’t the jobs they need. It’s mixed and we have a lot of work in front of us.”

Barnett says there are three issues he can tackle as governor to help the economy: water, labor and regulatory issues. “The keys for business to succeed are workforce development, infrastructure, education, health care and quality of life issues,” he stated. “The next governor has to restore all those things.” He also points out the regional diversity in the state and how that must be taken into consideration. “The last time we approached economic development on a regional basis was when Bill Graves was governor,” he said.

Svaty asserts that addressing workforce issues and getting the state back to financial stability are keys to economic growth. “We have to play to our strengths,” he said. “Agriculture is a strength, ag manufacturing is a strength. Unless we demonstrate that we are financially stable and have a governor that is forward-thinking, all the tax incentives in the world and all of the extra money that we apply to businesses can’t affect the fact that they’re not going to come to a state that they feel is heading in the wrong direction. First and foremost, we have to champion and help those industries that are in our small towns already, employing people and make sure they are successful.”

With the state trailing the national average in economic growth in recent years, Selzer says as governor he would wake up every morning thinking about how to make Kansas grow again. “First and foremost will always be ag,” he said. “Ag is the largest part



John Doll

of our economy. It has the most potential for growth. The governor needs to be a champion for trade, new market development and rural economic development. I want you to know you will have a governor who is leaning in on costs, every day leaning in on making Kansas grow.”

In dealing with taxation, there was agreement among all the candidates that property taxes are too high. The sales tax exemptions for farm machinery and ag inputs were also things they agreed need to be protected.

“We need to get away from taxes we actually have,” said Brewer. “We should not be paying taxes on food, so that’s one of the things we need to make a priority to make sure the products and things you produce are something that can actually take care of our families and our communities right here in the state of Kansas.”

“My approach to tax on agriculture is this,” Barnett said. “Anything that is bad for agriculture is bad for the state of Kansas. So I will not support any sort of measure or move that will raise property tax or tax on a combine or other expensive equipment.”

Svaty doubts that after the large tax increase passed by the legislature last year, another would gain traction any time soon. “So we’re probably dealing with the revenue that we’re going to have in the next few years, just based off that tax increase,” he said.

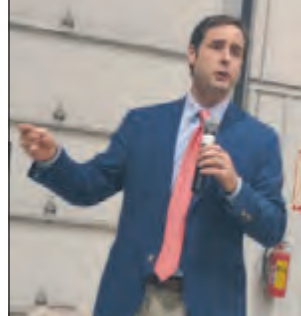
“As you know, we had the largest tax increase ever in the state of Kansas last year, and our budget is still in chaos,” Selzer said. “We need somebody that can understand budgets and sort through the issues. As your governor, there won’t



Tracey Mann



Ken Selzer



Josh Svaty

be a tax rate increase at the state level. There will not be.”

Anderson calls sales tax on food ridiculous. “It taxes you, the farmer, because it makes your product higher. In addition it penalizes those who have the least amount of money to be able to buy food. We have to address those issues at the economic level.” He also said that as a family doctor he often sees people on Medicare and Medicaid forced out of their homes when they can no longer afford to pay the property taxes.

Education, health care, workforce development and immigration were other topics included in the forum.

“One of the more interesting comments I heard several times, was that there were several candidates that caught people by surprise,” Schmidt said. “They were a different type of individual than they expected. People were glad they attended.”

Another 90-day ELD waiver granted for ag haulers

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao recently announced an additional 90-day exemption from the electronic logging device (ELD) mandate for agriculture haulers.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) initially granted agricultural haulers a 90-day exemption from the ELD mandate that took effect in Dec. 2017. The exemption was set to expire on March 18, but the action moves the expiration date to June 18. The new extension will provide more time for the agriculture industry to work on a permanent solution to the ELD and hours-of-service issues.

“The ELD mandate imposes restrictions upon the agriculture industry that lack flexibility necessary for the unique realities of hauling agriculture commodities. If the agriculture industry had been forced to comply by the March 18 deadline, live agricultural commodities, including plants and animals, would have been at risk of perishing before they reached their destination. The 90-day extension is critical to give DOT additional time to issue guidance on hours-of-service and other ELD exemptions that are troubling for agriculture haulers,” said Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.

NCBA is actively working with DOT and other stakeholders to develop a solution that works for the agriculture industry and the agency.

Insight

KANSAS FARM BUREAU
The Voice of Agriculture

Dear Reader,

By John Schlageck, Kansas Farm Bureau
The personal letter may soon go the way of the dinosaur or the Edsel automobile – extinction.

Maybe because of the time it takes to write a hand-written letter, this type of communication isn't as popular as it once was. That's why people who receive such letters cherish them so.

The best letters are hand-written with a fountain pen. Sometimes the handwriting is smooth with the letters beautifully

shaped and spaced. My mother wrote letters filled with such penmanship. Legibility marked her every word.

As Mom grew older, her writing became a bit less beautiful. I used to become a little melancholy when I'd see the envelope she'd addressed to me arrive in the mail. But once I opened the envelope and began reading, my mood changed to joy.

My mother wrote a wonderful letter – filled with news about what Dad and she were doing. Whether

they'd received rain. Father Walsh's Sunday sermon or the condition of her garden.

It was jam-packed with details and provided me with updates about my family and their animals. I learned about my aunts and uncles, neighbors I grew up with, or how many quarts of tomatoes she'd finished canning for the upcoming winter.

Once upon a time, a letter was sent as a personal message from one person to another. It's unfortunate more of us don't communicate this way any more.

I consider it a real gift to receive a letter written in conversational form intended just for me.

A couple weeks ago, I received such a letter from a friend in Sedgwick County, Kent Winter, who farms

northwest of Wichita near Andale. The envelope was also penned in Winter's hand.

