



Narrowly-avoided disaster leads to innovation for K-State student

By Donna Sullivan, Editor

It was a sobering comment from their mechanic: they were very lucky that the bearing which had gone out on their baler had not started a fire. “Dad and I take our equipment very seriously,” said Kansas State University sophomore Blake Chance of Mayetta. “To lose a baler and a tractor would be a very bad day.”

It’s a scene played out all too frequently on farms around the country, and often the one thing standing between saving the tractor or losing it along with the baler is the hitch that connects them. Releasing it more quickly is critical, and as Chance pondered the near-disaster, an idea for a quicker way to release the hitch pin began to formulate. The original drawing was on a paper plate. From that drawing came Quick-Pin, and the first prototype was built by his cousin in 2019. The design features a top sleeve held by a locking pin. The top sleeve is able to come apart by removing the locking pin, leaving just the shaft in the hitch. When the pressure is released, the shaft falls down through the hitch, freeing the tractor from the baler or any other implement. As well as in emergency situations, the Quick-Pin is also helpful for one-man operations.

“I used my prototype all last summer and didn’t



KSU sophomore Blake Chance designed a prototype for Quick-Pin on a paper plate after being told a bearing that had gone out on their baler could have easily caught fire. He recognized the need to be able to unhook the baler from the tractor as quickly as possible in such an event.

have any problems with it,” he said. “That’s how we knew we wanted to go forward with it.”

Chance is majoring in agribusiness at K-State, and took his first entrepreneurship class in 2019. He wrote up a business plan for Quick-Pin and entered it into the KSU Launch Competition, where he found himself giving his presentation in front of a panel of judges in a *Shark Tank* type of format. He placed third in the competition and put the prize

money toward a Patent Pending for Quick-Pin. The experience also led him to minor in entrepreneurship.

With a working prototype and patent pending, Chance was ready to start producing Quick-Pin. Unfortunately, there wasn’t a company that wanted to work with as small a quantity as he was able to produce. While he had people tell him he could have them made in China for \$2-4 per unit, he was determined that Quick-Pin

would be American-made. The project came to a halt for a while, until Industrial Chrome in Topeka agreed to take it on. “I was really fortunate for that,” Chance said. “Because nobody was really interested in doing it affordably.”

Industrial Chrome produces everything for Quick-Pin, including the label, pins and keys, for about \$18 per unit. “It’s more expensive making them in America, but I wanted a higher quality where I knew where they came from,” stated Chance. He says he’s not making much money on them right now, but hopes

that as he makes larger quantities, the price will go down. Quick-Pin sells online for \$28.99, and he wholesales it to farm stores for \$23-25 each. So far he has them in Tarwater Farm and Home in Topeka and Holton, Wege’s Feed Store in Holton and Hoyt, and Grainfield Supply in Grainfield. He has also filled out an application with Tractor Supply and hopes to one day have them on their shelves.

Having used it for a year, there’s not much Chance says he would change. He does plan to make the handle bigger on the next run so a person’s whole hand can fit and it will be solid and comfortable when it is pulled out.

Another feature Chance offers is business logos on Quick-Pin to be used as promotional items. “The sticker is on top of the pin where it won’t get

rubbed off,” he explained. His bank, Denison State Bank, ordered thirty of the logoed pins to give out to their customers.

He said that aside from finding the manufacturer, convincing people to make the change has been the most challenging aspect. “If I know the people, they will listen to me and can grasp the concept,” he added. “But it takes a little bit of time.”

Chance plans to attend farm shows to demonstrate Quick-Pin. He planned to be at the Four State Farm Show at Pittsburg State University the end of May. It has been rescheduled to July 24-26 due to the coronavirus. “I think farm shows are what’s really going to help me sell it and get dealers,” he said.

A demonstration of Quick-Pin can also be seen on his website, www.quick-pinhitchpin.com.



Quick-Pin features a top sleeve held by a locking pin. The top sleeve is able to come apart by removing the locking pin, leaving just the shaft in the hitch, so that when the pressure is released the shaft will fall down through the hitch.

Model of beef cattle, transportation industries as critical infrastructures reveals vulnerabilities

By Stephanie Jacques

An interdisciplinary team of Kansas State University researchers developed a computer simulation that revealed beef supply chain vulnerabilities that need safeguarding — a realistic concern during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Caterina Scoglio, professor, and Qihui Yang, doctoral student, both in electrical and computer engineering, recently published “Developing an agent-based model to simulate the beef cattle production and transportation in southwest Kansas” in *Physica A*, an Elsevier journal publication.

The paper describes a model of the beef production system and the transportation industry, which are interdependent critical infrastructures — similar to the electrical grid and computer technology. According to the model, disruptions in the cattle industry — especially in the beef packing plants — will affect the transportation industry and together cause great economic harm. The disruptions modeled in the simulation share similarities with how the packing plants

have been affected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“When we first started working on this project, there was a lot of emphasis on studying critical infrastructures; especially ones that are interdependent, meaning that they need to work together with other critical infrastructures,” Scoglio said. “The idea is if there is a failure in one of the systems, it can propagate to the other system, increasing the catastrophic effects.”

The study included a variety of viewpoints to create a realistic and integrated model of both systems. Co-authors on the paper include Don Gruenbacher, associate professor and department head of electrical and computer engineering; Jessica Heier Stamm, associate professor of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering; Gary Brase, professor of psychological sciences; Scott DeLoach, professor and department head of computer science; and David Amrine, research director of the Beef Cattle Institute.

The researchers used the model to evaluate which supply chain components were more robust and which were not. They determined that packing plants are the most vulnerable. Scoglio said that recent events in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic raise important issues about how to safeguard the system.

“An important message is that after understanding the critical role of these packers, we need to decide how we could protect both them and the people who work there,” Scoglio said. “While the plants are a critical infrastructure and need to be protected, taking care of the health of the workers is very important. How can we design a production process that can be flexible and adaptable in an epidemic?”

According to the paper, the beef cattle industry contributes approximately \$8.9 billion to the Kan-

sas economy and employs more than 42,000 people in the state. Since trucks are needed to move cattle, any disruption in either cattle production or transportation almost certainly would harm the regional economy, Scoglio said.

“Packers need to be considered as a critical point of a much longer supply chain, which needs specific attention to make sure it will not fail and can continue working,” Scoglio said. “Beef packers are a critical infrastructure in the United States.”

The project was supported by the National Science Foundation and focused on southwest Kansas, but the researchers acknowledge that cattle come from outside the region and interruptions may have larger national effects.

Farm bankruptcies on the rise amid coronavirus pandemic

Year-to-year farm bankruptcies increased 23 percent, according to recently released data from U.S. Courts. An American Farm Bureau Federation Market Intel report shows a total of 627 filings during the 12-month period ending March 2020, marking five consecutive years of Chapter 12 bankruptcy increases, including an accelerated rate since January.

Wisconsin was the hardest hit with 78 filings in the 12-month period, followed by Nebraska with 41 Chapter 12 filings and Iowa at 37. More than 50 percent of the Chapter 12 filings were in the 13-state Midwest region, followed by 19 percent in the Southeast.

