

# GRASS & GRAIN<sup>®</sup>

Published by **AG PRESS**

66th Year

No. 9

April 28, 2020

\$1.00



## Early overproduction, decreased demand a double threat for ethanol industry

By **Donna Sullivan, Editor**

As the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to rock the U.S. economy, agriculture – already reeling from low commodity prices – continues to feel the full brunt of the impact of the virus and the stay-at-home orders it induced. For the ethanol industry, the crisis came on the heels of profitability issues in February and the first half of March that were the result of overproduction, according to Bill Pracht, CEO and president of East Kansas Agri-Energy in Garnett. “Toward the last week of March, we saw the effects of COVID, which brought on a severe lack of demand,” he said. “About half of the ethanol industry is offline, and our run rates are reflective of that.” At peak capacity, EKAE grinds about 50,000 bushels of corn a day, and right now Pracht says they are down to about 20,000. “That’s about as low as we can go and run the facility,” he stated. “We didn’t think we could even go that low, but we’ve been able to do it.” He added that the facility hasn’t purchased any corn for a month because when the coronavirus crisis started, their bins were full. They are currently grinding corn that was purchased at \$4 per bushel. Pracht said that with ethanol prices at 95 cents per gallon, as they are now, corn prices have to be under \$3 per bushel for them to be profitable.

USDA projections have the U.S. corn planted acres at 97 million for the 2020/2021 marketing year, which is an 8% or 7.3 million acre increase over last year. If that holds, it will be the highest acreage planted to corn since 2012.

“I would like to think that sixty days from now we’re not still at less than a dollar ethanol,” Pracht continued. “The corn isn’t in the bin yet and we still have the summer to get through. If we have all these acres planted and good weather to where there is a tremendous amount of corn and lower prices, it could make our industry profitable. But if the ethanol industry is still running half rates next fall, we are going to be awash in corn and there will be piles on the ground in places we haven’t seen before.”

Just as oil prices have plummeted due to lack of demand for unleaded gasoline brought about by the stay-at-home orders nationwide, ethanol demand has followed suit. This has governors from oil states asking the EPA to do away with RFS obligations altogether for this year, according to Pracht. But the Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) is pro-rated, so if the demand for gasoline is down, the RVO will also be down. “They are spewing their normal rhetoric and trying to do away with the RFS,” Pracht said.



East Kansas Agri-Energy is one of eleven fuel-grade ethanol plants in Kansas that produce more than 600 million gallons of ethanol each year. The plants use 27 percent of all corn and 30 percent of all grain sorghum grown in the state.

Courtesy photo

East Kansas Agri-Energy buys corn from about a 75-mile radius of Garnett, with most of the purchases coming from the north. Pracht said they do currently have a new crop bid and are forward contracting. “We’re not buying corn today, but are still taking corn that has been contracted through here,” he stated. “We have good communication with everybody we buy from and all of the people we normally do business with are

in the loop.”

On a normal year, the plant produces more than 200,000 tons of distillers grains, in both wet and dry form, for livestock producers. They are continuing to produce a limited amount of wet feed, but are unable to produce the dried distillers grains because of how slow the plant is running. The wet feed they produce is all spoken for.

Since the FDA relaxed regulations to allow fuel-grade ethanol to be

used in hand sanitizers, Pracht said they have shipped out about a quarter of a million gallons to hand sanitizer manufacturers.

Up to this point they have been able to avoid any layoff of staff. They have a scheduled maintenance outage the first week of May, then will evaluate whether they will fire back up. Across the country, more than forty ethanol plants have stopped production while

sixty-plus have cut their output rates. Even with the decreased production, ethanol inventory is at record high levels, according to Josh Roe, vice president of market development and policy for Kansas Corn Growers Association in an interview with *Forbes* magazine.

“We are running on a month-to-month basis at this point,” Pracht said. “I hope we are all in a better situation by the fall.”

## Renew Kansas secures Governor Kelly’s support to protect biofuels

Renew Kansas Biofuels Association extends a sincere thank you to Governor Laura Kelly who sent a letter urging U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue to allocate additional resources under the COVID-19 relief package to address the “economic harm and job losses biofuel producers are suffering.”

Kelly, a supporter of Kansas biofuels, proclaimed March 2020 as Biofuels Month in Kansas.

“Keeping biofuels plants open is vital for our states and we ask that you use your authority to assist the biofuel industry during this difficult time,” the letter Kelly signed onto stated. “We are supportive of the proposals the biofuel industry has put forward to reimburse feedstocks, and also believe that adding additional CCC funds to the Higher-Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program will drive future biofuel demand.”

An initial aid package, announced last week by

USDA, included funding for farmers and ranchers, but no direct relief for United States (U.S.) biofuel producers.

“A USDA package to producers is a good start, but more assistance will be needed for rural America to fully recover from the devastating results of this pandemic,” Renew Kansas president and CEO Ron Seeber said. “The Kansas biofuels industry respectfully asks that Congress and the administration take tangible action to ensure that the ethanol industry is included in the next round of emergency relief.”

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak in Kansas, 11 fuel-grade ethanol plants annually produced more than 600 million gallons of clean-burning renewable ethanol, worth nearly \$1 billion. These Kansas ethanol plants worked with producers to use 27 percent of all corn, and 30 percent of all grain sorghum grown in our state.

Similarly, biodiesel added 63 cents per bushel to the value of Kansas soybeans. Kansas has one renewable diesel plant, and a state-of-the-art biodiesel plant opened in Wichita last year annually producing 60 million gallons of clean-burning biodiesel from locally grown soybeans.

An identical letter was also signed by U.S. governors Kim Reynolds of Iowa, Tim Walz of Minnesota, Pete Ricketts of Nebraska, and Kristi Noem of South Dakota and offered a powerful rebuke against recent oil-backed efforts to “waive blending requirements under the Renewable Fuel Standard for petroleum refineries.” They note, “Using this global pandemic as an excuse to undercut the RFS is not just illegal; it would also sever the economic lifeline that renewable fuels provide for farmers, workers and rural communities across the Midwest.”

## Harvard study bolsters ethanol’s role in protecting public health, saving lives

The novel coronavirus - COVID-19 - has brought with it many life-impacting questions. What are its origins? What is its pathology? When and where can one test for it? How long will this outbreak remain a threat? Is a vaccine going to be widely available soon?

Another question that researchers at Harvard University’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health have taken on is: What are the ties between COVID-19 and areas that have demonstrated a high degree of air pollution?

The Harvard team’s re-

cent findings underscore the need to power more of our transportation system with non-petroleum-based fuels, like ethanol.

The research team looked specifically at polluted areas beleaguered by fine particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5). Motor vehicle emissions are a primary source of PM2.5, which are tiny particles or droplets in the air that are two- and one-half microns or less in width (there are about 25,000 microns in an inch). The widths of the larger particles in the PM2.5-size range is some thirty times smaller than the width of a human hair. Smaller particles could fit on the head of a pin in the thousands.

COVID-19 is notable for its ability to aggressively attack the human respiratory system, especially the lungs. Unsurprisingly, pre-existing conditions which depress lung function are considered risk factors for infected patients, and are likely to contribute to the between 100,000 and 240,000 pandemic-associated American deaths currently predicted by federal scientists.

The Harvard particulate matter study sought to shed further light on environmental contributions to COVID-19’s impact by exploring the potential connection between recorded deaths attributed to the coronavirus and long-term exposure to air pollution - known to be

correlated with the same pre-existing conditions that increase the risk of death from COVID-19.

Using data collected from approximately 3,000 U.S. counties, which contain 98 percent of the population, the research team found that an increase of only one microgram per cubic meter in PM2.5 is associated with a 15-percent increase in the COVID-19 death rate. Furthermore,

the research shows that a small increase in long-term exposure to PM2.5 leads to a large increase in the COVID-19 death rate, with the magnitude of increase 20 times that observed for PM2.5 and all-cause mortality.

Social distancing, self-quarantine and the closure of businesses, schools and other gathering places brought with them a significant drop in

travel by car, with a corresponding decline in PM2.5 emissions by motor vehicles. However, the Harvard team’s findings heavily underscore the need to more fully address the incomplete combustion of aromatic hydrocarbon molecules in gasoline, which is a major source of PM2.5.

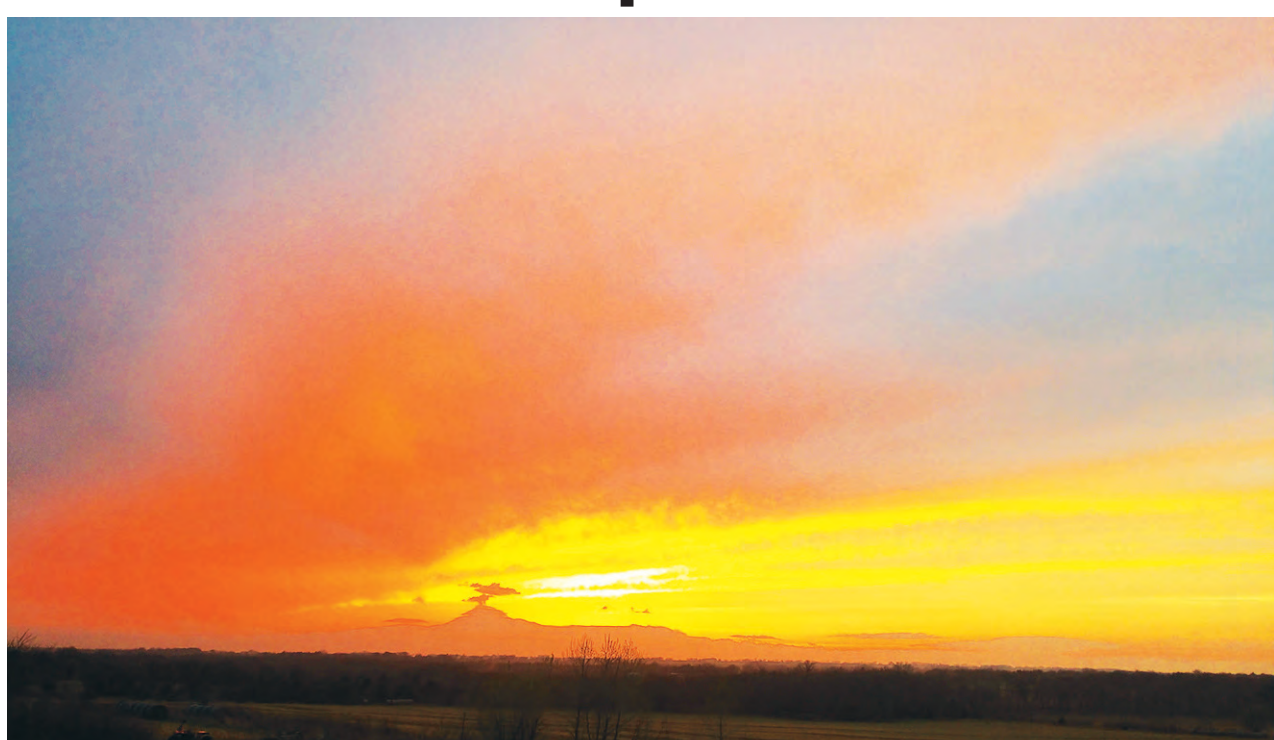
In addition to reducing emissions of particulate matter, running passenger

vehicles on fuel blends whose octane source is a higher percentage of ethanol also cuts down on the use of the dirtier-burning benzene, toluene and xylene to boost the octane in gasoline. It is undeniable that on multiple fronts, burning ethanol results in better overall air quality than when cars burn conventional gasoline.

The findings by the Harvard team...

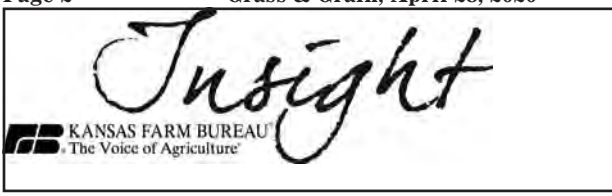
• Cont. on page 3

## Kansas spectacular



Kansas sunsets never disappoint, and while the rest of the world marvels at the lack of air pollution since the stay-at-home orders brought on by COVID-19, those of us in the Sunflower State continue to enjoy the ever-present beauty all around us.

