Since 1954

GRASS & GRAIN

Published by AG PRESS 62nd Year No. 49 January 23, 2018 $1.00

Roepke outlines NAFTA challenges at Kansas Soybean Expo

By Donna Sullivan, Editor

Raised on a livestock farm in central Iowa, Kevin Roepke has spent his entire career developing markets for U.S. grains. Now as the regional director for the Americas for the U.S. Soybean Export Council, based in Guadalajara, Mexico, he is responsible for the strategy and implementation of market and trade development of U.S. soy within the region.

Speaking to attendees of the Kansas Soybean Expo in Topeka on January 10, he touched on the importance of India as an export market for poultry and explained how getting that product into the country is really just the tip of the iceberg. He believes once the poultry, which is fed GMO products, becomes acceptable, the Indian ag industry will want access to either grow or use other imported GMO products. "So now you're opening the door to corn, DDGs, soybeans, soybean meal and a whole myriad of products," he said. "So it's really important to focus on this poultry issue with India, because I also believe that will be the first domino to fall, which could open up a whole bunch of products after that."

Kevin Roepke, regional director for the Americas for the U.S. Soybean Export Council, discussed the challenges facing the NAFTA renegotiaion process. He commended producers for keeping the importance of the agreement in front of their elected officials and believes it is having an impact. *Photo by Donna Sullivan*

Understanding that the uncertainty of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was likely on the top of producers' minds, he turned his attention to that.

"Obviously NAFTA countries are critically important to Kansas," Roepke said. "Kansas exported about $10.2 billion worth of goods in 2016. NAFTA is critical to your bottom line as farmers, as well as to the entire economy of Kansas in general."

To shed light into the mindset of President Trump, Ambassador Lighthizer and Secretary Ross, Roepke showed a graph that illustrates the U.S. running a trade deficit with Mexico ever since the agreement was implemented in 1994. "While typically that is correct, exports have also increased to the country as well, and I'm not really sure if a trade deficit is really the best metric to judge a trade agreement with," he stated. Agriculturally the U.S. has only begun running a trade deficit in recent years, due largely to the fact that Mexico exports high-value crops and products, like beer, which is their number one ag export, tomatoes and avocados, which have held their high value. Meanwhile the products the U.S. sends down there such as corn, soybeans and DDGs have suffered declining prices.

While it has been reported that Mexico began importing products from South America in retaliation against Trump and his talk of a border wall, the reality is they have been importing commodities from South America ever since the drought of 2012. "Markets have a way of working themselves out and they can actually source their crops from other alternatives," he said.

In mid-December Goldman Sachs predicted Trump will withdraw from NAFTA, a move they believe would damage the animal protein market the most, with a "muted" impact on grains and oilseeds. "Expect a modest dislocation of corn and soy, where tariffs would be well-integrated because of logistics and export demand," Roepke said, predicting a price impact of about 14 cents per bushel for corn and 73 cents per bushel for soybeans. "Despite being muted, 73 cents per bushel is significant," he admitted. With chicken and poultry as the largest consumer of U.S. soy, any affect on their market would be felt by soybean producers, as well.

Roepke encouraged producers to keep arguing their case to elected officials who will keep them front and center with the president. "I can for sure say there has been a subtle change in the attitude towards NAFTA in the past two months," he said, pointing out that President Trump has softened his tone and is no longer talking about tearing up, abandoning or withdrawing from NAFTA. "Now he's doing a really god job of focusing on getting a better deal for the farmers, one that is more prosperous and equitable," Roepke described. "Obviously you're doing a good job of coaching him and informing him of the importance of NAFTA."

Roepke outlined several of the issues the United States has with NAFTA, and pointed out that even Canada and Mexico agree that there is room for improvement with the agreement. The issue of restricting imports of seasonal produce during the U.S. harvest period to protect domestic production is one issue Roepke said needs to be looked at. The second is a sunset clause – the United States wants to look at the agreement every five years, possibly renegotiate and determine if it will continue. The issue of automotive manufacturing origin is another one that will be addressed. When NAFTA was implemented, the agreement was that 51% of the car had to be manufactured in North America. "Back then, one to two percent of the auto was made up of electrical components," Roepke pointed out. "Today our cars are filled with electrical components, 30-40% depending on what kind of car it is." Made in Asia, those components are not under the purview of NAFTA and the United States wants to change that.

Another issue that has long plagued the agreement is that of long-haul trucking. Originally, trucks coming from Mexico were to be given a provision to haul their goods all the way to the point of their U.S. destination. The United States balked at this, because the trucks weren't subject to the same regulatory standards as their U.S. counterparts. So the provision was restricted to allow Mexican trucks to cross the border to a designated point of distribution, where they were off-loaded and reloaded into a U.S. trucks to be taken to their destination. "Basically what happened from 1993 to 2015 was Mexico put this revolving door of tariffs on a variety of products that didn't give the United States long enough to file a claim with the WTO, because once they had an issue with it, it would be revolved to a different product, then a different product," Roepke explained. In 2015 the U.S. started allowing Mexican trucks to haul all the way to the destination, which resolved the problem, but the U.S. wants to issue revisited in NAFTA 2.0 because of more regulations in the industry here, like the electronic logging devices.

The last issue Roepke discussed was that of the Chapter 19 dispute resolution mechanism, which basically guarantees that any dispute regarding NAFTA would be handled in a kind of NAFTA court, rather than the U.S. court system, which is long and expensive.

Roepke also described what he believes to be an exciting opportunity in a developing market in Colombia. A market forecast through 2030 has Colombia purchasing two and a half million tons of protein feed or U.S. soybean meal equivalent. "I think it's a really good opportunity for us to get involved and get our feet wet," he said. "Our marketing dollars will be heavily invested in Colombia going forward."

Conversely, Roepke believes lackluster growth in Latin America is going to be a challenge for the industry. Venezuela in particular is suffering from the effects of a socialist, left-leaning government that Roepke says has destroyed businesses, economic prosperity, lives and families. Hyper-inflation has led to what he deemed a catastrophic implosion of purchasing power in the country. "The problems are spreading and hurting a lot of Latin America, as well," he said.

As for a prediction of how the NAFTA negations will play out, Roepke said they are optimistic and are continuing to position the United States as a reliable supplier. "I think this is a really good opportunity for us to increase our relationship with Mexico. It also gives us a really good opportunity to explain how important Mexico is. Before NAFTA started being renegotiated, I don't think a lot of people knew that Mexico is our number one customer for corn, DDGs, soybean meal, soybean oil, poultry, pork, wheat and a myriad of other products. So really I think it gives us a good opportunity for mutually beneficial engagement and an agreement."

Roberts introduces Kansan C.J. Mahoney at hearing to become Deputy U.S. Trade Representative

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee, introduced C.J. Mahoney, originally from Russell, at his nomination hearing last week to become Deputy United States Trade Representative.

"I overwhelmingly support C.J.'s nomination to be Deputy USTR," said Roberts. "In meeting with Mr. Mahoney, what impressed me the most was his understanding of how trade decisions affect businesses and individuals across our state of Kansas. C.J. understands how important it is for the U.S. to be a reliable supplier to our current trading partners, but also, to expand markets to sell our products. This is especially important now, due to the rough patch the farm economy is currently facing. I have no doubt C.J.'s Kansas roots will allow him to serve President Trump and Ambassador Lighthizer well in the Deputy USTR position."

Immigration reform takes shape in Washington

House Judiciary Committee chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) and House Homeland Security chairman Michael McCaul (R-Austin) introduced an immigration bill recently, the Securing America's Future Act. The bill includes an ag guestworker component based on Goodlatte's Ag Act bill that was passed out of the House Judiciary Committee last year. The Senate is also said to be working on an immigration bill.

Ag provisions in the bill would create a new H-2C guestworker program that allows for year-round use by employers like livestock producers. It would allow experienced, unauthorized agricultural workers to join the H-2C program and provide more flexibility to American farmers with respect to housing, transportation and touchback periods. The Securing America's Future Act also makes E-Verify mandatory.

Earlier, President Trump hosted both Republicans and Democrats at the White House to discuss a fix for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) by March 5. Trump said he's willing to address DACA but said it must also include a way to secure the border, including building a wall, according to *Feedstuffs*. Sources say the momentum for a DACA fix could pave the way for comprehensive immigration reform.

Pictured are, from left: Grace Luebcke, Cole Liggett, Kaci Foraker, Joel Martin, Keayla Harr, Sam Davis, Hannah Taylor, Leah Parsons and Travis O'Quinn, coach.

KSU meat judging team wins National Western

Kansas State's Meat Judging Team took top honors at the National Western Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in Greeley, Colo. A total of 108 students representing 14 universities competed in the competition. Kansas State placed 1st overall, as well as 1st in the Reasons and Specifications Divisions, tied for 1st in Lamb Judging, finished 2nd in Beef Judging and Total Beef, 3rd in Beef Grading, and 4th in Pork Judging and Placings. Kansas State was followed by Colorado State (2nd), Texas A&M (3rd), Texas Tech (4th) and Oklahoma State (5th). This marks the first time since 1985 Kansas State has won this competition.

