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Gov. Kelly, K-State President Myers confer degree upon Kansas farmer who sent N-95 mask to New York

Governor Laura Kelly joined Kansas State University president Richard Myers last week to confer a bachelor's degree upon Dennis Ruhnke of Troy.

Ruhnke recently garnered national attention when he sent a letter to New York governor Andrew Cuomo, in which he enclosed an N-95 mask to give to a nurse or doctor in New York.

Ruhnke wrote to Governor Cuomo: "I am a retired farmer hunkered down in northeast Kansas with my wife who has but one lung and occasional problems with her remaining lung. She also has diabetes. We are in our 70s now and frankly, I am afraid for her.

"Enclosed find a solitary N-95 mask left over from my farming days. It has never been used.



Dennis Ruhnke of Troy was thrust into the national spotlight recently when he sent an N-95 mask to New York, instructing Gov. Andrew Cuomo to give it to a nurse or doctor. Last week Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly and Kansas State University president Richard Myers presented Ruhnke with the bachelor's degree he was two credits away from earning when his father passed away in 1971 and he left school to take care of his mother and the family farm.

If you could, would you please give this mask to a nurse or doctor in your city. I have kept four masks for my immediate family. Please keep on doing what you do so well, which is to lead."

"Dennis' donation, at the height of our country's protective gear shortage, showed us the best in humanity when we needed it the most," Kelly said. "I would like to thank Dennis for the example he's set on how to serve – and how to be thoughtful and generous in an extraordinary way."

In 1971, Ruhnke was studying agriculture at Kansas State University when his father passed away. At that time, he was two credits away from earning his degree, but chose to leave school to

and the family farm.

"After speaking with President Myers, we both agreed that Dennis perfectly encapsulates K-State's democratic mandate to be of service to people," Governor Kelly said. "Which is why I am very honored that I was able to help present Dennis with his well-deserved bachelor's degree in agriculture"

"Along with his fantastic demonstration of kindness and generosity, Mr. Ruhnke's academic work at K-State in his chosen field of agriculture qualifies him to receive his degree," Myers said. "Kansas State University is proud to officially recognize Mr. Ruhnke as an alumnus and valued member of the Wildcat family."

A K-State first: Plant pathologist Barbara Valent named to National Academy of Sciences

Kansas State University plant pathologist Barbara Valent has earned membership in the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, becoming the first scientist at K-State to earn the honor for original research conducted while at the university.

The National Acade-

my of Sciences, or NAS, is considered the country's leading authority on matters related to science and technology. As a member, Valent, a university distinguished professor, joins a group of scholars that is often sought out to provide independent, objective advice to national leaders on problems where scientific insights are critical.

"Professor Valent has

made, and continues to make, significant and leading contributions to understanding virulent plant diseases that impact global food production and access," said Peter K. Dorhout, K-State vice president for research. "Her research enables the world to provide greater levels of food surety and food security to its people, and it's wonderful that NAS has recognized her scientific leadership."

The academy was established by an act of Congress and signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. Today, the academy has 2,405 members in the U.S. and 501 more internationally. Academy members are nominated and then elected in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

"Being elected to the NAS is the ultimate recognition of scientific excellence, expertise and achievement in the U.S.,"



Barbara Valent, distinguished professor of plant pathology at Kansas State University, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

Valent said. "Even as a graduate student, you realize that being a member of the NAS is one of the highest honors a scientist can receive. It's something that always stands out there as a goal."

Valent has worked on understanding blast disease, caused by a fungus known to scientists as Magnaporthe oryzae, for more than 40 years. In the last decade, her work has focused on wheat blast, a dangerous new disease in which the fungus is capable of taking out entire wheat fields. Valent has led a research team that is driving the world's most comprehensive studies on wheat blast to keep it out

of the U.S.

"When I came to
K-State in 2001, I began
new research on how the
blast fungus hijacks and
feeds on live plant cells to
grow and cause disease,"

Valent said. "We have learned how the fungus floods surrounding cells with small proteins, or effectors, that turn off the plant's defenses and how the fungus moves from cell to cell. Understanding details of the infection process is aimed at developing novel strategies for controlling disease on rice, wheat and other cereal crops."

According to the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico, wheat is grown on nearly 531 million acres worldwide, or an area equivalent to that of Greenland. Nearly \$50 billion is traded globally each year, and wheatbased food is eaten by an estimated 2.5 billion people in 89 countries. It surpasses maize and rice as a source of protein in low- and middle-income nations and is second only

to rice as a source of calories in the human diet.

Since its emergence in Brazil in 1985, wheat blast has spread to other parts of South America. In 2016 scientists found the disease across the ocean in Bangladesh, surprising farmers and researchers and causing additional concern about its ability to spread rapidly throughout the world. Farmers in Bangledesh burned entire fields to try to stem the spread of wheat blast but the disease still established there. Many of these farmers have now stopped growing wheat.

While Valent has been in the center of international work, her team has also helped to keep the fungus from infecting U.S. wheat fields. Working in K-State's Biosecurity Research Institute, a biosafety level-3 and biosafety level-3 agriculture facility, the researchers were the first to discover a resistance gene called 2NS for wheat blast disease.

More recently, Valent — with colleagues Sanzhen Liu and David Cook — completed work showing how microbial pathogens like wheat blast are constantly evolving to overcome control measures developed by scientists.

"We are working to better understand pathogen genomics and evolution because this fungus is notorious for being able to overcome resistance," Valent said. "We need

more resistance genes and that's what we're focused on now. It's a safety backup; some of the blast fungi in South America are already able to overcome the 2NS gene."

Megan Kennelly, professor and interim department head of the plant pathology department, said Valent's election to the National Academy of Sciences is a well-deserved honor.

"Her research is truly transformative, both in terms of basic understanding of plants and microbes but also with the potential to save wheat and rice yields worldwide," Kennelly said.

Kennelly noted that Valent and her group pioneered sophisticated microscopic techniques that allow them to watch and record how disease develops cell by cell and hour by hour in amazing detail.

"Her work has truly opened our eyes to the intricate interplay of plants and fungi in a completely new way," Kennelly said.

Valent was awarded K-State's highest academic ranking of university distinguished professor in 2002. She earned a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Colorado in 1978 and was a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow at Cornell University from 1980 to

In addition to her active research program, Valent has taught three K-State graduate classes and advises doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows in her lab.

"Being a member of the NAS is not just an honor but also an opportunity to impact scientific issues important for the well-being of the nation and the world," Valent said. "My expertise in fungal pathogens of important grain crops allows me to contribute to national and global food security issues including and beyond wheat blast."

She added: "As illustrated so clearly with the coronavirus pandemic, it is critical to prepare for potential pandemic threats to our food supply. It is a national security issue. Also, I have a passion for mycology, the study of fungi of all kinds. Fungi cause the most serious plant diseases, but there are also good ones with food, industrial and plant health-promoting uses. Mycologists are underrepresented among NAS members. My experience will allow me to contribute to all kinds of

One K-State faculty member, Jim Riviere, a university distinguished professor emeritus of anatomy and physiology, was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (now called the National Academy of Medicine) in 2003 while he was a faculty member at North Carolina State University. He joined K-State in 2012 and retired in 2017.

problems involving fungi."

Perdue comments on Economic Injury Disaster Loans availability to U.S. agricultural businesses impacted by COVID-19 pandemic

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue applauded the announcement that agricultural producers, for the first time, are now eligible for the Small Business Administration (SBA)'s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Advance programs.

"America's farmers, ranchers, and producers need the same help that other American businesses need during this unprecedented time," said Perdue. "This significant new authority signed by President Trump will make a tremendous difference for America's agricultural community."

SBA's EIDL portal has been closed since April 15. However, the agency was able to reopen the portal, in a limited capacity, as a result of funding authorized by Congress through the Paycheck Protection Program and Healthcare Enhancement Act. The legislation, which was signed into law recently by the President, provided additional critical funding for farmers and ranchers affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

In order to help facilitate this important change to EIDL Loan and EIDL Advance assistance eligibility, SBA is re-opening the Loan and Advance application portal to agricultural enterprises only. For agricultural producers that submitted an EIDL loan application through the streamlined application portal prior to the legislative change, SBA will move forward and process these applications without the need for re-applying. All other EIDL loan applications that were submitted prior to April 15 will be processed on a first-in, first-out basis.

For more information, please visit: www.sba.gov/Disaster.

Harvest help, anyone?



There are no slackers on the farm, including this kitten who is ready to pitch in and help with harvest.

Photo by Tyson Strauss



Modified Calendar Events

By Kim Baldwin. McPherson County farmer and rancher

I've received a number of calls lately to reschedule appointments because of COVID-19. Aside from the monthly hair appointments, my kids and I will not be visiting our dentist or eye doctor at our originally scheduled times this spring.

In the past, I have generally made these appointments around the end of school when the kids have a more flexible schedule. As I was on one particular call looking at calendar options for later this summer, I began to notice all of the events and functions that didn't happen.

After penciling in a new appointment, I continued to look at all of the things I had not deleted on my calendar. Things like the pre-K Mom's Day Tea Party, a music program, our elementary school's field day and our county's All Schools Day parade.

These were all days I had planned to take off to spend some special time with my kiddos. This realization brought some tears to my eyes as I realized my kids and I wouldn't be able to experience some established traditions this year.

As I was wiping my eyes, my son and daughter came tromping into the farm office with Rosie our farm dog not far behind. The of-

fice has not only served as my remote workspace for nearly two months but has also as the kids' remote schoolhouse. Evidence of learning and life is scattered throughout the room.

My two young children, covered in a thick layer of dust, were looking for a snack break. They made a beeline to my desk drawer where I keep some goodies in the event of an all-toooften emergency snack.

I handed them each a packet of peanut butter crackers and asked what they were up to. They began naming off all of the shenanigans they and Rosie were doing that afternoon. Riding their bikes around the farmyard, gathering materials for a tree fort, setting up the water slide and gathering sticks for the fire pit. They had a busy afternoon planned. After gobbling down their snacks, they took off for another round of fun outside.

"be careful" and "shut the office door," it was then that I realized I have been witness to all of the scheduled traditional spring events I was so sad to miss – only in a modified form. I have been able to

As I hollered at them to

eat lunch with both kiddos nearly every day. And while I haven't donned any special hats, we do eat finger foods on occasion and have even enjoyed some cream puffs I had origi-

nally purchased for the actual Mom's Day Tea Party school event. While it might not be as fancy, and we generally have an unrefined hairy, stinky farm dog plotting to steal our food, we are still able to enjoy lovely conversations while also sipping on peach tea or lemonade. Modified Tea Party — check.

My daughter Isannah wakes up every morning singing a song and proceeds to go about her day singing while making multiple wardrobe changes and adding to the laundry pile. Modified school music program — check. My son Banks has been

throwing balls, lifting bags of seed, climbing everything and racing Rosie all around the farm. Modified school field day — check. Both kids ride their bikes all over the farm.

Banks generally puts cards

in his spokes to make noise

when his wheels turn while

Isannah generally fills the basket on her handlebars with flowers and grass that she throws to her crowd consisting of Rosie the dog and Sunflower the cow. Modified All School's Day Parade — check. While the traditional events that held space on the calendar might not be happening this year, I've realized sometimes you

have to open your eyes a little more to recognize the essence of those special events are still present. "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 advo-

cacy, education and service.

Ag Barometer index drops below 100 as coronavirus disrupts agriculture Coronavirus concerns, commodity price declines

and supply-chain disruptions sink producer sentiment to a three-vear low. according to the April Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer. The barometer recorded a reading of 96, marking the first time the barometer has fallen below 100 since October 2016 and registering 72 points below its record high just two months prior. The Ag Economy Barometer is based on responses from 400 U.S. agricultural producers and this survey was conducted from April 19-24, 2020. Producers' expecta-

tions for current and future agricultural economic conditions also declined sharply. The Index of Current Conditions suffered its largest one-month drop, down 39 points in April to a reading of 72, and the Index of Future Expectations fell 18 points to a reading of 108. April's decline pushed the Current Conditions Index 53 percent below its all-time high set back in February, while the Future Expectations Index fell 39 percent over the same two-month time period.

