



Human side of wildfire story propels newscaster's career

By Melanie Musselman

For anyone to break into the television and entertainment industry is beyond tough. It can take years of hard work, countless interviews, callbacks, etc. and then many times it still doesn't happen. For a Tonganoxie native with a rodeo background, she found the human element in the 2017 grassfires beyond the obvious tragedy to farmers helping farmers from across the country. Her heartfelt angle of the story, which she posted to her personal social media account, went viral. This was the turning point and when her national influence as an agricultural advocate was born.

Cowgirl and television host Courtenay DeHoff was the featured speaker at the Farm Family Appreciation Night/100 Years of Agricultural Education event in Clay Center, February 22 at CCCHS, speaking on "Cowboy Problems in a Media-driven World." DeHoff has developed a passion for telling stories of rural America and what often gets overlooked by the national news media. Through her agricultural advocacy, she has invited the public to get to know the average American farmer and rancher and answer their questions.

DeHoff reflected on her first effort at telling a story that wasn't being covered by the national media and the tremendous response it received on social media. She pitched the story idea to her producers at her Dallas, Texas television station that the grassfires ravaging acres and acres of pasture across Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas back in 2017 could ultimately have an adverse effect on grocery prices. Their initial response wasn't favor-



Tonganoxie native Courtenay DeHoff (center) spoke about how to successfully advocate for agriculture, February 22 at CCCHS at the Farm Family Appreciation Night sponsored by the Clay County Farm Bureau. It was also a celebration of 100 years of agriculture education at Clay Center Community High School and the annual Clay Center FFA Alumni Work Auction which raises funds for scholarships for senior FFA members and for FFA members to attend the summer Washington Leadership Conference. The Clay Center FFA senior officers with DeHoff are Shelby Siebold (left), Reece Geer, Lane Musselman, Brooke Germann, Alex Benson and Colt Benfer.

able. The news producers told her they didn't care about her "cowboy problems" and that the rest of the country really didn't either. That rejection didn't discourage DeHoff; in fact, it propelled her to write the story on her own time and be the voice of thousands of farmers and ranchers from the heartland who needed to be heard.

"I pieced together photos and videos from other social media platforms and voiced the story. I posted it on my Facebook page and went to bed, not knowing how many would be interested. When I woke up, I realized it was way more than I ever thought possible. It had 1.9 million views overnight!" exclaimed DeHoff. "That is

when I realized somebody has to tell these stories!"

DeHoff's program centered around five ways to become a better advocate for agriculture. She especially challenged the FFA members, as the next generation of agriculturalists, to take what they have learned in ag class and make the industry and their communities better. DeHoff's first point was that advocates come in all shapes and sizes.

"Our life experiences are ingrained in us and shape our views of the world, but don't write people off based on your first impression of them," explained DeHoff.

The 2011 Oklahoma State graduate shared a story about how, at one of her many speaking en-

agements, she was approached by a very opinionated woman who was a vegan. At first, she was very leery that this woman was going to attack the agricultural industry. But quite the opposite ended up being the case. This woman, although a vegan, told her how much she supported farmers and ranchers even though she herself didn't eat meat.

That specific experience shared by DeHoff led into the second way to become a better advocate for agriculture: We are not here to educate everyone.

"You have to develop a rapport with people when you are educating them. Don't always lead with facts. Rather share your personal stories on the farm raising livestock

and crops and try to relate to the person. Engage with them, don't attack. Be open to listening and don't let your passion for agriculture turn into immediate defensiveness."

DeHoff said that while most farmers and ranchers have to possess a strong character to survive in the tough business known as production agriculture, we have to "kick the attitude to the curb" when advocating.

"We have to be willing to be more vulnerable. Tell people about why you farm, be honest and speak from your heart. Your vulnerability will shine through," she said.

To further illustrate this third point, DeHoff shared a short video from the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef that showed a heartfelt message of Canadian farmers and ranchers expressing that they farm for the next generation, their children and grandchildren, and to keep their operations sustainable for the future.

The next idea from DeHoff involves expanding your comfort zone and "stop advocating to one another." DeHoff said she grew up showing Angus cattle all over the country. There were many times at different cattle shows when after spending hours upon hours grooming their prize show cattle, the last thing she wanted was for a stranger to ask if they could "pet" her cow. Back then, I didn't understand how important that moment was for agricultural advocacy, DeHoff noted.

"At a cattle show might be the only opportunity in their whole lives for that stranger to see a real cow or talk to a real farmer or rancher. I encourage you to step out of your bubble

or your box. Each of us in agriculture is going to be better at communicating to different kinds of people."

DeHoff completed her list of ways to become a better advocate for agriculture by encouraging all of us in agriculture "to stop fighting amongst ourselves and work together."

"We have to come together as an industry, not separate sectors with the cattle people here, the hog folks there, the horse people over there and the corn, soybean and wheat producers over here," DeHoff commented. "It's just cowboys, taking care of cowboys."

A highlight video of stories DeHoff has covered on her social media outlets the past few years summarized her message. One clip showed the semi-tractor trailers blaring their horns loaded with hay which came to numerous ranchers in need as a result of the devastating wildfires in 2017.

"Be that semi, honking that horn. Be brave, be bold in coming together and helping one another," DeHoff emphasized. "When we need a loud voice, we have it."

Another of DeHoff's viral videos was posted about a year ago and to date has been shared more than 192,000 times with 7.3 million views. It was about the blizzards last winter in farm country, most notably Nebraska. DeHoff continues to advocate for agriculture through her "Cowboy Problems" podcast which she launched last fall. Drawing on her previous rodeo experience, she has also recently added national rodeo announcer to her repertoire by announcing for the Professional Bull Riders (PBR).

Moser chosen to lead academic programs for College of Agriculture

Dan Moser has been selected as the associate dean for academic programs for Kansas State University's College of Agriculture. His first day in office will be April 6.

Since 2014, Moser has served as the president of Angus Genetics, Inc., and the director of performance programs for the American Angus Association. There, he oversaw a 300% increase in genomic testing while leading educational efforts for the 20,000-member organization.

Prior to that position, he was an award-winning faculty member in K-State's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry from 1999-2014 and held a similar position at the University of Nebraska from 1997-1999. He was a graduate assistant and instructor at the University of Georgia from 1991-

1997.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Moser back to K-State to lead our world-class faculty," said Ernie Minton, dean of the college and director of K-State Research and Extension. "Dr. Moser's public- and private-sector track record of academic excellence and scientific rigor combined with leadership, mentorship, and a vision for expanding opportunities will further solidify K-State as the best choice for students seeking an education in the food, agriculture and natural resources areas."

Don Boggs, who has served as the associate dean for academic programs since 2005, is entering phased retirement. His last day in the aca-



demographic office will be June 28, after which he will serve in a half-time role in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

K-State's College of Agriculture is one of the top-ranked programs in the nation. Ranked No. 6

among the country's 101 best agriculture schools, according to Niche.com, the college is recognized for the quality of its faculty and the genuine care they provide students.

The college's ten departments offer 16 undergraduate majors, 15 minors and five certificate programs. Included within the college is K-State

Research and Extension, which supports and shares research and discoveries throughout the state and around the world. Moser holds doctoral and master's degrees in animal and dairy science from the University of Georgia. He earned the bachelor's degree in animal sciences and industry from K-State.

USDA working with private sector in response to COVID-19 pandemic

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue has announced new contacts to encourage communication with USDA to help feed kids and ensure the United States food supply chain remains strong in response to the COVID-19 outbreak:

"Food is essential all year round, but in the face of a pandemic it is critical the shelves remain stocked and supplies remain plentiful. America's farmers and ranchers, and those on the front lines in the food service industry are doing their part," said Perdue. "President Trump is encouraging a whole of America approach to the challenges we currently face. At USDA we know when we work together to solve the problems facing us, we can overcome this time of uncertainty and fear. If you have ideas or solutions for USDA, I urge you to reach out - we want to hear from the experts in the field."

For solutions to feeding children impacted by COVID-19, email FeedingKids@usda.gov. For solutions impacting America's food supply chain and other logistical complications, email FoodSupplyChain@usda.gov.

Feeding Kids:

Perdue announced a collaboration with the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty, McLane Global, PepsiCo, and others to deliver nearly 1,000,000 meals per week to students in a limited number of rural schools closed due to COVID-19. These boxes will contain five days worth of shelf-stable, nutritious, individually packaged foods that meet USDA's summer food requirements. The use of this innovative delivery

system will ensure rural children receive nutritious food while limiting exposure to COVID-19.