Photo by Ken Sullivan



## The Work Goes On

**By Glenn Brunkow, Pottawatomie County farmer and rancher**  
 "Alone together." I believe that is the mantra for staying at home and trying to flatten the curve of COVID-19. If we stay separated from others, together we can combat this virus.

As a farmer, staying "alone" may be easier than for those who live and work in the city. For the most part, our professional lives have gone on unchanged.

Unchanged unless you have crops or livestock to sell. We all know what has happened to our markets and the fallout is far-reaching and painful. Agriculture is certainly taking its lumps as are

all acutely aware. It is just another blow to all of us who have suffered through hard times even before this.

In times like these, it is easy to feel alone – like nobody is looking out for you. Many days we get up, do our work, hear the bad news on the radio, through the internet or TV and never talk to another person outside of our immediate family. It is easy to think that no one has your back.

Let me just assure you, we are in this together. Maybe not physically, but we are in this together.

Kansas Farm Bureau and American Farm Bu-

reau Federation have been fighting for our farmers and ranchers and their best interests. We have been fighting in different ways than we are used to, but we are out there on the front lines even if they are virtual instead of physical. Life as we know it may have changed, but it has gone on and your Farm Bureau has been advocating for you and your neighbors. We have maintained constant contact with the decision-makers and let them know about our concerns and challenges.

VOTE FBF, KFB's political action committee, has continued its work to find which candidates

best represent the views and beliefs of our members at the county level. They continue to prepare for the upcoming election, and Farm Bureau members can get involved by contacting their county associations. Your voice is needed.

It isn't easy to do, but we have found ways to get our important work done and maintain social distancing. Many hours have been spent in virtual meetings with elected officials and in committee work. Contacts have been maintained, and each day our staff works tirelessly on behalf of each of us. They might not be as vis-

ible, but work continues to get done. Yes, this is an unprecedented series of events we live in, but rest assured that Farm Bureau is continuing to advocate for each and every one of us in all facets of agriculture in unprecedented ways.

I'm sure you're just like me—ready for us to move forward from the time we are in now. And we can do that, together.

"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.

# Time to scout wheat crop for freeze injury, rust diseases

**By Kirstin Vohs, Kansas Wheat Communications intern**

Over the past few weeks farmers have taken major hits, not only financially, but also when it comes to the weather. The week of April 13-17 saw another round of cold temperatures that have potential to cause freeze injury to the 2020 wheat crop. With Kansas reaching devastatingly cold temperatures, it's important for farmers to scout their wheat.

Factors to watch out for include growth stage of the crop, air and soil temperature, duration of cold temperatures and snow cover. Based on simple wheat development models and observations from K-State Research and Extension personnel, the wheat growth stage around Kansas ranges from tillering to Feekes 5 in the northwest part of the state, to flag leaf emergence or boot in

the southeast region. Most of the crop in south central Kansas is at the first or second node, and the crop is less developed as we move to the northwest. For fields that have not jointed yet, the crop generally withstands temperatures of 15-20°F fairly well, especially if the growing point is still below ground. This is the condition for most of northern Kansas.

If the growing point is already above ground (first joint visible), wheat can sustain temperatures down to about 24°F for a few hours. Minimum temperatures below 24°F for extended periods of time increase the risk of crop injury.

While soil temperatures can help buffer freezing air temperatures if the growing point is below ground or near the soil surface, the buffering capacity decreases as the crop develops and the growing

point moves away from the soil surface. Thus, expect a positive effect of the soil temperatures in north central and northwest Kansas where soil temperatures were sustained above 38°F during the entire week, and the crop is still at tillering through Feekes 5 stages of development.

Along with watching your wheat during the changing weather, it is also important to scout wheat for stripe and leaf rust.

According to Dr. Erick De Wolf, plant pathologist at Kansas State University, "It is prime time for growers to be out looking for diseases while they are checking for potential freeze injury as well."

There were a few reports of stripe rust from Oklahoma and a Twitter report of the disease in southeast Kansas bordering Missouri. Several of De Wolf's colleagues made visits to research sites in

some of the stripe rust lesions." When people think of stripe rust, they often visualize the characteristic bright yellowish-orange lesions on adult plants. Symptoms of stripe rust on younger leaves are often less rectangular because the fungal growth within the plant is not limited by the veins of younger leaves.

With the wheat crop in south central and southeast Kansas approaching or already at the flag leaf emergence stages of

growth, farmers are encouraged to be on the lookout for diseases. More in-field observations will be happening over the next few weeks.

More information about freeze injury and how to identify wheat rust diseases is available from K-State Research and Extension's April 17th Agronomy eUpdate at [https://webapp.agron.ksu.edu/agr\\_social/issue/k-state-agronomy-eupdate-issue-795-fri-apr-17-2020](https://webapp.agron.ksu.edu/agr_social/issue/k-state-agronomy-eupdate-issue-795-fri-apr-17-2020).

## NCGA analysis shows \$50 per acre revenue declines for corn due to COVID-19

Analysis released by the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) showed cash corn prices have declined by 16 percent on average, with several regions experiencing declines of more than 20 percent, since March 1 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The analysis projects a \$50-per-acre revenue decline for the 2019 corn crop.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is being felt across all sectors of our econo-

my," said NCGA president Kevin Ross. "This analysis clearly illustrates its impact on corn growers and will be beneficial as we work to ensure they have the resources needed to navigate these very difficult times."

NCGA commissioned the economic analysis, conducted by Dr. Gary Schnitkey of the University of Illinois, as part of the organization's efforts to better understand the economic impact of the glob-

al pandemic on the corn industry and work to create solutions to help corn farmers and their customers recover from the financial impacts of this crisis.

The analysis was based on cash corn prices as of mid-April and estimated losses would likely increase through the rest of the marketing year. Further analysis is already under way for the 2020 crop year, with losses anticipated to be higher than those in 2019.

"Corn will be one of the most impacted crops as its two largest uses – livestock feed and ethanol – are under pressure. Impacts of reduced livestock demand are just beginning to come to bear in the market, as livestock processing plants are beginning to be disrupted," wrote Schnitkey.

An average Price Loss Coverage Program payment of \$17 per base is projected for corn which would fall short of covering 2019 revenue losses, underscoring the need for the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program.

NCGA will continue to work closely with members of Congress and federal agencies on ways to mitigate the pandemic's impact and help farmers recover. You can learn more about these efforts at [ncga.com/covid-19](http://ncga.com/covid-19).



It's almost surreal to watch the news. We are bombarded with information about how things have changed in the last few weeks. Our economy is in shambles and we are restricted in what we do and where we go. There seems to be a dark cloud hanging over our heads. I say surreal because if you are like me, I do not really see a difference. Sure, I get curbside service at the parts store and we are not going out to eat on the weekends but really nothing has changed in my life. I am working to get corn planted, ewes sheared and cows out to grass. Day in and day out, life seems normal until I turn on the TV.

Yes, we have learned a few things during this crisis. Most importantly we have learned that agriculture is essential, and we are starting to learn just how vulnerable our food system and supply is. It does not take much of a hiccup (or a cough in this case) for us to start worrying about supply and for the markets to crash. One thing we do know is that the supply problem is not on our production end. In the last couple of weeks, we have seen producers dumping milk, cattle and pigs backed up because of no place to process them and fresh produce being plowed under. In all those cases the produce was destroyed but the production continued and will continue. That is what we do, we feed the world.

The other thing that has happened is that the amount of pollution has dropped dramatically. Fewer cars, trucks and airplanes have led to a big decline in the amount of pollution in the air and an improvement in air quality. You know what is amusing? As I stated earlier, agriculture is going full-bore and here in the United States we are in the middle of the period when we are burning more fuel getting crops in the field. It's funny how those promoting the "Green New Deal" are suddenly silent about how much agriculture adds to greenhouse gases. Most of the world is shut down except for agriculture and lo and behold, the air quality improves.

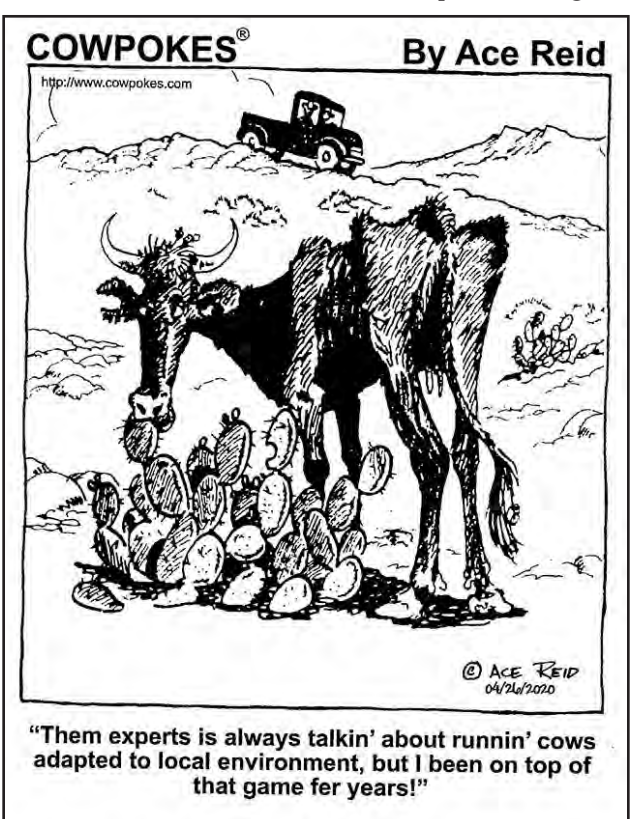
So, let's review, two things we have learned is agriculture is essential and we do not have a great effect on the environment. Now tell me why we are not shouting all of this from every mountaintop and through every form of social media known to man? Why, because the news of this awful pandemic is all that

is reported, and we are too modest and hardworking to blow our own horn. Well folks, that has got to stop. We need to let the entire world know just how important we are while we have their attention; this will be fleeting just like this situation and eventually the public will get back to normal and the store shelves will be full and we will be taken for granted.

There are many heroes; the medical personnel who put their lives on the line, law enforcement keeping us safe, truck drivers who keep supplies coming and those who are working to make sure that the grocery stores and pharmacies are open. Folks, we are some of those heroes who are working away to make sure that even though the economy is at a standstill and times are tough, we will not run out of food (or at least we won't run out because it isn't being grown). Instead of making sure the consumer knows the sacrifices we are making, we just keep our noses to the grindstone and do our jobs.

It is admirable, but being humble is not how this works. Our opponents are not humble, meek, and quiet and neither should we be. I am not saying we need to brag and get in people's faces, but we do need to make sure the world knows how good we are at what we do. We can feed an ever-growing world population during a crisis while we are in financial distress and never miss a beat. We are the best in the world at protecting the land, water, and air around us all the while using fewer inputs and requiring less land. We are pretty darn impressive and good at what we do, and it is time our public understood that. We have a rare and golden opportunity.

Not only can we prove how important and fragile our food supply is, but we can also show how little we impact the environment. The best part is that we have a captive audience who is starved for news, information, and entertainment, especially if it has nothing to do with COVID-19. We need to let everyone know in every manner we can think of; video, pictures, social media, written word and most importantly by telling anyone who will listen. We are essential, we are open for business and we are good stewards of the environment. Tell it loud, tell it proud and don't be shy.



Since 1954

# GRASS & GRAIN

Published by AG PRESS

**785-539-7558**  
**Fax 785-539-2679**  
 Publisher – Tom Carlin  
 Managing Editor — Donna Sullivan  
[gandgeditor@agpress.com](mailto:gandgeditor@agpress.com)

— Advertising Staff —  
 Kurtis Geisler, Shelby Mall  
[kurtis@agpress.com](mailto:kurtis@agpress.com), [shelby@agpress.com](mailto:shelby@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**

# Harvard study bolsters ethanol's role in protecting public health, saving lives

**Cont. from page 1**  
 Harvard team add critical support to the message long conveyed to policy makers by biofuel advocates: that ethanol represents a major step in progress towards farm production that is sustainable for the environment and human health. Ethanol could also offer additional income to a farm sector hammered in recent years by flooding, droughts, and federal

trade disputes that have brought severe damage to previously strong U.S. farm trade partnerships. Instead, market effects and policy uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic is shrouding the farm sector's future in ways not seen in decades.