"Over the past two months, producers have felt the first shock waves being created by the coronavirus," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture. "Disruptions in the supply chain are causing many to look at ways they can mitigate risk in this uncertain environment and sharp declines in commodity prices have added significant financial pressure on many U.S. farming operations." In the April survey,

two-thirds of respondents

indicated they were "very

worried" (39 percent) or "fairly worried" (28 percent) about the impact of coronavirus on their farm's profitability and over half (54 percent) said they anticipate applying for one of the federal government's COVID-19 related financial assistance programs. When asked their number one concern regarding their farm and COVID-19, 42 percent of respondents said they were worried about their farm's access to markets, 37 percent said financial, while just 13 percent said health and safety. However, 35 percent of this month's respondents said they have already implemented changes in their farm's operations in response to COVID-19 con-

Underpinning the rise in pessimism among farmers was a swift decline in principal commodity prices over the last couple of months. Commodity futures prices declined

sharply from early March through late April. Over the course of less than two months, July corn futures declined 15 percent and July soybean futures prices fell by 8 percent while June live cattle and June lean hog futures prices declined 21 percent and 33 percent, respectively. The sharp drop in commodity prices added to an already strained financial situation for many farmers. When asked to compare their farms' expected financial performance in 2020 to 2019, 55 percent of respondents in the April survey said they expect a worse financial performance in 2020 than in 2019.

That pessimism also trickled down to producers' near-term farmland price expectations. When asked to look 12 months ahead, 35 percent of respondents said they expect farmland values to decline, up from only 13 percent expecting a decline on both the January and February of 2020 surveys. However, producers' longer-term farmland price expectations were more optimistic. When asked to look ahead five years, 44 percent of producers expect higher farmland values, up from 41 percent who said they expect higher values

in the March survey. "The divergence between producers 12-month and five-year ahead expectations for farmland values suggests they view the current disruption in agriculture and food markets to be temporary and are looking for markets to rebound down the road," said Mintert.

Read the full Ag Economy Barometer report at https://purdue.ag/agbarometer. The site also offers additional resources - such as past reports, charts and survey methodology - and a form to sign up for monthly barometer email updates and webinars. Each month, the Purdue Center for Commercial Agricultural provides a short video analysis of the barometer results, available at https://purdue.

rometer, Index of Current Conditions and Index of Future Expectations are available on the Bloomberg Terminal under the following ticker symbols: AGECBARO, AGECCURC and AGECF-



DUST ON THE DASHBOARD by Glenn Brunkow This is a disclaimer: what I am about some non-biased information. What we to write about will probably make some people unhappy, maybe even mad at me. Please understand that I don't want anyone mad at me and I would be more than willing to have a discussion about this topic as long as you agree to do your homework and look at both sides of the

issue and all of the information available about it. Arguments should not be made based on emotion or just one side of the issue presented. This is also just my opinion so take it for what it is worth and nothing more. In the end I want to have a healthy debate and remain friends, but in the right time and place and that is what the following is about. We are living in the most unusual,

extraordinary circumstances I have ever seen in my lifetime and I would guess most of the rest of you can say the same thing. These times are unlike any we have ever dealt with and that is not a statement about how we are dealing with them currently. All I am saying is it is a set of circumstances like we have never seen, and I hope we will never see again. I hope life will go back to normal, but I fear it may not. Many unexpected consequences from

this pandemic have surfaced; the one that hits home to most of us is the disruption of the food supply chain for meat. Many grocery store chains are limiting the amount of meat that can be purchased to eliminate people from hoarding the available supply. Many experts have said the gap in the supply chain will get worse and supplies will dwindle in the upcoming weeks. Many of us have never seen bare grocery store shelves and it has unnerved many consumers. That is where I want to have my say.

We have the consumer's attention, and this is not the time to air dirty laundry or make political statements. I have seen plenty of chatter about bringing back COOL and taking shots at the packers and this is not the time to do it. Do not get me wrong, I think both are discussions and debates we need to have, and I welcome the chance for them, but not now. Right now, all we are doing is undermining the sudden understanding of

how important agriculture is and placing seeds of doubt about our product in the consumer's mind. This is not the time or place for that.

Please, if you are one making those

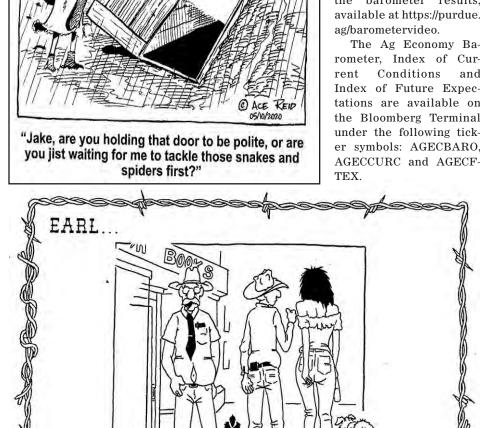
arguments, look at the facts and find

are facing right now is a labor shortage in the packing industry, industry-wide, not just the large packers. If they do not have the labor and if they must space the employees they do have out to socially acceptable distances it will cause a major snag in the production chain. The price gaps are caused by the break in the supply chain due to the pandemic and measures put in place due to it. It is pure and simple economics. It should not be exploited by anyone for political gain. Again. I do think some of these de-

bates should be had after this pandemic crisis is over. The debate I think that we should have right now is how the measures surrounding COVID-19 are being handled. We are scaring away our consumer base and pushing changes that may have unintended consequences that will haunt us for much longer. None of these decisions should be made hastily. I read that Impossible Meats is adding more grocery stores to their list in response to the limited supply of meat. Again, I say we are causing fear and doubt in the very people we rely on consumers.

All of this may have some good. I am seeing an increase in consumers wanting to buy directly from producers and I think that is good if it is done the right way. I have sold directly for several years and I think I provide a higher quality product and it gives me a chance to interact directly with my customer. If you are thinking of entering this market, go for it, I hope it works for you. But buying directly from the producer is not the answer for all of us. The truth, in my opinion, is that we need the current system for the beef, sheep, goat, pork and poultry industries to survive and for us to produce all the protein the consumer demands. If we tear it completely down without carefully thought through solutions, we are all in trouble. Unintended consequences can be di-

sastrous; we should all understand that by now. I am not saying that those of you who have championed those causes are wrong, but what I am saying is that this is a time that all of us in the supply chain should be working together to get through this crisis, then we can look at the system. Again, this is just my two cents and is worth exactly what you paid for it. Just something to think about.



"WHILE I WAS WAITIN' FOR YOU I HAD A DISCUSSION WITH THAT CATTLE BUYER ABOUT THE FUTURE'S MARKET AND HE AGREED WITH ME A HUNDRED PERCENT

... WHICH MEANS I CAN'T TRUST HIM BECAUSE I'M PROBABLY WRONG."

Big Dry Syndicate



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ty is helping families in Kansas by arming them with new research, information, tools and outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic. From health and safety in meatpacking plants to food security and economic and mental health resources, K-State is taking a multifaceted approach to assist Kan-

"As the land-grant university, it is our mission to support the state and its people not only through education but also research, engagement and service," said Peter K. Dorhout, vice president for research. "Agriculture is the largest economic industry in the state, and I am proud of the work our entire university is doing to help all Kansans, but especially those in this vital industry."

Joel DeRouchey, professor of animal sciences and industry, says the current situation has affected all aspects of the livestock industry.

"The reduction in cattle and swine processing within the packing industry has forced many producers to retain animals on their operations that would have been marketed to processors on a normal schedule," DeR-

ouchev said.

The K-State animal sciences and industry department is directly aiding producers by discussing modifications to feed and management practices, working with producers on ration formulations and how to reduce feed costs. The department also ians across the state and advising producers who are holding animals until the market turns around on best practices for keeping those animals healthy.

Randall Phebus, professor of animal sciences with 30 years of experience working with meat processing facilities, says he is talking regularly with contacts in the meat and poultry industries to understand the challenges they are facing and the importance for research on personnel safety, food safety, and food and agricultural security as they try to maintain and meat processing operations.

"It comes down to sharing information between facilities, public health officials, researchers and the people running the facilities," Phebus said. 'And that's where I think K-State can really step up. To be able to help the agriculture production and food processing sectors is like a calling for us researchers."

Glynn Tonsor, professor of agricultural economics, says the Kansas economy is directly and substantially impacted by anything that alters the agricultural economy and this is even more true when the livestock sector and the effects of COVID-19 are considered more narrowly.

"I am doing my best to provide information that aids in decision-making," Tonsor said. "Ultimately, I hope my efforts provide economic context and information that enables tough decisions to be more guided and less influenced

The agricultural economics department is maintaining and updating K-State's AgManager site, which includes valuable resources for the livestock community as well as others in the agricultural sec-

The K-State Family Center, the clinic of the couple and family therapy program in the College of Health and Human Sciences, prepared to serve its clients via telehealth when the university moved to reduced operations.

"The circumstances surrounding Covid-19 are difficult for many people.' said Marcie Lechtenberg, clinic director and clinical assistant professor. "Financial stress, child care and school issues, concerns about health, grief over canceled events and activities, and increasing social isolation are just a few of the things that can place a strain on relationships and individual mental health. The couple and family therapy program recognized that it was of critical importance we offer our therapy services via telehealth and make sure those services are financially feasible for our clients."

Telehealth services have been used to serve clients since March 23 and the clinic has provided more than 430 hours of therapy to individuals, couples and families to date. All graduate students and faculty are now helping clients online.

The clinic operates on a sliding fee scale and clients' fees can be adjustschedule an appointment through the Family Center website, hhs.k-state.edu/ familycenter, or by calling the clinic at 785-532-6984

Other resources in-

- Agriculture Today, a radio program and podcast produced by the College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension, covers timely topics and distributes research as well as new ideas and information.
- Webinars and a You-Tube channel with informational videos help keep Kansans up to date on topics such as farm finance and recommended alternatives to conducting scheduled prescribed burns of Conservation Reserve Program acreage because of the COVID-19 situation. The webinars have been viewed more than 4,000 times and videos on the YouTube channel currently have more than 6,000 views.
- gagement and Community Development is helping ensure Kansans in all communities have continued access to healthy foods

"Many small-town grocery stores have seen an increase in their sales since COVID," said David Procter, director of the center. "People are trying to stay close to home, so when you have a small town that has lost its grocery store this becomes a real problem."

The center is part of the Rural Grocery Initiative and is a resource for all grocery store owners in Kansas. The center provides funding as well

the Kansas Healthy Food Initiative. This assistance is primarily for improving access to healthy food and can include such things as upgrading a store's online sales system.

A new Facebook page for grocery store owners has also been developed by the center. The group allows owners to ask specific questions of not just those at K-State, but also other store owners.



Survey to evaluate Kansas consumers' shopping practices and awareness of From the Land of Kansas program

The Kansas Department of Agriculture's state trademark program From the Land of Kansas has released a public survey asking consumers about their shopping practices and preferences. Recent events have reminded all of us about the importance of local foods. This survey is seeking feedback from Kansas consumers on what they are looking for and how we can help them find local foods. The survey, which takes less than five minutes to complete, will inform the program's efforts to better promote and celebrate agricultural experiences and products grown, raised or produced

in the state of Kansas. Participants who complete the survey will be entered in a gift basket drawing. The gift baskets contain a variety of Kansas grown or made products, valuing over \$100. Three

ONLINE



winners will be selected and notified in early June via the contact information they provide at the end of the survey.