The letter opened with (salutation), "Good morning John," and continued in his easy, flowing style. The message of the letter focused on Kent's oldest son, Alan, and news of his education in the seminary at St. Michael's Abbey in Silverado, Calif. Alan continues in the preliminary phase of becoming a member of the Norbertine Order.

Consider the news about his son Kent related to me in just this one paragraph. Think about how much else I learned in his entire message to me.

Personal letters are special. I have a box of them tucked away in my birchwood desk in the

study of our home. Another bunch of contemporary letters clutter one of the kitchen drawers where our portable phone sometimes hides out.

A treasured letter will last a lifetime. Letters are a form of communication that allow the writer to reveal some of his/her most personal thoughts. These thoughts may be critiqued and scrutinized time and time again before some letters are even mailed.

In a letter the subject matter is specific. Individual topics may be addressed. The writer's personal self surfaces in a hand-written letter.

Often, people write from their hearts, as well as their minds, in their letters. What may appear trite to a disinterested third party makes sense

to the person who receives the personal message.

Personal letters may not make sense to anyone else, but the two parties involved usually understand every word, sentence, paragraph and page. And, oh, how wonderful it is to sit down in your favorite chair and read through a personal letter intended just for you.

If you are one of those people who enjoy receiving a hand-written letter, think of how one of your close friends or loved ones might enjoy hearing from you in the same form.

Write to someone you know and care about soon. Let's keep this personal form of communication alive.

Better yet, let's revitalize a treasured tradition.

Traits of a high functioning family farm

In his work as a county Extension agent, Glenn Newdigger works with a lot of farm families and has come to recognize that successful farm operations tend to have common attributes.

Among them is the willingness to accept differences in family members' and employees' background and experiences, and to communicate openly and with respect for one another, said Newdigger, who is based in Stafford County with K-State Research and Extension. Many are willing to be flexible and take some amount of risk.

He, along with co-presenters Katelyn Barthol, Extension agent in the Marais Des Cygnes Dis-

trict and Mark Ploger, retired Extension agent from Pratt County, spoke on the subject at the recent "Women Managing the Farm" conference in Manhattan. Other common threads of successful family farms are a willingness to share leadership; a focus on being in the business for the good of the whole operation; and the understanding that successes should be celebrated as a team.

Newdigger spoke about the stages farms go through and noted that even high-functioning farms can find themselves in places they don't want to be, such as when a key family member or employee dies or leaves. Those stages and traits often

linked to them include:

Gathering – This is where it's decided why the business or group is together, an agenda is set, a leader or leaders are confirmed and expectations and directions are agreed upon. This may sound formal for a family farm, but it sets the stage for establishing a business-like way to proceed. And remember, things change. At any given time in a farming operation, it might be a good idea to go back to this stage.

Chaos – In this stage, participants are determining the farm's purpose. It can be marked by family members or employees jockeying for position or feeling left out. This is the time to determine a shared

vision and to learn who can contribute what. Many events can throw even a smooth-running operation into chaos – the death of a participant, the inclusion of an adult son or daughter or new employee.

Unity – In this stage, the business is progressing toward its shared vision and working out differences. To keep it moving that way, this is a time to acknowledge accomplishments. Maybe that's singling out the daughter who negotiated a better price on fertilizer. Maybe it's the employee whose extra work resulted in more yields per acre or the spouse who updated the farm's record-keeping capabilities. "Everyone wants to hear they've done a good job. That frequently gets forgotten on the farm," one conference participant noted.

Performing – This is a time to celebrate the farm's successes, whether it's providing cash bonuses or throwing a party for employees, suppliers, customers or others. This

is also a time to evaluate the farm's work and processes and to learn from each other, and to start determining what's next. That might include exploring new options – trying a new crop, selling a parcel of land, or starting a side business in agri-tourism.

Throughout the session, Newdigger encouraged audience members to provide their own insights into the categories. Continuous and clear communication; periodically revisiting goals; being open to including a mediator or other type of outside help; and food were topics that came up over and over again. Food is a unifier, participants said; whether it's coffee, donuts and fruit at an early morning meeting or a hot meal if the meeting is later in the day, it can be considered the very first step toward common ground among the farm business's key players.

Kansas farmers have numerous resources available, Newdigger said, with answers for the occasional

question, educational opportunities or support on an ongoing basis. A good place to start is the local K-State Research and Extension office. Other resources include the Kansas Farm Analyst program, Kansas Farm Management Association, and the Kansas Agricultural Mediation Service.

Online grocery programs expanding

Walmart and Kroger plan to increase their online grocery delivery options by the end of the year. Walmart will offer its online services to more than 100 metropolitan areas and expand its services beyond the six markets currently served. Consumers will be able to purchase their fresh meat and produce without ever setting foot in the store through Walmart.com and the Walmart grocery app. Walmart currently offers a pickup option for its online orders at 1,200 of its stores and they plan on adding 1,000 additional stores this year.

Kroger plans to expand its delivery coverage and enhance digital shopping by adding 500 locations in 2018.

"Having grown our digital sales in 2017 by 90 percent, we continue to accelerate our digital roadmap in 2018 to make shopping with Kroger simpler and more personalized," said Yael Cosset, Kroger's chief digital officer. "When you look at Kroger's customer coverage area for seamless shopping, two-thirds of our customers – more than 40 million households – have access to curbside pickup and/or delivery. Our goal is for these convenient services to be available to every customer."



Last week I was in Washington D.C. I was in our nation's capital on business but there is no other place that fascinates me as much. Trust me, there is no way I could live there, but for three or four days I really enjoy this city and all the hubbub and hustle around it. The week was also spring break, so it was extra chaotic. On a side note, as a former youth development professional, I cannot imagine taking a group of kids to D.C. God Bless those who are brave enough.

As I was moving about the city one day I called an Uber. Uber has become my preferred method of travel in big cities. All I need to know is the name of the place I want to go, and the driver will take me there, charge it to my credit card, and I am on my way, relatively hassle-free. It is a great system and I find the cars to be cleaner and the drivers to be friendlier.