(In a related development, EPA administrator Andrew Wheeler said recently his agency will not tighten a regulation cov-

ering industrial soot emissions, including power plants, another big source of PM2.5. The regulation came up for review before the coronavirus outbreak, but Wheeler claimed the scientific evidence was insufficient to require more restrictions on industry-generated particulate matter.)

The Harvard team's findings reinforce the critical importance attribut-

ed to ethanol and biofuels: Cleaner sources of transportation fuels save lives. Trump's EPA must stop the efforts to scale back the role of ethanol in today's transportation fuels, and must, at the very least, drop efforts to gratuitously hand out to refiners hardship exemptions to the Renewable Fuel Standard that are costing American corn growers and producers of other

feedstocks valuable and much-needed markets for the renewable fuels that growers generate.

The U.S. farm sector is in a tenuous position, complicated by what could be a free-fall stemming from the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. The econom-

ic protection of the ethanol industry should be of paramount concern to the White House. The Harvard study results underscore the importance of sustaining the contributions that biofuels make to this nation, including protecting health and saving lives.

## ASA among intervenors in complaint against EPA glyphosate registration

The American Soybean Association (ASA) and other interested parties have joined together as intervenors to block a challenge that would toss out the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) plans to reregister glyphosate. The group filed a joint motion to intervene April 20 in Rural Coalition et al. v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency et al. and Natural Resources Defense Council et al. v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support EPA's decision.

Caleb Ragland, chair of ASA's Regulatory Committee and Kentucky soy grower said, "Glyphosate is an important tool in helping farmers produce more food in a sustainable manner. ASA support EPA's interim registration decision, which clear-

ly defends the safety of glyphosate when used according to the label."

Glyphosate is one of the most widely used herbicides worldwide. Growers and others depend on it for effective weed control and to minimize tillage farming practices, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and preserve more land for native habitats. ASA believes in a science and evidence-based regulatory system for crop protection tools and relies on EPA and other federal regulators to use the best available data and sound science to make decisions regarding the safety of available products in the marketplace.

EPA on Jan. 22 published its interim decision for the 15-year registration review of glyphosate, as required by the Fed-

eral Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). It included a variety of determinations about glyphosate, including revision of requirements for drift management, off-target effects, herbicide resistance management practices, and a human health risk assessment in which EPA found glyphosate posed no significant cancer or non-cancer human health risks.

The motion to intervene made by ASA and other groups is in response to a coalition's complaints requesting the EPA decision be vacated. Joining ASA in the motion to intervene in the ninth Circuit Court of Appeals challenge are the National Association of Wheat Growers, National Corn Growers Association, National

Cotton Council of America, American Sugarbeet Growers Association, National Sorghum Producers, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Association of Landscape Professionals, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Agricultural Retailers Association and Monsanto.

## Kansas continues to lead in wind energy

Kansas is once again a national leader in wind-generated renewable energy, according to the American Wind Energy Association's (AWEA) Annual Market Report.

Kansas ranks No. 2 in the nation for wind energy production as a share of total electricity generation, joining Iowa as one of only two states with more than 40 percent of the state's total electricity produced by wind power in 2019.

Governor Laura Kelly noted the increase in wind energy production in the state.

"Wind energy is now the state's largest source of electricity, which translates into savings for electricity customers - residences and businesses - across Kansas," Kelly said.

Key metrics and rankings highlight the success of Kansas' continued investment in wind energy.

Wind energy as a percentage of total energy production: 41.40%, No. 2 in the nation

Installed wind capacity: 6,128 MW, No. 4 in the nation

Number of wind turbines: 3,160, No. 5 in the nation

Direct wind industry jobs in 2019: 5,000-plus

Capital investment in wind projects through 2019: \$11.4 billion

"Not only is Kansas wind energy production good for the environment,

it's also good for business," Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. "The wind energy sector employs thousands of Kansans and contributes billions of dollars in capital investment to our state each year."

AWEA's annual reports provide an in-depth look

at U.S. wind energy each year. Wind is now the largest source of renewable energy in the U.S., reliably supplying more than seven percent of the country's electricity.

For more information on wind energy in Kansas, visit [www.kansascommerce.gov/wind](http://www.kansascommerce.gov/wind).

PRECISION AERIAL APPLICATION: Pasture \ Crop \ Government



**VersaAir** SERVICES, LLC (877) 79-VERSA (316) 882-1540 [VersaAir.com](http://VersaAir.com)

### NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO GET RID OF UNUSED ITEMS ON THE FARM

## GRASS & GRAIN Classifieds are the perfect way to do it!

#### CLASSIFIED LINER ADS:

65¢ per word.

Discounts available for pre-paid ads that run 2+ weeks.

Visit us online, give us a call, stop by, or fill in and mail the ad form on page 16 to submit a classified liner ad.

#### CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADS:

\$10.50 per column inch.

Discounts not available.

Give us a call, stop by, or contact your Grass & Grain sales rep to place a classified display ad!

[www.GrassAndGrain.com](http://www.GrassAndGrain.com)

785-539-7558

1531 Yuma St • Manhattan, KS 66502

#### CLASSIFIED LINER ADS look like this.

First line is in all-caps and bold. No other formatting available. Pay by-the-word. Words counted by a space. Phone numbers or words separated by a dash are 1 word. Words separated by a backslash are counted as 2.

#### CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADS LOOK LIKE THIS!

- Includes a defining border around the ad.
- Pay by the inch.

All formatting is available. Photos/ logos optional. Can be 1 or 2" columns wide. \*Depending on classification

Color is now available for classified display ads! \*Color is \$15 per inch. Ad must be at LEAST 1colX3.5" to run in color in the classified section.

**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](mailto:agpress3@agpress.com) and we will get it set up for you. OR visit [www.GrassAndGrain.com](http://www.GrassAndGrain.com)**

## Never miss an issue of GRASS & GRAIN

Subscribe or renew today!

New Subscription \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Activate Online Edition? \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Online Edition is FREE with purchase of Print Subscription; Email is required.\*\***

#### In-State Print Edition Rates:

1 Year; \$41 + additional sales tax \_\_\_\_\_

2 Years; \$76 + additional sales tax \_\_\_\_\_

3 Years; \$105 + additional sales tax \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* SALES TAX DETERMINED BY COUNTY AND MUST BE INCLUDED TO RECEIVE FULL YEAR. CALL IF UNSURE.\*\***

#### Out-Of-State Print Edition Rates:

1 Year; \$51 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Years; \$95 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Years; \$132 \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Call for info about our 1st Class or Online Only rates\*\***

Check/Cash Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

or

Credit/Debit Card:

Visa, Master Card, Discover, American Express

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

V-Code (3 digits on back of card): \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: P.O. Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505

OR Stop by the office: 1531 Yuma St., Manhattan, KS 66502

1-877-537-3816



**KANSAS AG REPORT**

Ken Rahjes, Host

For TV Show times check your local listings or watch at [kansasagreport.net](http://kansasagreport.net)

# GRASS & GRAIN Our Daily Bread

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

## Carol Ricketts, Clay Center, Wins Weekly Grass & Grain Recipe Contest

Winner Carol Ricketts, Clay Center: "Rhubarb season is almost here so I wanted to share this easy recipe with your readers. I use frozen rhubarb in the winter to make this when I run short."

**BLUEBERRY-RHUBARB JAM**  
 5 cups rhubarb, cut fine  
 1 cup water  
 5 cups sugar  
 1 can blueberry pie filling  
 (2) 3-ounce packages raspberry gelatin  
 Cook rhubarb in water until tender. Add sugar and cook a few minutes longer, stirring constantly. Add pie filling and cook 6 to 8 minutes more. Remove from heat and add gelatin. Stir until completely dissolved. Pour into jars and seal or store in refrigerator or freezer. I put mine in freezer. Makes around 4 1/2 pints of jam.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:  
**PINEAPPLE NUT BREAD**  
 2 cups flour  
 1 teaspoon baking powder  
 1 teaspoon baking soda  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 2 tablespoons shortening  
 1/2 cup sugar  
 1 egg  
 1 teaspoon vanilla  
 8 1/2-ounce can crushed pineapple  
 1/2 cup chopped walnuts  
 1/2 cup raisins  
 Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Cream shortening and sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla and beat well. Add dry ingredients alternately with undrained pineapple; stir to moisten. Stir in walnuts and raisins. Pour into greased 9-by-5-by-3-inch loaf pan. Bake 350 degrees for 1 hour or until bread tests done. Cool in pan on rack 10 minutes. Remove from pan and cool on rack. Makes 1 loaf.

Kathy Balzer, Whitewater:  
**CAKE MIX COOKIES**  
 1 box yellow cake mix  
 1/2 cup canola oil  
 2 eggs  
 1 bag of peanut butter chips  
 Mix together cake mix,

oil and eggs. Add peanut butter chips. Place on cookie sheet with a rounded teaspoon. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. You may substitute flavor of cake mix and flavor of chips.

Darlene Thomas, Delphos:  
**STUFFED GRILLED ZUCCHINI**  
 4 medium zucchini  
 5 teaspoons olive oil, divided  
 2 tablespoons finely chopped red onion  
 1/4 teaspoon minced garlic  
 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs  
 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese  
 1 tablespoon minced fresh mint  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese  
 Cut zucchini in half lengthwise and scoop out pulp leaving 1/4-inch shells. Brush with 2 teaspoons oil and set aside. Chop pulp. In a large skillet, saute pulp and onion in remaining oil. Add garlic and cook 1 minute longer. Add bread crumbs and cook and stir for 2 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from heat. Stir in the mozzarella cheese, mint

and salt. Spoon into zucchini shells. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Grill, covered, over medium heat for 8 to 10 minutes or until zucchini is tender.

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:  
**PORK BURGERS**  
 1/3 cup vinegar  
 1/4 cup brown sugar  
 1 small onion, chopped  
 2 tablespoons soy sauce  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 1 teaspoon garlic salt  
 2 pounds ground pork  
 20-ounce can sliced pineapple, drained  
 10 bacon strips  
 10 hamburger buns, split

Combine the vinegar, brown sugar, onion, soy sauce, salt and garlic salt. Crumble pork over mixture and mix well. Shape into 10 patties. Top each with a pineapple slice; wrap with a bacon strip and secure with toothpicks. Grill over medium-hot heat for 7-10 minutes or until thermometer reads 160 degrees and juices run clear. Remove toothpicks. Serve on buns.

Kellee George, Shawnee:  
**BARBECUE BACON CHICKEN**  
 2/3 cup brown sugar  
 1 teaspoon paprika  
 6 slices bacon  
 3 large boneless skinless chicken breasts, halved lengthwise  
 1 tablespoon oil  
 1/2 cup barbecue sauce  
 Set oven to 375 degrees. In a small bowl stir brown

sugar and paprika together. Wrap 1 bacon slice around each chicken breast half and secure with a toothpick. In a large oven-proof skillet heat oil. Add chicken and cook until bacon begins to crisp, 2-3 minutes per side. Sprinkle with brown sugar mixture. Bake until a thermometer inserted in thickest part registers 165 degrees, 12-15 minutes. Brush chicken with barbecue sauce. Let stand for 5 minutes before serving.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:  
**RHUBARB SQUARES**  
 2 1/2 cups flour  
 1 teaspoon baking soda  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 1 1/2 cups brown sugar  
 1 egg  
 2/3 cup oil  
 1 cup sour milk  
 1 teaspoon vanilla  
 1 1/2 cups finely diced fresh rhubarb  
 1/2 cup chopped walnuts  
 1/2 cup sugar  
 1 tablespoon melted butter  
 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
 Mix flour, baking soda and salt into a bowl. Mix in brown sugar. Combine egg, oil, sour milk and vanilla. Add to dry ingredients, blending well. Stir in rhubarb and walnuts. Spread batter into a greased 9-inch square pan. Combine sugar, butter and cinnamon. Sprinkle over batter. Bake in a 325-degree oven for 55 minutes or until done. Cut into squares.

## Kansas Profile - Now That's Rural: Phyllis Cheney, Phyllis' Flowers & More



By Ron Wilson, Director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University

Let's go to a beach in Florida. A wedding is taking place on this beachfront location, complete with beautiful floral arrangements. And where do you suppose these flowers came from? They came from halfway across the continent in rural Kansas.