“Each bankruptcy represents a farm in America struggling to survive or going under, which is both heartbreaking and alarming,” said American Farm Bureau president Zippy Duvall. “Even more concerning, the difficulty staying afloat is made worse by the pandemic and related shutdowns as farmers are left with fewer markets for their products and lower prices for the products they do sell.”

Currently, the increase in bankruptcies is not related to the coronavirus pandemic. That is certain to change as U.S. unemployment is projected to reach 14.5% in the second and third quarters, which will cause a decline in off-farm income. This could affect farmers’, notably small-to-medium-sized farms’, ability to service a record \$425 billion in debt, because many farmers rely on off-farm income as a stabilizing force.

“Congress and the administration made an initial investment in America’s farmers and ranchers with the \$19 billion Coronavirus Food Assistance Program,” said Duvall, “but more must be done to ensure farms survive to continue providing food for America’s families during the pandemic and beyond.”

These boots are made for... hangin’



Spring is on full display in Wabaunsee County, as is the beginning of a boot fence.

Photo by Kevin Macy

Little Legacies

By Greg Doering,
Kansas Farm Bureau

Over the past few weeks, my colleagues at Kansas Farm Bureau have seen more of my basement than either I or they ever envisioned they would. Their riveting view consists of two doors, one to the laundry room and one to a spare bedroom. Between the two hangs a painting from my grandmother.

It's a fall scene of a barn with hay bales stacked next to it. The sky is blue

with fluffy, white clouds. Autumn has turned the grass reddish-brown and yellowed the leaves on the oak trees. It's a scene taken from countless farms across the country. It's also one of several family heirlooms surrounding me in my new workspace.

Most of my work is done at a desk that once belonged to my great-grandfather. According to family lore, it resided in the office of the movie theatre he owned and operated through the Great Depres-

sion until he died in the early '70s. My father used it in his office at my childhood home until I took possession of it.

The desk has been in my basement for just shy of a decade now, mostly accumulating the junk flat surfaces tend to attract. Built of solid red oak, it's still plenty capable of serving its intended function, even though a laptop has replaced the inkwell and typewriter.

I've also rediscovered an open-faced Waltham pocket watch. I've kept it nearby, winding it periodically to hear the rhythmic ticking. It's older than the desk, dating to at least my great-great-grandfather, Artemas L. Barton. There's an outside chance the watch originally belonged to his father who had the

same initials.

The case is made of brass and is engraved with ALB in the center of the back cover, which is dented in a couple of spots. A semi-circle of polished metal is evidence it slid in and out of its owner's pocket. It's missing the second hand and the face is a little faded, but it still keeps time.

All of these are amusing distractions that allow my mind to wander.

I ponder if my great-grandfather leaned back in his chair and propped his feet up on the same corner I do. I wonder if Artemas checked the watch before an important meeting. And I ask myself what item of mine might one day spark such questions from my descendants.

My grandmother probably didn't set out to create an heirloom when she crafted her painting. My great-grandfather would have never envisioned his office desk from a cinema holding a computer capable of streaming endless movies and TV shows. I doubt my great-great-grandfather imagined his everyday watch becoming an inheritance spanning generations.

These items are connections to just a fraction of my ancestors. Others include a Lutheran minister in Germany at the beginning of the European Reformation and an accused witch in Salem, Massachusetts. She eventually fled to Framingham, which is just west of Boston. Between the two is Waltham,

birthplace of the pocket watch now ticking away on my desk.

Everyone comes from somewhere, and that's why I find these items fascinating. I think about what small items of mine might find their way to my descendants long after I'm gone.

It's also a reminder that life will continue without you. And the most inconsequential decisions — creating a painting, choosing a desk, buying a pocket watch — become the little legacies we leave.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

MKC announces acquisition of Mid-West Fertilizer

MKC, a farmer-owned agricultural cooperative, has finalized the acquisition of Mid-West Fertilizer, Inc., a full-service agricultural retailer headquartered in Paola, effective May 12. The company will operate as Mid-West Fertilizer, LLC.

MKC president and CEO Brad Stedman said, "Together, the acquisition strengthens our position in the marketplace and will allow us to expand our services to create additional value for our owners and customers. We see growth of our footprint as a key part of our strategy. Mid-West Fertilizer is a strong ag retail organization with a great team. The synergies gained through this acquisition will allow both companies to continue to achieve greater success."

The acquisition included grain, wholesale and retail agronomy, energy, feed and trucking. MKC and Mid-West Fertilizer have worked beside one another for three years through their relationship with Team Marketing Alliance, LLC, a majority-owned subsidiary of MKC.

"We chose to partner with an organization that will continue to bring value to producers, provide employees' career development opportunities and allow our organization to be successful well into the future," said Rod Silver, former president and CEO of Mid-West Fertilizer. "I look forward to the long-term value and new opportunities for our producers, employees and communities."

Mid-West Fertilizer, LLC, will be operated as a wholly owned subsidiary of MKC. Silver will continue to provide leadership to Mid-West Fertilizer, LLC, after the acquisition.

4-H Discovery Days will go virtual this year

Kansas 4-H officials have announced that the popular Discovery Days event, which brings together several hundred youth from across the state each year, is moving to an online format at the end of May.

Discovery Days is one of K-State's longest-running traditions, now in its 96th year. More than 400 youth from 84 Kansas counties who attended last year.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on mass gatherings, however, Kansas 4-H is adapting to still offer a learning opportunity for youth, said 4-H and youth development specialist Shane Potter.

"We realize this will not replace the in-person pieces and the friendships and connections that are made during Discovery Days, but we can still do some great things," Potter said. "We are going to move forward and offer a great virtual

learning environment for youth at the same time as the original event."

Kansas youth are encouraged to register online through the Kansas 4-H website. This year's program, set for May 27-29, includes live sessions each morning as well as interactive, small-group sessions in the afternoon. There will also be many recorded sessions available for youth to view at their leisure.

"We strive for hands-on learning, where youth are immersed in content," Potter said. "A lot of things may be similar, but we know it won't be the exact same experience. This is what we see as kind of a supplement to what we've done in the past. If it works, this may help us be better in the future by maybe incorporating some technology, or deepened learning, during in-person events."

Ironically, Discovery Day organizers — including several Kansas youth — had already planned this year's event around the theme, '2020: A Vision for the Future.' With the move to an online format, some of that future is happening now, according to Potter.

"Technology is great, and we really want to use it to the best of our abilities," he said. "Being able to break out in small groups, ask questions, engage with one another — even though it can be difficult — is really providing growth. So as we're looking at career and college readiness, these are skills that can help youth in the future. By being able to engage in an online platform, they may be more prepared to do a video interview someday."

In the past, Discovery Days activities were open to youth ages 13-18. While the content may be

more applicable for that age group, Potter said that youth of all ages are welcome to participate in this year's online format.

"We want to provide a safe environment for all youth, so we will ask youth to register for the live sessions," he said. "We would prefer that people register by the week before, at least by May 22, and then we will send information to them so that they can connect to the live sessions."