Recently, Perdue announced proactive flexibilities to allow meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. During an unexpected school closure, schools can leverage their participation in one of USDA's meal programs to provide meals to students. Under normal circum-

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Continuity of Kansas ag industry remains a priority

With Tuesday, March 17's announcement by Governor Laura Kelly that state agencies will reduce their offices to essential services for a limited time beginning Monday, March 23, 2020, the Kansas Department of Agriculture assures the Kansas agriculture industry that they will continue to provide support across the state for critical services in agriculture. The farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses of Kansas are an integral part of the economic backbone of the state. KDA works on a daily basis to support these stakeholders and this will continue during the upcoming break, while we also take steps to protect the health of KDA employees.

While some components of KDA's programs will cut back their daily routines, the essential services which ensure a safe food supply, protect natural resources, promote public health and safety, protect animal health, and provide consumer protection will continue from this agency. Many of our program areas are well equipped to work from home and will do so as needed to assist in the continuity of the Kansas agriculture industry.

KDA will continue to make every effort possible to communicate with our stakeholders in a clear manner throughout this time period. Information about the state's response to this emergency event can be found the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's COVID-19 Resource Center at www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus.

Grass & Grain prepared for impact of coronavirus

Precautions related to coronavirus have caused unexpected disruption in everyday life, but the *Grass and Grain* staff has made plans which will allow us to continue to produce the newspaper each week in the event an outbreak should occur locally.

Please keep in mind that in the unlikely event the mail service is suspended for any reason, the newspaper is available to all of our paid subscribers online.

Each edition is emailed on Monday afternoon to those subscribers who have provided us with their email address. If you would like to be included in that group, just call the office at 785-539-7558 or email agpress3@agpress.com and we will get it set up for you.

The digital *Grass and Grain* is extremely easy to access and navigate. We email you the link, you click on an image of the front page and you are in. It's a stress-free process that allows you to see the paper much sooner every week online, then still enjoy the paper copy when it arrives in the mail.



Engaging in D.C.

By Glenn Brunkow, Pottawatomie County farmer and rancher
Recently I was in Washington, D.C., on Kansas Farm Bureau's Leaders Engaged and Acting in D.C. (LEADs) trip. I must admit that I always enjoy traveling to our nation's capital. Coming here involves many surreal moments for me. I sat down

on a bench in the Mall and looked around. In one direction was the Capitol itself; how many times is it the backdrop for news stories we watch on our TV? Today, not only will I see the Capitol, I will be inside on business for our Kansas Farm Bureau. Heady stuff for a simple farm kid from Kansas. When Jennifer and I

served on Young Farmers and Ranchers we often said, "The world is ruled by those who show up." Over the years I have come to have a better understanding of what that means and just how true it is. I truly wish that everyone would have the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C. and get involved with the governance of our great nation. It is important that everyday citizens get involved and make their issues and ideas known. This is especially true for those of us in agriculture. We are less than two percent of the population, and I suspect that number is dropping each year. We

also run businesses that are highly technical, are not very well understood and operate on razor-thin margins. It is of the utmost importance that we make sure we have a good relationship with our elected officials, and we meet them on their own turf. That is why events like LEADs are so important and why it is so important that as many members as possible make regular trips to Washington D.C. and Topeka. Farm Bureau has become one of the leading voices for agriculture because of our members making trips like this. Whether it is Day at the

Statehouse in Topeka or LEADs, it is important for our legislators to see farmers and ranchers and not just KFB staff. It is critical we tell our stories to them about how legislation or regulations affect our operations. It never hurts to remind our elected officials they represent real people. I also think it is good to come to Washington, D.C., and see the sights, understand a little bit of how government works and have a greater feel of just how to get things done. I know there are a lot of jokes to be made about those things, but I promise you it helps to see

in person. I have always said that the hardest part of any trip is when you can still see your mailbox in the rearview mirror. Getting away is tough and there are sacrifices but I hope each of you will make the time to get involved and travel to our capitals to take an active part in our governance and make your voices heard. "Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

USDA ensures food safety during COVID-19 outbreak

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is ensuring the safety and timely delivery of the U.S. food supply while protecting the health of USDA employees during this COVID-19 National Emergency. Recently, USDA under secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Greg Ibach and USDA deputy under secretary for Food Safety Dr. Mindy Brashears sent a letter to stakeholders reassuring them that APHIS, AMS, and FSIS are rising to meet the challenges associated with COVID-19. "As leaders of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Agricultural Marketing Service, and Food Safety and Inspection Service we can assure you that the agencies are committed to ensuring the health and safety of our employees while still providing the timely delivery of the services to maintain the movement of America's food supply from farm to fork... As we come together as a coun-

try to address this public health threat, know that USDA remains committed to working closely with industry to fulfill our mission of ensuring the safety of the U.S. food supply and protecting agricultural health." Ibach and Brashears said in the letter to stakeholders. Additional Information: Food Safety and Inspection Service: Meat, poultry, and processed egg inspection services continue as normal. Planning for absenteeism is a part of normal FSIS operations and as such, FSIS is closely monitoring and tracking employee absenteeism to plan for and minimize impacts to operations. FSIS is also working to prioritize inspection at establishments based on local conditions and resources available. Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) APHIS and AMS con-

tinue to provide critical inspections and grading services. APHIS and AMS are ensuring the health and safety of USDA employees while still providing the timely delivery of the services to maintain the movement of America's food supply moving from farms to forks. APHIS and AMS are prepared to remedy any possible disruptions in their services. AMS will continue to report commodity prices through its market news service. Commodity markets can be assured that the USDA will keep America's food supply safe as well as abundant during this national emergency. For more information from the USDA, you may visit www.usda.gov/coronavirus. The latest information directly from the CDC can be found at www.cdc.gov.



Prairie Ponderings

By Donna Sullivan

Sitting here at my desk, I'll admit to feeling a little shell-shocked, as I'm sure many of you do, as well. The world, society and business as we know it has completely changed. Many of us would have been at the Mid America Farm Expo in Salina this week. It, along with everything from sporting events to Extension meetings and even schools and church services, has been cancelled as "social distancing" is encouraged. As I am sure you are well aware, auctions make up a good portion of our advertising each week. Many auctions are being cancelled or postponed in an effort to comply with the Governor's ban on gatherings of more than 50 people.

I point this out only to follow it up with, regardless of the amount of advertising, God willing, we will publish *Grass & Grain* each week as long as no other unforeseen circumstances prevent it. We have taken measures to be sure we can work remotely if need be and our publisher Tom Carlin and each member of our staff are committed to making sure the paper goes out. We are a small staff, but extremely dedicated. If something out of our control were to happen that would keep the print copy of the paper from being produced and distributed, we will still have our online version available. We understand that many of our readers may not be

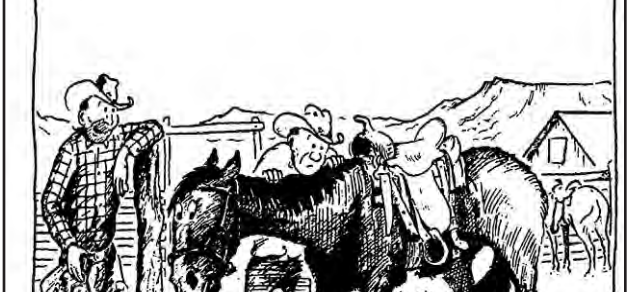
all that tech-savvy, but if you have internet access, I would really encourage you to at least give it a try. It's free to all of our print subscribers and so easy to use. Early each Monday afternoon, a link is emailed to you and all you have to do is click on it, and the paper comes up, looking exactly like it would if you were holding a hard copy. If you'd like to give it a try, just call our office at 785-539-7558 and we'll get you set up. In a few months when we've survived this crisis and we're looking back on it in the rearview mirror of life, I truly hope we will be able to say we've learned a few things from it. What those lessons might be will vary for each of us, I'm sure. As our individual worlds get smaller, may we grow closer to the people still in them. I hope parents with kids home from school are able to see past the upheaval of their usual routines and truly enjoy this extra time with their children. I hope neighbors come together to check up on each other and lend a helping hand when needed. And I hope that maybe, somehow, we begin to realize that as families, communities and a nation, what we have that unites us is stronger than all that divides us. I pray God's blessing and protection on you and yours during this challenging time.