Phyllis Cheney is the owner of Phyllis' Flowers & More in Chapman. Hers is the flower shop which supplied this wedding. As of this writing, her shop is closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, but Phyllis plans to reopen after the pandemic is over.

Phyllis grew up at Atwood. She met and married her husband Greg and studied floriculture and horticulture at Kansas State University before going to Scott City where they farmed for many years. They had a daughter named Vickie who especially enjoyed dance as a child. Vickie grew up and moved to eastern Kansas. She met and married Jeremiah Woods, who lived near Chapman. Eventually Vickie's parents - Phyllis and Greg - decided to move to Chapman as well.

One day, Phyllis and daughter Vickie were looking at houses in Chapman when they noticed an open building downtown. Vickie had been working as a dance instructor at Fort Riley but was thinking of opening her own dance studio.

"This is perfect," Vickie told her mother. "It's going to need some remodeling, but we can do it."

Vickie and Jeremiah bought the building and remodeled it. The back side of the building became the site of Vickie's dance studio, called Downtown Dance and Tumbling. Phyllis opened a flower and gift shop in the front side of the building. She called her shop Phyllis' Flowers & More.

Phyllis had previously worked part-time in a flower shop and always had an interest in floral design. Phyllis' Flowers & More is a floral, gift and boutique shop. Her business offers Kansas products such as gift baskets, blown glasswork, Tonja's Toffee, wooden puzzles, handmade soaps and other handcrafted items.

When it comes to floral arrangements, personal service is an emphasis for Phyllis. This is especially evident when it comes to funerals.

"I like to do something that tells the story of the person's life, not just simply flowers," Phyllis said. When her own father died, she helped design a personalized floral arrangement.

"Dad was an avid fisherman, and he always helped out during wheat harvest," she said. "I knew our local florist really well, so she let me do the design." It included a cane pole and a bobber on a spray of wheat, with a sign that said, "Gone Fishin."

"When I do a funeral spray, I try to learn as much about the person as I can before the family comes in," Phyllis said. "If they are former military or have a special hobby, I try to bring in something that depicts that person's life." She has designed a funeral floral display with toy John Deere equipment for a retired farmer and used quilt squares for a former quilter, for example.

Phyllis especially enjoyed doing her granddaughter's wedding flowers. Phyllis also recalled a local girl who was planning a beachfront wedding in Florida and ordered flowers online, but found the flowers were not at all what she expected. She asked Phyllis to put together silk flower arrangements on short notice, and Phyllis was able to get it done.

It's a long way from Chapman to the Florida beach, but Phyllis Cheney's arrangements made the wedding special. That's impressive for a floral shop located in a rural community like Chapman, population 1,393 people. Now, that's rural.

For more information, go to Facebook and search for Phyllis' Flowers & More. It's time to leave the beachfront in Florida where Phyllis's flowers helped decorate this wedding site. We commend Phyllis Cheney and her daughter, Vickie Woods of Downtown Dance and Tumbling, for making a difference by bringing their talents and entrepreneurship to rural America. I hope their businesses will grow and flower.

Audio and text files of Kansas Profiles are available at <http://www.kansasprofile.com>. For more information about the Huck Boyd Institute, interested persons can visit <http://www.huckboydinstitute.org>

## Intervals Boost Fitness

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

You can boost your fitness by adding short bursts of intense activity, or "intervals." Research shows that alternating these intense activity bursts with lighter activity can be better for your overall health than slow, sustained exercise.

The key is starting at a level that is right for you and build from there. If you walk for exercise, start by adding a 30-second interval of brisk walking or jogging several times during your walk.

### GARDENING FOR EXERCISE

Gardening and yard care are physical activities you can enjoy for a lifetime. As with any type of activity, it pays to warm up your body before you do any type of gardening activity. Start by walking for about 5 minutes and do some basic stretching to lubricate your joints.

Once you are warmed up, there are four basic rules to follow to avoid painful gardening and lifting.

Stay in a neutral position whenever possible. Think about bringing the garden up to you, or going down to where your garden is, and try to avoid twisting movements, which cause back stress.

Lift with your legs. These muscles are stronger than your back muscles.

Keep what you are lifting balanced and close to your body. Holding at arm's length adds 7 to 10 times more stress on your back.

Limit twisting. Tighten abdominal muscles as you are lifting. If you need to turn while lifting, pivot your feet instead of twisting your back.

A good cool-down to gardening is just as important as a warm-up. While it may be tempting to just sit down right after hours of activity, slow walking is better. Follow up with more stretches - a little slower and longer this time.

## Need Senior Insurance?

- ★ Medicare Supplement
- ★ Long Term Care
- ★ Final Expense

**800-373-9559**  
**PHILLIPS INSURANCE**  
*Jim- The Answer Man!*

## BARN BUILDERS DT CONSTRUCTION

918-527-0117  
 Free Estimates! All Workers Insured Est. 1977  
**One Year Warranty**

30x50x10 enclosed..... Galvalume \$9,100  
 12' slider, 1 walk door...Colored metal \$10,100  
 40x60x14 enclosed  
 2 12' sliding doors..... Galvalume \$16,100  
 1 walk door.....Colored metal \$17,500  
 Price includes labor and material.  
 40x100x16 enclosed  
 20' split sliding door..... Galvalume \$24,600  
 1 walk door.....Colored metal \$26,600  
 www.DTCBarns.com

# Kansas POWERTRAIN & EQUIPMENT LLC

**785-861-7034**  
 1534 NW TYLER TOPEKA, KANSAS  
 Your Parts & Service  
 Headquarters for 10 years  
 Complete Drivetrain Specialists • Drive Shafts  
 Rear Ends and Heavy Duty Parts

## Prize for APRIL 2020! "Our Daily Bread" Recipe Contest Prize

### Galvanized Metal Birdhouse

The Galvanized Metal Birdhouse with cutout detail is a charming addition to any garden.

- Comes on a length of rope for hanging.
- Made from Metal.
- Measures 4 1/8" Wide x 4 3/8" Deep x 8 5/8" High

The winner each week is selected from the recipes printed. Send us your favorite recipe. It may be a main dish, leftover, salad, side dish, dessert, or what-have-you.

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

## Prize for the month of MAY 2020

### "Our Daily Bread" Recipe Contest Prize

#### NEW Grass & Grain Cookbook

Volume 7 of Clips from "Our Daily Bread" Picking up where we left off, you can now enjoy a compilation of nearly 80 pages of unique & delicious recipes from "Our Daily Bread" circa 2014, including a few home recipes from the G&G staff!

**Send Your Recipes Today!**

## Renew your Grass & Grain subscription Online - it's easy!

Visit [www.GrassAndGrain.com](http://www.GrassAndGrain.com)

Click 'Subscribe To Grass & Grain' and follow the prompts!

Having trouble? Give us a call! 785-539-7558

# Cooking Several Meals At Once Saves Time, Money

MANHATTAN – For every night can be a burdensome task. There are decisions to make regarding what to make, then carving out the time and energy to do the work.

There are other options.

A publication from Kansas State University can help home cooks plan a full month's worth of meals for a fraction of the price and work. Cook Once, Eat for a Month! Is available for free download from the K-State Research and Extension bookstore.

The concept is this: Spend one full day preparing healthy, home-cooked meals in bulk. Then, freeze those meals individually and use them throughout the month to save time when the family's schedule is busier.

"Preparing a month of meals in a single day seems like a daunting task, but it can be done," said Jodi Drake, a family and consumer sciences agent in Pratt County.

Drake outlines a seven-step method to make the process go smoothly:

1. Choose the recipes. Foods that freeze well include those containing meat, poultry, fish, breads, baked goods and many soups, stews and casseroles.

2. Make a list of needed ingredients. Include all necessary storage containers, freezer bags, aluminum foil or other wraps.

3. Create a shopping list. Organize the list by putting like items together. The less time you spend in the store, the less money you'll be likely to spend.

4. Go shopping. Be prepared to spend the bulk of the monthly grocery budget in this one trip.

5. Preparation. Before cooking day, clean out the freezer to make room for entrees. All prepared dishes should fit neatly in the freezer.

6. Cooking day. Plan on a half-day if you're cooking meals for two weeks, or the full day if you're cooking for a whole month. Clean as you go

for a smoother day.

7. Enjoy! Post a calendar on the refrigerator for the family to follow with a list of meals and side dishes.

When cooking, Drake says, keep in mind food safety basics, such as washing your hands, keeping your hair tied back and using a food thermometer to ensure foods have been cooked to the proper temperature. Consider cooking with a friend and sharing ingredients to save money.

Food should cool almost to room temperature before putting it into freezer bags, which could melt if the food is too hot when packaged.

"Perhaps the greatest benefit of this method is how it can encourage the family to eat meals together," Drake said.

K-State Research and Extension has compiled numerous publications and other information to help people take care of themselves and others during the current pandemic. See the complete list of resources online.

Local K-State Research and Extension agents are still on the job during this time of closures and confinement. They, too, are practicing social distancing. Email is the best way to reach them, but call forwarding and voicemail allow for closed local offices to be reached by phone as well (some responses could be delayed). To find out how to reach your local agents, visit the K-State Research and Extension county and district directory.

Links used in this story:

Cook Once, Eat for a Month!, <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf3049.pdf>

K-State Research and Extension resources -- <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/news/stories/about-us/covid-19-extension.html>

Local extension offices in Kansas -- <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/stateandareamaps.html>



## How Are You Doing?

By Lou Ann Thomas

How are you doing?

I hope we're all being asked that a lot these days. I'm so grateful for the friends and neighbors who have checked in on me the last several weeks.

Another question is, how is your quarantining going? "How is it suppose to be going?" you may respond with a noticeable edge in your voice, since that's a question for which no one has an answer. None of us have been through anything like this before. We're all winging it and finding our way as we go.

I usually revel in alone time. But, since we've all been grounded and sent to our rooms, I admit I enjoy being alone most when it's my choice. This imposed solitude is a different experience. But I will continue staying home and when I must go out I will wear my mask and engage in other protective measures. I'll do this for me, but also for you and especially for the health care workers, first responders and all the other heroes on the front lines. The last thing any of them

needs is another person infected and infecting thousands of others.

But, I admit, the quarantine has created some cracks in how I view the world and me in it. For instance, after spending several weeks with only my own company I have started to write notes of apology to everyone with whom I've ever

spent time. I now know I can be a handful!

Tips for navigating this pandemic, which I've learned from others and have helped me move through this time include: Take care of daily hygiene. Sure it felt wild and free to not take a shower for the first several days, but eventually that made my own company even more intolerable. And it is so important to combat the stress by getting outside for a walk or even doing some yoga or other movement practice in doors.

Clean one thing or space a day. Don't expect yourself to clean the entire house, which would likely set you up for failure. Sometimes clearing out the junk drawer is enough for

one day. Tend something growing or living. Simply watering my plants makes me feel more connected to a life with some normalcy. Tune into your senses. Listen for comforting sounds, like birdsong or the purr of your cat. Notice signs of spring; watch a hawk ride a thermal.

Reach out to another human. This can feed you both, since we're all struggling with feeling isolated. Also, make sure you enjoy at least one good laugh every day.

We will get through this by looking after each other and ourselves. And I can't wait to hug all my friends and once again enjoy better company!

**Need a great gift for Mother's Day?**  
Get her the NEW Volume 7 of the Grass & Grain "Our Daily Bread" cookbook!



Published in late 2019 after a 6 year hiatus, the special cook in your life can now enjoy a new compilation of nearly 80 pages of unique & delicious recipes from "Our Daily Bread" circa 2014, including a few home recipes from the G&G staff!

**Stop by and get yours, or call in & place a mail order today!**

\$15/ea., + \$3 shipping to U.S.

Earlier editions also still available!

785-539-7558

1531 Yuma St • Manhattan, KS

Submit a recipe during the month of May for a chance to WIN a copy of Vol. 7!

Submissions must be received by May 20th, 12 p.m. for a chance to win. See the Prize Box on Pg. 4 for more contest information and how to submit your recipes.

**CENTRAL KANSAS AG AVIATION**

Call for all your Spring spraying needs!