Potter added that Discovery Days continues to focus on career and college readiness, community service and hands-on learning. He said youth also will have an opportunity to purchase a Discovery Days t-shirt, as in past years.

"Regardless of what is happening in our world, we are building resilience for our 4-H'ers, and this is an example of that," he said. "The youth voice is still guiding what we're doing and how we're moving forward to provide things in difficult times."

For more information on Discovery Days and to register, visit www.Kansas4-H.org.

Winter wheat forecast sees decline

Based on May 1 conditions, Kansas's 2020 winter wheat crop is forecast at 306 million bushels, down 10 percent from last year's crop, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Average yield is forecast at 47 bushels per acre, down five bushels from last year. Acreage to be harvested for grain is estimated at 6.50 million acres, unchanged from last year. This would be 96 percent of the planted acres, above last year's 94 percent harvested.

May 1 hay stocks of 1,420,000 tons are up 125 percent from last year.



Well, we did it, all the cows are out on grass, the bulls are with them and all of us are happy. I am not going to lie; it seems like each year I am more and more relieved when the trailer door opens on the last load and the winter pens are empty. I also must say that each year it seems like we get the system just a little more refined and the whole process goes just a little faster and more efficiently. This year was a record for efficiency and speed.

I know many of you are disappointed that we did not have a wreck because that makes for a better column. We did have our moments, like when Isaac discovered that you should not try to tag a cow in the alley with your mother standing behind the cow. Fortunately, no cows or mothers were harmed in the tagging and even the son who did the tagging came out relatively unhurt. Lessons were learned all the way around.

Most of the two days we vaccinated and worked cows and calves were mundane and unexciting and that is just the way I like it. All I can say is that good cattle handling facilities are worth their weight in gold and medical deductibles (which are roughly the same). We also invested in a calf cradle this year that we named Clayton after Isaac's friend who helped us the past two years by holding the calves in the big squeeze chute while we vaccinated, and fly-tagged them. Both Claytons work very well but the new one bruised a lot less.

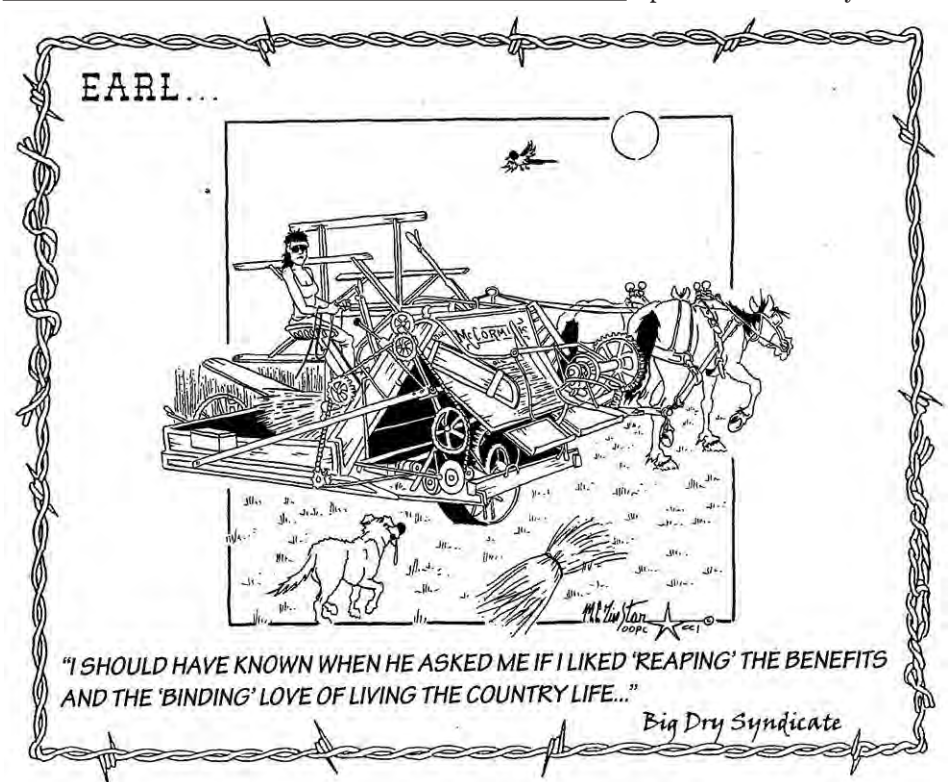
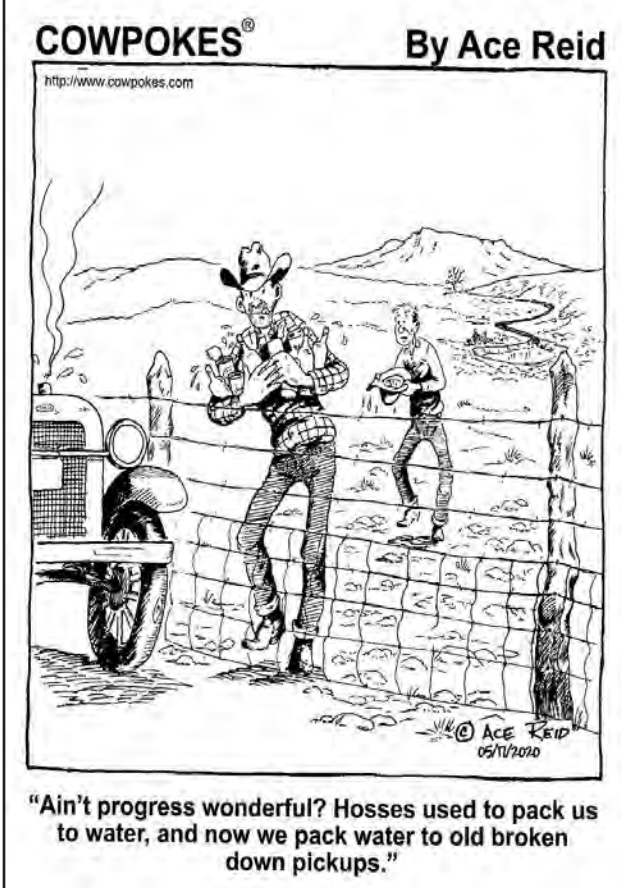
Our biggest hitch was the cow who had her calf the day before we attempted to catch her group and work them. She came into the corral, but her calf did not and our subsequent attempt to catch the calf did not go well, leading to her being released for the night. The next morning Jennifer went out to persuade her to come back into the corral. At first it did not go well but soon Cow 364 learned the lesson the rest of us had learned over the years and that is it is much easier to do what Jennifer wants. She is going to win and holding out just makes the whole ordeal take longer and much more painful than complying off the bat.

Cow 364 should have shared that piece of advice with Cow ?? (what would you have tagged a cow with no tags and no readable freeze brand?). Cow ?? was the same cow Isaac attempted to tag in the alley because she refused to go into the head catch. That was why Jennifer was behind her in the first place. It took two attempts and ?? was the last cow we worked but she finally gave into Jennifer's stubborn power of persuasion and stuck her head into the head catch. It might have taken 30 minutes, but Jennifer was the winner.