Individually, Joel Martin, a junior from Bucklin, Mo., placed 1st overall, followed by Hannah Taylor, a sophomore from Arlington, Wis., who placed 3rd overall. Sam Davis, a junior from Madison, placed 7th overall. Grace Luebcke, a junior from Marysville, placed 1st in Lamb Judging. Leah Parsons, a junior from Leavenworth, placed 2nd overall in the alternates division. Other team members included Keayla Harr, Jeromesville, Ohio; Kaci Foraker, Burrton and Cole Liggett, Dennison, Ohio. The team is coached by Dr. Travis O'Quinn.

Insight
KANSAS FARM BUREAU
The Voice of Agriculture

Healthy Choice

By John Schlageck,
Kansas Farm Bureau

Can a person ever have too much of a good thing?

I believe this may be the case when you look at all the soft drinks, flavored water and sports beverage choices today. They're everywhere.

You can't walk into a supermarket or convenience store without bumping into the many drink offering displays.

And flavors. Wow.

Just think of some taste you desire like fudge malted gumball, cheese yogurt yummy or silvery satin strawberry. It's out there and you can buy it and drink it down.

Without question, the best part of these drinks for me is the packaging.

It's unbelievable. And the creativity?

It's almost too much for one to digest.

Anymore, I don't even care what's in the container. I just want to hold it in my hand, caress its coolness, admire its latest, unique logo and look good doing so.

While many are content with the multitude of diet sodas, and flavored waters like blackberry blush, my drink of choice is chocolate milk. I really enjoy it. I have since I was a small child.

Today's explosion of new soft drinks, flavored waters and sports drinks has one major worrisome aspect I cannot help but point out.

Pitchmen, women and yes, kids, are filling our heads with the idea these flavored drinks can be part of a well-rounded, balanced diet. Their ads and infomercials are as numerous as grains of sand on our beaches – and they're spending billions.

The most alarming part of this sales pitch is that so much of it is aimed at our youth. In case you haven't been in today's schools this drink deluge is very much a part of the contemporary scene.

Soft drinks have no business being considered part of a balanced diet at our schools or anywhere else. These drinks have little, if any, nutritional value.

Look at the ingredients in a soft drink the next time you pick one up. Most people wouldn't have a clue what these ingredients are, myself included.

To be part of a balanced diet, a food product must have nutritional value. I believe soft drinks have such a negligible amount, they cannot be considered seriously as part of any "balanced" diet.

Unlike water, soft drinks won't even quench your thirst. They leave you longing for a tall, cool glass of water.

Talk to a nutritionist or physician and what is the ingredient we're supposed to drink at least eight glasses of?

That's right. Nature's own liquid – water.

What about that wonderful white liquid chocked full of calcium we call milk?

Where does it fit in our daily diet?

Milk belongs in almost everyone's diet. Nutritional research has stressed that men and women between the ages of 11 and 24 need the equivalent of five servings of dairy products daily. This can be milk, yogurt, cheese, ice cream and a whole array of other good-tasting dairy foods.

Juice from oranges, grapefruit, lemons, limes, cranberries, strawberries and other fruits is another item that belongs as part of a balanced diet. Food products from natural primary crops – not always secondary, highly processed food products – are essential to our youngsters' diets. We owe it to them and their good health.

Other drinks made from tomatoes, carrots, celery and other vegetables are loaded with vitamins, minerals and fiber. Vegetable drinks should be included as part of our daily diets.

But let's return to soft drinks. You've got to admit it's a brilliant stroke of marketing to link sports and flavored drinks with a well-rounded, nutritionally balanced diet. Infer something often enough and people will begin to believe.

Soft drinks linked with a balanced diet and nutrition is about as palatable to me as the drink manufacturers laughing all the way to the bank.

There is no substitute for healthy, nutritious food in our daily diets. Students and adults should reach for a tall glass of water, juice or milk the next time they're thirsty. These are truly nutritious products that belong in a daily balanced diet.

The occasional Coke or Dr. Pepper can be a real treat, and everyone should indulge in their simple pleasures from time to time.

But the rest of the time, keep it simple – chocolate milk, fruit juices or water will do just fine. You'll be doing yourself a favor and you'll be supporting farmers and ranchers who supply these fresh, tasty, nutritious drinks.

Bottoms up.

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.

Sub-zero temperatures may have damaged Kansas wheat

The recent, stubborn cold spell that settled over the heartland on New Year's Day made doing almost anything outdoors difficult, and likely did at least some damage to winter wheat in Kansas, a Kansas State University agronomist said.

Dry conditions in some areas made the crop even more vulnerable to freeze damage.

"Air temperatures on New Year's Day alone were cold enough to harm the wheat crop in many parts of the state," said Romulo Lollato, wheat and forages specialist with K-State Research and Extension. North central Kansas had temperatures of 10 below zero F for up to ten hours and readings in some areas fell as low as 16 below zero.

Kansas typically grows about one-fifth of all wheat grown in the United States. About half of it is exported.

Cold damage to the wheat crop depends on many factors, including how low temperatures go and how long they stay at those levels; the stage of crop development; soil moisture; snow cover (which can provide an insulating effect); and wind speed.

"The effects of the low temperatures could be magnified by dry soil conditions and poor fall development due to late sowing across the state," Lollato said.

While most of the state was exposed to minimum temperatures below 0 degrees F for the week ended Jan. 2, potential damage to wheat was likely restricted to areas where minimum temperatures fell to 5 to 10 degrees below zero.

Though the situation may spell bad news for the 2018 wheat crop, it's too soon to tell the extent of the damage, the wheat specialist said, encouraging growers not to take immediate action.

"While foliage damage will be apparent a few days after the cold event, the first apparent sign of freeze injury being leaf dieback and senescence, symptoms of winterkill will only be apparent at spring greenup," Lollato said. It's even possible that if the crown is not damaged, wheat can recover in the spring with little yield loss.

If damage to the crown occurred, the crop will not green up in the spring or will green up for a short period of time using existing resources, and perish shortly after.

"In any case, we will only be able to assess the true extent of the damage at spring greenup," he said.

"Wheat that has fewer than one to two tillers and three to five leaves will be more susceptible to winterkill, which unfortunately is the situation for the majority of the Kansas wheat crop during the 2017-18 season," Lollato said, adding that wheat sowing was delayed last fall for about 60 to 80 percent of the Kansas crop due to early October precipitation. That put the crop behind in its development compared with average years, plus many fields in north central Kansas had sowing delayed further because producers were finishing their summer crop harvest.

One encouraging factor, he said, is that soil temperatures never reached single digits at a two-inch depth across the entire state, and snow cover amounting to as many as five inches in some areas could have helped winter wheat survival if the soil surface was covered at the time cold temperatures occurred.

More details, including weather maps, are available in the K-State agronomy eUpdate newsletter at http://ksu.ag/2F3yc7y.

Occasionally (like every ten years) a reader will ask me for some advice. While I must admit that it is tempting to start a Dear Abby for farmers and ranchers, it really isn't my style However, this past week I got a question from a reader that really was a cry for help and I felt compelled to answer it. I assume this reader is a novice shepherd and sees me as a sort of mentor. Her question is a very basic one and it might be of some help to everyone else, so I thought I would share my answer.

The question went something like this: Dear Mr. Brunkow, Sir; I am new the sheep business and I have often heard you say it is bad luck to wash your coveralls during lambing season. My coveralls are quite soiled, smell badly and have a rip in them. Is it okay to wash them and mend the hole? I hope so because I don't think I can take two more months of this. My family has disowned me, and my friends are shunning me. Sincerely yours, Julie S.

Well, Julie, the simple answer is no, you cannot wash your coveralls and mend them. Doing so would jeopardize your whole lambing season and maybe the future of the entire free world. Okay, so that last statement might be a little strong, but I assure you that my non-washing of coveralls during lambing and calving season is based on years of experience and most of that experience was bad. I am just trying to save you from the pain and heartbreak that I have suffered.

First, my reasoning for not washing my coveralls is a practical one. I promise that within minutes of washing and mending your coveralls you will find yourself in an emergency that will result in your bibs being even more soiled and shredded than they were before you washed them. At that point the washing is in vain and you have wasted water. We sheepherders are an environmentally conscious bunch and wasting water is something we just don't do. In the same line of thought, you might want to start cutting back on daily bathing also. It won't affect you socially and it will give you an extra few minutes each day to spend with your sheep.

I do feel your pain when it comes to being a social outcast. The life of a sheepherder is one of solitude and not for the weak of spirit. Family and friends will not understand your lifestyle. When you are feeling lonely just remember God loves shepherds and he invited them to the manger first. It is a good thing God loves us because no one else does and it should be noted that the biggest social event we were ever invited to was in a stable full of animals. You will find that by the end of lambing season you really don't mind being alone.

Let me also assure you that the smell and ragged look will eventually grow on you. No, that is not a figure of speech, your chore clothes will become a living, breathing organism and start growing on you. Look on the positive side, in a couple of weeks your clothes will not be the scariest thing about your appearance. Soon the wild look in your eyes highlighted by the bags will only be offset by the tangled mess of hair above them and beard below. In short you will look like something small children have nightmares about being under their beds. Trolls will take one look at you and cross the street.