Any Kansas resident is eligible and encouraged to take the survey at surveymonkey.com/r/KS-consum-

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

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

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





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GRASS Our Daily Bread * * * * * By G&G Area Cooks *

Kathy Balzer, Whitewater, Named Grass & Grain Recipe Contest Winner Winner Kathy Balzer, Whitewater: **BLUEBERRY BARS**

3 cups blueberries

3/4 cup granulated sugar 1/3 cup water 2 tablespoons cornstarch 1/4 teaspoon salt 2 cups flour 1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1 tablespoon baking powder

1 cup butter

1 cup brown sugar

2 cups quick-cooking rolled oats

For the filling, in a medium saucepan combine blueberries, sugar, water, cornstarch and salt. Cook at medium heat about 10 minutes or until thickened. Set aside. In a large bowl sift together flour, baking soda and baking powder. Cut in butter with pastry cutter. Stir in brown sugar and rolled oats. Press half of mixture into a greased 9-by-13-inch baking pan. Pour blueberry mixture on top then top with remaining flour mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes until top is slightly browned. Cool before cutting into bars.

Rose Edwards, Stillwa- la. Fold in Cool Whip. Pour ter, Oklahoma: APPLE CREAM CHEESE

PIE 8-oz. package cream cheese 1/2 cup powdered sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla 8-ounce carton Cool Whip 1 graham cracker pie crust 1 3/4 cups apple pie filling Dash ground cinnamon

In a large bowl beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Beat in vanilinto the crust. Top with pie filling then sprinkle with cinnamon. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving.

Darlene Thomas, Delphos: SUNNY CORN BREAD **MUFFINS**

3/4 cup flour 3/4 cup vellow cornmeal 2 tablespoons sugar 1 teaspoon baking powder

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Prize for 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!

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.

 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

2/3 cup buttermilk 3 tablespoons canola oil 1 cup whole kernel corn

In a large bowl combine the flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder and salt. In a small bowl whisk the egg, buttermilk and oil Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in corn. Fill greased muffin cups 3/4 full. Bake at 400 degrees for 18 to 22 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack. Serve warm. Yield: 8 muffins. NOTE: I double the reci-

pe for some leftovers.

Margaret Wetter, Norton: RICE KRISPIES CHICKEN 1 package of skinless chicken breasts

4 cups Rice Krispies cereal,

slightly crushed 1 teaspoon garlic powder

3/4 cup flour 1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon pepper 1/4 teaspoon paprika

1 egg 1/4 cup milk

3 tablespoons oleo, melted

Place Rice Krispies in

a flat pan and add garlic powder and crush. Add flour, salt, pepper and paprika. Mix together. Beat egg and milk in another bowl. Dip chicken in egg mixture and coat in the Krispies. Bake on a pan sprayed with Pam. Drizzle melted oleo over the chicken. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Do not cover or turn during baking.

Kellee George, Shawnee: PARMESAN CRUSTED PORK CHOPS 1/2 cup grated Parmesan

cheese 1/4 cup bread crumbs 1 teaspoon salt 1/2 teaspoon pepper

(4) 8-oz. boneless pork chops 2 tablespoons olive oil Set oven 350 degrees. In a

shallow dish whisk Parmesan cheese, crumbs, salt and pepper. Dredge pork cops in mixture pressing gently to coat. In a large skillet heat oil over medium-high heat. Add pork chops; cook turning once until browned, 3-4 minutes per side. Bake until done, about 8-10 minutes or until thermometer registers 145 degrees.

Shirley Deiser, Ellsworth: **PUMPKIN CRANBERRY BREAD**

3 cups flour

1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice 2 teaspoons baking soda

1 1/2 teaspoons salt 3 cups sugar

4 eggs 1 cup oil 1/2 cup water

1 cup dried cranberries

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 2 loaf pans. Combine flour, pumpkin pie spice, baking soda and salt in a large bowl. Combine sugar, pumpkin, eggs, oil and water. Add pumpkin mixture to flour mixture. Stir until blended. Fold in cranberries. Bake 60 to 65 minutes.

Linda Kepka, Dorrance: CINNAMON ROLL BREAD For bread:

2 cups flour 1 tablespoon baking powder 1/2 teaspoon salt 1/2 cup sugar

1 egg 1 cup milk 2 teaspoons vanilla

1/3 cup sour cream For cinnamon swirl: 1/3 cup sugar

2 teaspoons cinnamon 2 tablespoons melted butter

For glaze: 1/2 cup powdered sugar

3 teaspoons milk In a small bowl mix

together the flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Set aside. In a large bowl whisk the egg, milk, vanilla and sour cream then add the flour mixture just until combined. Pour into glass loaf pan that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Set aside. In a small bowl stir the cinnamon swirl ingredients together and drop by spoonfuls onto top of bread mixture and then using a knife swirl into bread batter a few times. Bake in preheated 350-degree oven for 50 minutes. When done, cool in pan for 15 minutes then remove from the pan and cool completely. Mix the powdered sugar and milk together for the glaze and drizzle on top of bread after it is completely cooled.

Edwards, Kimberly Stillwater, Oklahoma: **BRUSSELS SPROUTS**

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 pound brussels sprouts, trimmed & halved 1/2 cup pecans, halved

3/4 teaspoon salt 1/4 teaspoon ginger 1/4 teaspoon pepper 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar

In a 12-inch skillet heat oil over medium-high heat. Place brussels sprouts in an even layer in pan. Cook without stirring for 3 minutes. Stir in pecans, salt, ginger and pepper; cook stirring occasionally until tender, 3-5 minutes. Stir in vinegar and cook until liquid is evaporated, about 1 minute. Serve.

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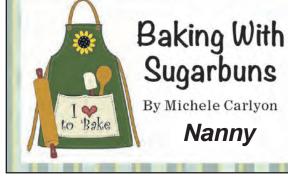
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I would have to assume that May 3, 1927 was a special day. I clearly was not around yet, but that was the day my mom's mom was born; she is fondly known as Nanny to my brothers and I. The youngest of seven and the mother to five, she has lived quite the life and has seen it all. Growing up my mom

would probably tell you I was a bit of a handful; what she might not tell you is that it was probably due to me being entirely too much like her. We both are quick to react, strong-willed and incredibly stubborn. Clearly at times that lead to some stressful moments; so who was the one who alwavs came to save the day? It was always Nanny. Nanny and I spent a lot

of time together when I was a kid. Anytime we went on a trip, she always joined in. She never missed a school event and to this day she does everything in her power to ensure a birthday or a holiday is special. Sleepovers at her house were always the best and anytime I would rescue a random kitten she was always willing to step up and help raise it. Through it all, I have always been her favorite; she will not openly admit it, but we all know it and the smirk is a dead giveaway.

Nanny is an amazing cook; had to be growing up with that many siblings and raising the crazy kids that she had. Her slowcooked beef and noodles are to die for and to this day I still smile remembering her, my mom and my Uncle Bud making fudge every year at Christmas, her peanut butter being my favorite. Oh, and that sweet tooth, how could I not appreciate her sweet tooth. She is always up for some strawberry ice cream or a homemade angel food She is sassy in the best

way possible; the way where you know what she

is thinking but you also have no doubt that she is being genuinely her. She is stubborn; at ninety-three, she is still sharp as a tack and willing to dig her heels in on anything and everything she honestly believes in. Nanny is a fighter and let me tell you, if you wrong her or wrong someone she loves, you are going to hear about it, no questions asked. I call Nanny daily and

Nanny

I love our little chats and how she is always eager to fill me in on all the gossip of the family and of the world; if she's heard something from anyone, I am sure to hear it. Age has taken a lot of her freedom in terms of the usual with vision, hearing and mobility, but it has not slowed down her mind and for that I am so thankful. Tomorrow is not promised for any of us, but a tomorrow with her in it is the best kind of tomorrow I could ever

Nanny has always been my person and the one person that I have never doubted has always had my back. She has always loved me without hesitation and understood me without question and I can guarantee you that I will never be able to find the words to properly thank her for everything she has done for me in this lifetime. She is my comfort zone, my biggest cheerleader, the first person I want to share with, my daily smile and above all else, my favorite

tion City and graduated from Kansas State Universitu. She worked in the restaurant management field for six years before deciding to switch careers and now works as an office manager for a company that manufactures oilfield products. Her passion for blogging and food can be followed on Instagram: boobsbrainsandbak-

Michele grew up in Junc-

Eating Mindfully

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

say "Hara Hachi Bu" before meals to remind them to stop eating when their stomachs are 80% full. This strategy helps them eat mindfully, and it is one of the Power 9® traits of people who live in Blue Zones®.

Studies show that cutting back on calories helps maintain a healthy weight and can lead to better heart health and longevity. Losing just 10% of your body weight can lead to lower blood pressure and cholesterol, which reduces your risk of heart disease.

Think about your eating habits for a mo-

ment. Do you ever eat on the run, in your car, or while watching TV? Do you eat at your or in front of the computer? It is easy to eat while distracted, and this "mindless" style of eating often leads you to eat more than you need. To eat mindfully, pay full attention to what you are eating without being distracted. You will notice your body's hunger and fullness cues, and mindful eating can help you distinguish between physical hunger and emotional hunger.

eating, ask yourself if you are actually hungry or if you are bored or anxious. If you tend to be an emotional eater, try other strategies before eating. Take a walk or get some sort of exercise, drink a glass of water or cup of tea, or write in a journal. People in Blue

When you feel like

Zones® communities eat their smallest meal in the evening and avoid late-night snacking. Using a smaller plate or bowl for this meal can prompt you to eat less, and planning ahead for healthy smaller meals will also help.

opportunity to receive this message without overeating. By making it a habit to sit down, savor your food, and enjoy it, you are more likely to slow down, eat less, and enjoy your food more.

Remember, Hachi Bu!

It takes about 20 minutes from the time you eat for your brain to receive the message that your stomach is full. Eating slowly gives you the

Hara

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Meadowlark Extension District, Food, Nutrition,

Health, and Safety Most of us are in month two, working from our remote location. As this continues, it is more important than ever to make sure we are using workplace habits that keep us healthy physically, mentally, and financially no matter where we are working. Here are some tips for maintaining physical health while working re-

Practicing healthy workplace habits is not that much different working remotely than it is working in a formal office environment. However, the dedicated office space and working environment are separate. This brings not only challenges but also opportunities for maintaining your physical health while working remotely. Here are some things to keep in mind and are useful as you examine your current workspace and routine.

* Maintain good posture where you sit or stand to work. It is tempting to take the laptop to the couch or lounge chair while working remotely. While this might feel comfortable at the moment, it will not promote good posture for the long haul. It is essential to use a variety of settings for your workday. These include sitting, standing, and walking while practicing good posture in all settings.

* If you have peripheral devices available to you, connect an external keyboard, mouse, headphones, and a monitor

to increase your comfort level and define your

workspace. * Take regular breaks of 5 minutes every hour to look away from the screen and improve circulation. While at the office, this is accomplished when a co-worker stops by to share an idea or ask a question. In your current environment, it might be a pet wanting to play catch, a family member with a problem, or if working alone, a self-imposed break to look out the win-

Schedule lunch, breaks, stretching, walking, and processing time. While working remotely, you are not as bound by the clock and regular office hours. You are in charge and need to take control of break times and when to go home. This can be accomplished by setting a phone notice, wellness app, Outlook, or a sticky note on the monitor. For processing time of an idea, consider going on a waling meeting of one person or one of your new office mates that you share your home with.

* Stock your kitchen with healthy snacks and lunch options One person recently shared that they pack these each day and put in the refrigerator just like they did when taking them to the office.

* Stay consistent with your eating, sleeping, and exercise routines as appropriate. This routine is something that you can maintain control over in these uncertain times, and it is vital to maintaining physical health.

Putting It Off

By Lou Ann Thomas

After the last few weeks of quarantine I can no longer use the phrase, "If I only I had time..." as an excuse for not doing things. I now know time has nothing to do with it. I'm not thoroughly cleaning the house, matching all of the lids to my storage containers, or finally getting around to accomplish the myriad of other activities I haven't been doing because of a busy schedule. It has become apparent that instead I am a procrastinator.

I've been meaning to admit this for a while now and hadn't gotten around to it, but I can no longer put it off - I put things off. And I am no novice when it comes to procrastination. I still have Christmas cards to send out - from three years ago, thank you notes to write for birthday presents I received last fall and there is a mountain of recycling in my laundry room that needs my attention.