At the end of the day when I opened the gate on the final load of cows to go out on grass (a load that both 364 and ?? were on) I prayed a little prayer to thank God for the blessings in my life. It is easy right now to focus on all that is bad and not going right in this world, I get that, and I fall victim to it myself. But as I watched those cows stick their noses in the lush green grass and I watched the calves run and buck in the open pasture I realized that life is much bigger than the here and now.

The world moves on and what is bad now will soon be a memory. There is good all around us and we need to find those moments that give us peace and happiness no matter what the circumstances are. For me it was that moment as I stood there watching the cows slowly scatter out on the new pasture. What moments before had seemed like chaos with cows mooing and calves bawling was now perfect quiet with just chewing of the cows and a few birds in the background.

Nothing but God is forever, and we need to be reminded of this. Time will move on and things will change. We will get back to normal, it might not be the normal we are used to, but it will be the normal we know. We need to find what makes us happy, the things that give us peace and spend time there. For me that peace and happiness can be found watching cows on pasture. All is right and good in my world and I hope you find the same thing in yours.



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K-State professor digs hole in backyard to teach about soils

Included in her experience as a professor of agronomy for Kansas State University, DeAnn Presley lists work in soil science, cover crops and crop production.

This spring, she added one more: construction equipment operator.

When the COVID-19 pandemic brought all in-person classes to a halt at universities across the country, many faculty members were thrust into finding creative ways to teach courses that were more suited to hands-on learning.

For Presley, who teaches a 500-level soils class, that meant bringing out the heavy machinery.

"I dug a hole in my backyard with an excavator," she said, referring to the large, diesel-powered construction machine with a bucket for digging out large chunks of earth.

"I had never done it myself before and I wanted to learn, so I did it on a day when no one was watching," Presley said. "It's not the best soil pit ever, but I feel a lot more confident now."

The trench, which measures 12 feet wide and four and one-half feet deep, became an online classroom for 12 students enrolled in Presley's soil science class. From the pit in her backyard, Presley recorded a YouTube video in which she delivered a lecture that normally would have been covered in a three-hour, field-based lab.

"My backyard has really interesting soils," Presley said. "I have glacial till on top and shale underneath. And there's no better way to get a good look at that than to dig a hole."

"I'd rather have the students in the pit with me," she adds. "But, obviously, that's not possible right now, so videotaping myself describing soils is



Tool of the trade? K-State professor of agronomy DeAnn Presley dug a trench in her own backyard to assist in teaching an online soils class this spring.

as close as I can get."

Presley's class provides an important piece of knowledge for the graduate and undergraduate students she teaches. She said knowing where soil comes from, how it is formed and how it varies across landscapes is important for making critical management decisions that affect a variety of land uses – including agriculture and construction.

"As students, the biggest challenge we've faced has been not being able to go out in the field to see and touch soil profiles," said Mikala Postlewait, a sophomore from Shawnee. "Dr. Presley does her best at describing the profiles in the video, but I would really like to go out and feel the soil to determine things like color and

texture on my own."

Ordinarily, Presley says the students would take five field trips to various sites around the Kansas Flint Hills. They were able to take one of those trips prior to spring break, but the other four visits have been taught via YouTube videos.

Despite the limitations, sophomore Isaiah Euler says he kind of likes learning about soil from a distance.

"I didn't feel pressure to just pass the tests, but really got to focus on learning the material well," said Euler, a sophomore from Overland Park.

"I've been on the (K-State) soil judging team for two years now and have continued to learn exponentially in this class. I feel like we've covered the topics at a

great pace and have received a lot of feedback."

Prior to the shutdown of in-class teaching, Presley said she had never taught an online course, "so I bet I could do a lot of things better."

But, she adds, "I try to be as accessible as possible. I have been responding to students' emails, phone calls and texts as quickly as I can because I know they have a lot going on in their classes right

now."

She'd prefer to teach classes in person, but during an unusual time, Presley has found a creative alternative.

"I feel like I'm not teaching them as well as if I was in person," she said. "When I'm in front of them and if they don't understand, I can see it all over their faces. When you record and post lectures, it's convenient for them and for me, but I know there's stuff that they probably aren't learning as well as if we were together."

In addition to videotaping lectures from soil pits, Presley said she has recorded instructions for some homework assignments, and has encouraged the students to do their homework in groups, "because I believe strongly that you learn a subject even better when you teach it to others."

"A pleasant surprise from teaching online is that when I've posted my YouTube 'virtual soil pits' on Twitter, I've gotten nice comments from other soil scientists," Presley said.

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Marlene Bures, Odell, Nebraska, Wins Weekly Grass & Grain Recipe Contest
 Winner Marlene Bures, Odell, Nebraska: “My kids and grand kids love this recipe. A lot of people ask me for it.”
CHOCOLATE REVEL BARS

1 cup butter
 2 cups brown sugar
 2 eggs
 2 teaspoons vanilla
 2 1/2 cups flour
 1 teaspoon soda
 1 teaspoon salt
 3 cups quick oatmeal
 Chocolate Filling:
 12-ounce package milk chocolate chips
 15 ounces sweetened condensed milk
 2 tablespoons butter
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 2 teaspoons vanilla
 Cream butter and sugar. Mix in eggs and vanilla. Mix dry ingredients together and add to creamed mixture. Set aside. Mix chocolate chips, condensed milk, butter and salt together and melt over low heat; when smooth add vanilla. Spread two-thirds oatmeal mixture into a 15 1/2-by-10 1/2-by-1-inch pan. Cover with chocolate mixture. Make 12 flat cookies out of remaining dough and space 3 across evenly in 4 rows. Bake 25 to 30 minutes in a 350-degree oven.
NOTE: I might add that when you put oatmeal mixture in pan, it is easier to put cold water on your hands to spread it around.

 Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:
ORANGE SALAD
 (2) 3-ounce packages orange gelatin
 1 cup boiling water
 1 pint orange or pineapple sherbet
 11-ounce can mandarin oranges, drained
 8-ounce can crushed pineapple, drained
 1 cup miniature marshmallows
 1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped
 In a large bowl dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Add sherbet; stir until smooth. Stir in oranges, pineapple and marshmallows. Fold in whipped cream. Pour into 6-cup serving bowl. Cover and refrigerate for 3-4 hours or until set.

 Ireta Schwant, Blaine:
 “This recipe is from a dear

aunt of ours, Ada Frieda Abitz, born in 1917 and passed away in 1998. We always enjoyed her visits when she traveled to Wheaton from Wichita on Memorial Day weekend for our annual Abitz family reunion.”