The life of a sheep rancher is not an easy one and not everyone is cut out for it. Sure, it sounds like a free and easy lifestyle complete with cute little lambs. Hollywood has glamorized our image with clean coveralls and good personal hygiene; the real world is very different from the fairytale images of Mary and Bo Peep.

I hope I have not discouraged your interest in sheep. Raising them is really a very noble thing. I just wanted you to know the whole truth and that begins with washing your coveralls during lambing season. True shepherds understand the importance of coveralls that stand up on their own and come to you when you whistle. Those of us truly immersed in the sheep lifestyle value the solitude and peacefulness a life without friends and family affords us. In fact, some of my most creative moments have come after three months of muck and mud, little sleep and ill-mannered sheep.

This answer can also be applied to cattle ranchers, pig farmers, chicken producers and anyone else with livestock. I promise you that the cornerstone to success in the livestock business is not washing your coveralls. Julie, if you follow my advice (and I suspect you are) you will have a long successful career as a shepherd.

Kansas wheat and canola seedings see slight increase

Winter wheat seeded area for 2018 is estimated at 7.80 million acres, up from last year's seeded area of 7.60 million acres, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Canola seeded area is estimated at 60,000 acres, up from last year's seeded area of 50,000 acres. Access the national report for this release at: http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/WWhtCanSeed//2010s/2018/WWhtCanSeed-01-12-2018.pdf

Find agricultural statistics for your county, state, and the nation at www.nass.usda.gov

GRASS & GRAIN

785-539-7558
Fax 785-539-2679

Editor — Donna Sullivan
gandgeditor@agpress.com

— Advertising Staff —
Steve Reichert
agpress2@agpress.com

GRASS & GRAIN (USPS 937-880)
The newsweekly for Kansas and southern Nebraska, published each Tuesday at 1531 Yuma (Box 1009), Manhattan, KS by Ag Press, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Manhattan, Kansas and additional offices. Postmaster send address changes to: Ag Press, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505.

Subscription — $76 for 2 years. $41 for 1 year, **plus applicable sales tax.** Outside Kansas, $51 for 1 year, $95 for 2 years.

MEMBER OF
Associated Press

www.grassandgrain.com

Perdue: Withdrawing from NAFTA would be bad policy

USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue said recently that he has advised President Trump to not withdraw from NAFTA, but rather negotiate, according to the *Washington Times*.

"NAFTA needs to be modernized, like anything 25 years ago, but we think it would be bad policy if we withdrew," Perdue said on Fox News. Perdue said the president had an open mind on renegotiating the treaty rather than leaving it completely.

President Trump also told the crowd at the annual American Farm Bureau Convention that his team was working very hard on NAFTA renegotiations.

"On NAFTA, I am working very hard to get a better deal for our country and for our farmers and for our manufacturers," said the president during a 35-minute speech. "It's not the easiest negotiation, but we're going to make it fair for you people again."

Trump also told the *Wall Street Journal* that there is no rush on NAFTA, and that he recognized that Mexico could be hamstrung from negotiating a new NAFTA deal before the nation's presidential election on July 1. While he did not write off the possibility of a withdrawal, he said he would rather be able to negotiate a new deal.

"We've made a lot of headway," he said. "We're moving along nicely."

Meanwhile, Canadian officials are taking the threat of the United States quitting NAFTA seriously. Reuters reports that Canadian government sources are becoming increasingly convinced that the U.S. plans to announce its intent to pull out of NAFTA.

"The United States has been very clear since before the talks started that (a pull out) was a possibility," Chrystia Freeland, Canada's minister of foreign affairs, told reporters. "I think we need to take our neighbors at their word, take them seriously, and so Canada is prepared for every eventuality."

Sen. Moran to AFBF attendees: Keep conveying the importance of NAFTA to President Trump

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran headlined a discussion entitled, "What's the Latest on the Upcoming Farm Bill?" and spoke during the Presidents' Commodity Meeting at the 99th consecutive American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show in Nashville, Tenn.

"I appreciated the opportunity to speak at the AFBF convention regarding the upcoming farm bill, farm safety net and the importance of protecting our rural way of life across the country," said Moran. "I've heard not only from producers in Kansas, but also growers across the country, how imperative it is that Congress work in a bipartisan fashion to get a farm bill and a disaster relief bill to the President's desk. I look forward to working with my colleagues to make certain these priorities are met."

"This conference also allowed for ample discussion regarding the importance of NAFTA and trade," continued Moran. "Our nation's farmers and ranchers earn their living through ag exports and trade, and I will continue to insist that the administration remain mindful of the role agricultural trade plays in our economy. I urge conference attendees and farm bureau leaders to convey this message to President Trump and Secretary Perdue. I am encouraged by the president's attendance at the conference and his desire to hear from our farmers and ranchers across the country."

U.S. Wheat Associates worried steel industry demands could disrupt trade and threaten national security

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) has sounded an alarm in reaction to the Department of Commerce's announcement that it has submitted to the White House the results of its Section 232 investigation of the national security implications of steel imports. Done at the prodding of a large segment of the U.S. steel industry, the investigation and its potential results likely ignore the disastrous implications for other U.S. sectors from extreme trade protections for commonly traded steel.

The World Trade Organization's (WTO) national security exception from normal trade rules has traditionally been narrowly defined for truly exceptional products deemed necessary to maintain essential security interests. There is a good reason for this cautious approach, respected by virtually every country: common usage of it would undermine decades of carefully negotiated trade rules that foster peaceable global trade. These types of restrictions on a commonly traded product like steel blow that exception apart.

Global trade rules were pioneered by the United States after World War II precisely to avoid the types of protectionist trade policies that exacerbated tensions leading to the global conflict. Since national security exceptions are self-declared and unenforceable, the United States using that exception as a loophole could lead to a major breach in the system of global trade rules with unpredictable consequences.

Specifically, USW believes that there is no greater national security interest for a country than being able to feed its people, which is best achieved through open markets. If the United States restricts steel imports under a national security claim, some countries may use the same pretense to restrict imports of U.S. wheat and other agricultural products.

"While we don't yet know the contents of Commerce's recommendations to President Trump, if they're anything like what the steel industry has proposed, we hope the President will do the right thing and reject it," said USW president Vince Peterson. "Under the pretense of asking for fair trade, the steel industry is looking for sweeping protection, and that threatens to undermine the global trade rules that have helped keep our country secure and our farmers competitive."

The steel industry supplied about two-thirds of the domestic market in 2017 and has nearly 150 existing trade remedies in place against imported steel products. Section 232 is a different type of remedy that could allow unprecedented and sweeping trade restrictions that disregard carefully negotiated WTO rules. While it may target Chinese steel in part, China did not even break the top ten sources of U.S. steel imports in 2017.

"The domestic steel industry already has more protection in place than any other industry so there is no reason to blow up tr ade rules to restrict imported steel," said USW chairman Mike Miller, a farmer from Ritzville, Wash. "As a farmer, I know that I always have to work hard to stay competitive; if steel companies can't do that with dozens of trade remedies already in place, maybe they should look for solutions that address the real problems instead of just restricting trade."

Our Daily Bread

By G&G Area Cooks

This Week's Grass & Grain Recipe Contest Winner is Bonnie Winter, Silver Lake

Bonnie Winter, Silver Lake

6 CAN CHICKEN TORTILLA SOUP

1 can corn, drained
2 cans chicken broth
10-ounce can chunk chicken
1 can black beans, rinsed & drained
10-ounce can Ro-tel

Heat and serve. Can top with shredded cheese and tortilla chips, if desired.

*****

Gin Fox, Holton:

CROCK-POT PORK CHOPS

4 pork chops
1 can cream of chicken soup
Half of a package of Italian dressing (dry) or Ranch
1 package of pork gravy mix
1 can milk (use your cream of chicken soup can)
Salt & pepper

Put all in crock-pot on low, all day. Ready to eat when you get home. Serve with mashed potatoes.

Note: I am sure this could be adapted to use the new instant potatoes that came out as well. Also, beef steaks could be used instead of pork chops.

*****

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:

OATMEAL MUFFINS

2 cups old-fashioned oatmeal
2 cups milk plus 2 tablespoons vinegar
2 eggs
1 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup oil
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking powder

Soak oatmeal, milk and vinegar together for 5 minutes. Mix the eggs and brown sugar well and add the oatmeal mixture. Then mix the baking powder, baking soda, oil, flour and salt well. Then add to the oatmeal mixture. Mix all together well. Pour mixture into muffin pan with papers or spray pans and bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

*****

Claire Martin, Salina:

ARABIAN COFFEE

1/2 cup ground coffee
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon cardamom
2 tablespoons honey
3 cups cold water

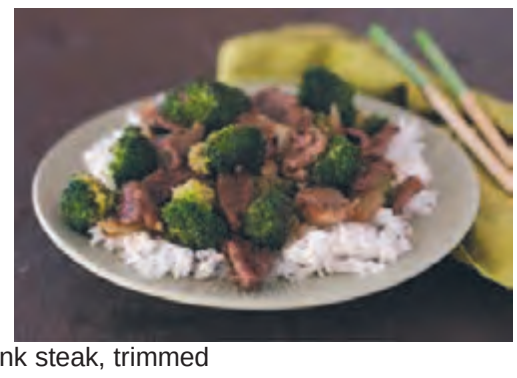
Place grounds and spices in a filter in the brew basket of your coffee maker. Pour honey into the empty carafe. Pour water into coffee maker and brew as you would regular coffee. When brewing is complete, stir coffee until well mixed.