It's not that I intend to never write the thank you notes,

respond to emails or clean out my closets. Okay, I do kind of intend to never do that last one. My heirs should expect to earn whatever pittance I may leave them, and if that includes sorting through full closets and drawers, then so be it. But, in general, I don't intend to never do whatever it

is I'm not doing. I'll get around to it someday. However, it might take me so long that the recipient of the thank you no longer has any idea for what I am thanking them, or possibly even remember who I am. However, I'm not

Grass & Grain, May 12, 2020

alone in my penchant for procrastinating. There is a national organization for us. I just received their June 2017 newsletter. There is comfort in not being alone, isn't there? I think there is

value in finding your niche, then working at being your best at it. Since I am an above average procrastinator I feel qualified to offer you this Golden Rule of Procrastination: Make sure you

have a good excuse for not doing what you are not doing. A good excuse opens the door of respectability for you. You rarely find favor or impress others by simply admitting you are a procrastinator.

Boredom also plays a big role in my procrastination. I often put off doing things because the task sounds boring, it is rumored to be boring, or it was boring the last time I did it. What sounds more interesting and fun to you? Reading a good book, calling a friend, or vacuuming?

And if you said, vacuuming, give me a call. I think we might be able to work something out.

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Grass & Grain, May 12, 2020

USDA reports record enrollment in key farm safety-net programs Producers signed a record 1.77 million contracts for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2019 crop year, which is more than 107 percent of the total contracts signed compared with a 5-year average. USDA also reminds producers that June 30 is the deadline to enroll in ARC and PLC for the 2020 crop year.

"Producers for several years have experienced low commodity prices, a volatile trade environment and catastrophic natural disasters," said Richard Fordyce, administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

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"Farmers looking to mitigate these risks recognize that ARC and PLC provide the financial protections they need to weather substantial drops in crop prices or

Producers interested in enrolling for 2020 should contact their FSA county office. Producers must enroll by June 30 and make their one-time update to PLC payment yields by September 30. FSA attributes the significant participation in the

2019 crop year ARC and PLC programs to increased producer interest in the programs under the 2018 Farm Bill and to an increase in eligible farms because of the

selling and buying of farms and new opportunities for beginning farmers and military veterans with farms having 10 or fewer base acres. Enrollment for 2019 ended March 16. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

For more information on ARC and PLC, download the program fact sheet or the 2014-2018 farm bills comparison fact sheet. Online ARC and PLC election decision tools are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. To locate the nearest USDA Service Center, visit farmers.

Meat plant closures tighten supplies for retailers, increase prices for consumers Sawyer added.

The reduction of cery stores could shrink meat processing capacity caused by U.S. plant closures and slowdowns has created a massive bottleneck in the nation's meat and livestock supply chain. Nearly two dozen plants that process beef and pork products closed in April due to the COVID-19 outbreak, while many others have had to slow their production as a result of the disease.

According to a new report from CoBank's Knowledge Exchange division, even if the reduction of processing capacity is temporary, it will likely have a lasting impact on meat processors, livestock producers, retail stores and consumers. Meat supplies for retail gronearly 30% by Memorial Day, leading to retail pork and beef price increases as high as 20% relative to prices last year. "Margins for cattle and

hog farmers have fallen to multi-year lows," said Will Sawyer, lead animal protein economist with CoBank. "As meat plants have closed, farmers are left with few options for their livestock, requiring herds to be culled. Shrinkage in the U.S. livestock herd will likely make the food supply shortage more acute later in the year."

Pork and beef production is down approximately 35% compared to this time last year, making retail shortages and price inflation nearly assured,

While pork processing is expected to pick up in the coming weeks. hog producers may still be forced to euthanize as many as 7 million pigs in the second quarter alone, worth nearly \$700 million at historical average prices. This would further diminish meat supplies this fall and add to the billions of dollars of losses from lower livestock prices.

Declining meat production in April will likely lead to reduced grocery store supplies in May and June. Grocery stores are likely already rationing their current meat supplies. The supply chain and inventory from the meat plant to local grocerv store meat cases is less than a few weeks. "Significant contrac-

tions in meat supplies have often led to substantial inflation of retail beef and pork prices," said Sawyer. "In the past 20 years, retail pork prices experienced inflation of more than 10% just twice. And neither of those times did we see inflation climb to 20%, which may be coming in the months ahead."

President Trump's executive order to reopen closed meat plants could help stem the tide of additional plant closures and pave the way for closed plants to reopen. Meat processors have instituted several measures to ensure employee safety, reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep protein supplies moving. However, attracting enough workers to fill the thousands of vacant positions at meat plants across the U.S. may be challenging in the near-term.

For consumers, closed meat plants means less meat in the grocery store in the weeks ahead. Up to this point, U.S. consumers have been able to rely on grocery stores as many

restaurants across the country have closed in response to "stay-at-home" orders in many cities and states.

As communities reopen with only about one week of meat supply in cold storage, shortages and stockouts in the meat case could not come at a worse time. Food inflation and a weak U.S. economy is a combination that will leave many consumers in greater financial strain.

The full report, "Closed Meat Plants Today Mean Empty Meat Cases This Summer," is available on

Contingency plans can help in event of illness or other absence

Suppose a small business owner - grocer, farmer or other - gets sick or is called out of state to help with a family emergency. If a friend offers to step in and help with the day-to-day work, would they have the informa-

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A team of K-State Research and Extension specialists has identified resources that can help make gathering that information easier.

"As we got together during this COVID-19 crisis, we got to thinking about what our farm businesses, rural businesses and families need right now," said Robin Reid, Extension associate in agricultural economics. She explained the team she's part of typically works in succession planning, but realized that there's also a need for contingency planning in businesses across the state.

"Really, having a good contingency plan in place is vital at any time, no matter the circumstances. We're just in a different time right now with this pandemic," Reid said. "It's a good time to think about, 'if I did get sick, or one of my employees got sick, how would we continue our operation?' That's what contingency planning is all about, making sure the business can continue."

Farm continuity

For farm continuity planning, Reid recommends a tool developed by a Purdue University team, called Code Red, an Excel spreadsheet that's free to download. It offers a structure for gathering critical personal and farm

In the event of a crisis, Reid said a family member or someone else in the position of carrying on the business would have much of what they need, information-wise, in one place, including a non-farm personal inventory, farm assets, personal and business contacts, and employee

For more specific day-to-day information, Alysa Rippe-May, Extension agent in the Twin Creeks District, developed a farm chore inventory worksheet, including what livestock a farmer might have, where they're located and what their daily needs are.

Family records

Another resource for individuals and families is Our Valuable Records, which provides an easy-to-complete form to help gather such information as names and contact information for your accountant or lawyer, said Robin Eubank-Callis, family and consumer science extension agent in Barber County. Plus, there's space for a list of property you own and accounts, including passwords.

"The great thing is that you can just fill in as little or as much as you want in terms of what's relevant to your family," she said.

Business continuity

In her role as an Extension community vitality specialist, Nadine Sigle works with communities across northwest Kansas to improve their capacity and increase sustainability. She recommends the Business Continuity Plan available at Ready.gov/business.

In addition, the Small Business Administration recommends business owners write a desktop plan of operation, including a desktop standard operating procedure - the things you'd do on a normal day in your business. That would include where things are located, different actions that would need to be taken, where you bank, and a list of your vendors and creditors.

"Now is a really good time for us to stop and put these records into place," Sigle said.

An interview on this topic aired recently on the radio program Agriculture Today, and is available at https://bit. ly/3famHgD. These resources and more also are available at K-State Research and Extension COVID-19.





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Laura Browning never expected to find herself an adoptive parent to three incubators' worth of chicks — or tending to 19 newly hatched birds in brooders in her garage. But chicks hatch according to their own calendar, oblivious to social distancing and school closures.

As it happened, the state's COVID-19 response coincided with an annual spring rite across Missouri as 25,000 students, from pre-school through middle school, welcome incubators and clutches of chicken eggs into their classrooms.

The centerpiece of this effort is the Missouri 4-H Embryology in the Classroom project, which guides youth through about two weeks of a chicken's development roughly seven days of incubation through hatching and initial growth — until chicks and incubators are returned to the 4-H county Extension offices that facilitate the egg and incubator donations.

This year, schools started closing just as suppliers were delivering eggs. But no one wanted to simply abandon the popular project that's been a staple of schools' spring curricula since at least the early

"Embryology is such a fun hands-on introduction to the scientific thinking process: how to come up with hypotheses, to design and monitor experiments, to gather and record data," Browning said. "If the cuteness of the chicks can be a bridge to science, that's a win!"

So Browning, a University of Missouri assistant Extension professor and state 4-H specialist in natural resources, volunteered to help: The plan, she said, was hatched "out of sheer crisis; well, out of necessity I guess is a better way to say it."

Each county worked to enlist classroom teachers and 4-H and Extension faculty, staff and volunteers across Missouri to take eggs home; hence, the three incubators in the front hallway of Browning's own Boone County

Browning then delivered embryology lessons at 5 p.m. daily via Missouri 4-H QuaranTIME Facebook Live programming.

She also set up a live chick cam so rapt children and families — could click in anytime to watch the eggs incubating and hatching. Viewers can now see the chicks' rapid growth at extension2. missouri.edu/programs/ missouri-4-h/4-h-opportunities/quarantime/chickwatch.

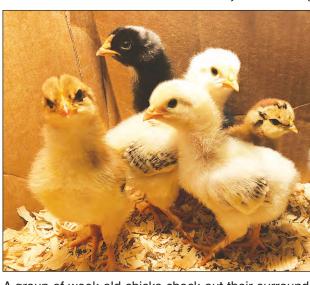
Browning is quick to point out that these options supplement the many inventive embryology lessons and experiments local teachers are conducting directly with their own students. Jessie Furgins, an instructor with MU Extension in Jackson County, for instance, has been helping teachers in her area with Zoom lessons based on her own clutch of eggs. "Thank you! This is a

very memorable activity/ lesson (for) my kindergarten students," wrote Laura Vogt, of Timothy Lutheran School in Blue Springs, in an email. "Many of my former students will pop in to ask, 'When do you get the chicks this year?' We learn so much, and the kids really do remember! Even with the coronavirus situation, we were able to share the experience with our students!



'Candling' eggs allows students to watch the development of an embryo inside its shell.

Photos by Laura Browning



A group of week-old chicks check out their surroundings. When schools closed due to COVID-19, volunteers across Missouri were needed to bring home incubators and chicken eggs to continue the Missouri 4-H Embryology in the Classroom project.

additional heat source chicks have access to feed By Adaven Scronce. provides a way to keep the

diversified agriculture and natural resource agent,

Wildcat Extension District Spring is here and you may have heard the sound of chicks peeping the last time you were at the feed store. You may even be thinking about getting a few chicks yourself. Before going out and purchasing chicks there are a few questions you should first consider. Questions to consider before venturing into raising chickens include: Are there any town or city ordinances that restrict raising poultry where you live? Do you have the time to care for chickens and who will take care of the chickens when you go out of town? If you want your flock to be a source of income, is there a local market for eggs or chickens? If you will be raising chickens for meat, is there a local processer or are you able to process the chick-

ens yourself? After considering the previous questions, next you will need to decide what breed of chickens you are going to raise. Different breeds of chickens have been selectively bred for specific purposes and traits. Meat breeds have been bred to have increased meat yield and improved feed conversion rates. However, they usually do not lay enough eggs to justify keeping as laying hens. Similarly, breeds that have been selectively bred to be layers, have been breed for increased egg production, smaller frame size, and will not grow as fast as breeds that have been developed for meat production. If you are interested in raising chickens for egg and meat production there are dual purpose breeds that can be raised for both egg and

Once you have decided what type of chickens you want to raise, the next step is making sure you have adequate housing for the chickens. Having a coop that will provide protection from heat, cold, inclement weather, and predators is very important. A dry, draft-free coop with ventilation is necessary to help ensure the

health of the chickens. In

the summer, ventilation

meat production.

interior temperature at a comfortable level. Ventilation in the winter is also necessary, to provide fresh air to the house, and reduce moisture accumulation. If you plan on having just a few chickens and only need a small coop, windows or vents on one or two sides of the coop will usually provide plenty of ventilation. To determine how big of a coop you will need, first decide how many chickens you will have. Laving hens will need one and a half to two square feet per bird inside the coop and broilers (chickens raised for meat production) will need one square foot per chicken. If you do not plan on letting the chickens free range in the yard, a pen or run will

also need to be built. When you bring your chicks home, they may need an extra source of heat, depending on their age and the outside temperature. For the first week, the young chicks should be kept at about 90 to 95° F. The temperature may be lowered 5° F each week until a temperature of 70° F is reached. After, may be necessary only if the outside temperature is extremely cold. A heat lamp can provide additional heat if need. The chicks' behavior is the best indicator of appropriate temperature. Chicks scattered out giving a contented sound are comfortable. Huddled, peeping chicks need additional heat, while those panting with their mouths open need cooler temperatures. It

and fresh water when they are brought home.