RED DOG
 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
 1 large chopped onion
 1 small bell pepper
 2 tablespoons parsley
 2 cloves garlic
 4-8 stalks chopped celery
 1 3/4 cups diced tomatoes
 1 package spaghetti
 2 cups grated cheese
 1 large can mushrooms
 2 tablespoons chili powder
 Season with paprika, salt & pepper
 Brown meat. Add onion, green pepper, garlic, parsley and celery. Add 1 3/4 cups tomatoes. Simmer 20 minutes. Cook spaghetti;

drain and rinse in cold water. Mix all ingredients together and bake 45 minutes at 350 degrees. Season with paprika, salt and pepper as desired. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Shirley Deiser, Ellsworth:
CHICKEN CLUB BRUNCH RING
 1/2 cup fat-free mayonnaise
 1 tablespoon minced parsley
 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
 1 1/2 teaspoons chopped onion
 1 3/4 cups cubed cooked chicken breast, cut in 1 1/2-inch cubes
 2 bacon strips, cooked & crumbled
 1 cup shredded Swiss cheese, divided
 2 tubes (8 ounces each) refrigerator crescent rolls
 2 plum tomatoes
 2 cups shredded lettuce

In a large bowl combine mayonnaise, parsley, mustard and onion. Stir in chicken, bacon and 1/4 cup cheese. Unroll crescent dough and separate into 16 triangles. Arrange on an ungreased 12-inch pizza pan forming a ring with pointed ends facing outer edge of pan and with ends overlapping. Spoon chicken mixture over wide ends. Fold points over filling and tuck under wide end. Filling will be visible. Chop 1/2 of a tomato; set aside. Slice remaining tomatoes; place over filling and tuck into dough. Bake at 375 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Let stand for 5 minutes. Place lettuce in center of ring. Sprinkle with chopped tomato.

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:
BROCCOLI CHEESE SOUP
 2 teaspoons butter
 3/4 cup chopped onion
 6 cups water
 6 chicken bouillon cubes
 1 teaspoon salt
 8 ounces fine noodles
 (2) 10-ounce packages broccoli
 6 cups milk
 1 pound Velveeta cheese

Saute onions in butter. Add water, bouillon and salt; boil. Add noodles and cook 3-5 minutes. Add broccoli and cook 5 minutes. Add cheese and milk. Cook until cheese melts. Serve.

Gin Fox, Holton: “Was wanting something chocolate like brownies, but didn’t have a mix. So I made a batch from scratch. It was very satisfying.”
BROWNIES
 4 eggs
 1 cup sifted sugar
 1 cup sifted brown sugar
 8 ounces (or 2 sticks) melted butter
 1 1/4 cup sifted cocoa
 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

2 teaspoons vanilla
 1/2 cup flour
 In a mixing bowl use a mixer with a whisk attachment and beat eggs until they are fluffy and yellow at medium speed. Add both sugars and mix. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour into a greased 8-inch square pan. Bake 45 minutes at 300 degrees. Test for doneness using the toothpick method. Cool on rack. Resist the temptation to cut into it until it’s mostly cool.

Kellee George, Shawnee:
PORK CHOPS
 1 tablespoon oil
 (4) 4-ounce boneless pork chops
 1/2 cup beef broth
 2 tablespoons brown sugar
 1 tablespoon soy sauce
 2 teaspoons cornstarch
 2 tablespoons cold water
 Brown each side of pork chops in oil. Remove and set aside. In skillet stir in brown sugar, soy sauce, broth. Return chops to skillet. Cover and simmer 6-8 minutes. Remove chops and keep warm. Combine cornstarch and water until smooth. Stir into broth mixture. Bring to boil; cook and stir until thick, about 1 minute. Serve over chops.

Darlene Thomas, Delphos:
CHEESY CHICKEN & RICE BAKE
 1 can cream of chicken soup
 1 1/3 cups water
 3/4 cup uncooked regular white rice
 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
 Mix soup, water, rice, onion powder and black pepper in a 2-quart shallow baking dish. Top with chicken. Sprinkle chicken with additional pepper. Cover and bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink and rice is done. Top with cheese.

For a Mexican Twist: omit onion powder and pepper; instead add 1 teaspoon chili powder to soup mixture. Substitute Mexican cheese blend for the Cheddar.

For an Italian Twist: omit onion powder and pepper; instead add 1 teaspoon crushed Italian seasoning to soup mixture and substitute 1/3 cup shredded Parmesan cheese for the Cheddar cheese.

Get Your Veggies: Stir 2 cups of fresh, canned or frozen vegetables into soup mixture before topping with chicken.



Baking With Sugarbuns

By Michele Carlyon

Mother's Day

Mother’s Day wasn’t necessarily what we were hoping for this year, but we made the best of it and ultimately all had a good day. I told you I didn’t get you a card, and I didn’t, but I did want to do this for you.

To My Mom:
 There is truly no one else in this world that drives me half as crazy as you do; let’s be really honest, though, it’s because we are so much alike. But at the end of the day I wouldn’t trade you for the world.
 From an early age I learned without a doubt that although you expected a lot out of the boys and I, there wasn’t anything you wouldn’t do for us. There wasn’t an event that you would miss or a milestone that you didn’t try to make special.

Eighteen years of going back and forth to the Shriner’s hospital in St. Louis with you taught me how to love a road trip and to make the absolute best of them. It also taught me strategy in the form of the “dot game;” that you weren’t about to ever just let me win, which later led to many games of “Clue,” where I was the only one who could beat you. These drives taught me that we were some of the lucky ones, there were so many people facing more difficult struggles than I was, and a lot of them didn’t have the support system that I did. It taught me to face my fears and to know that there wasn’t anything we wouldn’t get past as a family.

Living with you for eighteen years taught me to be stubborn and to never back down from a fight, especially when I know I’m right. It also taught me to stand up for myself and to always take care of the people that I love. Being under the same roof gave me a deep love and appreciation for feeding people. We are both horrible at emotions, but we can put them into food; we pour ourselves into the food we make and then we give it away to nour-

ish the people we care about and to give people a reason to smile. You taught me how to give back by making sure we were involved in angel tree shopping at Christmas and by encouraging us to never take anything for granted. You taught me work ethic, clearly not time management, but definitely work ethic by insisting I have a job the moment I could get one. We had everything we needed, but if we wanted something, we worked for it; a valuable lesson for life. It gave me the values that I needed to take on life on my own.

Being on my own for the past thirteen years has taught me that no matter how much time passes, we all still need our moms and a home base. It has taught me that although I’m incredibly independent, family is still number one, something that was instilled from the beginning. It’s taught me that no matter how hard I fall, my family will always be there to pick me back up and to push me to try again. It’s taught me that I can do anything I set my mind to and that only I can hold myself back. It’s taught me that although incredibly similar, we are also quite different, but that’s what makes us us. Thank you for being my mom and for always pushing me to be the best version of myself possible. You are appreciated more than you know and loved beyond measure.

-Your Daughter

Michele grew up in Junction City and graduated from Kansas State University. She worked in the restaurant management field for six years before deciding to switch careers and now works as an office manager for a company that manufactures oilfield products. Her passion for blogging and food can be followed on Instagram: [boobsbrainsandbaking](#). If you would like to contact Michele with comments please email [mcarlyon88@gmail.com](#)

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Children Followed Popeye The Sailor's Lead

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Many unsubstantiated stories exist about why cartoonist E.C. Segar chose spinach to give superhuman powers to his comic strip character Popeye the Sailor during the Great Depression.

"Quite likely, it was his attempt to prompt children to eat more of this nutrient powerhouse," said University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein. "During that era, the diet of the average American lacked essential vitamins and minerals. The nutritional well-being of children was of great concern."