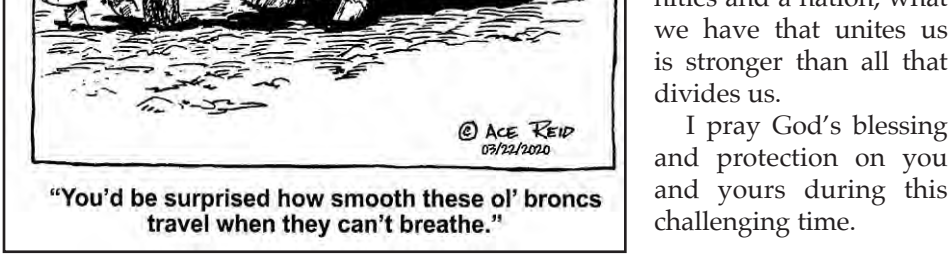
What a week. I have never in my lifetime seen or experienced anything like this. I started off in Washington D.C. and watched as our nation's capital closed around us. It was an extraordinary sight to see the streets go from being full of tourists there on spring break to almost empty in less than 24 hours. I have never been so thankful to make it home from a trip. The COVID-19 crisis is very real and while I don't know what to make of it, I have decided that we need to take it seriously because the consequences of not doing so are too much to risk. The crisis has been an interesting study in human nature. Shelves on grocery store shelves have gone from normally stocked to bare bones. I am not sure what is up with toilet paper, but it's safe to say there were a lot of people worried about an adequate supply. I know it has made many of us re-evaluate what we have in our pantries and freezers and just how we plan meals and that may not be a bad thing. Maybe there is just a little more appreciation for our abundant food supply and those of us who work to supply it. I do worry about the long-run ramifications the crisis will have on our economy. My heart goes out to those in the hospitality industry, especially those who own small businesses and have little to no reserve to carry them through this crisis with no end in sight. The ripple effect through our economy will be staggering. We just sent all our college kids home and all the businesses around a college town that were counting on the kids being around. I can't think of any segment of our society that will not be touched by the economics of this shutdown. With all the doom and gloom aside, I have seen some positives come about from all the COVID-19 fallout; let's call it the silver lining. Instantly I saw my jam-packed calendar become completely free in just a matter of days. The past couple of months I have really been feeling rushed and never seemed to have time to take a deep breath. It seemed like every time I looked at my calendar, two or three more things popped up and I felt like I was meeting myself coming

and going. That ended with a sudden screech. What's more, my whole family's lives came to a screeching halt and we were forced to spend a whole lot more time together. Since the kids have gotten older it seemed like even when they were home, they weren't. There were always things to do and friends to see. Now we are forced to spend days and evenings together and that is not a bad thing. In all this shutdown we have been given the opportunity to rebalance our lives and rediscover what is important. While I feel for restaurant owners, just how many of us have rediscovered just how nice it is to cook a meal and have everyone in our family sit down to it? Some of us are re-learning how to plan for a week and dusting off old recipes and finding some new ones. We have cleaned off our dinner tables and have the time to sit down as a family with nowhere else to go. I love sports as much as the next person, but with no sports on TV or anywhere else many of us are filling that void with family activities. I guess it is easy for me to go on about how great the shutdown is. I don't know of anyone who has gotten COVID-19. While I worry about the health of my family and friends, the crisis has not hit close to home and it is easy to wonder just why we have brought the world to a sudden stop. I hope we will look back on this period as a disaster that was narrowly averted by staying home. I also hope we will see it as a time when we got back to our roots, became closer as a family and learned to slow down. I have very little doubt that this is a very real health threat especially to certain groups of people and we are better off over-preparing than not being ready for it. The solution is easy, but it is hard for many of us to stay at home, slow down and keep our distance. I know for me it has caused me to take a deep look at my life and what is important to me. I fear we will be dealing with the side effects of this crisis for months, if not years, but I also hope that we will be able to point to it as a turning point in our lives and the time when we rediscovered what was important.

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Steve Riegel and Charles Ayers inducted into Kansas Cooperative Council Hall of Fame

The Kansas Cooperative Council announces the induction of Steve Riegel and Charles Ayers into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame.

The Kansas Co-op Hall of Fame was established in 1999 and since then, 49 cooperators from all types of cooperatives have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is important for recognizing the contributions of co-op pioneers and honoring those that have gone "above and beyond the call" in advancing the cooperative philosophy.

To be eligible for nomination to the Hall of Fame, the individual being considered have:

1. Made significant contributions to cooperatives on a state and/or national level;
2. Demonstrated statesmanship, innovation, personal commitment, leadership and vision;
3. Excelled beyond the professional competency requirements of their respective positions.

The first honoree, Steve Riegel's contribution to



Charles Ayers and Steve Riegel are shown with their recognition plaques after induction into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame.

the cooperative industry spans over 44 years. Steve started his cooperative career in 1976 as an associate director for the Ford/Kingsdown Cooperative in western Kansas. Quickly recognized as a respected leader, he went on to lead as chairman of the board, guiding the process of merging with the Dodge City Cooperative, known today as Pride Ag Resources. Steve's dedication to cooperatives has extended far beyond western Kansas. He was

elected to serve the largest member-owned cooperative in the U.S., CHS, Inc., as a director in 2006 and currently serves as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer of the board and Executive Committee. Steve's contributions are continuous throughout Kansas, the Midwest and around the globe.

Dan Schurr, board chair for CHS said this about Steve, "He is very passionate in what he believes in, and that is American agriculture and the coopera-

tive system."

The second inductee, Charles Ayers has nearly 40 years of service to the rural electric cooperatives. Mr. Ayers has been an esteemed leader on both the local and national levels, serving in board leadership roles for Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, Western Fuels Association, ACES Power Marketing and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. Charles has been awarded both time and service awards for his long and illustrious accomplishments. He personifies the electric cooperative principles and ideals and is a tireless advocate for the promotion of cooperatives not only in Kansas, but throughout the nation.

Stuart Lowry, president and CEO of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation said this about Charles, "He bloomed where he was planted, bringing steady, even-keeled leadership to every boardroom in which he served."

Johnson County restoring and preserving natural tallgrass prairies in a ten-year plan

(AP) - Johnson County is restoring its natural prairies as part of a ten-year natural resources plan aimed at preserving and restoring the nation's last tallgrass prairie ecosystem.

Johnson County Parks and Recreation District is in the first year of a plan to restore and manage 8,700 acres with efforts across the state, nonprofits and government agencies, reported the Kansas News Service. The ten-year plan passed in 2019.

Kansas is currently home to two-thirds of the country's remaining tallgrass prairie.

"Long-term, the goal is to be managing our woodlands and prairies for less than it costs to mow turf grass," said Matt Garrett, a field biologist.

He says getting there will take a lot of work, including spraying herbicide to kill invasive plants, physically remove trees and spreading large amount of native seed.

"It took a solid two

years for it to not be just weeds," Garrett said.

"It can be labor-intensive and it can be expensive," said Sara Baer, director of the Kansas Biological Survey. "Some of the most successful prairie restoration efforts have been successful through a lot of volunteer work."

Aside from professional staff and hired contractors, supporters from

local groups and mountain bikers have all played a key role in the restoration. They believe that exposing people to something they would otherwise have to travel to see can help them understand how important natural prairies can be.

"I wouldn't underestimate the educational value that goes along with it," Garrett said. "It's going to be a short field trip for

a lot of kids in Johnson County."

USDA working with private sector in response to pandemic

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stances, those meals must be served in a group setting. However, in a public health emergency, the law allows USDA the authority to waive the group setting meal requirement, which is vital during a social distancing situation.

Food Supply Chain:

President Trump's whole of government approach is ensuring food and essentials are constantly available. USDA has been in communication with Food and Grocery Stakeholders and Executives and has hosted stakeholder calls with President Trump at the White House to discuss the impact COVID-19 has on America's food supply chain.

While it is important to have shelf-stable foods on hand, there is no need to hoard items. Our supply chains remain strong, so please do your part to ensure we stay calm and act responsibly.

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 1 package (6 to 8 ounces) English toffee pieces
 1 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees (325 degrees for glass). Combine flour and sugar and cut in butter until crumbly, then press into bottom of ungreased 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Bake 15 minutes. Meanwhile combine milk, egg and vanilla and beat well. Stir in the toffee pieces and pecans. Pour evenly over the partially baked crust and bake for an additional 25 minutes or so until the top is lightly browned. Cool and cut into bars and enjoy!

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:
STRAWBERRY BREAD

3 cups flour
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 1 teaspoon salt
 3 teaspoons cinnamon
 2 cups sugar
 (2) 10-ounce boxes frozen sliced strawberries, thawed
 1 cup chopped walnuts
 4 eggs
 1 1/4 cups oil

Stir the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and sugar into a large bowl. Make a well in the center. Mix strawberries, walnuts, eggs and oil and pour into the well. Stir

enough to dampen all well. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to 1 hour.