STEVE DONOVAN

Cellular: 785-366-0513 • Office: 785-258-3649

**Need an extra copy of GRASS & GRAIN?**

Pick one up at any of our Box locations:

**Dara's Fast Lane:**

- 5321 Tuttle Creek Blvd, **Manhattan, KS**
- 8811 US-24, **Manhattan, KS**
- 1132 Pillsbury Dr., **Manhattan, KS**

**Sharp's:**

- 118 W. Randolph St., **Randolph, KS**

**The Store:**

- 104 E Barton Rd., **Leonardville, KS**

Copies are also available at these businesses:

- Bluestem Farm & Ranch:** - 2611 W. Hwy 50, **Emporia, KS**
- Pioneer Farm & Ranch:** - 427 NE 14th **Abilene, KS**

Or Stop by the Grass & Grain Office:

- 1531 Yuma St., **Manhattan, KS**

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

A Complete Cattle Feeding & Marketing Service

# TIFFANY CATTLE CO., INC.

Family Owned & Operated

Tiffany Cattle Company, with a total capacity of 32,000 head, is equipped to offer economies of scale and industry leading service to customers of any size.

**Production Services**

Objective is simply: Least Cost Per Pound of Gain! Ration formulation and cost analysis, health program designed and maintained by veterinarian, special pens and attention to sick animals, feed financing and cattle purchasing available.

**Marketing Services**

Marketing finished cattle is top priority at Tiffany Cattle Company. You have the option of selling on the cash market, forward contracting or grid pricing through multiple Kansas packers.

★ [www.tiffanycattle.com](http://www.tiffanycattle.com) ★

Follow us on at Tiffany Cattle Company

Tiffany Cattle Company 1333 S. 2500 Road Herington, KS 67449 (785) 258-3721	Tiffany Cattle West 758 Pioneer Road Marquette, KS 67464 (785) 546-2216	Shawn Tiffany - COO (785) 229-2902 shawn@tiffanycattle.com Shane Tiffany - CEO (785) 466-6529 shane@tiffanycattle.com Dennis Roddy - CFO (620) 767-2139 dennis@tiffanycattle.com Tanner Stucky - Asst. Mgr. (620) 214-0979 tanner@tiffanycattle.com
--	--	--

**"Alexa, turn on KFRM"**

**"The Voice of the Plains"**

# KFRM 550 AM

Streaming 24-7

Download the KFRM App and Listen Anytime, Anywhere!



# THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

## The Final Destiny

COVID-19 has certainly heightened our awareness of the potential for deadly disease to run through the population. The very idea of a pandemic seemed far away from American shores until it wasn't. Being a baby-boomer, I and the rest of my generation will recall the polio vaccinations pioneered by Dr. Jonas Salk. I got mine in a sugar cube. March

of Dimes donation cards were everywhere and eventually polio became a very rare malady. My generation can easily say that we have witnessed a revolutionary change in health security. Certainly, we have Alzheimer's, a multitude of cancers, and now we have COVID-19. Even so, several generations of health security in the face of con-

tagion have left us wide open to fear and panic. Our ancestors lived with a sense of the inevitability of sickness and death. Disease in the 19th century was an all-too-familiar part of everyday life. People were dying from cholera, smallpox, diphtheria, typhus, and tuberculosis. Mothers and babies died in childbirth. Death was the imperceptible companion, always just beyond the sparkle of life, waiting to reveal the final destiny. My own family experiences come from stories handed down through the generations. My great grandparents George and Euphemia Gray came to Ellsworth, Kansas, from Ontario, Canada, in September of 1879. Within months three-year-old Harry died of diphtheria on Christmas Day. His nine-year-old brother, John, succumbed to the same disease in the spring of 1880. Life had to go on, but that sparkle was slow to return.

Another son, George Fredrick known to the family as Fred, lived into early manhood and had two sons of his own when he contracted consumption (tuberculosis). As Fred grew worse, he, his wife Mary, and another man, who had lately contracted the same disease, set out in a wagon for Colorado Springs. The dry air of higher elevations was believed to be beneficial. But Fred continued to fail and died before reaching Colorado. Mary never remarried. In 1903, black smallpox struck my hometown of Geneseo, Kansas. A temporary worker was believed to have passed the disease to a section crew working for the Missouri Pacific Railroad at Delavan, Kansas. That worker sickened and died. The nine men working with him, from Marquette, Frederick, Geneseo, and Bushton, carried the disease home to their families causing death in those towns and panic in surrounding communities. All nine men died. At Geneseo, the first death came to a Mr. Isenhauer, one of the crew members. The Maupin family suffered severely. Brothers Bal and Dick died a short time after Mr. Isenhauer. Four others caught the disease. They

were Mrs. Isenhauer, Dr. Stredler, Walter Maupin, younger brother of the Maupin brothers, and Margaret Leathers, Walter's caretaker. Mrs. Isenhauer later died. The others recovered after receiving a vaccination. In the fall of 1918 Spanish Influenza came to Kansas. All the aspects of the social distancing that we have come to know in 2020 were implemented across the state of Kansas. Schools, theaters, and church services were canceled. Public gatherings were banned, and store customers were limited. Even so, six hundred seventy-five thousand people lost their lives in the United States. That was twice the number of American deaths from World War I. My grandfather, Bruce C. Gray, Sr. worked for his brother Frank in the livery business. They had provided a buggy service for travelers who wanted to go out into the country after getting off the train. Salesmen used the service to go from house to house selling their goods to the public. When automobiles came into use the buggy was exchanged for a car. Lince and Juanita Coulter, a popular young Geneseo couple, died one day apart, October 10, and 11, 1918. Others

soon followed. There was no hospital at Geneseo. Folks were accustomed to doctor visits in their homes. The doctors had their own autos, but the circumstances required 'round the clock service. My grandfather drove Dr. George Bush from house to house. Dr. Bush was the official surgeon for the Missouri Pacific Railroad and was loved beyond measure in the Geneseo community. While Dr. Bush was in the home, my grandfather slept. Dr. Bush took short catnaps while being driven to the next home stricken with the disease. In that way they were able to go twenty-four hours a day saving as many lives as they could. With time modern medicine conquered most of the diseases that had historically plagued civilization. Health security from widespread disease was supposedly assured. Little did we know that we could ever see the return of a pandemic. If there is a lesson to be learned, it is that nature will find a way to remind us of our final destiny 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.*

**WERTZBERGER RANCH EQUIPMENT LLC**  
**WRE**  
 28998 BURR OAK ROAD  
 ALMA, KS 66401  
 785-765-3588

**Contact Wertzberger Ranch Equipment**   
 for all your Custom Inline Bale Wrapping Needs 785-765-3588

**TOGETHER, WE'VE GOT THIS**

*GRASS & GRAIN and our advertisers are committed to continue serving our communities through all of life's challenges.*

**Kansas Corn: USDA aid package to help producers endure pandemic losses**

USDA's aid package announced on Friday, April 17 is a good start to provide needed assistance to help farmers and their customers endure the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Kansas Corn Growers Association.

"All of agriculture is hurting, and this relief provides direct assistance to our corn farmers and to our customers, livestock producers and feeders. It not only supports agriculture, it addresses food security for the American consumer," KCGA CEO Greg Krissek said. "We will work with the National Corn Growers Association to keep corn producers informed on program details."

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) will provide \$19 billion in immediate relief for America's farmers and ranchers, maintain the food supply chain and ensure access to food for American consumers. The program provides \$3.9 billion for row crop producers. The livestock industry, the top customer for corn, will receive \$9.6 billion in assistance, helping to ensure that this important market can continue to function. Payment rates have not been released by USDA, but the signup will reportedly occur in May and payments would likely begin in June. USDA payment limitations set in the farm bill will apply. These USDA payments would be independent of Small Business Administration programs, so payments from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) would not impact USDA payments.

Funding to assist ethanol producers was not included in this program. "Ethanol producers are not included in this program. They are suffering a direct hit by market losses caused by the pandemic, and we are feeling that impact in Kansas," Krissek said. "We are hopeful that federal assistance can be earmarked for the ethanol industry, which is a key component of our fuel supply, provides valuable feed to our cattle producers and jobs and boosts our rural and Midwest economies."

KCGA continues to work closely with NCGA's Washington, D.C. staff to address the COVID-19 pandemic and remains committed to creating solutions to help corn farmers and their customers recover from the financial impacts of this crisis. Kansas Corn created a COVID-19 Toolkit on its kscorn.com website to provide resources and information for growers. More information can be found at kscorn.com/covid-19.

**MID-CONTINENT ENERGY EXCHANGE**

**A LIVE ONLINE AUCTION COMING MAY 6TH 12:19PM!**

MCEE will be hosting a LIVE auction Online!  
 Check out our online auction at [MCEEOnline.com](http://MCEEOnline.com)

Through MCEEOnline.com you can:  
 -Create an account  
 -Check out our Catalog  
 -Add Lots to a watchlist  
 -Pre-Bid on Lots

On the day of the auction login to MCEEOnline.com and you will be able to watch a LIVESTREAM of our auction and bid from the safety and comfort of your own home!

**Online Auction May 6th 12:19pm**  
[mceeonline.com](http://mceeonline.com)

**Phillips SEED FARMS**

SERVE. INNOVATE. GROW.  
 785.949.2204  
[PhillipsSeed.com](http://PhillipsSeed.com)

**In good times and in challenging times, Kansas Dairy is here to support our producers**

as they supply the delicious, nutritious dairy products needed and enjoyed by Americans young and old.

Visit us at [www.ksdairy.com](http://www.ksdairy.com)  
 Or phone 785-623-9566

**ALTA VISTA LOCKER**  
 Butchering & Processing Plant  
 - NOW STATE INSPECTED -  
 So call & buy a beef or hog from us!  
 Retail Cuts Available!!!

**BEEF:** \$3.19/lb hanging wght Full or half. 1/4 is 20¢/lb extra  
**HOG:** \$1.79/lb hanging wght Full and half.

Butcher by appointment - reserve your spot now! No Deliveries.  
 If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call!

Store Hours: Mon.-Fri., 7a.m.-4p.m.  
 We take credit cards, checks, & cash!

785.499.6829  
 303 LOWE,  
 ALTA VISTA, KANSAS

**"I put an implement on the free online ad site and got no calls. I put it in Grass & Grain and got eight calls the first couple of days... and sold it."**

~ Russell Reichart, Holton ~

**GRASS & GRAIN CLASSIFIEDS**

*Bringing buyers & sellers together for 65 years*

785-539-7558 • [www.GrassAndGrain.com](http://www.GrassAndGrain.com)

**HAYDEN H OUTDOORS**  
 FARM, RANCH & RECREATIONAL REAL ESTATE

**—SELL WITH—  
 ONLINE AUCTIONS!**

Hayden Outdoors offers online auctions for farmers and landowners to sell their land through our digital online auction platform!

**SETH STONE**  
 Salesperson Licensed in KS & NE  
 CELL: (785) 341-1630  
 EMAIL: [Sstone@HaydenOutdoors.com](mailto:Sstone@HaydenOutdoors.com)

866.741.8323 | [WWW.HAYDENOUTDOORS.COM](http://WWW.HAYDENOUTDOORS.COM)



Many of you have been out mushroom hunting, selfish little mortals that you are, have not shared your stash of morels with me. I am not sure we have them this far west, and if we do, I haven't discovered them. Well, I don't blame you for not sharing. If I found the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, I wouldn't share either. Well, maybe I would sprinkle a little gold here and there (hint, hint).

For many of us, the "Stay At Home" order has not changed life very much. Dr. Jake, being essential, still visits ranches to preg-check cows and heifers or test bulls. The sale barns are still going, though the cafes are closed or only serving takeout, and no casual observers are allowed. It is limited to workers, buyers, and sellers. I continue to produce *Around Kansas* from home, which is how I usually produce it, so not much difference there. The Fort Wallace Museum is closed, but some things still go on behind the scenes.

Plans are going forward for the Santa Fe Trail 200. There are a lot of meetings on the cell phone and I am learning Zoom and the other technologies.

At our house, my younger daughter and her small tykes are staying with us rather than at home in Garden City. She is a student at Garden City Community College and is studying online. That is pretty challenging without daycare. So is keeping anything in order or keeping up with the TV remote as little hands search it out in order to turn on Moana or Peppa Pig.

The biggest difference, of course, is travel. And I do miss it.