Spinach sales skyrocketed after Popeye was seen gulping down a can of spinach in the midst of a perilous situation.

"In fact, during the 1930s, spinach consumption increased by 33 percent," said Trinklein. "Even more remarkable is that children listed spinach as their third favorite food in a survey."

Spinach is a long-day plant that flowers after long periods of uninterrupted light. Hot weather and drought speed flowering and lead to a quick drop in table quality.

A hardy, cool-season vegetable, spinach does well at Missouri's latitudes from March through May and again September through November. Fall plantings often survive Missouri winters if protected with a cold frame or hotbed. Early spring/late winter plantings can be seeded over frozen ground or snow. Most gardeners, however, delay planting until about six weeks before the last frost or when soil temperatures reach at least 40 degrees, the minimum temperature for germination.

Plant seeds in a



well-drained garden loam fertilized according to soil test results, Trinklein said. Spinach prefers a slightly acidic soil (pH of around 6.5). Its relatively deep taproot and a shallow network of "feeder roots" require good drainage and adequate water retention for best growth. Add well-decomposed organic matter to the soil. If using manure, properly compost it to avoid bacterial contamination.

Sow spinach seeds in rows 18 inches apart. Thin later to a distance of about 2 to 4 inches between plants. Thinning is not necessary if you harvest the entire crop at once. Cover seeds with a soilless potting mix to prevent soil crusting, which inhibits seedling emergence.

Once the planting is established, weed control and adequate water probably are the two most important requirements to assure a good crop. If plant growth is slow or the color is light green, a light side dressing of nitrogen is recommended. Occasionally, flea beetles will chew small holes in spinach, but their numbers usually aren't high enough intervention.

Harvest spinach as soon as the oldest (outer) leaves are large enough to use. This usually happens 40 to 50 days after seeding, when plants have at least five or six leaves and the oldest leaves are about 3 inches long. If the entire plant is harvested at once, wait until the first seed stalk appears.

The nutrient content of spinach decreases rapidly after harvest, so refrigerate immediately. Refrigerated spinach can be stored up to five days. Dry spinach leaves after washing to avoid excessive moisture, which leads to disease, and refrigerate immediately. Wash thoroughly just before use.

Spinach trivia

- The average American eats 3 pounds of spinach each year.

- Fresh spinach is more nutritious than processed or frozen spinach.

- Because of the calcium oxalate content of spinach, humans can only take in a small fraction of the iron it contains.

- March 26 is designated as National Spinach Day.

- Both Crystal City, Texas, and Alma, Arkansas, declare themselves the "spinach capital of the world." Both cities hold an annual spinach festival.

- In 1937, the town of Crystal City, Texas, erected a statue of Popeye the Sailor.

- The world's largest can of spinach holds 1 million gallons. Located in Alma, Arkansas, it's actually the city's water tower painted green with a picture of Popeye on it.

- Engineers at MIT have genetically engineered spinach to detect explosives in soil and respond to a signal sent by a device resembling a cellphone.

Source: David Trinklein, 573-882-9631

MU Extension news: extension.missouri.edu/new



By Ashleigh Krispense

These simple bars are a delicious blend of two of my favorite things: chocolate and peanut butter. They need just a handful of ingredients and can be whipped up in a jiffy!

1 cup butter, melted
1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
2 cups powdered sugar
1 cup peanut butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 1/2 cups dark chocolate chips
4-5 tablespoons peanut butter

Get started by greasing a 9-by-13-inch pan. Set aside.

Fill a medium saucepan halfway with water and place at medium heat. Set a glass bowl on top of the saucepan and add the chocolate chips to it. Stir occasionally as they melt.



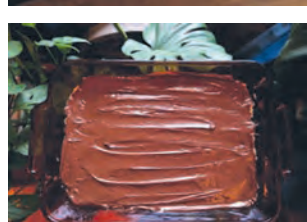
In a large bowl, mix together the melted butter, graham cracker crumbs (finely crushed), powdered sugar, 1 cup of peanut butter and vanilla. Once thoroughly combined, spread it out in the greased pan.



Once the chocolate chips are melted, stir in the 4-5 tablespoons of peanut butter.

Pour over the peanut butter mixture and spread evenly.

Chill in the refrigerator for at least an hour. Serve with a glass of cold milk and enjoy!



Ashleigh is a freelance writer and the gal behind the website, *Prairie Gal Cookin'* (www.prairiegalcookin.com), where she shares step-by-step recipes and stories from the farm in Kansas. Follow PGC online or like it on Facebook for more recipes and ramblings!

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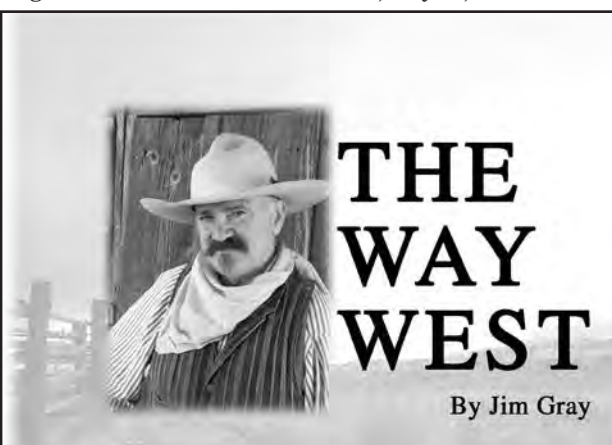
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THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

Old West Sporting Town

Wichita, Kansas, was established in the broad Arkansas River valley at the confluence of that river with the Little Arkansas River. The “unofficial” town had yet to be surveyed when two to three hundred people inhabited the town in August of 1869. The Chisholm Trail crossed the river at that point bringing Texans with their wild Texas longhorn cattle right through the frontier settlement. With drovers restocking their camps on their drives north to Abilene, Wichita’s mercantile business was booming. Homesteaders could rely on the businessmen of Wichita to provide all their needs.

Businessmen were already taking note that a railroad could secure a thriving economy for the emerging cattle town. In the midst of a booming economy the town was finally officially recorded on March 25, 1870.

That was fine for settlers on the west side of the river, but the river crossing to get to Wichita could pose a serious disadvantage to the farmers south and west of the river. A few enterprising entrepreneurs initiated a town company to organize a supplemental trade center west of Wichita christened Elgin, Kansas. The February 25, 1871 Wichita Vidette observed that the

citizens of Elgin were preparing for vigorous growth in the spring. Already, “Mr. Hughes (Hugh) has his stock of goods sufficient to supply the immediate wants of the settlers on the other side of the Arkansaw.” Construction was expected to commence on three new buildings the next week. “Our friends of Elgin anticipate that the summer roses will find their town assuming city proportions.”

The March 3, 1871 *Weekly News-Democrat* at Emporia reported that extensive preparations were under way in building the new town west of the Arkansas River. Elgin’s representatives announced that an official designation from the Post Office Department was imminent. Citing the difficult, and sometimes dangerous crossing into Wichita, the paper noted, “By the last of March the trade of that side of the river can be accommodated without crossing.”