For those of you who might not know, Uber is a company that has an app for your smart phone. They coordinate with private drivers to pick up riders and take them to their chosen destination. The drivers agree to have clean cars and Uber takes care of the payments. It is a simple, easy-to-use system and I really enjoy it.

Most Uber drivers are not full-time drivers but rather people who have primary jobs in another field. One of my favorite things to do is to ask my driver what they do for a living and often that leads to some interesting conversations. Two of my all-time favorites were the retired school maintenance director who was raising enough money to celebrate his fifty-year wedding anniversary in Las Vegas. Of course, there was also the psychiatrist who drove Uber because she liked to analyze her customers. I have always kind of wondered what she got from me. I probably don't want to know.

My driver this day in D.C. was an event planner. He explained he liked to drive in the daytime because he didn't have to deal with drunks and his work schedule allowed for it. We had a nice discussion about what he did and then he asked what I did for a living. I told him I was a farmer from Kansas. He pondered that for a second and responded with something I will never forget.

He said, "A farmer? Well, I like to eat, so I guess I am a fan of yours." We laughed about it for a second and

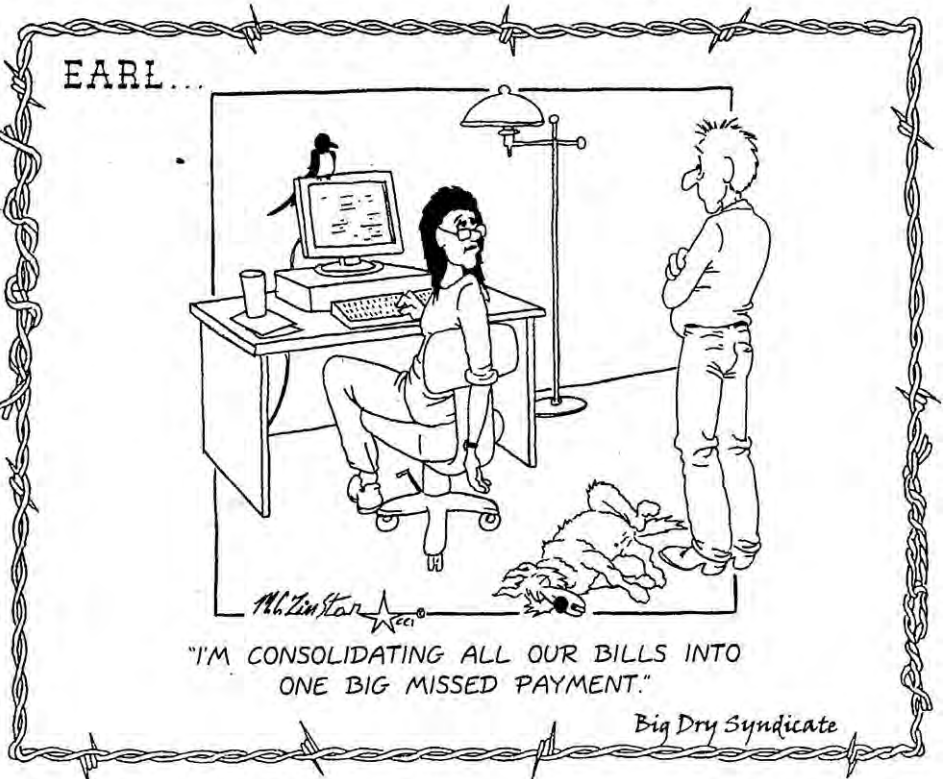
compared our pot bellies and mutual appreciation for food. Then we passed a McDonald's and he pointed to it and said, "There are a lot of other people who are your fans and just don't know it." His response kind of stunned me for a second. Very rarely do you come across someone who has no connection to ag, even remotely, who really gets it.

I thanked him for his appreciation and told him that his recognition meant a lot to me. I think too often those of us in ag have this "us against them" mentality when it comes to our consumers. This random conversation proves something I have always suspected. Most of our customers, consumers, want to like us and still have respect for farmers and ranchers.

Too often it is the squeaky wheels that we hear, and it sometimes seems like the whole world does not understand what we do and is against our way of life. It seems like we are fighting an uphill battle and a negative public perception. While that might be true in some cases and we always need to be on guard and work to correct negative perceptions, we also need to understand that the public probably sees us in a positive light. The Uber driver I met was just one random person with absolutely no tie to agriculture in any way, except that he liked to eat and recognized where his food came from.

I am quite sure he had no idea how I did my job or how his food was grown. He didn't seem to care, and I suspect he is more like most consumers. Those are the people we need to target, educate and make sure they understand what we do. The best thing is, it is easy. He was quite happy to have a conversation with me, he trusted me instantly and believed what I had to tell him. Unfortunately, it was a short trip and I did not have much time to talk to him.

The bottom line is that we should understand that farmers and ranchers are seen favorably by most of our consumers and more importantly, they want to trust us. While we need to continue to work to dispel the false information we also need to convey a positive message to the masses of people who are our supporters whether they know it or not and want to like us. Because in the end, if you ate today, you are a fan of farmers and ranchers.



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Science teachers encouraged to apply to Kansas Corn's Seed to STEM summer workshops

Science teachers will receive free STEM-based training and materials at the Seed to STEM summer workshops sponsored by Kansas Corn. This is the third year of the popular two-day workshops that provide classroom instruction and labs using the topics of biotechnology and ethanol to bring science to life in high school and middle school classrooms. The deadline for science teachers to apply for the workshops is April 24. The two-day workshops will be held June 20-21 in Ottawa and June 26-27 in Wichita.

"We have had a lot of interest, but still have spaces available for both workshops. We encourage teachers to apply before the April 24 deadline," said Sharon Thielen, the Kansas Corn Commission's director of education. "We work with eight Kansas lead science teachers who not only help teach the workshops, they are instrumental in creating the lessons and labs."