NOTES: Flavor better second day. Makes 3 small pans or 2 large loaves. Spray pans well with cooking spray.

 Darlene Thomas, Delphos:
SUNDAY MORNING MUFFINS

Streusel Topping:
 1/4 cup sugar
 1/3 cup brown sugar
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1 stick butter, melted
 1 1/3 cups flour

Muffins:
 1 1/2 cups flour

1/2 cup sugar
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
 1 egg, beaten
 1/2 cup milk
 1/3 cup butter, melted

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place paper liners in a 12-count muffin tin. To make the streusel topping combine sugar, brown sugar and cinnamon in a bowl. Stir in melted butter and then flour. Mix well and set aside. To make the muffin batter mix flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, nutmeg and allspice in a large bowl. Make a well in the center of the flour mixture. Add egg, milk and melted butter. Whisk ingredients until just combined. Spoon muffin batter evenly into muffin cups (about 1/4 cup each). Top each muffin evenly with the streusel topping (about 2 tablespoons). Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the muffin comes out clean. Makes 12 muffins.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:
SAUERKRAUT CASSEROLE

1 pound ground beef
 1/2 onion, chopped
 1 large can sauerkraut
 2 cups wide egg noodles, cooked until half done
 1 can tomato soup mixed well with 1 can water

Brown beef and onion together. In a deep casserole or small roaster spread sauerkraut on bottom. Drain noodles and spread over kraut. Spread beef and onion over noodles. Pour tomato soup over top of beef. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours covered.

Kellee George, Shawnee:
HOMINY CASSEROLE

1 No. 2 1/2 can hominy, drained
 1 can cream celery soup
 1 teaspoon grated onion
 1/2 cup grated sharp cheese

Combine all ingredients and place in a greased 1 1/2-quart casserole. Bake in 350-degree oven for 30 minutes.

Kathy Hogue of Topeka/Alma reminds us that sometimes the simplest of recipes are the ones that disappear from the table first. Who doesn't love a deviled egg or two? As always, any make ahead dish is at the top of this cooks menu plans.



CLUCKIN' DEVILED EGGS

Cover eggs with cold water in a pan. Bring to boil and simmer for 15 minutes. Drain hot water and cover in cold water. Peel them immediately under a gentle stream of water from your kitchen faucet. Cut eggs in half lengthwise and remove yolks. Finely chop yolks with a pastry blender.

For 6 eggs, mix:
 1/4 cup mayonnaise
 1 teaspoon white vinegar
 1 teaspoon prepared mustard
 1/8 heaping teaspoon salt
 Dash of pepper

Stir in yolks. Fill egg whites. Sprinkle some with paprika and others with dill.

Baking With Sugarbuns

By Michele Carlyon

Peanut Butter Balls

We all have those people in our lives that we can turn to for anything. The people who won't judge, the ones who will pick us up when we are down, the ones who are there to help celebrate the good times and yet they are still there for the hard times, the ones who will listen without any preconceived ideas, the ones who our souls connect with, the ones that, no matter, what they are there. Sometimes these people come in the form of a significant other, a best friend, a family member; could be anyone, they become our favorite people. I am beyond lucky to have multiple favorite people in my life, but one of my favorite favorites would be my Aunt Lana.

I could possibly be. She lives in Florida but has always made it a point to be involved in any way that she could. Being so close, I try not to miss a thing. She taught me how to be there without judgement and how important a listening ear can really be. If all else fails, I want my nieces to never doubt that I am in their corner, like my Aunt Lana is for me. Over the last few years she has also stressed the importance of self-love and while this is a daily struggle, I hope that I am able to be that little bit of light for my nieces that reminds them daily of not only their outer beauty, but also their inner beauty. I am beyond grateful for her and everything I have learned from her, and I am confident that if I am even half the aunt that she is, my nieces will be some lucky little ladies.

She is my mom's youngest sister and one of those people in my life that I have always been able to turn to for anything. She has always been a listening ear and a second mother of sorts. When life gets hard, she tends to be one of the first people I turn to, someone who is always there with sound advice and someone who doesn't just tell me what I want to hear. My aunt is one of my favorite travel buddies and the one person who is always willing to join me on whatever random adventure I might come up with. We have a shared love for music and sharing those songs with no explanation; we get each other. We share similar beliefs on many big picture items, the things that people don't talk about. We also share a love for all things sweet, especially if they include peanut butter.

Debbie's (her best friend) Peanut Butter Balls

1 cup Reese's Peanut Butter
 2 cups powdered sugar
 6 tablespoons butter
 Ghirardelli White Chocolate Wafers

Soften butter in microwave. Stir in peanut butter until smooth. Add 1 cup powdered sugar at a time; stir until blended. Roll into teaspoon-sized balls and place on parchment covered cookie sheet. Chill for at least one hour. Heat wafers as needed; not all at once. Dip peanut butter balls in chocolate and cover completely. Remove from chocolate. Add sprinkles if desired. Chill for four hours and then enjoy.

Michele grew up in Junction City and graduated from Kansas State University. She worked in the restaurant management field for six years before deciding to switch careers and now works as an office manager for a company that manufactures oilfield products. Her passion for blogging and food can be followed on Instagram: [boobs-brainsandbaking](#)

She is an amazing mom, but even more importantly than that she is an amazing human and an amazing aunt. She helped to lay the groundwork of what I wanted to be for my nieces. Because of her and her diligence I knew that I wanted to be the absolute best aunt that

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Family Meals Are Important For Kids' Development, Nutritionist Says

MANHATTAN — Kansas State University nutrition specialist Sandy Procter says parents are serving up a lot more than food when they insist that their families eat meals together.

"We could spend hours discussing the benefits," said Procter, who is also an assistant professor of food nutrition and dietetic health. "In all the research I've seen, the more meals that families eat together, the more positive results that are seen in the individual and the family unit."

Procter said even toddlers benefit from being with family during meal time.

"This is where a lot of useful conversation happens, and young children who aren't able to speak yet are really picking up on language development and formation," she said. "It's shown to be a benefit to them as they're getting a start at processing words and interacting with conversation."

As youth grow into the teen years, Procter adds, family meals provide grounding and "a connectedness" to the family's values.

"We know from research that young pre-teens and teens are less likely to have anti-social and or delinquent tendencies if they have more family meals," Procter said. "There are some grounding benefits to meals that reach well beyond just the fact that it's nice for parents to know where everybody is at for a short period of time."

Procter has developed a publication, *Everyone to the Table: Family Meals Serve Us Well*, in which she cited studies indicating that only 40% of teens say they eat meals with family three to six times per week. One-third of those surveyed reported eating with their family two or fewer times the previous week, and 14% said they had no family meals.

"Eating together more than five times a week has been found to be linked to better mood and better

mental health for kids in the school years, meaning ages 6-10 and teens," she said. "Sometimes our schedules get so crazy and it's hard to make it happen. People need to be a little forgiving of themselves and know that it won't happen every meal, but when you can make it happen, it's well worth the effort."

Procter served up a few more thoughts to get the family together around meals:

- Don't limit family meals to dinner. "If family meals happen at breakfast, that's great," she says. The family's schedule may only allow for morning meals on some days, and evening meals on others. Be flexible.

- Share in the work. Older children may be able to do some of the cooking, while setting the table is more appropriate for others. "Encourage time when everyone is focused on the task. Some of those conversations are more true and meaningful than they might be otherwise," Procter said.

- Put down the phone. Electronics are a distraction to productive family conversations. "We used to say in my family that the cell phone is not a member of the family. The TV is not a member of the family. So, they are not included in family meals," Procter said.

"The research around family meals suggests that if your family is one of those that doesn't have spontaneous conversation, then maybe you could try conversation starters, such as, 'What are two things that you learned today that surprised you,'" she said.

"We used to laugh about those in my family; we felt like we needed flags or conversation stoppers because everyone tried to talk at the same time. But every family is unique and it may take practice to get those conversations to flow."

For more tips on family nutrition and health, visit <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/humannutrition>.



The Best Baked Potato Wedges

By Ashleigh Krispense

These potato wedges are beyond easy and taste AMAZING! They have the golden, crispy outside while still staying soft on the inside. You can adjust the amount of salt to suit your tastes, but I kept them a little on the salty side. Serve as a side to hamburgers or chicken tenders. (With a Pepsi. And fresh chocolate chip cookies. And then invite me over!)

- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon cilantro flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2 large russet potatoes



To get started, combine the Parmesan cheese and spices together in a medium bowl. Set aside. Cover a four-sided, metal baking sheet with alu-

minum foil and place the 4 tablespoons of butter on it. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and pop the pan in just long enough to melt the butter.