Apparently, Elgin’s city fathers were unaware that another Elgin had been established in Howard County (later changed to

Chautauqua County). That fact was realized when their application for a post office revealed that the other Elgin had been awarded a post office just days before their application on February 27, 1871.

The town company adopted the name of Delano “partly out of compliment to the secretary of interior, and partly because of its oddity and Milesian origin.” The fabled Gaelic-speaking Milesians, also known as Gaels, wandered the earth for centuries before establishing settlements from the Iberian peninsula to northwest France and finally Ireland. Delano family origins trace to the de Lannoy name in northwestern France. Secretary of the Interior Columbus Delano was considered President Grant’s “right hand man,” and was persistently present in the news cycles of the day. The influential family included a later United States president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The Elgin Town Company legally changed the name of the corporation to the Delano Town Com-

pany on March 13, 1871, and recorded the plat for Delano with the Sedgwick County Register of Deeds on May 17, 1871. The original town comprised nine square blocks with the center block making up the town square. Delano’s post office opened April 5, 1871. John Edwin Martin served as the first postmaster.

Besides Mr. Y. S. Hugh’s large stock of dry goods, groceries, boots, and shoes, Jennison and Walker’s Hotel featured a first class saloon with the finest wines, liqueurs, cigars, and tobacco, as well as a good stable with “the best Corral in the Country for Horses and Cattle.” A lumber yard operated by James A. Hadley, formerly of Emporia, provided building materials for the flourishing town and the settlers taking claims as far south as the Kansas border with Indian Territory. Sporting houses, otherwise known as saloons and dance halls, became popular attractions. The Chisholm Trail led directly to Delano, making the town a wide-open cowboy resort. There was talk of a

railroad coming to Wichita with cattle yards on the west side of the river. Folks began to refer to Delano as “West Wichita.”

Characters such as Rowdy Joe, Rowdy Kate, and Red Beard catered to the revelry. The sporting girls organized Sunday morning stark-naked Amazon races to the river, and murder and mayhem reigned supreme during Delano’s formative years. There will be more Delano stories to come.

Today, Delano remains a sporting community, although the sport has changed from saloons and dance halls to the home of baseball’s Triple-A Wichita Wind Surge in their brand-new Riverfront Stadium. Who knows? Baseball games could have been played with Amazon spectators cheering for the home team 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.*

Broad study helps define optimal soybean seeding rates in North America

To some, farming might seem simple: plant seeds, help them grow, then sell the product. But the reality is much different. Farming requires many complex decisions throughout the year.

One such decision is seeding rate – the number of seeds planted per acre. The best seeding rate for soybean fields is one of the most debated topics for those involved in agriculture.

Researchers have long tried to help farmers find a clear answer. A recent study by soybean scientists at Corteva Agriscience and universities across the U.S. might provide the most complete answer yet. They set out to determine what is called the optimal seeding rate

for soybean growers.

“The optimal soybean seeding rate is a commonly discussed topic with many opinions, based on individual experience and regional experiments,” says Adam Gaspar of Corteva Agriscience. “Our study is the largest soybean seeding rate study ever conducted. We hope to provide help to soybean growers based on where they are farming to help reduce risk and optimize yield potential.”

A farmer could plant too little seed and not get maximum production. Or, they could plant too much and not make up the extra money spent. Optimum seeding rate is the ideal amount of seed to use to maximize production and minimize risk.

“Farm margins are very tight,” Gaspar explains. “Growers are looking for ways to most efficiently use resources and control associated expenses, while not unnecessarily increasing their risk. Their seed purchase is a large investment, and one that has big implications. If they don’t get it right, they are putting profitable returns at risk.”

This collaborative research project is the first to determine seeding rates in different environments with low, medium, or high productivity. Medium productivity is average yield with low and high being below or above average. The productivity is influenced by various factors like soil type, topography and climate.

Researchers gathered data on the effects of seeding rate on soybean yield in 12 states plus Ontario, Canada from 2005 to 2007 and 2012 through 2017. The seeding rates, productivity and yield were analyzed.

Overall, the results showed that farmers should increase seeding rates in areas of lower productivity and reduce them in areas of higher productivity. As farmers know, these areas may vary in different parts of the farm. The productivity can even vary within different areas of each field.

Farmers can use this information to guide their decisions regarding how many seeds to plant per acre to maximize yield. Their seeding rate decisions may change from field to field, based on soil type, topography and previous yields. The seeding rate can even be changed within each field using variable rate planter technology.

“These findings will ul-

timately help growers use the optimal seeding rate between and within each field to optimize production, while limiting their risk of adverse yields due to seeding rates that are too high or too low,” Gaspar says. “Also, it will emphasize the importance of establishing and maintaining an adequate plant stand until harvest. This is especially true in fields or areas of a field with low to medium productivity.”

The work is unique because it brings together so many public and private researchers to share knowledge and resources. This directly helps soybean growers across North America.

“The annual seed purchase is one of the farmers’ larger costs,” says Gaspar. “It is critical for their success to make sure their seeding rate maximizes production and limits their downside risk. Our work will help soybean farmers manage their seed investment by being able to accurately adjust their seeding rates.”

Read more about this work in *Agronomy Journal*. Funding for this research provided by the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, University of Wisconsin-Madison, North Dakota State University, North Dakota Soybean Council, Ohio Soybean Council, USDA-NIFA Foundational and Applied Science Program (20186800828356), South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, USDA-NIFA Hatch Project (SD00H610-16), Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, Indian Soybean Alliance, Kansas Soybean Commission, Kansas State Research and Extension, USDA Hatch Project (IOWA3908), and Corteva Agriscience.

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'Victory Garden' course draws more than 800... and counting

When Rebecca McMahon saw a newspaper article in March indicating that garden stores in Wichita were already selling out of supplies, she had an idea what was going on.

The state's stay-at-home order as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic was inspiring many homeowners to plant their own garden, she thought.

So McMahon, the horticultural food crops agent for K-State Research and Extension's Sedgwick County office, quickly made plans to help out. In April, she launched an eight-week online gardening course, titled Victory Garden 101, to set up aspiring gardeners for success.

"The topics are geared toward first-time gardeners, or those who have dabbled in the past without a whole of success,

and at the time were taking advantage of the stay-at-home order to jump back into vegetable gardening," McMahon said. "But anyone who gardens knows that there is always something more to learn."

The live class is being held on Tuesday evenings through the end of May, but all of the lessons are available for free, seven days a week on the Sedgwick County extension office's website.

As of early May, people from across the United States were still signing up for the course, using the online videos to catch up to current course content. McMahon said there were 820 participants in the class as of May 5.

"Everyone can access the materials on the website, but they need to register if they want email updates and the chance to join the live class," McMahon said.

hon said.

The concept of a 'Victory Garden' dates back to World War II when Americans were encouraged to plant a home garden to provide a certain amount of their food during a time when many of the country's agricultural products were being used to support the military.

"I saw a statistic that indicated about 40% of fruits and vegetables consumed by Americans at that time were provided by Victory Gardens during World War II," McMahon said. "That's a huge number."