In the weeks before the shutdown, I was on the road almost constantly - Philadelphia to Santa Fe and all points in between. I was planning to head to Boston to see my daughter, and maybe even hook up with my sister-in-law in New Orleans for a couple of days. Sigh. I am luckier than most because we have space to get outside, and we still go back and forth to the sale barn and have some sort of social life there. Ha, even as I write that the thought of a social life at the sale barn is laughable... but true.

We are making plans for "after the coronavirus abates." The Fort Wallace Rodeo was moved from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. The Western Writers Conference I planned to attend in June will be that same weekend. And so it goes. Events are piled on top of one another this fall, and so it shall be. Our schedules will be topsy-turvy for some time to come. In the meantime, we do the best we can.

Like many of you, I am anxious for daycare to reopen. In the meantime, I will be searching for the TV remote so I can turn on *Around Kansas*.

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

# Check on a farmer, they are not okay!

By John Forshee, district director/community vitality agent, River Valley Extension District

Most people have probably seen the social media meme: "Introverts, check-in on your extrovert friends. They are not okay!" This is a tongue-in-cheek phrase but has become all too real for our farmers. This COVID-19 crisis has been difficult for everyone but the disruption in the agricultural world has had a brutal impact on farm income. In many cases, our farmers are not okay, and we need to make a special point to call and check-in on our farmer neighbors.

We know in normal times, agriculture is a stressful and hazardous occupation. When we add the loss of markets, plummeting commodity prices, and uncertainty of the future, we see increases in domestic abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, depression, and suicide.

As we add mandated social distancing to an occupation that is often solitary in nature, we compound the problems and make the warning signs even more difficult to notice. Therefore, it is more important than ever that we check-in with our farmer friends, ask those probing questions, and let them know we care.

Here are a few warning signs of depression and or chronic stress:

- change in routine
- care of farmstead and livestock declines
- increase in illness
- increase in farm ac-

- cidents
- children exhibiting signs of stress
- sadness or loss of sense of humor
- loss of spirit
- irritability.

Farmers in this situation may exhibit difficulty in making decisions, express feelings of not being able to "fix things," and feel like a failure that cannot do anything right.

Here are a few warning signs of increased risk of suicide:

- expressing things like "life is not worth living" or "I feel there is no way out of this"
- feeling like a burden to the family
- withdrawing from others
- suddenly getting legal affairs in order
- giving away very personal items
- loss of interest in hobbies
- loss of pleasure in normal activities
- fatigue
- thoughts of death or suicide
- writing a note
- acquiring a means such as a weapon

For those in the River Valley District, Pawnee Mental Health is our public mental provider. The Pawnee Mental Health day number is 785-243-8900 and the emergency number is 1-800-609-2002. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-TALK (8255), soon to be 988. The Kansas Ag Mediation Service phone number is 1-800-321-FARM (3276).

Although our doors must be closed to the pub-

lic, the River Valley District Extension staff is just a phone call away and still here to provide education and assistance. Call 785-632-5335 for Clay Center; 785-243-8185 for Concordia; 785-325-2121 for Washington, and 785-527-5084 for Belleville. Make the appropriate selection and it will ring directly to our cell phones. If you do not know who you need to talk to, simply select John Forshee and I will get you to the appropriate agent. The following is an overview of our job responsibilities:

- John Forshee, Director, Community Vitality, and Farm Management
- Monica Thayer, Individual and Family Resource Management
- Deanna Turner, Adult Development and Aging
- Sonia Cooper, Food, Nutrition, Health and Safety
- Brett Melton, Livestock Production and Farm Management
- Kelsey Hatesohl, Horticulture
- Rebecca Zach, Crop Production and Farm Management
- Jordan Schuette, 4-H and Youth Development

# Ag Heritage Park hopes for fall event

As their annual Spring Crank Up! Tractor Show event weekend has come and gone; cancelled due to the corona virus situation, everyone at Ag Heritage Park wants to convey that they have not forgotten their "friends," and loyal supporters, and hope to be able to meet again for a Fall Event in September. Your continued donations are so much appreciated and they especially thank their corporate sponsors.

Following protective measures due to the corona virus outbreak Ag Heritage Park continues to be closed to visitors until the situation is safe to open the gate.

They hope all our "friends" stay well and please follow our Facebook and website [www.AgHeritagePark.com](http://www.AgHeritagePark.com) for any announcements of opening the Park for visitations, as well as announcements concerning a fall event later in September.

## Solar Water Pump

Water 60 head a day from 80' deep  
The Cottonwood 1260GPD Portable solar water pump station provides access to water. This portable, **solar direct power supply** has pump, pipe, wire & carrying stand.



\$3,485 + T&S.

785-499-5311

[dsam51@centurylink.net](mailto:dsam51@centurylink.net)



**Bill Wood**  
Project Developer

BillWood@CromwellSolar.com  
(785) 831-4617  
615 Vermont St.  
Lawrence, KS 66044

CromwellSolar.com

**topline** STEEL BUILDINGS

(316) 500-6264  
[www.toplinebuildings.com](http://www.toplinebuildings.com)  
[sales@toplinebuildings.com](mailto:sales@toplinebuildings.com)

### STEEL BUILDING INVENTORY SALE

I-Beam Construction  
Easy Bolt-Up Design

40x65 • 60x90 • 100x150 • Many Others Available

# Marshall works to keep front-line employees on the job

Kansas is responsible for roughly 11 percent of the nation's beef processing. Nationwide, the beef industry has already experienced a 15-percent decrease in its processing capacity due to the impacts of COVID-19. Knowing the devastating impacts a further decrease in beef processing would have on consumers and livestock owners, U.S. Congressman Roger Marshall last week began reaching out to representatives from each of the three companies operating beef packing plants in Southwest Kansas to offer assistance and discuss precautions the companies were already taking to protect their employees and the communities in which they operate.

Those discussions led to a statewide effort that now includes Kansas Department of Emergency Management, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the CDC and Genesis Family Health, a federally qualified health clinic serving southwest Kansas, along with local clinics and hospitals, to ensure adequate testing and proper isolation measures are taken for those who test positive for the virus.

"We have to prioritize the health of our frontline

employees to ensure that they remain on the job," said Marshall. "To do that we must begin large-scale testing of the employees to prevent the unnecessary spread of this virus to others in the workplace. This will not be a small endeavor so it is imperative that all agencies come together to ensure the safety of the employees, their families and the communities."

Additionally, Marshall was instrumental in securing roughly 5,000 test kits from private manufacturers, and he will continue to ensure communities have the supplies needed to test employees and their family members. Senators Roberts and Moran have also been very influential in helping secure federal supplies for Kansas. FEMA is sending additional PPE supplies to communities in southwest Kansas to help protect employees and healthcare workers.

"I have heard from livestock owners and community leaders that we must keep these facilities operating and keep employees on the job," said Marshall. "That requires us to all step up and develop methods for proper social distancing while on the job and at home while continuing to monitor the health of the employees."

*it's time to come home*

## HARMS PLAINVIEW RANCH

CONSISTENT • RELIABLE • PROGRESSIVE

### SIMPLE CONVENIENT tailored to you

For over 25 years we have perfected the "simple" approach to bull buying. We believe in a low pressure, pleasurable and informative process with our customer needs at the forefront. Join us 6 days a week to select from over 250 bulls. No spur of the moment decisions, no high pressure sales... just a lifetime of experience and the opportunity to visit about YOUR goals.

ANGUS • CHAROLAIS • RED ANGUS

## 2020 Customer Convenience Bull Sale

Request your printed catalog online at [www.HARMSRANCH.com](http://www.HARMSRANCH.com)

Ranch - 620.924.5544 • Mark Cell - 620.382.6388  
Harms Plainview Ranch • Lincolnville, Kansas

**DON'T SHOOT YOUR COMPUTER - OUR WEBSITE IS FIXED!**

THANK YOU for your patience & understanding!

Visit [www.grassandgrain.com](http://www.grassandgrain.com) to subscribe or place an ad online!

# Herbicide evaluations show importance of following label rates and directions

By David G. Hallauer, Meadowlark District Extension agent, crops & soils/horticulture

The University of Tennessee recently published results of a 2019 herbicide evaluation of palmer amaranth population susceptibilities to dicamba. One set of populations was from seed collected years ago and susceptible to dicamba. Other populations were from farms that experienced 2019 weed control issues at levels not seen in the past.

If interested in the full results, drop me a line and I'll send it to you. The short story is this: 1) three-fourths of the populations saw great control from dicamba. It's still a good active ingredient. 2) Even under ideal application conditions, there were populations that saw less than 90 percent control - leaving five to ten

percent of the population to survive. It's concerning, particularly since these were greenhouse evaluations where efficacy rates are generally superior to those seen in the field. 3) When reduced product rates were applied, populations never exposed to dicamba saw good control levels. Populations exposed to dicamba in 2019 saw drastically reduced control. This suggests that palmer amaranth has seen an increase in dicamba tolerance over (a short) time and underscores the need for following label rates.

To some, this work suggests that dicamba isn't working. Maybe in some cases, but a likely larger problem is overuse of a single product or reliance on a single group of herbicides. That type of overuse continues to 'steal' good products from our weed control arsenal.

If you haven't looked at the new products on the market, check them out to see what they have to offer and whether they can add diversity to your current program. KSU Extension Weed Scientist Dr. Sarah Lancaster recently compiled a list of the newer products for a KSU eUpdate article at [https://webapp.agron.ksu.edu/agr\\_social/article/update-on-new-herbicides-for-kansas-crops-in-2020-377-2](https://webapp.agron.ksu.edu/agr_social/article/update-on-new-herbicides-for-kansas-crops-in-2020-377-2). Four of the products have soybean labels that could apply in our area.

Note: while palmer amaranth is not the same as our more common waterhemp, it is not uncommon for related weeds to exhibit similar response issues. Product labels supersede information compiled in the aforementioned article. Always read and follow label directions.

# U.S. soy industry strives to maintain export channels, supply chain of high quality soy even amidst COVID-19 concerns

Despite the expanding cases of COVID-19 in the United States, the U.S. soybean industry continues to operate at near full capacity. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has classified the food and agriculture sectors as essential infrastructure and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues working to ensure access, resources and safety are prioritized. U.S. railroads, barge operations, trucking companies and other necessary infrastructure and logistical support remain functioning at full capacity to support the ongoing efforts by soybean proces-

sors, agricultural export facilities, grain inspectors and U.S. soybean farmers

Many U.S. farmers have already begun planting their 2020 crops of soybeans, corn and other crops with planting expected to accelerate as April should bring warmer weather to the Midwest. It is expected that U.S. soybean farmers will plant close to 85 million acres of soybeans in 2020 assuming weather permits. Last year's crop totaled 76.1 million acres as the cool, wet weather in 2019 prevented planting in many areas of the U.S.

U.S. soybean supplies are currently plentiful.

USDA is forecasting U.S. soybean stocks on August 31, 2020 to be 11.56 million metric tons (MMT), or 425 million bushels. U.S. soybean processors in recent months have been crushing record amounts of soybeans to supply strong domestic demand by the livestock and poultry sectors while continuing to supply solid export demand. While soybean exports to China remain below levels prior to the U.S.-China trade dispute, soybean export demand has remained strong in the 2019-2020 marketing year (September 1, 2019 through August 21, 2020). As of March 19, the U.S.

has exported 31.29 MMT of soybeans in the current marketing year, outpacing 2019 exports by over 2.1 MMT (77 million bushels) at the same time last year. U.S. soybean meal exports in the current marketing year totaled 5.62 MMT of soybean meal, down slightly from the 5.73 MMT a year earlier. U.S. soybean oil exports have increased to 0.553 MMT, up slightly from 0.418 MMT in 2019.

U.S. soybean prices have increased in recent weeks as petroleum prices and demand for ethanol have dropped. The sharply lower prices of petroleum and greatly reduced use of gasoline in the U.S., due to the impacts of COVID-19, have resulted in the closure and slowdown of ethanol

production facilities in the U.S. This has reduced the supply of DDGS for use by the feed industry and, consequently, prices have increased, and animal feeders have reduced their use of DDGS in favor of using more soybean meal in feeds. As petroleum and gasoline prices remain low, it is expected there will continue to be strong domestic and export demand for U.S. soybeans and soybean meal.