NOTE: Top with whipped cream and cinnamon for a pretty dessert cup of coffee!

*****

Eat Smart!

Oriental Beef with Broccoli



½ pound boneless top round or flank steak, trimmed
10 sun dried tomato slices or halves (packed without oil)
¾ cup boiling water
2 teaspoons cornstarch
¼ cup low sodium soy sauce
1½ teaspoons sugar
2 cups fresh broccoli florets or 1 (10-ounce) package frozen broccoli florets, thawed
3 green onions, sliced
1 clove garlic, minced
Hot cooked rice

1. Slice steak diagonally across the grain into very thin slices.
2. Combine tomato slices and boiling water; let stand 5 minutes.
3. Drain and slice tomato into thin strips, reserving liquid.
4. Combine cornstarch, soy sauce, sugar, and reserved liquid, stirring until smooth. Set aside.
5. Coat a large nonstick skillet with cooking spray; place over medium high heat until hot.
6. Add steak, and cook, stirring constantly, 3 minutes. Remove from skillet and set aside.
7. Add tomato strips, broccoli, green onions, and garlic. Cook, stirring constantly, 3 minutes.
8. Add cornstarch mixture and steak, and cook, stirring constantly, 1 minute.
9. Serve over rice.

www.wildcatdistrict.k-state.edu

Nutrition Facts

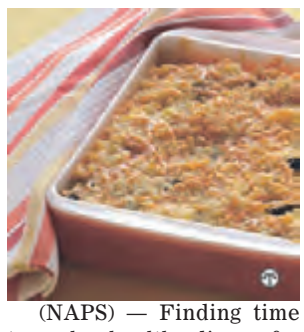
4 servings per container
Serving size 1 cup (175g)

Amount per serving
Calories 150

	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 5g	6%
Saturated Fat 2g	10%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 40mg	13%
Sodium 720mg	31%
Total Carbohydrate 9g	3%
Dietary Fiber 2g	7%
Total Sugars 3g	
Includes 2g Added Sugars	4%
Protein 16g	
Vitamin D 0mcg	0%
Calcium 43mg	4%
Iron 2mg	10%
Potassium 398mg	8%

*The % Daily Value tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

With A Little Planning Meals Can Be Made Easier



(NAPS) — Finding time to cook a healthy dinner for the whole family to enjoy can be a challenge.

With a little planning and advance prep, however, making a family dinner can be a cinch. Here are six ways to get ahead of the curve:

• Create a weekly menu.

• Keep it simple with easy-to-prepare meals that can be made quickly or in advance.

• Write up your grocery list and do the shopping all at once rather than making numerous trips to the grocery store throughout the week.

• As you're unloading the groceries, wash and dry the fruit and veggies and store in resealable bags.

• Prep dinner early in the morning before the day gets hectic.

• Keep your pantry well stocked with items such as canned tuna, canned tomatoes, and Lindsay olives, capers and peppers, so you can throw together a quick and tasty pasta or a dinner salad.

Then try these no-fuss, easy-to-make dinner ideas:

• Combine bone-in chicken breasts with equal parts water, chicken stock and canned tomatoes in your slow cooker. Add chopped carrots, onions and celery. Cook low and slow all day. About an hour before dinner, remove chicken from slow cooker and add one package of frozen corn and one can of pinto beans. While the corn and beans are heating, shred the chicken using two forks and return to the soup. Serve soup in warmed bowls and garnish with green and black olives, cilantro, avocado, green onions, wedges of lime and shredded jack cheese. Serve with a simple green salad.

• Assemble a quick sheet pan dinner by creating a flavorful base using a good amount of green and black olives, halved cherry tomatoes, and a small handful or two of capers. Drizzle with a good glug of Lindsay Buttery California Extra Virgin Olive Oil, season lightly with salt and black pepper, and toss so veggies are well coated. Lay a flaky white fish fillet of your choice on top of the veggies and drizzle with more olive oil and salt and pepper. Scatter a few sprigs of thyme on top. Store in the fridge until dinner time, then bake until fish is done. Serve with a tossed green salad and crusty French bread.

• Then there's the popular, the ultimate make-ahead meal: bubbly, gooey, creamy, comfy casseroles, whether it's baked ziti, tuna casserole, turkey tetrazzini—the options are nearly endless and you're sure to please just about everyone. Throw in a green salad and you've got a delicious dinner.

• Here's a protein-packed version of the classic mac and cheese:

Baked Chicken & Cheese

2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 Anaheim chili peppers, diced
1 tablespoon minced garlic
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2 1/4 cups low-sodium chicken broth
2 1/2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
1-pound box macaroni pasta, cooked
8 ounces grilled chicken breast, diced
6-ounce can Lindsay Ripe Pitted Olives
1/2 cup Japanese-style panko breadcrumbs
1/8 teaspoon paprika

Heat butter in a large saucepan over medium heat until melted and foamy. Stir in peppers and garlic and cook for 2 minutes. Whisk in flour and cook for 1 to 2 more minutes until smooth and golden. Whisk in chicken broth, a half cup at a time, until smooth and bring to a boil. Turn heat down to simmer and cook for 3-4 minutes. Stir in cheese and remove from heat. Add pasta, chicken and olives and pour into a lightly greased 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Top with breadcrumbs, sprinkle with paprika and bake in a 400-degree oven for 15-20 minutes.

Learn More

For other delicious recipes, tips and ideas, go to www.ilovelindsay.com/recipes. For more information about Lindsay, go to www.ilovelindsay.com

Fad Diet Reality Check!

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

Quick-weight-loss or "fad" diets can seem appealing. But in reality, there is no magic formula for losing weight. There are no quick fixes, no foods, wraps, or pills to melt the pounds away. Chances are you didn't gain those pounds overnight and aren't going to lose them overnight either, not and do it safely.

In order to maintain a healthy weight, a lifestyle change needs to occur that includes a balanced diet and physical activity. Some weight-loss diets may work in the beginning. This is often because the fad diet helps you cut calories in one way or another. However, they are hard to sustain over time and can even lead to greater risk of health issues.

A better plan is to adopt the idea that what you eat significantly affects your health. Each food group provides its own unique set of vitamins, minerals, and energy for the body. Try to wean yourself from sweetened beverages, packaged foods, and sugars. Then try to implement changes that are compatible with your lifestyle, work schedule, and individual tastes. It can help to focus on reducing or eliminating highly processed foods in your eating plan.

The potential problems with fad diets include:

Poor long-term weight control. A fad diet promotes a "quick fix" and does not teach healthy eating plans.

Increased risk of chronic diseases. Many fad diets severely restrict or eliminate fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and whole grains. These foods all contain nutrients that may help prevent many chronic conditions.

Reduced athletic performance. Diets that significantly restrict carbohydrates increase symptoms of fatigue and decrease body energy supplies and endurance. In addition, low-carbohydrate diets cause a loss of fluid and electrolytes.

Kidney stones and gout. Diets that are high in protein and low in carbohydrates often lead to the formation of uric acid and calcium oxalate.

Ketosis. A diet that is low in carbohydrates puts your body into ketosis. Without adequate carbohydrates for an energy supply, fat becomes the primary energy source, and ketones turn out to be the means of transportation. You may notice a funny smell to your breath.

Just because a diet is popular doesn't mean that it is effective or good for you. If you are considering going on a diet, ask yourself the following questions:

Does the diet promise rapid weight loss (e.g. Lose 10 pounds in one week)?

Does the diet require rigid menus of a limited number of foods to be eaten at a specific time of day?

Does the diet use pictures and testimonials rather than scientific evidence?

Does the diet claim that you can lose weight without exercise?

Does an element of the diet have warnings against it? (e.g. FDA has warnings against an ingredient in a fad diet supplement)

Does the diet eliminate one or more of the five food groups?

Does the diet require you to skip meals?

Does the diet encourage the purchase of special products – food, pills, herbs, seminars?

Does the diet claim to be suitable for everyone or not warn people with diabetes or high blood pressure to seek medical advice before starting the diet?

Does the diet cost a lot of money?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, you are looking at a fad diet. Steer clear of it!

Instead of a fad diet, follow these simple guidelines to make good food choices for life by following the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans as encouraged at https://www.choosemyplate.gov/. A healthy eating pattern accounts for all foods and beverages within an appropriate calorie level and includes:

A variety of vegetables from all the subgroups—dark green, red and orange, legumes (beans and peas), starchy, and other vegetables;

Fruits, especially whole fruits;

Grains, at least half of which are whole grains;

Fat-free or low-fat dairy, including milk, yogurt, cheese, and fortified soy beverages;

A variety of protein foods, including seafood, lean meats and poultry, eggs, legumes (beans and peas), and nuts, seeds, and soy products;

Oils;

A healthy eating pattern limits saturated fats and trans fats, added sugars, and sodium.