Doing your homework, selecting the right breed of chicken for your goals, and having a coop ready for the chicks before you bring them home will help you have a successful start

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





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While nothing can supplant the experience of raising eggs in the classroom, the virtual course has revealed surprising benefits. The online project can extend much longer — the full 21 days of gestation, hatching and growth — than is feasible in a classroom with space

and other limitations.

And children and families - anyone, really can tune in from anywhere anytime to learn about embryology and the scientific method.

"I'm seeing sparks of curiosity in the online

Volunteers adopt incubating eggs to continue 4-H classroom project comments from all over," Browning said. "People are finding it and saying, 'My gosh, I've never even thought or known about this before!' That's really









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Virtual tractor safety class offered by Central Kansas Extension District summer thou-

sands of Kansas teenagers will begin their first job working for a farmer or rancher. For those that are ages 14 or 15, they must complete a tractor safety course in order to be legally employed. To help prepare some

of those youth for the

upcoming work season, the Central Kansas Extension District (CKD) will be hosting a virtual tractor safety class using Zoom, a web conferencing technology that will allow students to participate in the session from their home or other remote location - they just

need a reliable internet or cellular connection.

This course will meet the requirements of the U.S. Department of Labor's Hazardous Occupations Order for Agriculture (HOOA). The HOOA regulations state that youth 14 and 15 years of age, who wish to work as a

hired employee for someone other than a parent or legal guardian, and operate a farm tractor that is 20 horsepower or greater, must successfully pass a tractor safety training program. This year the local curriculum will combine at-home study with an interactive dis-

tance presentation.

The CKDvirtual course will be held on Tuesday, May 26 at 8:30 a.m. The cost of the program is \$25. Those wanting to enroll should visit www.centralkansas.ksu. edu and complete the "Tractor Safety Registration Form". Enrollment

under a changing and uncertain

cessing of food, feed, fiber, and renewable energy.

Augment ecosystems services to improve the envi-

To achieve these outcomes, transformational change

ronment, enhance the resilience of agricultural and for-

ested landscapes and improve the farmer's bottom line

will be required. The policies of the past are already

failing to meet the unprecedented needs and challenges

of today - let alone tomorrow. To sustainably intensify

production, enhance resilience to climate and other

shocks, and move the world towards achieving global

plementing landscape scale solutions and multi-stakeholder partnerships: harmonizing policy frameworks

and reducing or eliminating overlapping and contra-

dictory regulations; rewarding farmers, ranchers and

foresters for the ecosystem services they produce; en-

ergizing and better coordinating research; transforming

and modernizing information networks; and committing

to mechanisms and polices that benefit all scales of pro

duction and provide profitable agricultural livelihoods.

our nation's agriculture sector are taking on, especially while burdened with our current food chain difficulties.

Even in the midst of today's mayhem, they continue to

provide essential water quality benefits and carbon sequestration services along with the food we eat. It is

with that broad sense of appreciation that SfL pursues

its goal: By 2030, America's farms, ranches and forests

will be at the forefront of resolving food system, energy,

environmental and climate challenges, and achieving

SfL genuinely appreciates the difficult job those in

Just a few examples of such innovations include: im-

sustainable development goals, we need to innovate.

is due by Wednesday, May

The class will be limited to 25 participants. students Prospective can check availability and ask questions prior to registering by calling (785) 309-5850 or emailing crensink@ksu.edu.

sifying and sustainably intensifying production and pro-

An Op-Ed by Solutions for the Land

In good company with many industries, U.S. agriculture is facing one of its biggest crises since the Great Depression of 90 years ago. The new coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has brought with it a seemingly endless series of jolts and unintended shifts to our food chain, endangering the reliability of supply from the American

The meat sector has been brutally hit. Producers began culling herds when restaurants started to close in late March. The beef and pork markets have been further disrupted by the closure of more than a dozen processing plants across North America - most owned by some the world's largest meat producers like Smithfield Foods Inc, Cargill Inc, JBS USA and Tyson Foods Inc. due to significant COVID-19 outbreaks among workers.

About half of all beef and pork products are sold to restaurants, which have been mostly closed for weeks due to shutdown orders prompted by the pandemic. Beef processing capacity is down by more than 10 percent and pork by as much as 25 percent, industry leaders say.

Another prominent example of the pandemic's harsh and volatile impact on the nation's farmers and others in the food supply chain are the disruptions occurring in the dairy industry. Producers have been dumping millions of gallons of milk over the past month. With the sudden drop in the wholesale, food-service market resulting from the closure of schools and restaurants,



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dairy processing plants have yet to catch up with the packaging and logistical changes that must come with a massive shift in demand for dairy products at grocery stores and other retail outlets.

The fresh fruit and vegetable sector is also reeling from losses attributable to the pandemic. Florida produce growers were reporting losses of more than \$520 million thus far this season, while the nation's potato growers say their \$4-billion industry has been devastated, given that 60 percent of their market is in a food service industry that has been virtually shut down for a month. USDA announced April 17 a \$2.7-billion financial support package targeting the fruit and vegetable sector. That support is divided, with \$2.1 billion allocated for direct payments to growers and \$100 million per month set aside in each of the next six months for purchasing produce.

At the global level, the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition is rising. As documented in the fourth annual Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC 2020), in the 55 countries covered by the survey, 135 million people were classified as being in the "crisis or worse" category; 183 million were classified as "experiencing stressed conditions"; 75 million children were stunted and another 17 million were suffering from wasting. These tragic conditions, fueled by conflict, climate shocks and poor economic activity, will likely deepen as the full impact of the global pandemic is realized. In response, UN Secretary General António Guteres has issued an urgent call to action to address the co-joined food security, public health and environmental challenges the world is facing.

As challenging as these current conditions are, they do create opportunities to underscore the critical role agriculture plays in not only ensuring a healthy food supply, but also in making the world a better place to

In the coming weeks and months, SfL will be proactively advocating for strategic pathways that enable all forms and scales of agriculture to:

Reduce hunger and improve nutrition by supporting the production of fruits, vegetables, animal proteins and food-grade grains for human consumption.

Create jobs and generate economic growth by diver-

global sustainable development goals. Marshall requests update on packer investigation

U.S. Rep. Roger Marshall, M.D. joined former House Agriculture Committee Chairman, Frank Lucas (R-OK) and a bi-partisan group of their House colleagues in sending a letter to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue asking him to provide the findings of the USDA's beef pricing investigation as soon as possible.

investigation. The which was opened in August 2019 following the plant fire in Holcomb, was extended in March to include the cause of divergence between the price of demic.

"I hear from livestocl and the viability of the industry," said Marshall. "We applauded Secretary Perdue's announcement in March that the USDA was expanding its ongoing investigation in the cattle market's reaction to the 2019 plant fire in Holcomb to encompass the more recent COVID-19 market-related concerns. But our livestock owners have waited and suffered long enough. I will continue to encourage USDA to share the findings once the investigation is complete so that livestock owners and Congress have an opportunity to better understand the situation and how we can address it. The volatility Kansas livestock owners have endured during the pandemic has been difficult to manage and the added uncertainly going forward will only continue

live beef and boxed beef during the COVID-19 panowners every day who are concerned about the future of their operation

to diminish prices and optimism among producers.

FARM AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2020 — 10:00 AM LOCATION: 92 US Hwy. 40 — LECOMPTON, KS (Mapquest - 92 US HWY 40 @ Big Springs, KS)

Directions: Go west 9 miles from Lawrence on Highway 40 or East 9 miles from Topeka on Highway 40. Parking off E100 Rd, follow signs. No Parking On US Hwy 40 **HAY & MISC. EQUIPMENT**

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TRAILERS, VEHICLE & ATV 1992 16' WW Bumper Hitch Stock Trailer new tires and slam latch rear gate; King 32' Big Bale Trailer, bumper hitch; 1997 Jeep Cherokee, 4x4, 4.0 6 cyl. 154,201 miles; **JD TS** Gator 4x2 w/Dump bed, HDAP tires, 215 hrs.

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AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Due to health reasons Randy & Nancy have decided to give up their hay & livestock operation & sell all of their equipment to the highest bidder. Several items have been in the shed & have been well taken care of. Not a lot of small items, please be on time. Parking off E100 Rd, follow signs. View our website or Facebook for pictures.

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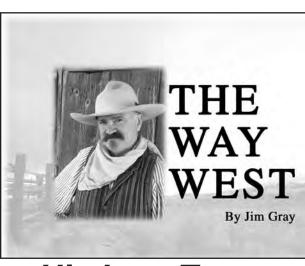
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His Last Tramp

Frontier Kansas was plagued with all kinds of scoundrels out to rob. steal, and cheat their way through life. Gamblers, horse thieves, and confidence men seemed to be around every corner. Men of limited means known as tramps could be added to the list. The tramp was looked upon as a great nuisance, "a nomadic son of poverty" who shunned work to make his living by theft and begging for

The May 9, 1878, Nebraska Advertiser advised readers to make tramps work at the woodpile before feeding them. "Make them earn it." The Advertiser continued, "If they will not do that, they are not very hungry. A rigid determination on the part of the people not to feed those who will not work will cure the tramping business sooner than anything else."

The economic panic of

1873 was the first and the longest global depression in the era of industrial capitalism. The effects of the panic further concentrated capital in the hands of the very wealthy, extending the depression well into 1879. Men thrown out of work traveled the country, often "riding the rails" on the railroads crossing America. The country was experiencing a cultural shift. Growing industrialization witnessed a migration from the farms to the cities as young men traded the independence of farm life for wages. A decade earlier the long, punishing march of troops to battle was called a "tramp." When the panic left tens of thousands of men without iobs they struck out across the county on their own "tramp." Homeless and out of work men with no visible means of support assaulted America's cities and towns like a "great army of tramps" with little hope for the future.

In the culture of the tramp the beginnings of union organization could vaguely be distinguished.

ing emotional support

Many of the men whose original intent to find work gave in to unemployment, often refusing paying jobs as some sort of badge of honor. There seemed to be a semblance of organization understood only by the initiated. Travelers left chalk marks at points along their route for the guidance of those that followed. At crossroads a chalked arrow was left on large rocks or tree trunks to point the way to a rendezvous camp. Different signs made in different colors of chalk formed a rudimentary form of communication. The men often traveled in groups, but upon reaching a town or city the tramps would separate, going through and begging one at a time.

The older men seemed to be able to elicit a degree of compassion with a pitiful story generally "gotten up without regard to truth." The young fellows usually had a difficult time getting food of any description. When asked why they didn't find work they always expressed a readiness to work but professed

a trade in which employment was not offered in that locality.

At Omaha, Nebraska, tramps were overwhelming the city. During a rash of thefts and robberies a Committee of Safety made up of one hundred fifty men was organized in early May, 1878. To protect the community from the vagabond beggers besieging the city the committee searched the city thoroughly, capturing all suspected tramps. According to reports, "The committee will continue to act nightly until the tramp nuisance is

abated."