Over the past two years, 95 science educators have completed the workshop that offers lessons and labs that meet the Next Generation Science Standards using agriculture as a focus. In addition to lessons and lab experiments focused on biotechnology and ethanol, the workshop includes a farm and field visit, an industry dinner and a field trip to an ethanol plant. Each science teacher who participates will walk away with valuable lab materials.

"There is an incredible amount of technology and science used in agriculture and the corn industry. We want to help teachers find ways to get students excited about science using corn and agriculture as a platform," Kansas Corn Commission CEO Greg Krissek said. "In addition to providing the Seed to STEM workshops at no cost to teachers, the Kansas Corn Commission is supporting science education in our schools by



giving each Seed to STEM teacher lab materials worth \$500."

The 2018 Seed to STEM workshops will feature new and updated labs. Each teacher will practice fourteen labs or activities that they can use in the classroom to help students learn about science in agriculture. At this year's workshops, teachers will have the option to choose between a middle school and high school lab track. Labs will be focused on topics like corn exploration, corn fermentation, ethanol distillation, pipetting skills, plasmid modeling, GFP, soil, nutrient testing, DNA extraction, GMOs, DNA sequencing, weather and more. The labs will be taught by Kansas teachers who were selected from the 2017 and 2016 Seed to STEM workshops.

"We are excited to share the talents of our Kansas Seed to STEM lead teachers who have been involved in the develop-

ment of new curriculum for this year's workshops," Thielen said. "We are also bringing experts in agronomy and ethanol into our workshops to provide insights and information as the participants are learning."

The first day of Seed to STEM begins in classroom labs and ends with a farm tour and dinner on the farm. The second day of the workshop completes the lab activities and wraps up with a tour of an ethanol plant.

"Science teachers are important to us because science is important to agriculture," Thielen said. "We cover the teachers' on-site expenses, and we work to give them valuable, hands-on learning

experiences in the classroom, in the labs, on the farm and at the ethanol plant."

Applications are due by

April 24. Visit the education section of kscorn.com to register or visit seed2stem.org.

Gov. Colyer speaks with Canadian ambassador on shared trade issues

On Monday, March 19, Gov. Colyer spoke by phone with David MacNaughton, the Canadian Ambassador to the United States. Following the conversation, the governor released the following statement:

"The ambassador and I had a productive conversation about the strategic partnership between Canada and Kansas, our shared interest in free trade and how that relationship benefits both of our economies," Colyer said. "I reiterated the importance of good faith NAFTA negotiations and encouraged Canada to earnestly engage in modernization talks as we work to protect free trade for Kansas, the U.S., and Canada."

Colyer also highlighted the mutual benefits of the relationship between Kansas and Canada. Canada is Kansas' second largest international customer with exports totaling \$1.8 billion, 17% of which are from agriculture. In addition to agriculture, NAFTA also impacts Kansas jobs in the manufacturing, oil and gas, and service industries with a total of 120,000 jobs supported by the agreement.



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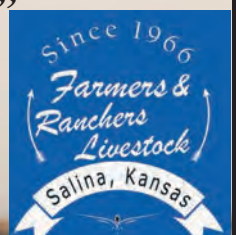
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1/2 cup lard, cold & coarsely chopped
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
Ice water

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. In a large bowl whisk together 1 1/2 cups flour and 1 teaspoon salt. Using a pastry blender, cut in the lard until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in the cheese. Sprinkle the mixture with ice water, 1 tablespoon at a time, and stir until it comes together in a ball. Turn the dough onto a floured surface and roll out to fit a pizza pan (about 15 inches). To make the topping, in a large bowl combine the creamer with the sugars, the remaining 1/3 cup flour, the remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt and the cinnamon. Sprinkle a quarter of the mixture over the crust in the pan. Arrange the apple slices in a circular pattern on top. Using a pastry blender cut the butter into the remaining sugar mixture until it resembles coarse crumbs then sprinkle over apples. Bake for 30 minutes until the apples are tender and juices are bubbly. Slice into 8 pieces and serve immediately with a scoop of vanilla bean ice cream.

Beth Scripter, Abilene:
"Here is a good one for Easter Breakfast!"
CHEESY TATER-TOT BREAKFAST BAKE
4 slices bacon, cooked & crumbled
1 pound sausage
2 1/2 cups sharp Cheddar cheese
2 cups whole milk
3 large eggs
1/2 teaspoon pepper
2-pound package Tater Tots

Brown sausage; drain and layer on bottom of 9-by-13-inch pan. Sprinkle 2 cups of the cheese over top. Whisk the eggs, milk and pepper well. Pour over cheese/sausage mixture. Layer top with tater tots and bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Top with the additional cheese and bacon crumbles. Bake another 10 minutes or until it is bubbling and golden brown.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
ORANGE BREAKFAST CRESCENTS
8 ounces cream cheese
1/3 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
1 teaspoon fresh orange zest
2 rolls of 8-count crescent roll dough
Glaze:

1/2 cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon fresh orange zest
1 tablespoon melted butter
1/8 teaspoon almond extract
2-3 tablespoons orange juice

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a small bowl combine cream cheese, sugar, extract and orange zest until smooth. Unroll dough and separate into triangles. Divide prepared cream cheese between the 16 triangles leaving a 1/8-inch border. Roll each filled triangle up, starting at the wide bottom; place each

crescent onto a greased baking sheet. Bake crescents for 15-17 minutes or until golden brown. While rolls are baking combine all glaze ingredients in a small bowl until smooth, adding orange juice a bit at a time as needed. Remove crescents from oven and immediately drizzle with glaze. Serve warm.