For more specific information about "fad" diets, check out the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics site at http://www.eatright.org/resources/health/weight-loss/fad-diets.

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; Wilson County, 620-378-2167; 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.

***

THICK TURKEY CHILI

Makes approximately (8) 1-cup servings

1 teaspoon canola or olive oil
1 medium onion, diced
1 medium green bell pepper, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced (or ¼ teaspoon garlic powder or 1 teaspoon bottled preminced garlic)
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 teaspoon cumin
teaspoon pepper
2 pounds lean ground turkey breast or extra-lean ground beef
4 cups tomato sauce (reduced-sodium if available)
6-ounce can tomato paste

1. Heat oil in a large pot or saucepan over medium heat.

2. Sauté the onion, bell pepper, and garlic until tender and onion is translucent. Add spices and cook for 1 minute.

3. Add turkey and cook for 5-7 minutes or until no longer pink.

4. Add tomato sauce and tomato paste. Simmer, covered for 20-30 minutes until flavors are blended and chili is thick.

5. Ladle into bowls and serve immediately.

Nutrition Facts for 1/8 recipe: Calories 230; Total Fat 10g; Saturated Fat 2.5g; Cholesterol 85mg; Sodium 125mg; Carbohydrate 15g; Dietary Fiber 3 g; Sugars 3g; Protein 22g; Vitamin A 30%; Vitamin C 60%, Calcium 4%; Iron 15%.

Notes:

-This chili can be served as a chili in a bowl or as a sloppy joe on a bun.

-This chili freezes very well and can be portioned into individual serving containers and frozen for up to 6 months.

Source: Dining with Diabetes WVUES, 2000-present

Home and Away

We all have one

By Lou Ann Thomas

We all probably have that one friend who no matter what you tell him or her has a horrible story of death, decay, or destruction regarding the very thing you are sharing.

You mention you have a hangnail and Betty Bummer responds with a tale about someone who had a hangnail, which got infected, the infection spread and gangrene set in, and after days in the hospital, the entire hand had to be removed as a result.

My expression of disgust and disbelief should tell Betty everything she needs to know about whether it wise to continue this conversation or not, but Betty apparently doesn't read signs well - unless they are about flood, famine or someone's final moments after a long, drawn-out, terribly painful and untimely demise. Betty continues and with depression and dread growing in me, I ask, "Why are you telling me this?"

"Because it can happen, and you need to know," Betty says.

I'm not sure why I need to know, but Betty Bummer's doom and gloom isn't limited to topics of health. In fact, it covers the entire spectrum. If the sun is out, she tells me stories regarding sunburn so severe sunlight could never be tolerated again. And on even the most perfect of days, Betty Bummer never fails to remind me that tornadoes, earthquakes, plague and pestilence are right around the corner.

I was thinking about why some people insist on focusing on negative outcomes when Betty asked, "By the way, how is Physical Therapy going on your shoulders?"

Oh no! I forgot I shared my shoulder issues with Betty and now I feared answering for what dire information awaited me. But when the silence became uncomfortable I said, "Fine. But it looks like I may still need to have the left one replaced." (Why? Why did I say that? Oh no….)

"Well, get it soon! You know Ruby?" Betty asks.

(And my mind immediately begins pleading, "Oh my God! Please! No! Please, God, do not let Ruby die from shoulder surgery!")

"Well, she had shoulder surgery. (Oh no…here it comes…) It didn't go well. (How did I know that was likely to be?) The surgeon didn't do it right and she was never able to use her arm again," Betty says.

I honestly don't know why the Betty Bummers of the world exhibit such a pessimistic outlook, but there is nothing that kills happiness and sucks the joy out of me as quickly as being around negativity. So, I've decided that from now on whenever the Bummers share their negativity I will simply mark it "Return to Sender."

Kansas Soybean Expo 2018 includes laughter, learning, laurels

About 225 soybean enthusiasts gathered Jan. 10 in Topeka for Kansas Soybean Expo 2018. The Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) organized the annual event, with checkoff funding from the Kansas Soybean Commission (KSC), to coincide with the Topeka Farm Show at the Kansas Expocentre.

"We were really excited to have so many farmers and friends of the industry join us in Topeka," said KSA Second Vice President Teresa Brandenburg, Osborne, who chaired the Expo planning committee. "It was a great day to network and advance the association's and commission's commitments to producer education."

KSA president Lucas Heinen, Everest, and KSC chairman Kurt Maurath, Oakley, welcomed the attendees. The opening session featured updates from checkoff-partner organizations. The presenters were Jennifer Geck Ott, director of allied industry relations for the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council, and Kevin Roepke, regional director for the Americas at the U.S. Soybean Export Council.

The keynote speaker, farm-boy-turned-comedian Roger Radley, entertained the audience with his wit, humor and stories about growing up on a Wisconsin farm and how we raise kids today.

"Roger was very entertaining, and you never knew what direction he was headed with the next line," said Charles Atkinson, Great Bend, KSA's representative on the American Soybean Association (ASA) board of directors and a member of the Expo planning committee. "His presentation was a great reminder that if you can't look in the mirror and get a good laugh, to laugh with somebody else."

John Jenkinson, Lakin, a farm broadcaster for KSN News and markets editor-anchor for RFD-TV and Rural Radio on Sirius XM, was the master of ceremonies at the luncheon. The featured speaker was Donnell Rehagen, CEO of the National Biodiesel Board (NBB). He emphasized how the soybean checkoff always has ensured the biodiesel industry could support its technological development and marketing projects with the proper research. He also complimented the national and state soybean associations for advocating federal policies to help make biodiesel competitive in the marketplace.

Comedian Roger Radley kept attendees of the Kansas Soybean Expo laughing as he compared childhood experiences of today with those of generations past. *Photo by Donna Sullivan*

To open the awards and recognitions, Brett Neibling, Highland, and Brandon Geiger, Denton, who represented Kansas in the 2017 DuPont Young Leader program, introduced and congratulated Kim and Kevin Kohls, Moundridge, and Jared Nash, Parsons, as 2018 young leaders. Heinen then recognized Marvin Wahl, Oswego, for being KSA's top recruiter in 2017.

The Friend of Soy award went to Harold Kraus, Hays. He served on KSC from 1999 to 2011 and was its first representative to NBB, serving there from 2001 to 2013. When he started, biodiesel was in its infancy, and it was a billion-gallon industry by the time he retired. His dedication to developing biodiesel helped make it America's first domestically produced, commercially available advanced biofuel, and NBB gave him the Friend of Biodiesel Award in 2013.

Kraus earned a business degree from the University of Kansas in 1955 then served as a Navy aviator. He and his wife, Virginia, have six children and farm in Ellis County, where he was a county commissioner for 16 years. They continue to host an agriculture day for about 300 students and teachers every year.

Heinen recognized past president Terry Reschke, Hiawatha, for retiring from the KSA board of directors a year ago, after 15 years of service. Maurath thanked Craig Gigstad, Valley Falls, for representing Kansas on the United Soybean Board from 2011 to 2017.

Next, Heinen presided over the KSA annual meeting. Atkinson outlined ASA's policy successes in 2017 and priorities for 2018. First vice president Dwight Meyer, Hiawatha, who chairs KSA's policy committee, presented the guiding resolutions for 2018, which the voting members present accepted. The board elections resulted in Kregg Rennie, Columbus, and Gary Robbins, Emmett, returning as the directors for districts 4 and 5, respectively, and Brandenburg (Osborne) continuing as a director-at-large.

After adjournment, the KSA directors met and re-elected their officers for the coming year: Heinen (Everest), president; Meyer (Hiawatha), first vice president; Brandenburg (Osborne), second vice president; Doug Shoup, Parsons, secretary; and Robbins (Emmett), treasurer. Past president Raylen Phelon, Melvern, will continue as chairman.

Shoup, who coordinates the Kansas Soybean Yield and Value Contests, then announced the district and overall winners. Meier Farms, Rexford, topped the irrigated division with 100.67 bushels per acre - the first entry ever to document more than 100 bushels. Kenny Wilson, Horton, led the dryland division with 93.34 bushels per acre. Geiger (Denton) won the value contest with 97.8 cents per bushel of increased value (10.7 percent over the $9.68 cash price). Complete results and award photos will be available via http://KansasSoybeans.org/contests on the web.

Participants then heard three K-State Research and Extension updates. Ignacio Ciampitti, Ph.D., crop-production specialist, led "Increasing Yields Through Improved Management." Dallas Peterson, Ph.D., weed scientist, offered "The Dicamba Conundrum." Entomologists Brian McCornack, Ph.D., and Mike Smith, Ph.D., presented "An Integrated Approach to Managing Dectes Stem Borer in Kansas."

Expo photos and presentations soon will be available via http://KansasSoybeans.org/expo on the web.

Corn yield and soybean production up in 2017, says USDA report

Across the Midwest, a lack of extreme heat helped boost the nation's corn yield to its highest level on record – slightly above 2016. The nation's soybean yield was down 6 percent from 2016, but production reached a record level due to record high acreage, according to the Crop Production 2017 Summary released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

U.S. corn growers produced 14.6 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 2016. Corn yield in the U.S. is estimated at a record high 176.6 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels above last year's average yield of 174.6 bushels per acre. Area harvested, at 82.7 million acres, is down 5 percent from 2016. The 2017 corn objective yield data indicate the third highest number of ears per acre on record for the combined objective yield states with record high ear counts in South Dakota.