The action in Omaha had far-reaching implications. At Beverly Station, Missouri, a short distance east of Leavenworth, Kansas, an otherwise empty railcar was diverted to a lonely siding. The car was full of tramps believed to have been driven from Omaha by the Committee of Safety. According to the May 16, 1878, Leavenworth Times, "These passengers, seeing their coach thus set aside, and not caring to camp out at a place where

railroad iron and crossties were the only articles of diet, made a rush for the train just as it was gliding out from the depot.'

Most tramps were quite adept at boarding a moving railcar and all made it in safety except one. While climbing up, his foot slipped, he lost his grip. and fell under the car, his body lying across the track. "...the cruel iron wheel of the heavy car passing over him across the middle of his body, rending and tearing the flesh, and cutting

him clean in twain." Before the train could be brought to a halt, every car had passed over him, "mangling him beyond all recognition." The editor felt but a "twinge of sorrow" at the untimely death of a man who had made "His Last Tramp" 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.

ASA, USB, soy states offer #SoyHelp to overcome farm stress

The American Soybean Association (ASA) COVID-19 Task Force conducted a survey in April regarding the effects of COVID-19 on soy growers, their operations, employees, and families. Stress reported by the 86 farmer respondents from across the soy-producing states was high. ASA, state soybean affiliates, and the United Soybean Board (USB) want to help.

This May, during Mental Health Month, ASA is launching a proactive communications campaign to combat #FarmStress and offer #SoyHelp. Help comes in many forms and from many sources, and ASA has researched a range of options that will be shared both nationally and by state soybean affiliates:

National mental health resources, including suicide hotlines and crisis centers

Agriculture-specific resources for farmers and farm families, both national and state

COVID-19-specific resources for stress and other concerns, both national and state

"Stress levels have crept up out there in farm communities for some time now," said Kevin Scott, soybean farmer from South Dakota and chair of the ASA C-19 Task Force. "As farmers, we are all faced with varying levels of anxiety resulting from a host of concerns - the coronavirus pandemic, weather issues, China trade problems, and other farm stressors. But, knowing there are issues compounding out there and knowing how to talk about them and work to reduce them are two different things. This survey cast a light on ASA's responsibility to try to help," Scott explained.

The #SoyHelp campaign will include the following

#SoyHelp social media posts throughout May on ASA Facebook and Twitter

A social media toolkit for each sovbean state and USB to participate and share resources

Related stories in ASA's weekly eBean email newsletter and content for state newsletters

Editorials from soy growers on #FarmStress Expert advice on the subjects of farm stress and seek-

Wendy Brannen, ASA Sr. director of marketing and communications and C-19 Task Force member, said, "Emotional struggles are not one size fits all. Our team has researched resources to accommodate an array of individuals and their needs, and how they or their families can seek qualified help - and we are hopeful this campaign can melt away a bit of the stigma that sometimes still exists in talking openly about the tolls of stress and seeking help."

Resources and guidance are available to address concerns ranging from temporary stress to ongoing struggles with anxiety and from depression to thoughts of suicide. Options exist for men, women, beginning farmers, veterans and other groups with specific needs or commonalities, including language and disability barriers. Some are specific to disasters, including COVID-19 and how the pandemic has increased instances of or worsened levels of stress. States have local and regional resources available, including information on telehealth options, financial resources, and government offices able to assist with farm operation issues.

"We want these resources to resonate regardless of age, location, gender, or what circumstances have led to needing a hand. It could be a long-time farmer who feels trapped by the current situation, a young person just starting out with concerns about financial hardships, or family members out there trying to navigate how to help in any number of scenarios," said Brannen.

Included in the resources are links to self-assessments, professional services and local health care facilities; hotlines for urgent needs, warmlines for helpful advice, chat and text lines for instant access; and articles on symptoms, solutions, and opening uncomfortable discussions.

ASA hopes the campaign will get a boost outside the soy family: Toolkits are available for individuals or others interested in sharing directly, or they may repost and share ASA and state association materials.

Livestock Marketing Association to focus on pricing investigations

By Larry Schnell for **Livestock Marketing**

Association

To say times are tough in cattle country would be an understatement. Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) member livestock auction owners and their producer customers are speaking up with significant concerns about volatility, the futures market, and especially, livestock producers not getting their fair share of the beef dollar. While COVID-

ing plant fire last August are bringing these issues further to the forefront. they are illustrations of long-standing concerns regarding pricing and com-

Livestock auction markets are an integral part of the process of price discovery, but our value is totally dependent on the success and profitability of the cow-calf producer, and the cattle feeder.

LMA supports the ongoing efforts by livestock orals to bring about a pricing mechanism that would better serve the cattle feeder. and thereby the cattle producer. Our businesses are rooted in achieving competitive prices for cattle producers, and we want to see this occur throughout the beef supply chain.

To help bring that about, LMA is focusing on the investigations of the differential between the wholesale price of beef and the price that cattle feeders are receiving for couraging these investigations, LMA is conducting independent research and having additional discussions to pinpoint specific areas of concern for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Justice, and hopefully, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. This includes looking at futures market issues in addition to issues with fed cattle pricing.

The cattle industry needs answers regarding ic spread between live cattle and boxed beef prices, and these investigations are critical in answering these questions. Our goal is long-term solutions that will address problems within finished cattle marketing, and a pricing mechanism that results in profitability for all segments of the industry.

These are uncertain times, and this is a difficult task. But with every challenge also comes opportunity. Consumer attention life - and ready access to high-quality protein is one of them. Congresspeople are hearing from their cattle country constituents, and they want to help.

At LMA, we are dedicated to working with our legislative and industry allies for the betterment of the livestock industry and our consumer customers. If we focus on this, and we are successful, we'll be setting up cattle producers to enjoy the good times and weather the tough ones for

ganizations and individutheir cattle. Beyond enwhat is behind the dramatgenerations to come. 19 and the Holcomb packis on the fundamentals of Corn emerging in one-week window has little impact on yield, says MU research

ty of Missouri Extension agronomists shows that there is little yield difference in unevenly emerged corn.

MU Extension agronomist Bill Wiebold researched corn emergence's effect on yield in 2010 and 2011. Wiebold tagged indi-

vidual plants from emergence through harvest. He compared the weight and height of early-emerging, mid-emerging and late-emerging plants.

He then hand-harvested and shelled corn ears, weighed kernels and calculated yield. He found little yield difference if plants emerged within a week of each other.

Wiebold's research dispels concerns that yields decrease when smaller, later-emerging plants compete for nutrients and

er-emerging plants. Uneven soil moisture and uneven temperatures in the seed zone are the primary reasons for uneven emergence. Other reasons include soil crusting, shallow seed depth. poor soil contact, cool weather and too few growing degree days to develop strong root systems.

Emergence times may vary between parts of a field, from one row to the next, or even from one plant to the next.

Uneven corn is certainly undesirable, but most uneven stands do not warrant replanting, says MU Extension specialist Greg Luce.

Luce cites research from Wisconsin and Illinois Extension agronomists showing a 6-9% yield loss in unevenly emerged plots having a week and

compared the yield loss due to later replant, their data showed less than a 5% yield recoup gained from replanting. Luce adds that the final population is

most critical. To help farmers estimate dollar gain or loss from replanting, Wiebold and MU Extension agronomist Ray Massey created the MU Replant Decision Aid. The spreadsheet can be downloaded along with the MU Extension guide "Corn and Sovbean Replant Decisions" at extension2.missouri.edu/g4091.

Luce says the right planting depth improves chances for a good stand with even emergence and better yield potential. New research from USDA Agricultural Research Service soil scientist Newell Kitchen and MU master's student Stirling Stewart shows planting depth corresponds to the window for emergence.

"Too shallow planting leads to far more problems than planting too deep,"

periences, bad things happen when corn seed is planted shallower than 1.5 inches. The ideal target is 1.75 to 2.25 inch, but depending on soil type and conditions, seeds may be planted up to three inches without any effect on stand

establishment."





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We are all trying to regroup and reorganize the year's schedule. We are still working with the unknown, and making the best of it (The truth is, this is always the human condition. Some circumstances just make us more aware of it). We plan and then deal with what comes.

Plans are full speed ahead for autumn and 2021. The Fort Wallace Museum has moved its annual rodeo from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend. Then, the following weekend, we are holding our "Harvesting the Plains" encampment with buffalo hunters and their camps, Native camps, military and pioneer camps - all those folks who harvested the bounty of the plains. Since this will be outside, social distancing, if still required, should not be that difficult. It sure wasn't for them.

The Fort Wallace Museum events theme for 2021 will be "Taking the Smoky Hill Trail to Santa Fe" and we will highlight the connections between the two historic trails with an emphasis on the story of Sheridan, our own "Hell on Wheels."

The Santa Fe Trail Association is encouraging communities along the Trail to incorporate the Trail's story into their annual events. We do not want to steal audience from the small towns who work so hard to make those events happen, and we want to reach those audiences. We are asking you to help us take this history to the entire country. A 200-year-anniversary only comes around, well, every 200 years, so this gives us a very unique opportunity. The symposium will be

held in La Junta, Colorado (Used To Be Kansas), September 23-26. With the proximity to Bent's Old Fort, there will be tours and lots of expertise on hand. Visit santafetrail.org for more information.

Let me know your plans so that we can share them with our friends Around Kansas.

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

K-State plans "Troubleshooting Uncertain Times in the Beef Industry" webinar

Registration is now open for a webinar that will assist Kansas beef cattle producers as they navigate the impacts of COVID-19.

"This webinar is being conducted to help beef producers assess their current nutrition and management strategies in light of the challenges to the beef market created by COVID-19," says Dr. Dale Blasi, K-State beef cattle Extension specialist. "The availability of distillers grains as a consequence of COVID is in short supply and as a result, many of the attributes that this co-product provides in protein supply, moisture attributes to the ration and etc. have created challenges for producers as they identify alternative feed ingredients to use in its The program will feature brief updates on the current

market situation from K-State Agricultural Economist Dr. Glynn Tonsor and a discussion on alternative protein sources led by Extension specialists Dr. Jaymelynn Farney and Dr. Justin Waggoner. Blasi will address nutrition and management considerations that may be implemented by producers growing cattle in these chal-

Hosted by the K-State Animal Sciences and Industry Department and K-State Research and Extension, the webinar will be conducted via Zoom on Thursday, May

Register prior to the event online at https://tinyurl. com/KSUBeef-UncertainTimes or at www.KSUBeef.org. For questions about the event or to register, please con-

tact Lois Schreiner, lschrein@ksu.edu, 785-532-1267.

How atrazine regulations have influenced the environment

To combat weeds farmers use a variety of tools and methods. By understanding the strengths and downfalls of each tool, a farmer can make the best decisions for his or her operation to keep pesky weeds out of the field.

One tool farmers can turn to for weed control is applying herbicides. New research is helping us understand a specific herbicide even better: atrazine.

Atrazine is one of the most common herbicides used in the United States. It can be used to manage weeds in crops like corn, sorghum, sugarcane and turf. The chemical kills weeds by preventing photosynthesis in the plant.

A benefit of herbicides, like those with atrazine, is that they reduce the need for tillage. In addition to its effects on soil health, tillage can increase erosion of precious soil. Reducing tillage conserves our soil by preventing erosion and maintaining healthy soil structure.

A downfall of atrazine, though, is that it can sometimes make its way into streams and rivers.

After the chemical is applied to a field, atrazine breaks down in the soil and turns into another compound, called deethvlatrazine (DEA). This is a good thing, since DEA is less toxic to aquatic organisms than atrazine.

In recent years, atrazine use has been decreasing. However, despite the decrease in atrazine use, concentrations of the secondary compound, DEA, have been increasing.

Karen Ryberg and her team thought there must be more to this puzzle than just atrazine use.

Ryberg, who works at the United States Geological Survey, wanted to determine the factors, other than usage, that influence trends in herbicide concentrations in streams.

The most common conversion of atrazine to DEA is through the activity of soil microbes - like fungi and bacteria. Therefore, atrazine breaks down quicker when it has more contact with soil micro-organisms.