Alice Spersflage, Sabetha:
COCONUT ANGEL SQUARES
1 prepared angel food cake cut or torn into bite-size pieces
1 1/2 cups cold milk
(2) 3.4-ounce packs instant coconut cream pudding mix
1 quart vanilla ice cream, softened
8-ounce carton frozen whipped topping, thawed
1/4 cup flaked coconut, toasted

Place cake pieces into a 9-by-13-by-2-inch pan. In a mixing bowl beat milk and pudding mixes on low speed for 2 minutes. Add ice cream; beat on low just until combined. Spoon over cake pieces. Spread with whipped topping; sprinkle with coconut. Cover and chill for at least 1 hour. Refrigerate. Serves 12 to 15 people.

Lydia Miller, Westphalia:
CHOCOLATE APPLESAUCE CAKE
1 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 cup cooking oil
2 eggs
2 cups applesauce
2 cups flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
2 tablespoons cocoa
1 cup miniature chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease (2) 9-inch round cake pans; set aside.

In a large bowl combine all ingredients except chocolate chips and mix well. Pour into prepared pan. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out

clean. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top and return to oven to melt slightly. Cool well. Serve one cake and freeze the other one. Yields: 12 to 15 servings.

Do Grapefruit Juice and Medicine Mix?

By Nancy C. Nelson, Meadowlark Extension District, Family Life

Grapefruit juice and the actual grapefruit can be part of a healthful diet — most of the time. It has vitamin C and potassium — substances your body needs to work properly. But it is not good for you when it affects the way your medicines work.

For example, if you drink a lot of grapefruit juice while taking certain statin drugs to lower cholesterol, too much of the drug may stay in your body, increasing your risk for liver damage and muscle breakdown that can lead to kidney failure.

Drinking grapefruit juice several hours before or several hours after you take your medicine may still be dangerous. It is best to avoid or limit consuming grapefruit juice or fresh grapefruit when taking certain drugs.

Ask your pharmacist or other health care professional if you can have fresh grapefruit or grapefruit juice while using your medication. Read the medication guide or patient information sheet that comes with your prescription drug to find out if grapefruit juice affects your drug.

Also, read the label on an over-the-counter drug, which will say whether you shouldn't have grapefruit or other fruit juices with it.

For more information, see this Food and Drug Administration Consumer Update at <http://1.usa.gov/wE27vZ>

Important Safety Information

By Cindy S. Williams, Meadowlark Extension District, FACS
Using Pyrex® in Pressure Cookers

The popularity of electric pressure cookers has brought up other safety issues besides food safety. One is about using Pyrex® inside the electric pressure cooker. According to Corelle Brands, makers of Pyrex®, it is not recommended to put this glassware in these appliances. The glass is not made to be put under pressure and it could crack or explode. More information can be obtained by contacting Corelle Brands Consumer Care Center at 1-800-999-3436.

to remember that flour is a raw food and has been linked to serious food safety problems.

Iowa State University Extension offers this recipe that is cooked to heat the dough.

Homemade Play Dough
2 cups flour
1 cup salt
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 1/2 teaspoons cream of tartar
2 cups cold water

Mix all of the ingredients together and cook over medium heat for about 5 minutes stirring constantly. When finished, it will be the consistency of mashed potatoes. Divide it into 3-4 equal portions and add a few drops of different colors of food coloring to each. Kneading the dough will distribute the color and make it smooth. Store it in a freezer bag or airtight container and it will keep for a long time.

Homemade Play Dough Safety
Speaking of safety here is another area that can pose problems with safety — that of homemade play dough. If you or someone you know makes homemade play dough, it is important

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1. Check your recipe carefully to make certain all ingredients are accurate and instructions are clear. 2. Be sure your name, address and phone number are on the entry. Please include a street address with your recipe entries. A post office box number is not sufficient for prize delivery. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

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Five Cookbooks That You Will Love

COOKBOOK

The Farmer's Wife cookbooks have been around for years, originating from the monthly magazine that was published in Minnesota from 1893 to 1939, but this particular one seems to be my favorite. It pulls bits and pieces from those magazines and combines them all into one irreplaceable book.

From Southern Fried Chicken and BBQ Ribs to blue-ribbon pies and tips for canning your favorite preserves. Put all this alongside the vintage ads and little articles scattered among the pages and you'll just love looking through this cookbook, let alone cooking from it!



UPSCALE DOWNHOME by Rachel Hollis

You know how some cookbooks just look pretty while others actually have a couple recipes you know your family will enjoy? (Squid? No, thank you.) Well here's a little gem that has it all! Not only are the recipes step-by-step (with beautiful photos), but they're actually simple and delicious. Along with the snappy Jalapeño Popper Dip recipe (and about a million others), you'll find plenty of tips and instructions for not only cooking, but how to make hosting parties and events a breeze.

THE PIONEER WOMAN COOKS by Ree Drummond

I think I'd be pretty close if I said this book needs no introduction, nor does its author. But this list just wouldn't be complete without the addition of her very first cookbook. Although Ree's written several books since this one, it has always remained my favorite. Maybe it's the simplicity of the dishes or just the early photos from their ranch, but I'll always enjoy thumbing through



the pages from Cinnamon Rolls to Chicken-Fried Steak. If one of her books hasn't found their way onto your bookshelf by now, I highly recommend starting with the first one!

The Fannie Farmer Baking Book by Marion Cunningham

Although just gifted to me recently by a very sweet friend, I've since found that there's not much baking you should do without the help of this book sitting on your counter. From overall baking tips to detailed instructions and drawings for shaping and cutting a bear claw or making any kind of dough, the beginning baker and expert alike will both learn something new. (Hint: Check out page 527 to see one of the recipes I'm hoping to try soon!)

Ashleigh is a freelance writer and blogger for her website, *Prairie Gal Cookin'* (www.prairiegalcookin.com). She shares everything from step-by-step recipes to local history, stories, and photography from out on the farm in Kansas. Follow PGC online or like it on Facebook for more recipes and rambblings!