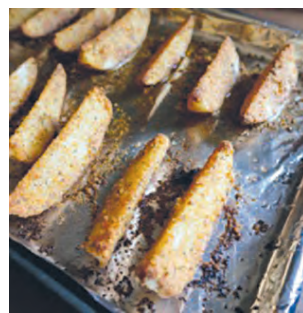
Give your potatoes a wash and then slice them in half.



Cut each half into quarters (or wedges).



Dip both sides of the wedges in the melted butter and then dredge them with the Parmesan cheese mixture. Place back onto the baking sheet.



Bake at 350 degrees for about 20 minutes or until wedges are tender when poked with a fork and golden brown on the outside. Serve with ketchup. Enjoy!

Ashleigh is a freelance writer and blogger for her website, *Prairie Gal Cookin'* (www.prairiegalcookin.com), where she shares step-by-step recipes and stories from the farm in Kansas.

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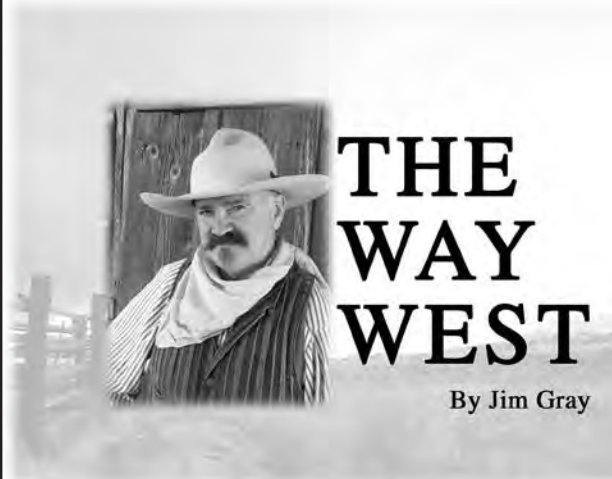
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THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

A Crusade for Truth

In late March, 1877, newspapers across the state of Kansas carried the tragic story of the death of J. Clarke Swayze, editor of the *Topeka Blade*. The *Emporia Gazette* began with, "We deeply regret to announce that the bitter and inexcusable personal warfare which has been kept up in the *Topeka Blade*, for some two years, on John W. Wilson, formerly of the *Topeka Times*, ended in the killing of J. Clarke Swayze, the editor of the *Blade*, on Tuesday evening (March 27, 1877)."

Jason Clarke Swayze was born in Hope, New Jersey, in 1830. He learned the printer's trade in the

employment of Horace Greeley, the editor of the *New York Tribune*. Greeley was known for hiring the best talent that he could find and under Greeley's guidance the young printer matured into a journalist of note. Along the way he married an actress, wrote plays, toured the South, and with the opening of the Civil War was conscripted into the Confederate Army.

He escaped to the north and immediately enlisted in the Union Army, gaining an appointment to General Sherman's staff as a scout. His expectant wife was unable to return north with him, and died giving birth

to their third child at Griffin, Georgia. When peace was declared Swayze returned to Griffin, his wife's burial place, and his surviving children.

Swayze purchased the local newspaper and renamed it *The Bugle Horn of Liberty*. His outspoken ways brought destruction to the paper in a raid that nearly cost him his life. For the next several years his life was filled with intrigue. He founded the American Union at Griffin and moved it to Macon, Georgia, in 1868. His children helped around the office and years later his son, Oscar, recalled, "Being kluxed, ridden on a rail for refusal to shout for Jeff Davis (former President of the Confederacy), shot at on the streets and threatened with hanging was a part of the life of the *Union editor*."

At the urging of his mentor, Horace Greeley, Swayze moved to Kansas in 1873. In the capital city he established the *Topeka Blade*, described as "...a *Blade* in every sense of the word., and will be used to cut off rotten limbs." Swayze intended to continue the fight for the common man that he had begun in Georgia. The motto of the paper declared, "We will

not hurt anyone unless they deserve it."

Topeka already had two newspapers, the *Commonwealth* and the *North Topeka Times*. In May of 1875, the *North Topeka* paper began a daily edition in Topeka proper, called simply the *Topeka Times*. Owner, Vear Porter (V. P.) Wilson had previously published the *Abilene Chronicle* and had recently served as a Kansas state senator.

Wilson had opposed the venerable Joseph McCoy at Abilene, calling him contemptible, unscrupulous, and a "poor corrupt man," among other things. According to McCoy, a scheme to gain a monopoly in the milling business in Dickinson County was exposed while Wilson served a senator.

At first Swayze noted mistakes and printing errors in the *Times* revealing an incompetent carelessness. The accusations continued and grew in intensity until Wilson charged in the July 1, 1875, *Times* that Swayze had abused his wife. Swayze denied the accusation and countered that Wilson's wife was a

prostitute and Wilson was nothing more than a pimp. Wilson retired from the *Times* in August, turning management over to his son, John Wilson. The younger Wilson marked the occasion by confronting Swayze on the courthouse steps, warning him to stop attacking his family in the *Blade*.

Swayze promptly returned to his office and published an uncomplimentary illustration of V. P. Wilson in the next issue. That was followed with an illustration of John Wilson as a drunken editor. With a hickory stick in hand John Wilson accosted Swayze with "disgustingly dirty language." A police officer arrested Swayze even though Wilson was the aggressor.

The vitriol continued. Over the next two years Swayze brought the *Topeka Commonwealth* into the fray alleging editor Floyd P. Baker's involvement in a lottery scam and a close association with prostitution. By March 10, 1877, John Wilson was working for Baker at the *Commonwealth*. Swayze published

a new attack, claiming Wilson was procuring customers for prostitutes. Wilson found Swayze and beat him within an inch of his life.

The unshakable J. Clarke Swayze responded as he always had. In the very next issue of the *Blade*, Swayze unmasked Wilson's involvement in a prostitute ring headed by Baker. When the two men next met in an alley each man pulled his pistol, fired, and Swayze "clinched" Wilson in a death grip. Wilson beat Swayze over the head until bystanders separated them. Swayze fell to the ground and died soon after.

Swayze's *Blade* had cut through corruption with the sharp edge of his written word, but the crusade for truth did not always win the day on the Way West.

"The Cowboy," Jim Gray is author of the book *Desperate Seed: Ellsworth Kansas on the Violent Frontier, Ellsworth, KS. Contact Kansas Cowboy, 220 21st RD Geneseo, KS Phone 785-531-2058 or kansascowboy@kans.com.*

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In the annals (that's two n's) of the Great Toilet Paper Wars of 2020, let me write yet another chapter.

I announced on *Around Kansas* that my older daughter is a snob from Boston. Actually, the fact that she now lives in Boston is mere coincidence – she was born a snob. I think it was a genetic mutation since she comes from fairly normal, down-to-earth people on both sides. I also said that my granddaughter is a snob but that really isn't true and I must beg her forgiveness. She is a kind and generous young woman who wants to save the world.

Thus, these two Bostonians have a subscription

for toilet paper. In all fairness, the urban world in which they live operates by different rules. Having things delivered makes so much sense when driving is such a hassle, or public transportation is your only means of travel. It is a far cry from the dirt road in western Kansas where four-wheel-drive is the only reliable means of getting to town to buy toilet paper.

Like so many people who live in the country, we do not really stockpile but we do buy plenty because you never know when a blizzard or other natural calamity will keep you homebound. Thankfully, I was ahead of the rush and we are good for a month

or so. Since my granddaughter is so smart and so concerned with the health of our environment, she found toilet paper made from a renewable resource – hemp. I am all for this for many reasons. Number One (no pun intended), the idea of a tree being cut down for toilet paper is just... well, sad. The toilet paper is shipped monthly, just like the wine-of-the-month club. It is wrapped in hemp paper, not plastic, and apparently the paper wrapping can be upcycled as Christmas wrapping paper (Yeah, just insert your own comment here).

My daughter is not really a snob. Well, she's prissy. She has always been prissy and particular. That is not a bad thing. She noticed that the toilet paper was piling up and went online to adjust their subscription. The website indicated that they were sold out, except for their subscribers. What a comforting thought! As my daughter was explaining this to me, all I could think of was my Grandpa who died in 1985 just shy of his 90th birthday. If I had sat down with him – a farmer who read the newspaper every day and watched Huntley and

Brinkley every night – and told him that one day folks would be subscribing to toilet paper, well, I don't know what would have been more outlandish – that or Facebook. I grew up in an era, as did many of you, where a lot of folks did not have indoor plumbing. I personally recall the many uses of a Sears-Roebuck catalog (and I predict the return of the catalog in light of current affairs). A subscription for toilet paper? Times really have changed. Build it, and they will subscribe.