"Based on previous studies, we predicted factors affecting the atrazine concentrations in streams," says Ryberg. "These included corn acres in the watershed, weather, climate and management practices."

"In our study, we used existing data from 2002 to 2012 spanning many areas of the country," explains Ryberg. Then models were ised to analyze the data and test the team's predictions of what caused the atrazine and DEA trends in the streams.

In the 1990s, new regulations addressed surface water contamination concerns. These regulations

lowered application rates of atrazine for crops, and even prohibited its use near water wells. The goal was to reduce the overall concentration of atrazine in water.

"Concentration use trends show that past atrazine regulations, especially in the Midwest. were successful," says Ryberg. "More of the atrazine broke down into DEA before reaching streams."

Despite an increase in the amount of corn acres grown between 2002 and 2012, the study showed atrazine use decreased in most areas of the United

Ryberg's study also discovered that atrazine turns into DEA faster in dry areas without tile drainage. Tile drains can be installed underground in farm fields to help move water and prevent flooding. Tile drains are like stormwater drains for farm fields.

Because tile drains help water from the field move faster through underground pipes, the water has less time to come in contact with soil. Therefore, soil micro-organisms have less time to break

down atrazine to DEA before water carries it out of the field toward nearby streams.

This finding means

there may be more challenges with atrazine levels in the future. As farmers anticipate climate change and wetter field conditions, more tile drains may be needed in order to grow crops in adequate soil conditions.

Moving forward, Ryberg would like to build on this research for monitoring pesticides. "Ongoing monitoring is important to understand the degradation and transport processes of pesticides," explains Ry-

Farmers will continue to adapt to changing conditions, including weed communities. Pesticide usage will change, and it is an ongoing challenge to monitor for new pesticides or mixtures of pesticides in the environment.

Read more about this research in the Journal of Environmental Quality. This project was funded by the USGS National Water Quality Program's National Water-Quality Assess-

USDA plan will help farmers and food banks

The USDA April 24 laid out its plan to award contracts to the private sector to purchase meat, dairy and produce for distribution to the nation's food banks and other nonprofits addressing hunger. The USDA is authorized to spend \$3 billion on hunger relief during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and Feeding America, the country's largest hunger relief organization, sent a letter to the USDA requesting a nimble approach to quickly and effectively get food from Amer-

ica's farms to the nation's food banks. American Farm Bureau president Zippy Duvall said

"We applaud the USDA for empowering the private ctor to help solve the challenges associated with harvesting, packaging and transporting millions of pounds of food from farms to food banks and other nonprofits

working to ensure no one goes hungry. "Every day that passes, fresh produce is being plowed under and milk is being disposed of while long lines form at many food banks. USDA is demonstrating a willingness to try a new approach to find solutions to these challenges. We stand ready to help in any way we can."

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Grass & Grain Area **Auctions and Sales**

Due to the uncertainty of recent events, if you still plan to attend any of the following auctions. please contact the auction company to confirm that the auction has not been postponed and will be con-

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Online Auction for Ken & Norma King Estate opens May 14 (bidding closes May 20) held online at hollingerauction.hibid. com/auctions/current. Selling will be household furniture, pots & pans, power & hand tools, fishing tackle & rods, lawn supplies, collectibles & antiques inc. furniture, decor, glassware, toys; Native American art & pottery & more. Auctioneers: Hollinger Online Auctions.

May 12 — 2,280 acres m/l Osborne and Lincoln Counties sold in 10 individual tracts with no combination held at Lucas and with live internet and conference call bidding available for Robert & Lola Brant & Blue Hill Feeders, Inc. Auctioneers: Farmland Auction & Realty.

May 12 — (rescheduled from March) — 415 acres m/l quality farmland on Gypsum Creek in Saline and McPherson Counties held at Gypsum for Micah Moffitt & Michael D. Becker. Auctioneers: Horizon Farm & Ranch Realty,

May 14 (RESCHED-ULED from April 14) — 160 acres m/l of Dickinson County farmland held at Chapman for Ingermanson Trust. Auctioneers: Horizon Farm & Ranch Realty, LLC., Ray Swearingen.

May 16 — Tractors & farm machinery including Ford 601 Workmaster, Iseki TS 1610 diesel, 2015 Vicon Extra 124 disc mower & more; misc. farm supplies & items, shop tools & misc., horse related items, lawn & garden, guns, antiques, household & collectibles

held at Haven for Estate of Jonas R. Bontrager, by Irene Bontrager. Auctioneers: Morris Yoder Auc-

May 19 (RESCHED-ULED from April 16) — 560 acres m/l of quality farmland in Saline and Ottawa Counties in 5 tracts held at Salina for Ingermanson Farms, Ingermanson Trusts. Auctioneers: Horizon Farm & Ranch Realty, LLC., Ray Swearingen.

May 20 — Absolute land auction consisting of 602 acres m/l (in 5 tracts) of Pratt County land held with internet, phone & live bidding at Pratt and online www.hammauction.com for Donald Grier Estate. Auctioneers: Hamm Auction & Real Estate, John Hamm.

May 21 - 50 acres m/l of Dickinson County tillable acreage & timber; possible building site located close to Abilene held at Abilene for Leonard Daniels Estate. Auctioneers: Horizon Farm & Ranch Realty, LLC, Ray Swearingen.

May 23 — Tractors and skid steer, trailers, vehicle, ATV, hay & misc. equipment, miscellaneous held at Lecompton for Randy & Nancy Cree. Auctioneers: Moore Auction Service, Inc., Jamie Moore.

May 23 (RESCHED-ULED from April 4) -Farm machinery including tractors, combines, 3 pt. equipment & much more; trucks (2 Freightliner FL70s), trailer, grain cart, ATV, livestock equipment, shop power & hand tools, guns, antiques & collectibles & much more. Large auction held near Minneapolis for Gerald Newell Estate. (See March 24 Grass & Grain for complete ad.) Auctioneers: Bacon Auc-

tion Co., Royce Bacon. May 30 (RESCHED-ULED from April 11) -Guns & related items, automobiles & trailers, antiques & collectibles including a Great WestHiawatha child's wagon & more; Jazzy power chair scooter Elite, household furniture & appliances, shop power equipment & tools, livestock equipment & misc., Lonestar aluminum 14' V-haul Model 780 game fisher boat. Large auction held near Bennington for Bill Whitman. (See March 31 Grass & Grain for complete ad.) Auctioneers: Bacon Auction Co., Royce Bacon.

June 4 — 160 acres m/l & 320 acres m/l of Mitchell County farmland and grassland held at Beloit. Auctioneers: Gene Francis & Associates, Gene Francis & Lori Rogge.

June 6 — Consignment auction including farm equipment, construction, semi-trailer, horse trailers, guns, welders, tools, zero turn mowers, skid loader attachments, new electric motors, El Dorado batteries, household & more held at Salina from sellers including Great Plains Mfg., Landpride, G.P. Trucking, ElDorado, Dr. Jenkins Estate, Circle W Cattle Co. Auctioneers: Wilson Realty & Auction Service, Lonnie Wilson.

June 20 - Spring Consignment auction held at Holton. Auctioneers: Harris Auction Service, Dan & Larry Harris.

June 20 — (RESCHED-ULED from May 23)- Collectibles & household held at Frankfort for Donna & Nilwon (Nick) Kraushaar Estate. Auctioneers: Olmsted & Sandstrom. August 8 & 15 — House-

hold, antiques and miscellaneous at Herington for Irene Finley Estate. Auctioneers: Kretz Auction Service.

August 22 (rescheduled from June 6) — Farm machinery, trailers, 1976 Lincoln, antiques, farm supplies, tools, iron & miscellaneous held at Talmage for Twila (Mrs. Rosie) Holt. Auctioneers: Kretz Auc-

Kansas ranchers connect virtually with consumers during Beef Month

Although the coronavirus has upended many long-held traditions, Beef Month and the many contributions of those in the beef community will not be overlooked. If anything, the pandemic has put a spotlight on the vital role those in food production play in the stability of the nation. "As the past few months have shown, the Kansas beef industry is essential to the

food supply not only here in Kansas, but across the nation and the world," said Kansas Agriculture Secretary Mike Beam. "We appreciate everyone who is a part of the Kansas beef industry and thank them for their daily commitment to producing the high-quality beef that is part of the heritage of this great state." To celebrate Beef Month during May, the Kansas Beef Council will be providing

consumers with grilling recipes, nutrition facts and virtual tours. To accomplish the latter, producers across the state donned Go-Pro video cameras and opened their operations and homes to give consumers a behind-the-scenes look at a day in the life of "Grocery shoppers are often disconnected from the intricacies of the food supply

chain, so explaining disruptions can be difficult," said Brandi Buzzard Frobose, a rancher in Anderson County who participated in the project. "Just like how our work on the ranch never stops, we must also never stop reaching out to consumers to give them accurate information about what we do to raise beef. Because if we don't, who

According to KBC chairman Dan Harris, the videos, and Beef Month in general, are a testimony to the hard work that never stops for Kansas beef producers. He commends his fellow cattlemen and cattlewomen for their resiliency in trying times, and their uncanny ability to triumph in the face of adversity. The videos will be posted throughout the month of May on the KBC Facebook page, YouTube and Instagram accounts.

NRCS announces Monarch Butterfly Habitat **Regional Conservation Partnership Program** funding application cutoff for May 29

Troy J. Munsch, acting state conservationist, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced funding to help landowners improve, restore, manage, and conserve habitat for Monarch butterflies on agricultural and tribal lands. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has joined NRCS in a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to offer financial assistance to help agricultural producers increase milkweed and monarch nectoring plants on agricultural land to improve habitat needs for Monarch butterflies.

"This is a great opportunity for us to work together," said Munsch. "Monarch butterflies are an important element in the pollination of crops

and other types of plants." NRCS is providing funding through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP). There will be a fiscal year 2020 CStP application evaluation period for this RCPP project. The application evaluation period will be for ap-

nal operations, midstream partners and/or distribution

million for implementation activities related to higher

plends of fuel ethanol, and approximately \$14 million

for implementation activities related to higher blends

of biodiesel. Higher biofuel blends are fuels containing

ethanol greater than 10 percent by volume and/or fuels

containing biodiesel blends greater than five percent by

tails, see the public inspection notice in the Federal

Register, or visit the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incen-

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TRACT 2: 320 acres +/- of dryland cultivation, grass, watershed

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: West Half of Section 8, Township 9, Range

LOCATION: Approximately 12 miles south and west of Asherville or

For application information and other program de-

USDA plans to make available approximately \$86

plications received by May 29, 2020.

Targeted areas where CStP funds will be available for agricultural producers interested in implementing conservation practices include all counties in Kansas. Funding will go toward conservation improvement practices such as milkweed plantings, pollinator plantings, brush management, prescribed grazing, as well as others.

For more information contact Sharonté E. Williams by phone at (785) 8234569 or email sharonte.williams@usda.gov.

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. Program staff will continue to work with producers by phone, and using online tools. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with NRCS are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at farmers. gov/coronavirus



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Current Edition

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture intends to make available up to \$100 million in competitive grants for activities designed to expand the availability and

sale of renewable fuels. 'America's energy independence is critical to our

economic security, and President Trump fully recognizes the importance of our ethanol and biofuels industries and the positive impacts they deliver to consumers and farmers with an affordable, abundant, and clean burning fuel," Perdue said. "American ethanol and biofuel producers have been affected by decreased energy demands due to the coronavirus, and these grants to expand their availability will help increase their use during our economic resurgence.'

The Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP) consist of up to \$100 million in funding for competitive grants or sales incentives to eligible entities for activities designed to expand the sales and use of ethanol and biodiesel fuels. Funds will be made directly available to assist transportation fueling and biodiesel distribution facilities with converting to higher ethanol and biodiesel blends by sharing the costs related to and/ or offering sales incentives for the installation of fuel

pumps, related equipment, and infrastructure. Additional Information:

USDA is making the grants available under the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP). The program is intended to increase significantly the sale and use of higher blends of ethanol and biodiesel by expanding the infrastructure for renewable fuels derived from U.S. agricultural products.