Soybean production for 2017 totaled a record 4.39 billion bushels, up 2 percent from 2016. With record high levels across much of the southern United States, from the Delta to the Appalachian Mountains, the average soybean yield is estimated at 49.1 bushels per acre, 2.9 bushels below last year's record yield. Harvested area in 2017, at a record 89.5 million acres, is up 8 percent from 2016.

For 2017, all cotton production is up 24 percent from 2016, at 21.3 million 480-pound bales. The U.S. yield is estimated at 899 pounds per acre, up 32 pounds from last year's yield. Harvested area, at 11.3 million acres, is up 19 percent from last year.

Sorghum grain production in 2017 is estimated at 364 million bushels, down 24 percent from 2016. Area planted for sorghum, at 5.63 million acres, is down 16 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 5.05 million acres, is down 18 percent from 2016. Grain yield is estimated at 72.1 bushels per acre, down 5.8 bushels from last year. Record high yields are estimated in Colorado, Georgia, and Missouri.

Also released were the Winter Wheat and Canola Seedings and Grain Stocks reports. The Winter Wheat Seedings report is the first indicator of this year's winter wheat acreage. Planted area for harvest in 2018 is estimated at 32.6 million acres, down less than 1 percent from 2017 and down 10 percent from 2016. This represents the second lowest U.S. acreage on record.

In the Grain Stocks report, corn and soybean stocks were estimated to be up 1 and 9 percent from 2016, respectively. Corn stored in all positions totaled 12.5 billion bushels, while soybeans totaled 3.16 billion bushels. All wheat stocks were down 10 percent from last year. All wheat stored in all positions totaled 1.87 billion bushels.

The full Crop Production 2017 Summary is available online at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications. The report contains year-end acreage, yield and production estimates for grains and hay; oilseeds; cotton, tobacco and sugar; dry beans, peas and lentils; and potatoes and miscellaneous crops.

Genetics on display at NWSS Gelbvieh and Balancer Pen Show

The Gelbvieh and Balancer Pen Show took place at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado, on Sunday, January 7, 2018. A total of 16 pens were exhibited at this year's show. Eldon Krebs, Gordon, Nebraska, judged the pen bull show.

Judd Ranch Inc., Pomona, exhibited the grand champion pen of three Gelbvieh bulls. The champion pen consisted of two January 2017 bulls and one February 2017 bull. This pen had an average weight of 1,239 pounds and an average weight per day of age of 3.6 pounds. All pen bulls are ultrasound scanned at the time of check-in. This pen's ultrasound scan data averaged a ribeye area of 14.84 square inches, 3.67% IMF, and 0.28 inches of back fat.

The reserve champion pen of three Gelbvieh bulls was exhibited by Prairie Hills Gelbvieh, Gladstone, North Dakota. This pen consisted of one February 2017 and two March 2017 bulls and had an average weight of 1,159 pounds with an average weight per day of age of 3.7 pounds. This set of bulls had average ultrasound scan data of 14.09 square inches for ribeye, 3.34% IMF, and 0.26 inches of back fat.

Judd Ranch Inc., Pomona, also exhibited the grand champion pen of five Gelbvieh bulls. This pen consisted of three January-born bulls and two February-born bulls. The pen had an average weight of 1,115 pounds and an average weight per day of age of 3.2 pounds. This set of bulls had average ultrasound scan data of 14.08 square inches of ribeye, 3.77% IMF, and 0.24 inches of back fat.

In the Balancer pen show, Judd Ranch Inc., Pomona, struck again and exhibited the grand champion pen of three Balancer bulls. This pen consisted of two January 2017 bulls and one February 2017 bull that averaged 1,288 pounds with an average weight per day of age of 3.8 pounds. The pen's average ultrasound scan data is as follows: ribeye area of 15.25 square inches, 3.79% IMF and 0.26 inches of back fat.

The reserve champion pen of three Balancer bulls was exhibited by Warner Beef Genetics, Arapahoe, Nebraska. Their pen of February 2017 born bulls averaged a weight of 1,123 pounds and 3.4 pound weight per day of age. This pen averaged 13.85 square inches for ribeye area, 3.9% IMF and 0.21 inches of back fat with their ultrasound scan data.

Eagle Pass Ranch, Highmore, South Dakota, exhibited the grand champion pen of five Balancer bulls. This pen included one January 2017 and four February 2017 bulls. This champion pen had an average weight of 1,199 pounds and an average weight per day of age of 3.6 pounds. The pen's average ultrasound scan data was 15.43 square inches for ribeye area, 3.76% IMF, and 0.35 inches of back fat.

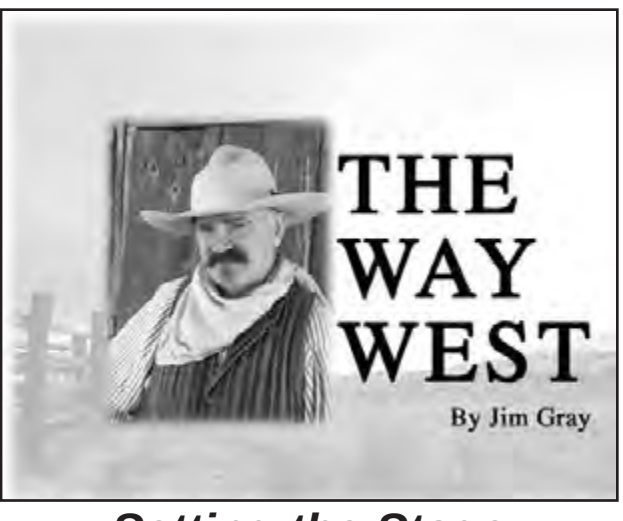
Judd Ranch Inc. also exhibited the reserve champion pen of five Balancer bulls. This pen included three January 2017 and two February 2017 bulls. This pen averaged a weight of 1,146 pounds and had an average weight per day of age of 3.6 pounds. This set of bulls had average ultrasound scan data of 14.41 square inches for ribeye area, 3.72% IMF, and .28 inches of back fat.

Judd Ranch Inc., Pomona, exhibited the grand champion pen of five Gelbvieh bulls at the National Western Stock Show.

At the National Western Stock Show Judd Ranch Inc. exhibited the grand champion pen of three Gelbvieh bulls.

In the Balancer pen show, Judd Ranch Inc. exhibited the grand champion pen of three Balancer bulls at the National Western Stock Show.

Judd Ranch Inc. exhibited the reserve champion pen of five Balancer bulls at the National Western Stock Show.



Setting the Stage

Everyone who has grown up in Kansas knows the story of "Bleeding Kansas." Through the Kansas-Nebraska Act the inhabitants of the Territory of Kansas could choose whether Kansas would be admitted to the United States as either a slave state or free state. A closer look at the developments that led to the admission of Kansas to the Union reveals why the decision was so divisive.

As our young country grew, political leaders struggled with the balance of power between states that legally recognized slavery and the free states that had banned slavery. Northern states were not unfamiliar with slavery. Most had outlawed slavery before 1800 but the institution continued for many years afterward, even as the North and South struggled over the politics of slavery.

In 1820 the Missouri Compromise proposed to settle the dispute by drawing a line at the 36th Parallel, officially 36 degrees, 30 minutes north of the equator. For the most part 36-30 marked an approximate boundary between the slave holding states in the south and the free states in the north. The compromise came about because Missouri Territory was north of 36-30 but wanted to enter as a slave state. The legislature faced the uncomfortable dilemma of either allowing Missouri to enter the Union as it requested or require emancipation of its slaves as a prerequisite for statehood. When Maine also requested statehood the balance between free and slave states could be maintained if a compromise could be worked out allowing Missouri to enter as a slave state, even though it was north of 36-30.

The line of 36-30 was then extended west from the southern border of Missouri. All territories west of Missouri that met the requirements of statehood would be allowed to enter the Union according to their relation to that line. Everything north of 36-30 would be free of slavery. Those territories south of the line would be allowed to recognize slavery as a legal institution upon acceptance into statehood.

At the time the western territories were those that had been acquired through the Louisiana Purchase of French-owned lands which continued west to the Rocky Mountains. The present-day Southwest was not included. Texas to California was the sovereign territory of Mexico. That changed when the United States annexed Texas in 1845 and war with Mexico.

In Congress David Wilmot introduced into the House of Representatives a proviso to outlaw slavery in any territory acquired as a result of the war with Mexico. The appropriations bill to which it was attached passed the House but failed the Senate. However, the Wilmot Proviso was the equivalent to "the handwriting on the wall" for the conservative Southern Democrats who favored slavery.

In December 1847, a Northern Democrat, Senator Lewis Cass championed the idea of "popular sovereignty," allowing the people living in a territory to decide the issue of slavery for themselves. The idea gained the support of the popular Senator Stephen Douglas in the midst of growing tension between northern and southern states.