Good Nutrition Made Easy For Older Adults

(NAPSI) — Roughly 110 million adults in the U.S. are age 50 or older. If you're one of them or know someone who is, there's something you need to know: As you age, your nutrition needs change. You may become less active, your metabolism slows, and your ability to absorb some nutrients becomes less efficient. You need fewer calories to keep you going — which means the amount of nutrients in your food becomes even more important.

To help, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and nutrition scientists at the Jean Mayer U.S. Department of Agriculture Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University, with support from AARP Foundation, created MyPlate for Older Adults.

What's on MyPlate for Older Adults?

Based on the federal government's guide to forming healthy dietary habits, MyPlate for Older Adults makes good nutrition easy. Even better, it helps seniors with fixed incomes select healthy foods within their budget. That includes showing how frozen, dried and canned fruits and vegetables can be wise alternatives to fresh produce.

MyPlate for Older

Adults encourages eating whole grains, which are high in fiber, as well as plant-based proteins such as beans and tofu, along with fish and lean meat. Vegetables and fruits make up half the plate, reflecting the importance of eating several servings a day in a range of colors. MyPlate for Older Adults also recommends using herbs and spices instead of salt to season food. Cutting back on salt can have big health benefits—especially for older adults, who are at risk of hypertension.

You can use the MyPlate for Older Adults as a tool when you shop to help you decide on types and combinations of foods, and as a reminder that the foods you choose to eat should be rich in vitamins and minerals.

The rest of the recommendations include:

- Brightly colored vegetables such as carrots and broccoli
- Deep-colored fruit such as berries and peaches
- Whole, enriched and fortified grains and cere-

als such as brown rice and 100 percent whole wheat bread

- Low-fat and nonfat dairy products such as yogurt and low-lactose milk
- Dry beans and nuts, fish, poultry and eggs
- Liquid vegetable oils, soft spreads low in saturated and trans fats
- Lots of fluids such as water and fat-free milk
- Physical activity such as walking, resistance training and light cleaning.

Learn More

You can check out MyPlate for Older Adults and find more information about AARP Foundation at www.aarpfoundation.org/myplate.

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By Ashleigh Krispense

Many people have what they consider to be collections of things. I, for instance, have a rather large collection of cookbooks. Partly because I enjoy finding new recipes in them and partly because I just love the different styles and layouts they each have. A favorite pastime of mine is standing by the bookshelf, just leafing through one for no particular reason.



In fact, instead of sharing a recipe with you today, I wanted to mention a few of the most treasured books in my collection! Here are five cookbooks that I would be lost without. Not only do they all have simple and delicious recipes, but some are even dotted with beautiful photographs and little tidbits that just make you want to curl up on the couch and read them for awhile.



MILK COW KITCHEN by MaryJane Butters

The first in our little collection is not just a cookbook, but more of a field guide to cows in general, with tips on feeding, caring for, birthing, and much more. Alongside all of this cow "knowledge," we find recipes for homemade caramels, cheeses, yogurt, butter, main dishes, desserts (pie, anyone?) and a variety of other delectable dishes. This is one that's so enjoyable to look at that you should just leave it out on your coffee table for a while!

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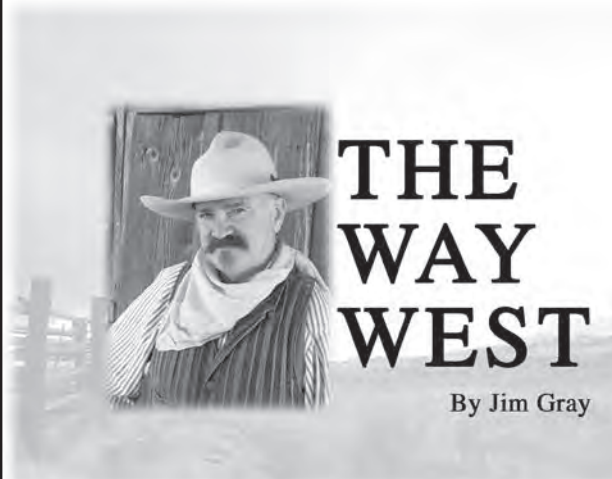
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THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

and charged the big man "with all the venom and fury" he could summon. Luckily sabers at that time had a dull edge. "Cut and thrust", just as Lowe had been trained, left Big Mit covered from head to foot with cuts and bruises. Mit's companions tried to save him only to receive their own scars. Lowe continued to strike until he was exhausted and "the howling wretch...lay prostrate and begging for his life."

Lowe was assigned to Company B, First Dragoons. To his dismay, Big Mit was also assigned to Company B. Their destination was Fort Kearney, on the Platte River in present-day Nebraska. The company was transported across the country by rail and canal boat, marching a short distance over the Allegheny mountains. Rail, canal boat, and steamboat carried them St. Louis. Another transfer to a riverboat on the Missouri River was to be their last before reaching Fort Leavenworth. Travel in cold

December weather slowed until the boat was "frozen in" at Portland, Missouri. It was a three-hundred-mile march to Fort Leavenworth. They arrived on Christmas Day 1849.

Lowe had the occasion to observe many times the ill-effects of whiskey on the performance of men. Along their winter journey from Carlisle Barracks a dozen overcoats had disappeared, having been traded for whiskey. Just before crossing the Missouri River to Fort Leavenworth "a couple more" overcoats were traded at a place called Whiskey Point. Three of the men found themselves in the guard house at daylight.

Instead of continuing to Fort Kearney, Company B was ordered to remain at Fort Leavenworth until spring. They had no horses to care for but drilled on foot twice a day. There were good books in the library to read. Proper care of equipment was stressed among the troops. One evening Lowe had prepared his equipment

for a scheduled inspection before leaving for breakfast. Upon his return he found a bad example of proper care in place of his own at the end of his "rack". Big Mit had taken Lowe's equipment and left his own dirty equipment for Lowe.