Deb Goodrich is the host of the *Around Kansas* TV show and the Garvey Texas Foundation Historian in Residence at the Fort Wallace Museum. She chairs the Santa Fe Trail 200 in 2021. Contact her at author.debgoodrich@gmail.com.

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RCLA meeting cancelled

The Riley County Livestock Association Spring Meeting, originally scheduled to be held on March 26 at the Fairview Church Fellowship Hall, has been canceled. There are no plans to re-schedule. The next RCLA event will be the Summer Tour at 5:00 p.m. on August 30 at the KSU Beef Stocker Unit. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

If you have question, please call the Riley County Extension Office at 785/537-6350, or send email to gmcclure@ksu.edu.

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Early registration for National Wheat Yield Contest is April 1

By Mary Marsh, Kansas Wheat Communications intern

The National Wheat Foundation is accepting grower enrollment for the 2020 National Wheat Yield Contest. The contest is divided into two primary competition categories: winter wheat and spring wheat, and two subcategories: dryland and irrigated.

The deadline for winter wheat entries is May 15, with an early registration deadline of April 1. The Yield Contest provides an opportunity for farmers to learn about other wheat management methods that they could use on their own personal operations to increase productivity. National winners will be

recognized at 2021 Commodity Classic.

Kansas farmers receive national and state awards in 2019 contest

Two Kansas wheat farmers were recognized at the 2020 Commodity Classic conference held in San Antonio in February for their successful 2019 wheat crops' performance in the contest.

Kansas Association of Wheat Growers members Rick Horton and Alec Horton, both of Leoti, won respectfully for percent increase in winter wheat dryland and high yield winter wheat dryland.

Rick Horton had a yield of 132 bushels per acre. His yield was a 340% increase over the most recent five-year Olympic county av-

erage, published annually by USDA. His variety was WestBred's WB 4515 hard red winter wheat. This variety is known for superior test weight, excellent straw strength, excellent leaf health and considerable disease resistance. It is a medium maturing with medium height. It has poor resistance to fusarium head blight and moderate resistance against barley yellow dwarf virus. It holds winter dormancy well and has good milling and baking qualities.

Alec Horton achieved a yield of 146.81 bushels per acre. He used WestBred's WB 4792. This medium to late maturing, medium height hard red winter variety boasts excellent yield potential, strong western adaption, good wheat streak mosaic resistance and good yellow stripe rust resistance. It has good standability and winter hardiness. This variety also has good mill-

ing and baking qualities associated with it.

In addition, eight Kansas farmers were state winners in the contest.

High yield winter wheat dryland

1st place: Alec Horton, Finney County, yield: 146.81, variety: WestBred WB4792

2nd place: Ken Horton, Finney County, yield: 138.24, variety: WestBred WB4792

Percent increase winter wheat dryland

1st place: Rick Horton, Wichita County, yield: 132.00, percent over county: 340.00%, variety: WestBred WB4792

2nd place: Matt Horton, Finney County, yield: 123.64, percent over county: 286.38%, variety: LCS Revere

3rd place: Jim Sipes, Stanton County, yield: 95.68, percent over county: 268.00%, variety: WestBred Winterhawk

4th place: John Grabbe,

Ellis County, yield: 116.80, percent over county: 243.53%, variety: WestBred WB-Grainfield

Winter wheat irrigated

1st place: Brett Oelke, Sherman County, yield: 132.21, variety: WestBred WB4303

Spring wheat dryland

1st place: Mike Sieck, Sherman County, yield: 57.65, variety: WestBred WB9719

Kansas contestants must be a member in good standing of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers before completing and submitting the NWYC Entry Form, have a supervisor during harvest and farmers must submit a harvest report. Fields must be five acres or larger to qualify. A grain sample from each contest entry will be required to determine the quality of wheat produced under high yield management practices used in this wheat yield contest. It is imperative to bring quali-

ty top of mind to all wheat growers, and the Foundation believes quality is a necessary part to improve productivity. The submission of grain sample will be a requirement to qualify for national recognition.

The National Wheat Yield Contest was started in 2016 to help farmers increase productivity and to help make sure there would be enough quality wheat for export. There are 24 National Award opportunities for wheat growers. Farmers must be 14 years of age or older and must enter as an individual. Multiple members of a family are allowed to enter, but must enter separately.

To find out more information about the wheat yield contest, list of acceptable supervisors, rules and more qualifications visit <https://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org/> or email sjoehl@wheat-world.com.

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USDA seeks proposals for on-farm conservation and soil health test projects

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting proposals through May

11 for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (On-Farm Trials), now in its second year. On-Farm Trials, part of the agency's Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) program, help support the adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches on agricultural land.

"NRCS has achieved tremendous success seeking innovative technologies and approaches to enhance conservation for agricultural producers and forest landowners for nearly 20 years," said NRCS chief Matthew Lohr. "The 2018 Farm Bill enhanced CIG by strengthening its demonstration component, allowing the agency to work with producers and partners to discover new conservation

approaches and tools or enhance existing ones."

NRCS will invest up to \$25 million for On-Farm Trials in 2020. This total includes up to \$10 million for the Soil Health Demonstration (SHD) trials priority.

On-Farm Trials funding is designed to offer, through partners, technical and financial assistance to producers to help compensate for any risks associated with implementation of new conservation practices, systems, and approaches. In addition, the trials require evaluation of the innovative conservation practices, systems, and approaches at the farm level, including environmental, financial, and social, (to the extent possible) impacts of carrying

them out.

The On-Farm Trials funding announcement seeking proposals will be published at grants.gov.

NRCS is seeking proposals that address at least one of the following four On-Farm Trial main priorities:

- Irrigation Management Technologies
- Precision Agriculture Technologies and Strategies
- Management Technologies and Strategies
- Soil Health Demonstration Trials

NRCS will accept proposals from the following eligible entities:

- Private entities whose primary business is related to agriculture
- Non-government organizations with experience working with agricultural producers
- Non-federal government agencies

This is the second funding opportunity for On-Farm Trials, authorized through the 2018 Farm Bill. In 2019, NRCS funded 16 On-Farm Trials projects.

The On-Farm Trials component is distinct from the national CIG competitive grants funding, which is used to support early pilot projects or demonstrations of promising conservation approaches and technologies, and is not typically provided directly to producers.

For more information, please visit the grants.gov funding opportunity for 2020 or visit NRCS's On-Farm Trials webpage.

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Farm analyst urges producers to follow their business plan as drop in commodity markets causing anxiety for Kansas farmers

A Kansas State University farm analyst says his phone has been ringing frequently as the state's farmers and ranchers flood him with questions about the recent drop in commodity markets.

"People are seeing the value of the commodities they're holding drop - livestock, grains, feed. Everything is pounding them right now," said Duane Hund, director of the Farm Analyst Program in K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics. "As those values go down, those people are wondering what effect this is going to have on their cash flow analysis as we move forward."

As one example, Hund said producers who have been feeding cattle this past winter are looking for opportunities to figure out if they should sell or retain ownership.

"There are just a lot of questions and as we see these markets continue to dive, there just doesn't seem to be a bottom now," Hund said. "It's causing a lot of anxiety, to put it mildly, among producers and I'm hearing anxiety coming from the lending community also."

Some farmers and ranchers are even considering whether to get out of the business.

"As people talk to me, they wonder if they're going to survive this (drop in the markets)," Hund said.

"My first order of business is to tell them to follow their plan. Let's not make knee-jerk, drastic decisions. Let's stick with the plan in place and develop alternative decisions that are made in combination with the facts and what your business advisers will tell you."

Hund said it's important for producers to surround

themselves with as many people as possible who can help them make the best decisions for their operation.

"When I talk to people about talking with their business partners, that's usually family," he said. "They need to share the facts, look at the opportunities, talk about their concerns openly. Now is not the time to be the strong, silent type. We need to be able to open up and say, 'Gosh, this thing is beyond what I'm comfortable with. Let's talk this over, let's share the issues, maybe we can be okay, but maybe we need to look at some alternatives, if there are some that we need to be considering.'"

Hund added that a business plan should be the producer's road map through the tough times.

"Like going down any road, if we're going to enter in some muddy areas, areas we're not comfortable traveling through, we need to stop," he said. "Maybe we need to think through some things, maybe we need to look for some alternative routes and ask if I did do this differently than I originally planned, what would that look like?"