Grants for up to 50 percent of total eligible project costs, but not more than \$5 million, are available to vehicle fueling facilities, including, but not limited to, local fueling stations/locations, convenience stores,

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K-State beef cattle experts join effort to help reproductive success of heifers, young cows

Many veterinarians say that getting to the bottom of an animal health challenge often involves deducing a series of clues.

To help beef producers solve the mystery of why their cattle conception rates aren't where they'd hoped, Kansas State University has launched the Heifer CONSULT re-

"Heifer CONSULT is designed to help beef cowcalf producers improve the reproductive success of their heifers and young cows," said Bob Larson, K-State veterinarian and the principle investigator on the USDA grant that funded the project.

The free tool is available on the Beef Cattle Institute website under the 'Tools' header.

"As producers work

through this program, they are asked several questions about the reproductive status of the herd as well as management practices," Larson said. Ideally, Larson added, producers will use records

shortly after the breeding season, but calving data can also be used. Heifer "Throughout CONSULT, producers will

be provided links to addi-

625@156.50

625@156.50

634@156.00

651@155.00

648@155.00

637@154.00

608@154.00

637@153.00

618@153.00

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688@150.00

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17 mix

29 mix

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answer questions and the list of references for the information supplied," Larson said.

The tool is focused around heifer development from weaning at about seven months of age to the time she conceives her second calf at about 26 months old.

Larson said Heifer

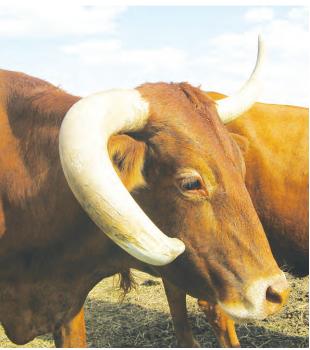
CONSULT was developed through a collaborative effort of veterinarians and beef cattle Extension specialists from across the Midwest. Along with Larson, other K-State faculty on the development team included veterinarian Brad White, and beef Extension specialist Sandy Johnson. Others included Bob

Cushman, USDA Meat Animal Research Center: Rick Funston, University of Nebraska; Dale Grotelueschen, University of Nebraska-GPVEC; Scott Lake, University of Wyoming; Dave Smith, Mississippi State University; and Sherri Merrill, a veterinary practitioner from

"This tool was built by the top experts in heifer development," Larson said. "Through it we hoped to replicate the type of discussion a producer might have with an expert face-

The hope is that producers will use this tool in consultation with their veterinarian.

Larson said: "By carefully selecting, managing from weaning to becoming pregnant with their second calf, producers can optimize reproduction and economic efficiency.



Reanna Rencin, an eight-year member of the Happy Spirit 4-H Club of Barnes in the River Valley District won a purple ribbon with this photo of a Longhorn at the Washington County Fair in 2015, and earned a blue at the Kansas State Fair that same year. Submitting the photo for publication is a step in earning her Gold Pin Award for 4-H and Grass & Grain is happy to help her achieve that goal.

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Ellsworth

Assaria

Hillsboro

Ellsworth

Ellsworth

Delphos

Beverly

Inman

Waldo

Inman

Chapman

Solomon

Beverly

Assaria

Assaria

Clay Center

vvnitewater

Hope

Hope

Waldo

Abilene

Carlton

Hope

Hillsboro

McPherson

Clay Center

\$177.00 - \$185.00

\$167.00 - \$185.50

\$167.00 - \$172.00

\$150.00 - \$159.50

\$137.00 - \$149.50

| 800-900 | \$122.00 - \$131.75 |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 900-1000 | \$116.50-\$119.50 |
| | |
| HEIFERS | |
| 300-400 | \$157.00 - \$178.00 |
| 400-500 | \$146.00 - \$153.00 |
| 500-600 | \$145.00 - \$149.00 |
| 600-700 | \$125.00 - \$137.50 |
| 700-800 | \$119.00 - \$126.00 |
| 800-900 | \$114.00 - \$118.00 |
| 900-1,000 | \$99.00 - \$106.00 |
| | |

300-400

400-500

500-600

600-700

700-800

27 mix

14 mix

27 mix

14 mix

27 mix

10 mix

7 blk

6 blk

9 blk

11 blk

23 mix

7 mix

Claflin

Claflin

Claflin

Inman

Delphos

Delphos

Abilene

Delphos

Delphos

Delphos

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020: STEERS

19 mix Abilene 4 blk Falun 10 blk Claflin 6 blk Ellsworth 10 mix Abilene 3 char Claflin 8 mix Delphos 8 mix Minneapolis 9 mix Delphos 3 blk Lehigh Ellsworth 2 blk 3 blk Delphos 4 blk Hillsboro 4 mix Garden Plain 4 mix Marquette 8 blk Assaria

458@185.50 391@185.00 404@184.00 463@180.00 396@177.00 465@173.00 503@172.00 529@171.00 476@170.00 498@169.00 435@168.00 493@167.00 556@167.00 478@167.00 594@165.00 551@164.50

62 mix 58 blk 125 mix Carlton 52 char Chocteau, OK 59 mix 579@164.00 525@164.00 579@164.00 525@164.00 579@164.00 523@164.00 596@164.00 531@163.00 558@161.00 563@159.50

Ellsworth Ellsworth 639@159.50 588@158.00

7 blk 4 blk 4 blk 3 blk 3 blk 4 blk 16 mix 4 blk 3 blk 4 blk 2 blk 38 mix 19 mix

Assaria 22 mix Abilene Claflin

Delphos 408@153.00 497@152.00 Ellsworth 460@151.00 Falun 445@150.00 Delphos 434@150.00 Abilene Delphos 510@149.00 535@149.00 Ellsworth 519@148.00 Inman 483@148 00 Claflin Lorraine 558@147.00 Claflin 565@145.00

HEIFERS

UPCOMING SALES:

TENTATIVE ... THE LAST THURSDAY SALE **WILL BE MAY 28, IF NEEDED**

SPECIAL COW SALES: SALES START at 11 AM WEANED/VACC. SALES: SALES START at 11 AM

IN STOCK TODAY:

 Heavy Duty Round Bale Feeders • 6'8" x 24' GOOSENECK STOCK TRAILER METAL TOP 6'8" x 24' GOOSENECK STOCK TRAILER 42' ROUND BALE DUMP TRAILERS HEAVY DUTY FEED BUNKS (Silage & Grain)

HEAVY DUTY 5000# GRAIN TOTE

Livestock Commission Co., Inc. Salina, KANSAS SALE BARN PHONE: 785-825-0211

MONDAY — CATTLE • HOG SALE 2nd & 4th MONDAY Hogs sell at 10:30 a.m. on the 2nd & 4th Monday of the month. Cattle at 12:00 Noon. Selling calves and yearlings first, followed by Packer cows and bulls

THURSDAY — CATTLE ONLY

Selling starts at 10:00 a.m. Consign your cattle as early as possible so we can get them highly advertised.

AUCTIONEERS: KYLE ELWOOD, BRANDON HAMEL & GARREN WALROD

For a complete list of cattle for all sales check out our website www.fandrlive.com

CATTLE USA.com LIVE CATTLE AUCTIONS

FARMERS & RANCHERS HAS SWITCHED BACK to .com for our online auctions.

8 blk

6 blk

9 blk

27 blk

21 blk

4 red

42 blk

9 blk

20 blk

10 blk

11 blk

5 blk

6 blk

3 blk

5 blk

5 blk

14 blk Ellsworth 509@145.00 9 blk 19 mix 565@145.00 9 bwf Claflin Falun 499@144.00 7 blk Delphos 5 blk 39 blk Ellsworth 614@137.50 10 blk Herington 36 mix 694@135.25 7 blk Herington Lorraine 669@134.00 13 blk Ellsworth 4 bwf Falun 675@130.00 32 blk Ellsworth 7 blk Tescott Delphos 693@127.50 17 red Lindsborg 8 blk 731@126.00 11 blk Sterling 10 red Beverly 707@125.50 5 red Hanston Hutchinson 781@125.00 Hanston 8 blk 15 red 787@123.00 9 blk Ellsworth 678@122.00 118 blk Assaria 4 blk Clyde 74 mix 756@119.25 25 bwf Wakefie Kanopolis 846@118.00 Gypsum 60 mix Assaria 23 blk 33 blk Marquette 832@117.00 8 red Gypsum 63 blk Whitewater 811@116.00 12 blk 801@116.00 52 blk Whitewater 33 blk Sterling 862@115.25 2 blk Tescott 830@114.00 13 blk 10 red Hope Leoti 816@114.00 62 mix Hillsboro 3 red Leoti 60 mix Hope 833@114.00 10 blk

855@113.25

874@112.50

861@112.00

880@110.00

909@106.00

422@145.00

528@145.00

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020:

BULLS @3100.00 1 blk 1 blk @2800.00 Hope @2600.00 1 blk Randolph 1 blk Randolph @2600.00 1 blk Quenemo @2500.00 Belleville 2 blk 1 Here McPherson 1 red Chapman 1 red Maize

7 bwf Falun 6 red Marion 3 bwf Hutchinson

Manhattan

Whitewater

Salina

Assaria

Gypsum

HEIFER PAIRS

@2400.00 @2300.00 @2300.00 @2300.00

8 blk 3 blk 5 blk 4 blk @2500.00 7 blk @2150.00 10 blk

@2150.00

Zenda @2150.00 Herington @2150.00

Zenda @2125.00 @2100.00 Hutchinson @2050.00 @2025.00 @2000.00 @1950.00 @1925.00 @1900.00 **BRED HEIFERS**

@1635.00 @1600.00 **REPLACEMENT HEIFERS**

902@1075.00 871@1075.00 862@1000.00 839@985.00 797@950.00 Pretty Prairie **FALL BRED COWS** 4 yrs @ 1475.00 3-5 yrs @ 1460.00 3-5 yrs @ 1385.00

3-5 yrs @ 1325.00 Leoti Salina 3-5 yrs @ 1325.00 3-5 yrs @ 1300.00 Leoti Leoti 3-5 yrs @ 1300.00 Maize 3-5 yrs @ 1300.00 3-5 yrs @ 1285.00 Leoti **COW/CALF PAIRS**

Melvern 3-4 yrs @ 2100.00 Great Bend 3-4 yrs @ 2010.00 Great Bend 4-5 yrs @ 2000.00 Melvern 3-4 yrs @ 2000.00 McPherson 4 yrs @ 1975.00 McPherson El Dorado

El Dorado 3-5 yrs @ 1800.00 4 yrs @ 1800.00 Great Bend 4-5 yrs @ 1725.00 6-7 yrs @ 1635.00 6-7 yrs @ 1525.00 Melvern 6-7 yrs @ 1500.00 Mevern Great Bend 7-8 yrs @ 1325.00 Lehigh broke @ 1235.00 Gypsum broke @ 1200.00 El Dorado broke @ 1200.00

THE SPRING SPECTACULAR HORSE SALE FOR MAY 16TH WAS CANCELLED IN

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

60 mostly black steers & heifers, 375-575 lbs. 70 black steers & heifers, homeraised, longtime weaned, checked open, 700-800 lbs.

For Information or estimates, contact:

Mike Samples, Sale Mgr., Cell Phone 785-826-7884 Kyle Elwood, Asst. Sale Mgr., Cell Phone 785-493-2901

Jim Crowther 785-254-7385 Roxbury, KS

Lisa Long 620-553-2351 Ellsworth, KS

Cody Schafer 620-381-1050 Durham, KS

Kenny Briscoe 785-658-7386 Lincoln, KS

Kevin Henke Agenda, KS

H: 785-729-3473, C: 785-565-3525

Check our listings each week on our website at www.fandrlive.com

> Austin Rathbun 785-531-0042 Ellsworth, KS



Cattle Sale Broadcast Live on www.cattleusa.com 1150 KSAL, Salina 6:45 AM -MON.FRI * 880 KRVN 8:40 AM - WED.-THURS. *550AM KFRM - 8:00 am, Wed.-Thurs.