Lowe retrieved his equipment and was in the act of adjusting his "kit" when Big Mit rushed him "like a roaring maniac", with his carbine raised to club Lowe over the head. Again, Lowe brought his saber into play. Word spread that the men of Company B were killing each other and "a file of the guard" was called for. Mit was carried off before they arrived and a "good story" was told to allay the prosecution of their duty. Lowe wrote that from that time on Mit "tried to be kind to me."

Not counting a select few men, "who could find nothing in life worth living unless able to procure whiskey," Lowe counted himself lucky to be among a remarkably good set of

men, "some scholars, some good singers and quite a smattering of theatrical talent." A Thespian Society was formed within the company with "a little assistance" from Company K. Theatrical performances, with all the officers and ladies in attendance, were given once a week in the dining room during the months of February and March.

In the closing days of March, a detachment of Company B troops from Fort Kearney arrived at Fort Leavenworth with the mail from the west. Lowes' detachment joined them on their return. Excitement ran high as the new recruits rode toward destiny and glory with the First Dragoons on The Way West.

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

Husker research to advance tractor testing techniques

New research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is bringing tractor testing into the modern era.

Though tractor technology has changed rapidly, the testing techniques used on the machines have not changed in several decades, said Santosh Pitla, project lead and assistant professor in biological systems engineering.

"Research in precision agriculture often focuses on agronomy, but there has not been as much focus on the powerhouses, or tractors," Pitla said. "Tractors are a primary power source for operations, and they rely heavily on fuel and energy efficiency."

Tractors play an important role in precision agriculture, which is seen as one of the primary ways to provide food, fiber and fuel for a growing population. This project will assess three different types

of power - power takeoff, hydraulic and drawbar - used by tractors to pull implements such as planters, field cultivators or ammonia applicators.

Older implements would use only one type of power at a time, but today's modern implements use a combination of PTO, hydraulic and drawbar power simultaneously. Because current tractor testing looks only at the drawbar, the research project will focus on implementing mixed mode testing so all three powers can be evaluated at the same

time. "The biggest opportunity for improved tractor-testing techniques in this area is in fuel efficiency," Pitla said. "It's about matching the right tractor to the right implement. Right now, tractors are oversized for some of the implements they are pulling, so they are wasting a lot of energy."

The research will occur at the university's Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center near Mead and at the Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory. The tractor test lab

is the officially designated testing station for the United States and gauges tractors according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development codes. The long oval track on East Campus has completed more than 2,000 tractor tests since 1920.

"The university is uniquely positioned to conduct this research because of our Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory," Pitla said. "We're the only facility of our kind capable of testing the largest tractors, and the only facility in the Western Hemisphere."

For this project, instrumentation such as sensors and data-logging devices will be placed on the tractors pulling an implement. The instrumentation will help the researchers gather fuel-rate, engine-load and hydraulic-power data. Using this data, the researchers will assess what kind of power is needed for different implements.

The data collected from the mixed-mode testing could support manufacturers in their efforts to design more efficient engines. According to Pitla, the research will not be specific to one company and could easily be adopted across the tractor industry.

This project is funded by a four-year, \$472,887 grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.

Others researchers involved include: Roger Hoy, director of the Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory; Joe Luck, associate professor in biological systems engineering; and Rodney Rohrer, research engineer at the Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory.

To learn more about the Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory, visit <https://tractortestlab.unl.edu/>.



Devon Vancura, sophomore in agriculture education, checks a connection for a testing monitor on a Challenger tractor. The University of Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory (NTTL) is the officially designated tractor testing station for the United States.

Photo by Craig Chandler/University Communication Photography



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Klamm selected as one of nine juniors to represent USA in the Netherlands with their canine partners at Junior Agility Olympics

On March 1st, Coach Susan Cochran announced the American Kennel Club's 2018 European Open Junior (EOJ) Agility Team USA. Currently there is no such thing as dog agility at the Olympics – but to the 19 junior handlers, three alternates and their K-9 companions who have been selected to represent the USA in the Netherlands July 13-15, this is just as spectacular! Training and traveling the world to compete at the highest level of junior dog agility takes the same amount of commitment and dedication.

The EOJ is an agility competition is officially recognized by the Federation Cynologique Internationale (English: World Canine Organization), the largest international federation of kennel clubs. The competition is open to all dogs (min 18

months), children (born 2004 and younger) and juniors (born 2000-2003). The individual dog competition categories are held in Large (shoulder height over 16 7/8") Medium (shoulder height 16 7/8" or less) and Small (shoulder height 13 3/4" or less).

This year Team USA has eleven large dog teams: nine border collies, one Dutch shepard and a mix breed; seven medium: one miniature poodle, one Nederlandse Kooikerhondje, one border collie, two keeshonds and two shelties; and three small: two shelties and a miniature poodle. The three alternates are coincidentally three large mixed breed dogs handled by young women. The handlers consist of three young men and 16 young women, from 11 states across the U.S., who are between the ages of 13



Shown above are Ryan and Bandit in competition.

Photo by Andy Klamm

Ryan Klamm of Hutchinson became interested in dog training in 2006 after receiving his first dog, a miniature Australian shepherd he named Captain Patch, as

a Christmas gift. Ryan was six years old. He started training with the Reno County 4-H dog club.

Nine start-ups from around the world selected for fifth Sprint Accelerator Program

Sprint and Dairy Farmers of America recently announced the nine companies participating in the fifth annual accelerator program, which continues through June. The Sprint Accelerator is located in the heart of the Crossroads Arts District in Kansas City, Mo.

"We have a diverse and exciting group of companies joining our program this year," said Doug Dresslaer, Managing Director of the Sprint Accelerator. "For Sprint, we've recruited companies that align with our Internet of Things (IoT) team's core business strategies and for DFA, we've not only brought in cutting-edge agricultural technology companies, but we also have three dairy food product companies in this year's cohort."