In the meantime, territory from New Mexico to California was gained from Mexico following the successful war with Mexico. In 1850 Douglas joined with Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky to draft a series of bills that came to be known as the Compromise of 1850. The Compromise terminated the Wilmot Proviso, admitted California as a free state, and allowed Utah and New Mexico Territories to decide the matter of slavery under popular sovereignty. To satisfy southern interests a more stringent fugitive slave law was enacted.

Enter Harriet Beecher Stowe and her stunning work, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. First serialized in an abolitionist newspaper (1851-1852), the book and subsequent play brought the subject of slavery to the doorstep of everyday Americans. Declaring that the political evil of slavery was a sin against God and man, the book broke publishing records and touched many hearts.

Two attempts were made to create the Territory of Nebraska in 1853. Both attempts included what we know as Kansas, without naming it. No reference was made to popular sovereignty and both bills were ultimately rejected by Southern politicians.

Senator Douglas brought the Nebraska issue back to Congress on January 4, 1854. After careful review a revised bill was introduced on January 23rd naming two territories, Kansas and Nebraska. Another important change repealed the Missouri Compromise to allow for the people residing within the Territories to decide on the issue of slavery. Both houses passed the bill in late May and President Franklin Pierce signed the Kansas-Nebraska Act into law, May 30, 1854.

By that time Missouri slave holders were already streaming into Kansas. Abolitionists responded by sending anti-slave settlers under the auspices of the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society. The stage was set for an ultimate reckoning as settlers entered Kansas Territory 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.

The town of Lincoln, Kansas, honors its namesake for the 28th year in a row with Lincoln Days the weekend of February 9th and 10th. Events begin Friday night at the Lincoln County Museum with a movie on the life of Lincoln. Saturday morning, Jack Crispin will host events in the historic Lincoln County Courthouse. The Lincoln-Douglas debates that thrust Lincoln upon the world stage will be re-enacted with veteran actor Tom Leahy as Abraham Lincoln and Bud DeArvil as Stephen Douglas. Living historian Marla Matkin will present, "In the Eye of the Storm," as Mary Lincoln.

The morning's activities culminate with the traditional Lincoln look-alike contest. This is personally my favorite feature of the entire weekend. Some of the guys look amazingly like Lincoln... and some do not. It is fun, and a real honor for the person chosen.

At noon, the traditional buffalo stew will be served in the Christian Community Center.

Saturday afternoon, the Marshall-Yohe House will be open for tours with living historians stationed throughout. The historic home was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 2001 and belongs to the Lincoln County Historical Society; it is a picturesque example of Queen Anne architecture with several antiques and original furnishings.

The house as built in 1885 by Abram and Belle (Crow) Marshall. He was a prominent Kansan who was the president of Saline Valley Bank in LIncoln and owned over 1,700 acres in Lincoln County. He also had extensive land holdings in other counties including more than 25,000 acres in Trego, Sherman, and Wallace Counties.

In 1916 Mr. Marshall was elected to the Kansas State Legislature. He died in 1930 while serving as mayor of Lincoln. Following Abram's death, his wife Belle married Frank Chase. Belle died in 1936 and her home was sold to Ben and Della Yohe. Ben operated the flour mill in Shady Bend. Following Della's death in 1942, Ben married Lucretia Scholar of Barnard. Following Ben's death in 1946, Lucretia lived on and shared the house's contents with community members. At her death in 1987, she bequeathed the home to the Lincoln County Historical Society.

Presenters will be Marla Matkin, Tom Leahy, Dan Metz, and Jack Crispin who will be portraying the Lincolns, as well as General Thomas Ewing and Lincoln's law partner, William Herndon (for whom the town of Herndon, Ks., is named). It will be a typical 19th Century afternoon with a sing-along and board games in the parlor.

Tickets for the entire weekend are $20 while Saturday afternoon only is $8. You can stop in Village Lines on Main Street and visit with Marilyn Helmer for more information. You can call Village Lines at 785-524-5133 or email villagelines@sbcglobal.net.

Perhaps no small town in Kansas celebrates its history more passionately than the town of Lincoln. Here's hoping we'll see you all there at what promises to be an historic weekend of events.

Deb Goodrich is the co-host of Around Kansas and the Garvey Historian in Residence at Fort Wallace Museum. Contact her at author. debgoodrich@gmail.com.

Trump's Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity releases eco devo report

On January 8, President Trump's Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity released their report, which broadly identifies the next steps the administration should take in order to improve economic development and prosperity in rural America. The report outlines these steps in five calls to action: Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America, Improving Quality of Life, Supporting a Rural Workforce, Harnessing Technological Innovation, and Developing the Rural Economy.

Considerable emphasis is placed on the need for technological innovation to support crop yields, crop quality, nutritional value, and food safety. The task force acknowledges the limitations current federal regulations put on precision agriculture and biotechnology applications, and suggests better coordination of the USDA, EPA, and FDA regulations on genetic engineering and modern breeding practices. In order to modernize the federal regulatory system for biotechnology products, the task force recommends endorsing the Biotechnology Working Group, led by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, to continue improving risk- and science-based regulatory approaches to increase awareness and expedite the safe commercialization of biotechnology products.

While the report reinforces the administration's staunch support for agriculture, it is important to note that actual implementation and realized results have many political hurdles to overcome first.

Grass & Grain Area Auctions and Sales

January 22 — 155 acres m/l offered in combination held at Burlington for property of the late Glen & Rosa Kelly. Auctioneers: Miller & Midyett Real Estate & Wischropp Auctions.

January 22 — 160 acres Coffey County pasture land held at Gridley. Auctioneers: Swift-N-Sure Auctions.

January 23 — 144 acres native grassland held at Lincolnville for Kristine Gilchrist. Auctioneers: Leppke Realty & Auction.

January 24 — Coin auction at Lawson, Missouri. Auctioneers: Gary Ryther Auctioneers, Inc.

FRIDAY, January 26 — Tractors, backhoe, household, tools, mobility carts, etc. held Southwest of Osage City. Auctioneers: Wischropp Auctions.

January 27 — Guns (rifles, handguns, shotguns), ammo & accessories at Russell for Craig Sanford & Patrick Barney. Auctioneers: Rohleder Auction & Realty.

January 27 — 1987 Nissan King Cab pickup with camper shell, appliances, furniture, Ansonia wall clock, train collection, household, books, roto tiller, lawn items, tools & more at Manhattan for Theodore Hopkins. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.

January 27 — 158.15 acres m/l Nemaha County, KS farm ground held at Seneca for Leonard J. Ronnebaum Estate. Auctioneers: Seneca Realty, Dale Wilhelm, Mike Kuckelman.

January 27 — 2000+ pieces of machinery including 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, livestock equipment at Paris, Missouri for January consignments. Auctioneers: Wheeler Auctions & Real Estate.

January 27 — Furniture & collectibles at Salina for Donmyer Estate. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

January 28 — Truck, tractor, car, trailer & sleighs, antiques, collectibles & household, guns, tools at Salina for Marlene & Jerry Eck. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

January 30 — 60 acres m/l of Jackson County, Kansas farm ground to be held at Holton for Evelyn L. (Mellenbruch) Lewis Estate, Loy Mellenbruch, executor. Auctioneers: Harris Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

February 2 — Tractors, no-till planter, combine, flex head, header trailer, corn head, seed tender, sprayer, Landoll disk, rotary hoe, portable augers, disc mower, big round baler, hay rake, field cultivator, chisel plow, land plane, grain truck, semi tractor, hopper trailer, skid steer, grain cart, vintage pickup, hay wagon, wood splitter, dryer fan & misc. at Rich Hill, Missouri for Ron & Letha Crain. Auctioneers: Marty Read Auction Service.

February 3 — Vehicles, trucks, trailers, hay & straw, livestock supplies, tractors, machinery, lawn mowers, ATVs, tires, trusses & new lumber, hedge posts, firewood, shop tools, collectibles coins & much misc. at Axtell for for consignments sponsored by Knights of Columbus, Axtell Council #1163.

February 3 — Antiques, collectibles, household, store fixtures & other at Downs. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

February 3 — Antiques, vintage, tools, furniture, etc. held at Osage City for a local seller. Auctioneers: Wischropp Auctions.

February 3 — Retirement auction, enclosed trailer, 2003 Ford F-250 pickup, office furniture, Frederic Remington prints, tools, utility trailers, storage box containers (to be moved) & more at Salina. Auctioneers: Omli and Associates, Inc.

February 3 — Farm machinery, trucks, tractors, combine heads, farm equipment at Washington for Leroy & Donna Long. Auctioneers: Bott Realty & Auction.

February 4 — Antiques & collectibles at Downs. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

February 8 – 80.23 acres of Flint Hills grassland in Lyon County held at Emporia for 4 J's, LLC (Ed & Norma Williams). Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction Service, LC.

February 10 — Consignment including camper, mowing & tillage equipment, box trucks, vehicles, tractors, boats, restaurant equipment, industrial equipment & more at Salina. Auctioneers: Lonnie Wilson Realty & Auction.

February 10 — Antiques & collectibles, toys, tins & more at Salina. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

February 10 — 312 acres m/l of Pottawatomie County, KS farmland, native pasture, meadow & excellent wildlife habitat held near Blaine for R&R Suther Farms and Matt & Kim Suther. Auctioneers: Cline Realty & Auction, LLC.