One strategy for recovery, Hund said, is to remember the tasks that producers do every day in normal times.

"In stressful situations, our ordinary tasks fall to the wayside because our mind is so bombarded with all this information," he said. "We may be losing ground with our ordinary tasks, such as keeping our cows fed and our lists of ordering supplies for spring planting, which is just around the corner."

Hund adds: "There is a rhythm to what we do every day. We need to keep that rhythm going. We need

to make sure we are on the same path; the cadence we normally handle as we get into spring planting. Getting the planter ready, getting the right hybrids ordered, getting the right mineral needs for the livestock that are coming up and will soon be on grass, getting together with our neighbors for scheduled prescribed burning in the Flint Hills.

"By doing those ordinary things that are part of our cadence... we can have some control in a chaotic environment if we just keep things steady and going forward."

The Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services offers free, confidential support for farmers and ranchers. The program can connect producers with K-State's Farm Analyst program and other resources to help through the down market.

The toll free number is 1-800-321-FARM (3276).

"Sometimes," Hund said, "the best decision for your farm right now is no decision. Sometimes the best decision is staying the course and keeping your eye on the ball, doing what you had planned on doing, and not jumping off to a direction that is not the best thing to do."

"A crisis is a crisis, and the problem eventually will be remedied. We don't know how soon, but now is not the time to be making drastic decisions. It's a time to be reflective, to be careful of what we do, and to think things over. Let's make sure we're doing the right things at the right time."

Feeding market goats and lambs for show

By Adaven Scronce, diversified agriculture and natural resource agent, Wildcat Extension District

One of the most important parts of raising a successful market goat or lamb project for the county fair is the feed program. Not every feed program will work for every animal. Just like people, every animal is different. When determining the type of feed program that is right for your animal, you need to take into consideration; the weight limits of your show, the animals age, and the animals frame size. Frame size is how big the animal has the potential to be when it is full-grown. Some animals are small-framed and their ideal weight might only be 70 lbs., while other animals have a much larger frame size and their ideal weight might be 120 lbs. or heavier. To determine an animal's frame size, look at how long its neck is, how long its cannon bone is (the cannon bone is the bone between the animal's knee and pastern), and its length of body. Frame size is important because it will help you to determine roughly how much your goat or lamb should weigh when it is finished and you take it to the final show of the year.

There are many good quality show feeds for goats and lambs on the market. When you are selecting what feed to use, pick one that is available in your area, affordable for you to buy and the one that you think will work the best for the goat or lamb you are raising. Ideally, you want to use a feed that has at least 16 percent protein and three percent fat. Most show feeds on

market today are what is referred to as a complete feed. This means that the feed should have all the vitamins, minerals, and nutrients the animal needs, including fiber. However, it is still recommended to feed a little bit of hay even when feeding a complete feed. Hay helps keep the rumen active and functioning correctly. This being said, only feed goats and lambs a very small amount of hay each day, just enough for the goat or lamb to have three or four good mouthfuls. If a goat or lamb is fed too much hay it will cause them to have a "hay belly." Once a goat or lamb has a "hay belly" it is nearly impossible to get rid of and the goat or lamb will not be as competitive in the show ring. Goats and lambs finish from the inside out. Finish on a goat or lamb is measured over the loin and between the last two ribs. A goat or lamb that has been fed and managed properly will have the correct amount of finish while still being lean and well-muscled, not fat.

Along with evaluating the nutrient contents of a ration, you will also want to evaluate the mineral and vitamin levels in the feed to make sure they are adequate, and decide if you want to feed

a medicated feed or not. Two important minerals to look at when feeding show wethers are the calcium and phosphorus levels. Feed rations should have a ratio of at least two parts calcium to one part phosphorus. If a feed rations calcium to phosphorus ratio is unbalanced, it can cause urinary calculi (kidney stones). Feeding a ration that has ammonium chloride mixed into it will help prevent goats and sheep developing urinary calculi. When selecting what feed ration to use, it is also important to consider using a feed that is medicated to prevent coccidiosis. Coccidiosis is a disease that affects the intestinal tract and is caused by the parasite coccidian. Young goats and lambs have the greatest risk of getting coccidiosis. A feed that is medicated to prevent coccidiosis will include one of the following medications, Rumensin, Bovatec, or Deccox, depending on if the feed is labeled for goats or sheep.

Through the duration of your market goat or lamb project, you will want to weigh your animal regularly. Weighing your goat or lamb regularly will help you track its rate of gain, and adjust the amount of feed you are feeding to the weight of the animal.

Goats and lambs should be fed at least 2-3% of their body weight a day. When increasing the amount of feed an animal is fed or introducing a new feed to the animal's diet, make gradual changes to allow the animal to adapt and decrease the likelihood of adverse effects, such as diarrhea or bloat, caused by sudden feed changes. It is important to have a regular schedule and feed your goat or lamb at the same time(s) each day. Ideally, show goats and lambs should be fed twice a day as close to 12 hours apart as possible. Feeding animals twice a day will help reduce feed waste, maximize the animals feed intake, and give you the opportunity to check on the animal to ensure it is healthy. Along with having a good feed program, it is also important to make sure the animal has access to clean, fresh water at all times.

In conclusion, determine your animal's frame size to judge what a good finishing weight for your animal will be. Feed a good quality, complete feed, with a very small amount of hay, just enough for them to have three or

four good mouthfuls, and feed your goat or lamb at least two percent of its body weight a day. You want your goat or lamb to be lean, not fat, and because of this it is very important to remember that goats and lambs finish from the inside out. Always keep in mind that

your goat or lamb is similar to an athlete; they need to be trim, lean, and well-muscled, not fat and fleshy.

For more information, please contact Adaven Scronce, Diversified Agriculture and Natural Resource agent, adaven@ksu.edu or (620)331-2690.

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BASF and commodity organizations award \$20,000 in academic scholarships to emerging agriculture leaders

BASF, in partnership with industry-leading commodity associations, including the American Soybean Association (ASA), the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), the National Sorghum Foundation (NSF) and the National Wheat Foundation (NWF), awarded academic scholarships to eight agriculture students who have shown outstanding enthusiasm and passion for the industry.

American Soybean Assoc. Soy Scholarship
BASF and ASA awarded the 2020-2021 ASA Soy Scholarship to Emma Kuhns of Mason City, Iowa, who plans to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Kuhns will receive a \$5,000 academic scholarship in recognition of her academic and leadership skills.

“ASA is proud to partner with BASF and to invest in future agricultural leaders,” said ASA President Bill Gordon. “The Soy Scholarship helps to ensure the next generation of agricultural leaders have the training, education and skills needed to move the industry forward and we look forward to Emma’s future contributions and engagement.”

National Corn Growers Association Scholarships
NCGA and BASF awarded the William C. Berg Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship to five aspiring agriculture students. The scholarship was created to honor William C. Berg, an Ohio farmer and retired postal worker who passed away in 2012.

Five \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to the following students:
Killiann George, a sophomore from New Port, Pennsylvania, majoring in agricultural and Extension education at The Penn State University
Mardi Traskowsky, a senior from Herington, studying milling science and management and agricultural economics at Kansas State University
Abbey Schiefelbein, a sophomore from Kimball, Minnesota, studying food science at Kansas State University
Madeline Weninger, a junior from Buffalo, Minnesota, pursuing a degree in agricultural education and Spanish at South Dakota State University
Matthew Sperry, a junior from Bath, South Dakota, majoring in precision agriculture and agronomy at South Dakota State University

National Sorghum Foundation - BASF Scholarship
BASF and NSF presented \$2,500 scholarships to Isabelle Stewart of Columbus, Nebraska, and Mardi Traskowsky of Herington. Stewart is a junior at the University of Nebraska majoring in agriculture education. Traskowsky will graduate this year with a degree in milling science and management and agricultural economics from Kansas State University.

“Scholarship recipients were evaluated by the National Sorghum Foundation board members,” said Larry Lambright, chairman of NSF. “Isabelle and Mardi exhibit strong academic and leadership skills. The National Sorghum Foundation is appreciative of BASF and their ongoing sponsorship of this scholarship.”

National Wheat Foundation Scholarships
The National Wheat

Foundation Jerry Minore Memorial Scholarship was named after Jerry Minore, a deceased BASF senior marketing manager, to honor his advocacy efforts for wheat growers.

This year, \$2,500 scholarships were awarded to two talented students who exhibit a passion for agriculture:
Adrienne Blakey, a senior from Stillwater, Oklahoma, dual majoring in plant and soil sciences and agricultural communications at Oklahoma State University.
Mardi Traskowsky, a junior at Kansas State University, majoring in milling science and management and agricultural economics.