As noted above, U.S. soy export infrastructure continues to operate at near full capacity. Importers who are seeking U.S. soybeans, soybean meal and soybean oil can be assured that business remains normal and the U.S. soy industry, including exporters, inspectors, and others are collaborative-

ly working to ensure the timely delivery of customer orders. As some other soy origins around the world are currently encountering disruptions to their export channels due to COVID-19, the U.S. soy industry remains actively engaged to ensure the production of soy products, the protection of the logistics that support exports, and providing safe working environments for employees. The U.S. soy industry is optimistic about its ability to remain active in producing and delivering a reliable supply of high quality products to buyers globally. If you are interested in purchasing U.S. soy products or connecting with a U.S. soy exporter, please visit <https://purchase.ussec.org/>.



**YUTZY**  
785-448-2191

Post Frame Buildings  
Residential Slab Homes  
Metal Roofing

[www.yutzyconstruction.com](http://www.yutzyconstruction.com)

# Fourth of July tomatoes? Make a plan for early May planting

Home gardeners with an eye on being the envy of their neighbors in early July will have an opportunity in a few weeks to get a jump start on planting tomatoes.

Ward Upham, a horticulture specialist at Kansas State University, said that early May is the first chance in some parts of Kansas to get tomato plants in the ground, though it can be a risky venture.

"Tomatoes need a soil temperature of at least 55 degrees to do well," Upham said. "And plants must be protected from frost."

Both challenges can be overcome, he said, but both require some planning.

"Plastic mulch is most commonly used to warm the soil," Upham said.

"Allow for several days after laying plastic mulch for the soil temperature to reach at least 55 degrees. Check the soil temperature 2 1/2 inches deep at about 11 a.m., if possible, or check it before leaving for work and again when you return and use the average of the two."

To protect plants from a late frost, Upham suggested placing hot caps or water tepees, two types of protective cones that fit over the young plants. "Eventually the plants will outgrow the cover and start to develop flowers," he said.

Upham noted that gardeners in the southern part of Kansas can get a head start on tomatoes beginning May 1, while those in the central part can plant on May 10 and those

farther north by May 15.

Doing so, he noted, would likely produce beautiful, fresh tomatoes by early July.

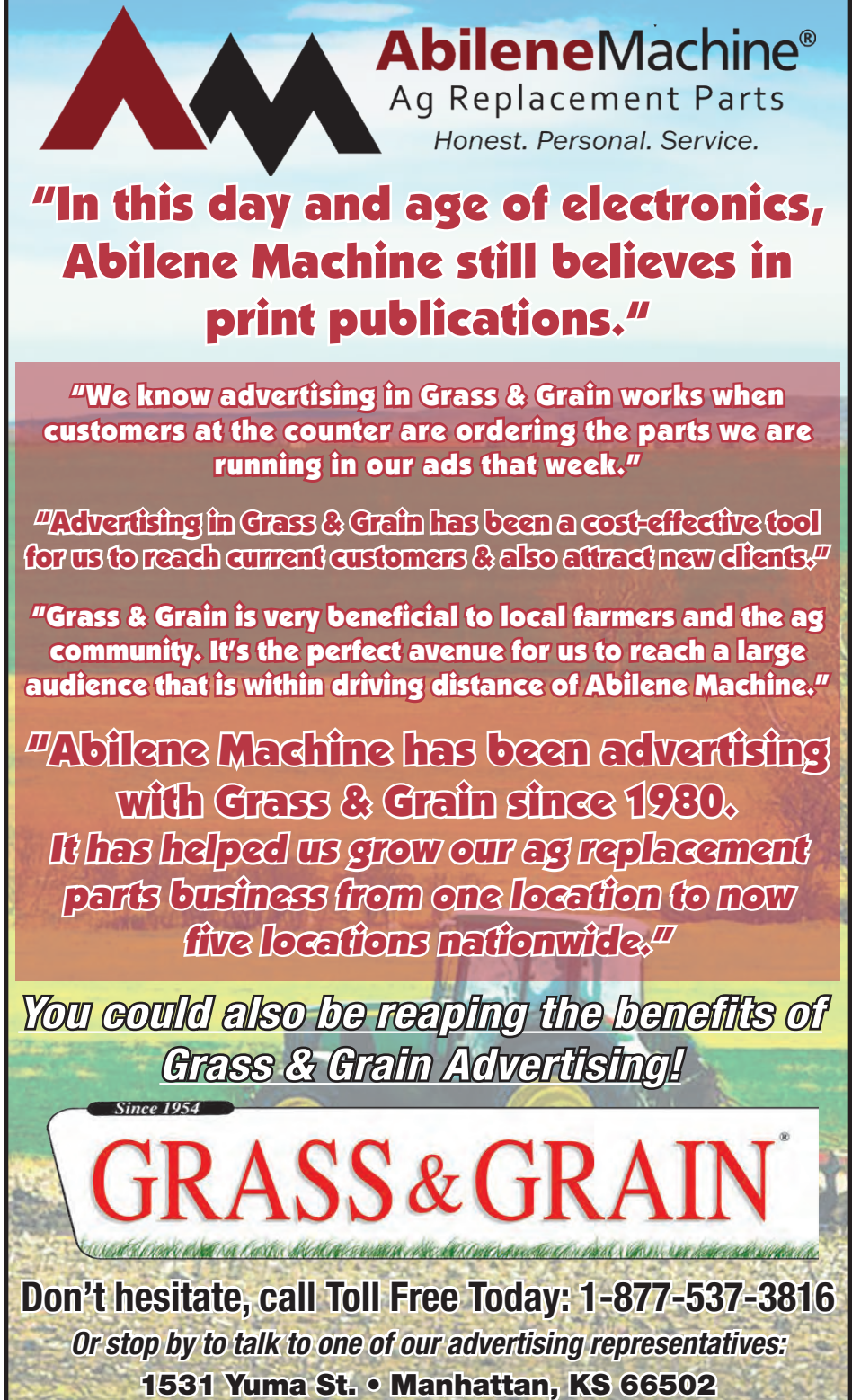
"If gardeners in central Kansas harvest tomatoes by the Fourth of July, they brag, except for cherry tomatoes," Upham said. "Usually about mid-July is the normal time in that part of the state."

Upham and his colleagues in K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources produce a weekly Horticultural Newsletter with tips for keeping yards healthy and beautiful year-round. The newsletter is available to view online; interested persons can also subscribe to have it delivered by email each week.



**HEARTLAND SOIL SERVICES**  
"UNLESS YOU TEST, IT'S JUST A GUESS"

- Insect Detection
- ROI
- Yield Data
- Data Collection
- Soil Sampling
- VRT Fertilizer
- DataFarm
- Tissue Sampling
- VRT Seeding
- Imagery
- Irrigation Mgmt.
- Data Analysis



**Abilene Machine**  
Ag Replacement Parts  
Honest. Personal. Service.

**"In this day and age of electronics, Abilene Machine still believes in print publications."**

**"We know advertising in Grass & Grain works when customers at the counter are ordering the parts we are running in our ads that week."**

**"Advertising in Grass & Grain has been a cost-effective tool for us to reach current customers & also attract new clients!"**

**"Grass & Grain is very beneficial to local farmers and the ag community. It's the perfect avenue for us to reach a large audience that is within driving distance of Abilene Machine."**

**"Abilene Machine has been advertising with Grass & Grain since 1980. It has helped us grow our ag replacement parts business from one location to now five locations nationwide."**

*You could also be reaping the benefits of Grass & Grain Advertising!*

Since 1954

**GRASS & GRAIN**

Don't hesitate, call Toll Free Today: 1-877-537-3816  
Or stop by to talk to one of our advertising representatives:  
1531 Yuma St. • Manhattan, KS 66502

620-298-2780  
[www.HeartlandSoilServices.com](http://www.HeartlandSoilServices.com)



# Consumers making direct connections with farmers, ranchers during pandemic

From Kansas Living magazine, a publication of Kansas Farm Bureau

If there's a silver lining in the COVID-19 pandemic for Kansas farmers and ranchers, it may just be in the new connections they're forging with consumers. Growers with the ability to sell directly to the public believe the virus is forever changing the nature of food buying.

"People are starting to realize their food isn't grown in the back of a store," Lyon County farmer and rancher Jacquelyne Leffler says. "The first thing I hear on the phone is, 'I've never done this before. Can you explain how it works?'"

Leffler has been running a custom beef business, Leffler Prime Performance, near Americus since 2015. Starting about mid-March, orders began taking off as more people stayed home and grocery supply chains struggled to keep shelves stocked.

That's about the same time Scott Thellman who runs Juniper Hill Farms outside of Lawrence noticed a dramatic shift.

"We not only grow local produce, we've also got a line of national organic produce we distribute," Thellman says of his operation. "We just all of a sudden were inundated with orders because national wholesalers couldn't keep up with demand."

### Booming business

Leffler says she typically sells ten to 15 head a year in her custom beef business, with the busy times falling in August, around Christmas and then a small bump in February. In a nearly two-week span, she sold 20 head, mainly through Facebook and word of mouth.

"I've yet to ever pay for marketing," she says.

The calls come from about a 100-mile radius, which includes Manhattan, Topeka and Wichita.

The calls also have hit R Family Farms in Lebanon, where Kaden and Emily

Roush raise pigs marketed to restaurants and directly to customers. While the restaurant business has fallen off, the Roushes' e-commerce business, which wasn't really a focus before, has nearly tripled.

"I think we did maybe 35 or 40 orders throughout all of 2019," Kaden says. "We're well above 100 orders in just the last three weeks."

Thellman partnered with a friend who runs a meat distribution company to build out an e-commerce website in about 24 hours.

"We had to do something to serve our community - making sure people had access to good food," Thellman says. "It's pretty pathetic-looking, but it's on its way."

The site, [www.sunflowerprovisions.com](http://www.sunflowerprovisions.com), offers local delivery to Lawrence, but people outside the city have discovered it and are traveling from Kansas City, Baldwin and Ottawa to pick up orders.

"Our hope is we can continue this on after this pandemic slows down a little bit," Thellman says. "It might be a good source for all things local and regional."

The growth has been fast and furious, which led Thellman to build out more storage space over the course of a few days.

"We didn't think it would happen as quickly, but we outgrew our warehouse we were starting to fulfill in about the second time we packed boxes," he says. "I spent all weekend building a cold storage unit, so I've got my mechanical contractors out running all the conduit and getting ready for the refrigeration aspects. It's that farmer mentality - get done what needs to get done to get it done."

### On the job

Thellman says he's hired two new employees to help fulfill orders and is working to hire additional help, though there have been a couple of bumps.

Juniper Hill Farms is certified through two U.S. Department of Agriculture programs, Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices. Thellman says both are good certifications to have in the middle of a pandemic because employees are trained on proper hygiene practices. The downside is Kansas State University can no longer provide the training for new workers to become certified because of the pandemic.

Thellman says he's working on becoming a trainer so he can help get new hires up to speed.

Leffler's sales also have had an impact on her local processing plant, which handles the butchering and packing.

"He told me a couple days ago I'm the reason his employees are getting paid right now," she says.

### Eye on the future

Leffler sells cattle by the quarter, half or whole, which equates to 138,277 or 554 pounds of beef to the consumer. The finished product includes hamburger, roasts and steaks all for a little less than \$5 per pound once the cost of the animal, processing and packaging is factored in.

"I've never gotten rich doing this," she says. "It's just something I enjoy. I'm just charging a fraction over market price to justify my cost hauling the animal and my time taking the phone calls."

Kaden says R Family Farms has taken a similar approach.

"We are trying to do everything we can think of to give us the opportunity to retain these customers," he says. "They're buying from us now because of current events. We've not changed our prices any from a year ago. In fact, when this started, we were running a spring sale of 15 percent off orders."

All of the growers see an opportunity well beyond the current sales boom. Thellman believes the pandemic is remaking



Jacquelyne Leffler fills a feed bunk for the waiting cattle.

Courtesy photos

the entire food industry.

"I think with this change in the world, we're going to see more attention to local and more appreciation for sourcing," he says. "I didn't want to start an online store. Then we saw the need and we did it. I think it's going to shift the consumer's mind about food. Especially if they're pulling it from a source they know is a decent quality and decent price."

### Safety measures

Leffler says some of her sales have been to other small businesses looking to source food for their employees.

"They're calling saying, 'Hey, my employees are getting off work and they're going to the grocery store where they can't find food,'" she says.