February 10 — Tractor, combine, truck, machinery, mowers, tools, household held North of Grantville for Carl. V. Fritz Trust. Auctioneers: Wischropp Auctions.

February 10 — 28th annual production sale at the ranch Leavenworth for J&N Ranch.

February 11 — 900+ collector tractors toy auction at Salina for Bob Condray. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

February 15 — Full line of farm equipment including tractors, combine, semi tractors, grain trailers, baler, seed & fertilizer, farm machinery & implements & more at Guide Rock, Nebraska for Orcutt Family Partnership retirement (Rick & Judy Orcutt). Auctioneers: Montgomery Auction & Realty, LLC.

February 15 — Real estate, 161 acres m/l & 80 acres m/l held at Nortonville for property of the late Barbara Nichols. Auctioneers: Miller & Midyett Real Estate & Wischropp Auctions.

February 17 — Collectibles firearms, scopes knives, tackle boxes, binoculars, trail cameras, bows & more at Manhattan for LTC (R) Greg Platt. Auctioneers: Murray Auction & Realty.

February 17 — (10:30 AM) — 76 acres m/l of Pottawatomie County, KS pastureland, farmland & wildlife habitat held at Blaine for Stelter Family Trust. Auctioneers: Cline Realty & Auction, LLC.

February 17 — (2:00 PM) — 80 acres m/l of Marshall County, KS farmland, meadow & wildlife habitat held at Frankfort for Bryce & Lydia Huninghake. Auctioneers: Cline Realty & Auction, LLC.

February 17 — Farm machinery inc. tractors, combine & trucks, machinery, lumber, diesel barrel with pump held near Belleville for Darrel Marcia & Justin Klima. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

February 23 — 1,539.8 acres of rolling Flint Hills Chase County, KS Heart of the Flint Hills including "Knute Rockne Memorial Site," ranch home & cattle pens held at Cottonwood Falls for property of E. Cross Cattle Co., Inc. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction Service, LC.

February 23 — Spring Total Performance Bull sale at Quinter for Jamison Herefords.

February 24 — Coins at Emporia. Auctioneers: Swift-N-Sure Auctions.

March 1 — 153.40 acres m/l Washington County, KS land held at Barnes for Arlen & Dixie Richter. Auctioneers: Midwest Land and Home, Mark Uhlik, Jeff Dankenbring, broker.

March 1 — Annual Bull Sale in Courtland, KS for Jensen Bros.

March 2 — 41st annual Legacy sale at Manhattan for K-State Animal Sciences & Industry.

March 4 — 16th annual bull sale at Wamego for Gold Bullion.

March 5 — 830 acres of Jewell County farmland held at Esbon for Doris Matousek Estate, Eldon Doud administrator. Auctioneers: Gerald Zimmer Auction & Real Estate.

March 5 — Lyons Ranch 30th annual Superior Genetics bull sale at the ranch, Manhattan for Lyons Ranch.

March 5 — Bulls sale at Salina for Don Johnson Angus.

March 6 — Premium Genetic Bull & Female sale at Wamego for Huninghake Angus Ranch & Dikeman Simmental.

March 6 — Bull sale at Lacrosse for Cornwell Farms.

March 7 — Farm & industrial consignments at Beattie for Rottinghaus Consignment Auction. Auctioneers: Rottinghaus Auctions.

March 7 — 28th annual Production sale at Agra for Ferguson Angus.

March 10 — Concordia Optimist Club Annual consignment auction held at Concordia. Auctioneers: Thummel Auctions.

March 10 — Performance Bull & Female sale at Maple Hill for Mill Brae Ranch.

March 15 — 29th annual Production Sale at Esbon for Benoit Angus Ranch.

March 17 — Farm & Ranch Equipment consignment auction at Washington. Auctioneers: Open Range Sales, LLC, Ethan Schuette.

March 17 — Semis, straight trucks, tractors, farm machinery, wagons, farm equipment at Abilene for James & Janice Chaput. Auctioneers: Ron Shivers Auction.

March 17 — John Deere tractors & loader, harvesting equipment, equipment, trucks, collectible tractors & equipment, misc. at Princeton for Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Gretencord retirement. Auctioneers: Dave Webb, Webb & Associates Auctions & Appraisals.

March 17 — On Target Bull sale at Blue Rapids for Springhill Herefords/Alcove Cattle Co.

March 19 — 32nd annual Production sale at the ranch, Claflin, for B&D Herefords and Beran Brothers Angus.

March 24 — 19th annual Production sale at Leavenworth for New Haven Angus.

March 27 — Bull sale at Eureka for GeneTrust.

April 2 — 59th annual Production sale at Lorraine for Green Garden Angus.

April 14 — Consignment auction at Abilene for Dickinson County Historical Society. Auctioneer: Ron Shivers.

Podcast outlines NCBA 2018 policy outlook

In the first Beltway Beef podcast of 2018, NCBA senior vice president of Government Affairs Colin Woodall looks ahead to what the year may hold in store in Washington for some of the top issues affecting America's cattle producers.

Issues include action on CERCLA/EPCRA reporting, Electronic Logging Devices, modernization of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), NAFTA, the midterm elections and the 2018 Farm Bill.

"We know that the current Farm Bill expires on Sept. 30 of this year," said Woodall. "We would like to have a new Farm Bill in place by then so everyone can have some certainty as to what the rules are going to look like going into the next five years."

To listen to the full report from Woodall, visit tinyurl.com/TCFA-Beltway-Beef.

BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Old Bulls

If our wives had picked their husbands
with the care we buy a bull
There'd be a lot more bachelors on the street.
We'd be bucked up in the willers
with the other mossy horns
Just waitin' for a straggler still in heat.

They would check us all as yearlin's
on the lookout for bad eyes
And notice how we traveled in the rocks
But thank goodness we weren't cattle
'cause a lot of us sneaked by
Nearsighted, deaf and showin' sickle hocks.

If they'd marched us through the sale ring
as she sat there in the crowd
And studied us and read our pedigree
Could she see we might get paunchy
and the highest grade we got
In heifer satisfaction was a 'C'?

Would it make her any difference
if she knew we'd lose our teeth
And slough our hair and let our toes grow long?
Would her herd sire valuation
be affected by the fact
When we were born they used a come-along?

And our famed yearlin' libido
she'd observed when we were young
A'crackin' horns and tearin' up the ground
Now occurred about as often
as a paid bank holiday.
Could she know then we'd all wind up unsound?

'Course, we tell ourselves she's lucky
to have had a private bull
For all these years, through all the ups and downs
But, down deep each cowman's thankful
that he curled his lip just right
Before she had more time to shop around.

www.baxterblack.com

America's Farmers Grow Ag Leadership scholarship partners with farmers to prepare students for opportunities in top job-growth sector

With the number of new job openings expected to increase this year, college graduates may find themselves at an advantage for landing their first full-time job. One of the areas that may provide some of the most opportunity could come from an industry that few might expect – agriculture. What students might not know is agriculture majors offer a wealth of job opportunities in a wide array of areas, and the pace of job growth is expected to sustain momentum.

To help develop tomorrow's leaders, the America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders program, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, will partner with farmers to award more than $500,000 to deserving students pursuing ag-related degrees in 2018.

Administered by the National FFA Organization (FFA), these scholarships are awarded in $1,500 increments to students looking to pursue post-secondary education in an ag-related field of study. Eligible fields of study are not solely limited to "traditional" ag-related fields, such as farming and agronomy, but also include education, engineering, mathematics, data science, and communications, among many others.

Through 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture projects 57,900 new food and ag jobs annually, but a talent shortage will result in nearly 22,500 going unfilled. With agriculture continuing to become more technologically advanced, many of the career paths in the industry will follow suit. According to FFA, STEM-focused careers will be among the top five in ag by the end of the decade:

1. Food Scientists improve food products and create new ones using scientific principles that help maintain a wholesome food supply.

2. Precision Agriculture Technologists teach farmers how to work better, not harder, by using new technologies that increase crop yields and decrease inputs.

3. Agriculture Communicators are industry advocates who share the story of agriculture and engage the public to better understand it.

4. Hydrologists protect the environment and promote sustainability, while helping supply the world with clean, safe water.

5. Drone Technologists show farmers how to increase yields and reduce crop damage using sensors, robotics and images from the air.

"Thanks to technological and scientific advancements, the agriculture industry is evolving faster than ever before," said Al Mitchell, Monsanto Fund president. "With the help of farmers, the Grow Ag Leaders scholarship program supports students who will grow to become the future leaders of the agriculture industry, regardless of their emphasis area."

Grow Ag Leaders scholarships are open to students 23 years of age and under who live in eligible counties, and are looking to enroll or are currently enrolled in trade schools, community colleges and four-year universities. Students need not be FFA members to apply. The deadline for students to apply is February 1, 2018 and students must obtain two farmer endorsements of their application by February 8, 2018.

Since the Grow Ag Leaders program began in 2014, it has awarded nearly $1.7 million in scholarships to promising students pursuing their education in agriculture. A complete list of program rules, eligibility requirements and information on the program is available at www.GrowAgLeaders.com.