“In their applications, both Adrienne and Mardi exemplified the true spirit of Jerry Minore and his love for agriculture and education,” said Wayne Hurst, chairman of the National Wheat Foundation. “We expect both students to have bright and successful futures in their respective fields.”

KLA: Livestock sales exempt from order

On March 17 Gov. Laura Kelly issued Executive Order No. 20-04, temporarily prohibiting mass gatherings of 50 or more to limit the spread of coronavirus. After preliminary communications with Kelly’s staff, Kansas Livestock Association believes that livestock sales are exempt from this mandatory order under paragraph 2(w) as “Manufacturing, processing, distribution, and production facilities.”

At this time, producers may continue to hold livestock sales as scheduled. KLA recommends organizers encourage customers to use online or phone bidding options when possible, especially for out-of-state buyers, those over 60 years of age or who have compromised immune systems, and buyers who are feeling sick. Those attending livestock sales should be encouraged to follow CDC guidelines, which include avoiding person-to-person contact like handshakes, remaining at arm’s length from other person, avoiding touching your face, washing hands frequently and sneezing or coughing in a tissue or your elbow.

KLA staff will continue to monitor this constantly changing situation and provide updates and information as it becomes available.

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Following information applies to all tracts — **Earnest Money:** \$25,000.00 on each tract, balance in Certified Funds on Closing Day. **Possession on both Tracts:** Fallow or out ground will pass to the buyer for immediate possession with a letter of financing approval from buyer’s lending institution. **Title Insurance & Escrow Agent Closing Fee:** 50% Buyer, 50% Seller; First American Title is the title company; **Taxes:** 2020 taxes are prorated to day of closing. 2019 and any earlier taxes paid by the seller. **FSA Payments:** Any 2019 payments to the Seller. Any 2020 payments to the Buyer. **Closing:** On or Before May 1st, 2020. **Tract 1 Located** 12 miles North of Pratt on HWY 281 and 1 east on SE 70th St. **Tract 2 Located** 11 miles North on 281.

Tract 1 will sell at 1:30 pm. **Legal Description:** S2 of Section 23, Township 25, Range 13 Stafford County KS. 316± acres of dryland. Minerals are Reserved for 10 years unless there is no production or when production ceases they pass to the buyer. Minerals currently are leased. Property has a water well (no pump).

Tract 2 Legal Description: SW4 of Section 34, Township 25, Range 13 Stafford County KS. 160± acres of dryland. Less HWY 281. Minerals pass to the buyer. Not currently leased. Property has a water well (no pump).

Hamm Auction Real Estate
John Hamm/Auctioneer
620-450-7481
107 NE State Road 61, Pratt, KS 67124
www.hammauction.com
Announcements made Day of Sale take precedence over any materials of all kinds.

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Ways to minimize death loss in calves

Growing up on a livestock operation teaches agriculturists such life lessons as the value of hard work, the miracle of birth, the joy of caring for animals and, sometimes, the loss of livestock.

Recently, experts from the Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute tackled the topic of calf death loss on a weekly podcast. Leading the discussion was veterinarian Bob Larson with BCI director and veterinarian Brad White.

“Nationally, beef producers lose about 2% of calves at birth or within the first 21 days of life, and another 2% prior to weaning,” Larson said. He noted that there are wide herd-to-herd and year-to-year variations in those numbers.

These losses are attributed to difficult births or diseases such as scours that can weaken the calves in their first few weeks of life.

“Difficult births can cause the calf to be born dead, but also those that survive may be weak and unable to get up and get the necessary colostrum,” Larson said.

One of the factors that White said contributes to birthing difficulties relates to cow nutrition.

“If the cows are really thin, that can lead to calving challenges and potentially hamper nutrition for the calf, so it is important to maintain the cows in good body condition,” White said.

Larson added: “A cow that is thin often doesn’t have enough energy reserve to take care of her calf.”

One of the ways to support body condition for cows consuming low-quality forage is through protein supplementation.

“In late gestation a cow will need a couple pounds of protein,” Larson said. “She typically will get a pound from low quality forage available this time of year and the balance will need to come through a cube or some other form of a protein supplement.”

Larson encouraged producers to work with their veterinarian or nutritionist to calculate the correct amount of supplementation needed for their management situation.

Another factor to minimize calf death loss relates to the environment.

“We prefer to have cows calve on grass rather than in a dry lot where there is more potential for mud,” Larson said. White added it is also important to make sure the cows and calves are current on their vaccinations.

For those who are experiencing calf death loss, White stressed the importance of understanding why that is happening in the herd.

“Your biggest category of death can’t be an ‘unknown cause’ because it is very hard to solve that problem,” he said.

More information on this topic is available on a weekly podcast produced by the Beef Cattle Institute.

LAND AUCTION
SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020 — 2:00 PM
American Legion — CUBA, KANSAS
59.2± ACRES REPUBLIC COUNTY LAND
PRIME CROPLAND • 58.50 farmland ac. • 57.36 DCP cropland ac.
LEE KING & SHERRY MCCUNE, SELLERS
See March 3 Grass & Grain For Complete Details. For a VIRTUAL TOUR of this property visit www.MidwestLandandHome.com
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LAND AUCTION
SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2020 — 10:00 AM
Courtland Art Center — COURTLAND, KANSAS
146± ACRES IRRIGATED REPUBLIC COUNTY, KS LAND
Legal Description: S29, T03, R05W, SE1/4 LESS 9.3 AC (house) & ROW CANAL 13.2 AC
IRRIGATION: Bostwick Irrigation District. • 126.5 irrigable Acres
Tract Info: Republic Co. Appraiser • 95.27 Irrigated Acres
• 41.92 Dryland Acres • 8.68 Native Grass Acres
FSA Details: • 136.8 DCP Cropland Acres
• 116 Total Base Acres with 102 Corn Acres & 14 Wheat Acres
2019 Tax Information:
General Tax: \$ 3,753.30 • **Specials Irr. :** \$ 5,566.00
Specials Irr Repay: \$ 554.07 • **Total 2019 Tax:** \$ 9,873.37
• Property is located in the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District (KBID).
Property Location: From the intersection of US 36 & 30th Road (Courtland Corner) go South 3 miles. Property is located on the Northwest side of 30th Road & Shady Road intersection.
Listing Broker’s Notes: Agricultural Producers & Investors... This Incredible property is 94% in crop production with 126.5 irrigable acres that consistently produces year in and year out. A portion of the property is planted to Eastern Gamma Grass which produces many tons of excellent quality forage each year with little or no maintenance. The property also includes a 2008 T & L Center Pivot on approximately 46 acres and Drip irrigation installed in 6 zones on the balance of the irrigable acres. Drip irrigation is exceptionally efficient. With aggressive renters in the area looking to add additional lease acres this would make a GREAT investment property. DON’T miss this opportunity to add this tract to your operation or investment portfolio. Contact me with questions you have regarding this AWESOME Republic County Kansas property. **Mark Uhlik - 785.747.8568 or Mark@MidwestLandandHome.com**
Terms & Possession: 10% down day of the sale, balance due at closing on or before May 8, 2020. Sellers to pay 2019 taxes. Buyer to pay the 2020 taxes. Title insurance, escrow & closing costs to be split equally between buyer and seller. Buyer will be given access to the property upon entering into a purchase agreement and placing 10% in escrow. Buyer takes full possession at closing. Property to be sold as-is, where-is. All inspections should be made prior to the day of the sale. This is a cash sale and is not subject to financing, have your financing arrangements made prior to the auction. **Midwest Land and Home** is acting as a Seller’s Agent and represents the seller’s interest. All information has come from reliable sources; however, buyers are encouraged to verify all information independently. Statements made the day of sale take precedence over all other printed materials.
DALE & DANELL STRICKLER, SELLERS
For a VIRTUAL TOUR of this property visit www.MidwestLandandHome.com
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LAND AUCTION
160 acres +/- Cloud County, Kansas
Tuesday, April 7th, 2020 at 11:00 am
Auction held: Glasco Senior Center
109 E. Main St, Glasco, KS
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Northeast Quarter of Section 5, Township 8 South, Range 5 West, Cloud County, KS.
LOCATION: Located at the Southwest corner of Hwy 24 & 20th Rd or 1 mile east of Simpson, KS and 1/2 mile north.
DESCRIPTION: 160 acres +/- with 102 acres +/- of cultivation with balance in grass and pit ponds. Tillable is currently 50 acres of wheat and 50 acres of summer fallow will be planted to soybeans. Windmill with solar powered well and good duck habitat on the grass.
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