"We are proud to support this year's class of cutting-edge startups. Sprint has an ambitious vision for IoT and we look forward to working alongside these

companies to continue the evolution of IoT technologies and solutions," said Ivo Rook, senior vice president of IoT for Sprint.

"We've found tremendous value in this program and leveraging innovation that's happening with startup companies in the ag tech space," said Kevin Strathman, senior vice president of finance at Dairy Farmers of America. "For year two, we're focused not only on building partnerships that can help solve problems and benefit our members on their farms, but it's exciting to add dairy food startups into the mix. We're looking forward to working with these companies to help grow their businesses and ultimately drive consumer demand for dairy."

The Corporate Accelerator is a 90-day, immersive program. Startups in each vertical — IoT, Ag Tech and Dairy Food Products— will work directly with leaders from Sprint, DFA and CoBank as well as other industry experts and mentors.

Visit the Sprint Accel-

erator calendar for public opportunities to engage with these companies at sprintaccelerator.com.

The 2018 Class of the Corporate Accelerator IoT Vertical Participants

Keybot from St. Louis, Mo. Keybot helps automate rental access with proprietary keypad lock and app through self-showings and renter and maintenance access.

Luxe Concierge from Kansas City, Mo. The Luxe mobile app allows apartment residents to book and manage services like housekeeping, dog walking and dry cleaning pick-up.

Sofihub from Melbourne, Australia. Sofihub is a digital assisted living solution using Artificial Intelligence and sensor technology to support seniors to live independently.

AgTech Vertical Participants

Pharm Robotics from San Jacinto, Calif. Pharm Robotics is developing robotic systems to automate administration of animal health products in dairy cows.

In the summer of 2011, Ryan got his second dog, Bandit, a border collie. Bandit is a purebred dog but has no pedigree or papers. Both of his parents were working cattle dogs at a feedlot near Council Grove.

Ryan's interest in dog showing peaked in 2012 when he and Captain Patch won the UKC National Top Jr. Handler in Obedience at Kalamazoo, MI. From there, Ryan began taking lessons with some of the best trainers in the area. He has since won several UKC Junior Championships and All Star Championships in Agility, Obedience, and Rally Obedience.

Ryan competes in multiple statewide AKC trials including the AKC Junior Classic in Orlando, Fla.. Bandit has become Ryan's main agility dog. Ryan assists and teaches obedience and agility for the local 4-H Dog Club and the Hutchinson Kennel Club.

Ripe Technologies from San Francisco, Calif. Ripe is transforming the food supply chain using blockchain technology to enable data transparency, so we know where are food is from and what has happened to it.

SomaDetect from Fredericton, Canada. SomaDetect is a precision-dairy company that is creating an in-line system for measuring every compound of interest in raw milk, including fat, protein, somatic cells, progesterone and trace antibiotics.

Dairy Food Product Vertical Participants

Cheddies from San Antonio, Texas. Cheddies aims to provide all consumers with a cheese cracker that has added nutritional benefits. These benefits include 10g of protein, 12g of carbohydrates, no artificial flavors or colors and 0g of sugar.

MoPro Nutrition from Birmingham, Mich. MoPro is the first Greek yogurt infused with CFM Whey Protein Isolate that contains 24 grams of protein per serving and is low in sugar.

Too Cool Chix from New York, N.Y. Too Cool Chix creates delicious, all-natural ice cream sandwiches free of artificial ingredients and stabilizing gums.

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Four students recently were named winners of the K-State animal sciences academic quadrathlon. Those pictured include team sponsors Zita Milligan, Fourth & Pomeroy CFO; Joe Ebert, Fourth & Pomeroy vice president and general manager; Joel Nelson, sophomore from Soldier; Shane Newton, junior from Waverly; Joel Martin, junior from Bucklin, Missouri; and Will Patterson, senior from Holton; Rod Bohn, Fourth & Pomeroy; and Karol Fike, assistant professor and quadrathlon coordinator.

K-State animal science students compete in academic quadrathlon

Four Kansas State University animal science students will be moving on to regional competition after winning the school's academic quadrathlon recently.

The team of Joel Nelson, Soldier, Shane Newton, Waverly, Joel Martin, Bucklin, Mo. and Will Patterson, Holton, beat 14 other teams to win the annual event. They advanced to represent K-State at the Midwest Society of Animal Science meetings in Omaha March 11-14.

Each student received a \$200 scholarship and a custom belt buckle for winning the competition.

The academic quadrathlon tests students' skills in four categories: laboratory practicum, written exam, oral presentation and quiz

bowl. In the laboratory practicum, teams must demonstrate the ability to perform physical skills. They work at stations involving a species – such as beef or swine – or a disciplinary area such as physiology or meats.

The written exam questions may involve any area related to animal production and products. Each team worked on one exam, dividing the questions as they choose.

In the oral presentation, the students choose from a list of topics related to animal agriculture and had two weeks to prepare a 10-14 minute presentation on the topic.

In the quiz bowl, questions may be on any topic that relates to animal ag-

riculture and can be answered in a short period of time.

K-State's academic quadrathlon team is sponsored by Fourth & Pomeroy Associates of Clay Center.



These ladies and gentlemen were elected to serve on the Kansas Angus Association board of directors and are pictured at the 2018 Kansas Angus Association Annual Meeting and Banquet in Lawrence. Pictured front row from left are John McCurry, Burrton, treasurer; Anne Lampe, Scott City, manager; Brandon New, Leavenworth, vice president; and Neal Haverkamp, Bern, president. Directors pictured back row from left are Stephanie Dickerson, Paradise; Lynne Hinrichsen, Westmoreland; Darin Huck, Dodge City; Jace Johnson, Dwight; Flinton McCabe, Elk City; Jeff Klausmeyer, Clearwater; Lance Cline, Onaga; and Clint Woodrow, Emporia.

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