Thellman has taken similar steps, offering boxes of staples to workers so they can minimize the chances of getting sick. It's also a concern as he ramps up hiring to meet demand.

"You hesitate to bring more people in because you don't know what their social distancing practices have been recently," he says. "We're really trying to minimize any potential issues."

• Cont. on page 10



Scott Thellman visits with a customer.

Building Solutions You Can Trust

"Experience the Difference"




Pre-Engineered Wood Frame Metal Buildings  
Check us out online  
or  
Call us today for a FREE ESTIMATE!  
Your Building. Your Dream. Your Way.

K-Construction Inc.

Alta Vista, KS  
785-499-5296  
[www.k-constructioninc.com](http://www.k-constructioninc.com)



# POWERHOUSE PLANTER

» THE PLANTER YOU ALREADY HAVE BUT BETTER



Overcome compaction.  
Maintain seed depth and spacing.  
Identify planter errors.

Population: 31300 seeds/acre  
Seed Spacing: 6.5 in

Ag Leader® » [WWW.AGLEADER.COM](http://WWW.AGLEADER.COM)



Hergott Precision Ag  
785-614-2339

## Kansas Wheat Alliance announces new logo and website

Recently, Kansas Wheat Alliance announced an overall new look to their current brand, as well as the launch of a new website to better accommodate growers and associates when considering KWA seed varieties and dealers.

The newly designed logo, marketing materials and website are reflective of research and survey work on growers and seed associates across the state, all completed within the last 18 months.

KWA CEO and president Daryl Strouts said, "Farmers' expectations of their wheat crop have grown with the times and market. It's our job to ensure we maintain a high level of integrity and excellence in the product we offer. Through a research and review process, KWA has re-aligned its brand to be uniquely

positioned to meet the expectations of Kansas wheat producers. Because KWA is exclusively marketing those varieties developed by K-State, it's important that our values, our brand, are aligned closely."

The new website features an updated look and feel to complement the new branding efforts, as well as a variety filter so users can view by location and seed classes to find the best results for their region. A dealer filter was also created to assist growers in finding dealers in their region to purchase the seeds of their choice.

"Our new logo and website emphasize our tie with wheat farmers, seed producers and the university, to work together for mutual benefit. We are excited about these partnerships and the upcoming season," said Strouts.

## USDA unveils tool to help rural communities address the COVID-19 pandemic

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue on April 13 unveiled a one-stop-shop of federal programs that can be used by rural communities, organizations and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide is a first-of-its-kind resource for rural leaders looking for federal funding and partnership opportunities to help address this pandemic.

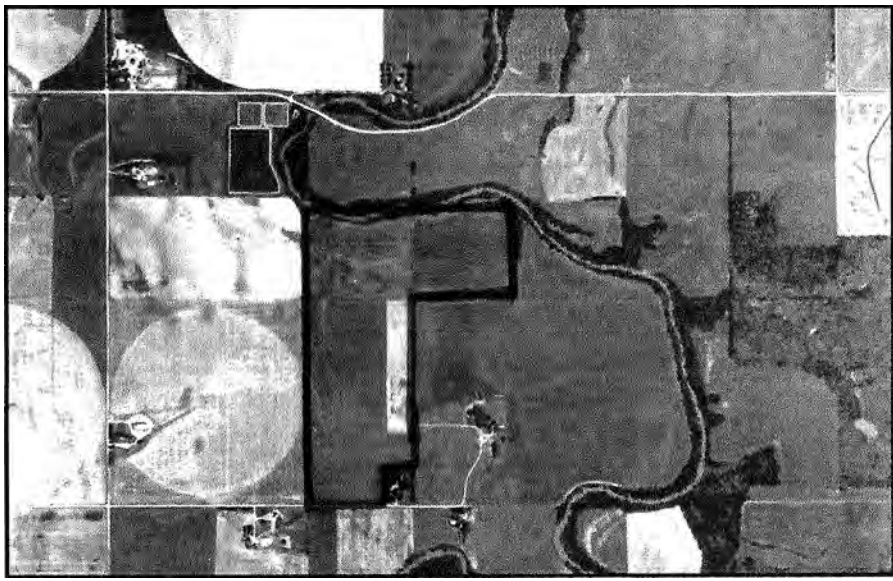
"Under the leadership of President Trump, USDA is committed to being a strong partner to rural communities preparing for and impacted by COVID-19," Perdue said. "This resource guide will help our rural leaders, whether they are in agriculture, education, health care or any other leadership capacity, understand what federal assistance is available for their communities during this unprecedented time."

USDA has taken many immediate actions to assist farmers, ranchers, producers, rural communities and rural-based businesses and organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on these actions, visit [www.usda.gov/coronavirus](http://www.usda.gov/coronavirus).

**grassandgrain.com**  
place a classified ad    renew a subscription

## Saline County Land FOR SALE

Legal description — S 1/2 of NE 1/4 and W 1/2 of SE 1/4 Less Homesite in S7, T16S, R2W Saline County, Kansas (Southeast of Assaria on Hedberg Road)



**Sellers** – Jerry L. Carroll, II, Collette M. Field and Christina L. Winter

**Sealed Bids are accepted for:**

1. The entire Tract,
2. The S 1/2 of NE 1/4 only and
3. The W 1/2 of SE 1/4 less homesite

This is highly desirable farm ground which includes an irrigation well with water rights.

Bids must be delivered or post marked not later than **June 1, 2020.**

Contact **785-238-3126** or **785-375-5376** to obtain bid packets. Bid packets have full details regarding preparation and submission of bids.

Sellers reserve the right to reject all bids.

**Bids will be opened on June 5, 2020.**

## Steiner appointed to Water Authority

Governor Laura Kelly appointed Dr. Jean Steiner, Manhattan, to the Kansas Water Authority.

The water authority advises the governor, the Legislature and the director of the Kansas Water Office (KWO) on water policy issues — including the approval of the Kansas Water Plan and revisions, federal contracts, administration regulations and legislation proposed by the KWO.

"The water authority relies on members with a strong knowledge of water-related issues in Kansas," Kelly said. "Dr. Steiner's career and significant scientific knowledge of agronomy, soil sciences and water conservation in Kansas as well as her experiences in other states make her an ideal appointee for the Kansas Water Authority."

Steiner is an adjunct professor at Kansas State University. Steiner received a Ph.D. from K-State in agronomy and agroclimatology, and a degree in geology from Cornell College. She is the former director of USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Grazinglands Research Lab in Oklahoma, former center director at USDA ARS in Georgia, former senior science coordinator in the Department of Animal and Rangeland Sciences at New Mexico State University, as well as a member of the American Society of Agronomy, Soil Sciences Society of America, Soil and Water Conservation Society and American Society for the Advancement of Science.

## Coronavirus food assistance program announced

On Friday, April 17 U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). This new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program will take several actions to assist farmers, ranchers, and consumers in response to the COVID-19 national emergency. President Trump directed USDA to craft this \$19 billion immediate relief program to provide critical support to our farmers and ranchers, maintain the integrity of our food supply chain, and ensure every American continues to receive and have access to the food they need.

"During this time of national crisis, President Trump and USDA are standing with our farmers, ranchers, and all citizens to make sure they are taken care of," Perdue said. "The American food supply chain had

to adapt, and it remains safe, secure, and strong, and we all know that starts with America's farmers and ranchers. This program will not only provide immediate relief for our farmers and ranchers, but it will also allow for the purchase and distribution of our agricultural abundance to help our fellow Americans in need."

CFAP will use the funding and authorities provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), and other USDA existing authorities. The program includes two major elements to achieve these goals.

**Direct Support to Farmers and Ranchers:** The program will provide \$16 billion in direct support based on actual losses for agricultural producers where prices and market supply chains have been impacted and will assist

## Consumers making direct connections with farmers, ranchers during pandemic

• Cont. from page 9

### Consumer connection

While production agriculture will continue to provide safe sustenance for the majority of shoppers, these niche producers are seeing the benefits of connecting directly with consumers.

Kaden says farmers are doing what they've always done – provide healthy, nutritious food for people to feed their families.

"We like being that anchor for customers to go to with questions," he says. "A lot of our business is focused on building that relationship with our customers, allowing them to get to know us."

Thellman, who's now sourcing produce from around the country to sell alongside his locally grown salad mixes, is waiting for the first Kansas-grown tomato of the season.

"The moment there's a local tomato to put on the website, we're sure as heck going to be having those (for sale)," he says.

There's only one item Thellman has had to deny customers who've asked about recently.

"There's six weeks a year you're allowed to eat sweet corn," he says. "That starts about the first of July."

producers with additional adjustment and marketing costs resulting from lost demand and short-term oversupply for the 2020 marketing year caused by COVID-19.

USDA Purchase and Distribution: USDA will partner with regional and local distributors, whose workforce has been significantly impacted by the closure of many restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities, to purchase \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy, and meat. We will begin with the procurement of an estimated \$100 million per month in fresh fruits and vegetables, \$100 million per month in a variety of dairy products, and \$100 million per month in meat products. The distributors and wholesalers will then provide a pre-approved box of fresh produce, dairy, and meat products to food banks, community and faith based organizations, and other non-profits serv-

ing Americans in need. On top of these targeted programs USDA will utilize other available funding sources to purchase and distribute food to those in need.

USDA has up to an additional \$873.3 million available in Section 32 funding to purchase a variety of agricultural products for distribution to food banks. The use of these funds will be determined by industry requests, USDA agricultural market analysis, and food bank needs.

The FFCRA and CARES Act provided an at least \$850 million for food bank administrative costs and USDA food purchases, of which a minimum of \$600 million will be designated for food purchases. The use of these funds will be determined by food bank need and product availability.

Further details regarding eligibility, rates, and other implementation will be released at a later date.

## McLane Global delivering one million meals to rural children missing school meals

McLane Global, a leading food and logistics company, is calling on rural school districts to sign up for home delivery of free meals through the Emergency Meals-To-You Partnership. Eligible participants can get more information and enroll at [www.MealsToYou.org](http://www.MealsToYou.org).

The feeding program is a public-private partnership between USDA, Baylor Collaborative on Hunger, McLane Global, PepsiCo and others that is designed for emergency home delivery of shelf-stable, nutritious meals to students in rural areas while limiting exposure to COVID-19. Distribution and delivery have already begun, and partners are ramping up quickly to reach the goal of providing more than 1,000,000 meals per week across rural America.

"Companies big and small have a role to play in helping our nation through this difficult period, and we're honored to work with our partners to help meet this challenge for kids across America who would otherwise go hungry," said Denton McLane, chairman of McLane Global.

Meal kits will include a week's worth of nutritious shelf-stable foods such as milk, cereal bowls, snacks, entrees, fruit cups and juices for one student. Many school districts are moving to a "grab-and-go" model, where students pick up their meals at local school sites, to encourage social distancing. However, for students in rural America, accessing these meals is a challenge.

McLane Global has shifted to a 24-hour/seven days per week production schedule across their Texas, California and Utah locations to meet this challenge, but one of the most important factors for the success of the program is ensuring that school districts enroll as soon as possible to ensure kids don't go hungry during this difficult time.

**FARM HARD AG. PRODUCTS**  
**BY HOFFMAN BROTHERS WELDING LLC**  
**405 CENTRAL STREET HOYT, KS/785-986-6310**



### CONTINUOUS PANELS

All are 1 1/4" 14 gauge 20' Long  
4 Bar \$65 • 5 Bar \$75 • 6 Bar \$85 • 7 Bar \$100



### HAY SAVING BALE FEEDERS

Single Feeder \$595  
Double Feeder \$995  
Single Insert \$395  
Double Insert \$695  
Ask about Horse & Big Square Feeders



### 24" PIPE BUNKS

24" wide X 20' long  
Closed End Reg. \$595  
Special \$450  
Open End Reg. \$475  
Special \$400  
While Supplies Last!

Prices may be subject to change with material cost & adjustments. [www.hoffmanbrotherswelding.com](http://www.hoffmanbrotherswelding.com)

### DISTRIBUTORS

Wohlgemuth Equip., Atchison, KS 913-370-1245 • B & D Ag Solutions, Savannah, MO 816-344-9381  
Hoffman Farms, Friend, NE 402-947-3901 • Dailey Ag LLC, Oskaloosa, KS 785-863-2011