Similarly, the basis for McMahon's class is to encourage consumers to grow some of their own food, adding to their community's food security, while also saving a little money on their grocery bill.

"Gardening is a great

thing anytime, pandemic or not," McMahon said. "I encourage folks to pick up vegetable gardening as a great opportunity for learning for their kids, activity for themselves and a great way to add vegetables and healthy foods to your diet."

McMahon noted that it doesn't take a lot of room to grow a few vegetables or other garden crop. People who live in apartments can grow vegetables or other crops in small containers on a balcony or patio, for example.

"Even in a small yard, you can grow a few things," she said. "You don't have to till up a rectangular section of your yard in order to have a garden."

McMahon added that the weekly lessons provide a nifty template for getting started. Starting with week one, Victory Garden 101 is leading

gardeners through preparing a site, planning the garden, growing your own salad, tips for great tomatoes, using vertical space, watering, and dealing with insect of disease problems.

It's also not too late to get some of Kansans' favorites into the ground.

"Right now is a great time to plant tomatoes and green beans," McMahon said. "And over the next couple weeks, other warm season vegetables like cucumbers, squash, melons, peppers and eggplant can be planted."

For ideas on what can be planted in Kansas – and the best time to do so – interested persons should read the Vegetable Garden Planting Guide, published through K-State Research and Extension. McMahon notes that the third page of that guide has a planting calendar

that serves as an easy-to-use reference for planting fruits and vegetables.

"I really encourage people to start with some leafy greens because they grow to maturity a lot faster than other crops," McMahon said. "Plus, they're a short project. If you grow some lettuce and after harvesting it in 50 to 60 days you decide this gardening thing is not for you, then you haven't invested too much time and you still got something out of it."

"Tomatoes, potatoes and squash... they're flashy vegetables, but they are an investment of time and you have a lot of gardening work to do to get to your harvest endpoint."

For more information regarding gardening, interested persons are also encouraged to join the Victory Garden 101 Facebook page.

U.S. land grant universities are key to quickly detecting plant disease

A little more than 17 years ago, a devastating bacterium served as a glaring example of just how vulnerable the United States' plant and food system had become to disease.

"At that time, the U.S. was receiving geranium cuttings from Kenya," said Jim Stack, professor of plant pathology at Kansas State University. "One of the organisms that we were concerned about then was a specific strain of Ralstonia solanacearum, a bacterium that infects tomatoes, potatoes, bananas and geraniums."

The bacterium was suspected in a shipment that had entered the U.S., causing a halt in movement of geraniums across the country. The horticultural industry, which plans and markets its products as much as 18 months in advance, was suddenly crippled as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service scrambled to stop the spread of the organism.

"The USDA lab in Beltsville (Maryland) was completely overwhelmed with samples, and it just couldn't process them fast enough to clear the material to allow greenhouses to sell," Stack said. "So, that lab had to hold them. It took three to four months to clear all of the samples."

Stack notes that the delay cost individual greenhouses "\$2 million to \$14 million, and many of them went out of business."

The incident highlights a crucial role of the National Plant Diagnostic Network, a network of diagnostic labs across the country which was in its infancy during the 2003 occurrence.

"We're 18 years old now, having been started in the aftermath of 9/11," Stack said, noting the day in 2001 when terrorists flew airplanes into buildings, alerting government officials and U.S. citizens to our vulnerabilities in

many areas of American life.

Shortly after 9/11, "each federal department was tasked with doing vulnerability assessments, and when the USDA did theirs, they recognized they had serious deficiencies in diagnostics for both plant and animal systems," Stack said.

Kansas State University, which at the time was working on plant diagnostic software, became one of the leaders in developing a national system to protect plants and farm crops from intentional and unintentional threats.

By 2003, the network had established five regional labs, hosted by K-State, Cornell University, Michigan State University, the University of Florida, and the University of California-Davis.

"Wisely, they decided to implement the National Plant Diagnostic Network through the land grant system," said Stack, who is the past executive director of the national system. "The reason for that is most land grant universities already had plant diagnostics in place, to varying degrees. So, there was a presence in every state. And most states had reach to the county level. There was already an Extension system in place that provided the template for this coordinated effort in plant diagnostics."

While the network wasn't fully ready to help with the 2003 introduction of Ralstonia solanacearum, it was able to show its capabilities soon after.

In 2004, the horticulture industry was hit by the same bacteria in a shipment of geraniums, this time from Guatemala.

With the national network in place – and each regional lab handling diagnostics for hundreds of samples – the end result was much different.

"In talking to the lab director at Beltsville, she said the difference was that (in 2003) she received thousands of samples to

process, and in 2004, she received only about 150," Stack said. "The reason was because our labs were able to clear the negatives so that the only ones they had to deal with were those that were likely positive. That's one of the many benefits of NPDN: there are many labs that can clear out the negatives so that the APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) labs can focus on the positives."

The 2004 incident, "went so smoothly that nobody went out of business and we were able to clear the negatives more quickly," he said.

The system is being put to the test again, Stack said: "In April 2020, we are dealing with another introduction of the same bacterium that may have been introduced into 39 states. NPDN has partnered with APHIS and the PPQ labs to rapidly determine which states are negative, thus allowing trade to proceed."

Stack notes that NPDN's importance has become more critical today as countries around the world struggle to deal with such issues as food security, growing population, and climate change.

"We are going to add at least two billion people to the planet in less than 30 years," he said. "Although the percentage of people who are food insecure is declining, because of population increase, the total number of food insecure people is about the same as it was 30 years ago."

NPDN will increasingly be called upon to protect food crops from diseases and pests, he said.

"Take the example of Bangladesh," Stack said. "That's a nation that is one-third the size of Kansas, yet while our state's population is three mil-



lion, theirs is 66 million. They can't produce enough food to feed their people, so they import from other countries, including wheat.

Wheat blast disease emerged in South America and has threatened the world's wheat crop since 1985. It recently was found in wheat imported into Bangladesh, causing widespread epidemics and devastating one of that country's primary food sources.

"The government came in and burned the fields to stop the spread," Stack said. "It drove farmers further into poverty. It's not a good scenario."

The United States is not immune from the same type of scenario. "We import a lot of our food," Stack said. "We are moving plant materials and food crops over greater distance

es and in shorter periods of time than at any point in history. And while our inspection processes are very good, they aren't perfect. They aren't going to catch everything."

Plant health, he adds, affects such well-known food crops as wheat, soybeans, corn and more, but it also can affect others such as citrus and legumes. In Eastern Russia, where the perma-frost is melting gradually, scientists are finding out that seeds and bacteria that have been frozen for 30,000 years are still viable – potentially creating new challenges for plant diagnosticians.

"So we need to have the infrastructure in place that allows us to catch things soon after they've been introduced," Stack said. "Our job is to provide the diagnostic services

that allow us to detect things early, identify them correctly and communicate critical information in a timely fashion to those that have the authority for response."

Learn more about the National Plant Diagnostic Network and the five regional labs online at www.NPDN.org.

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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. OR visit www.GrassAndGrain.com

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I am up to my eyeballs in research (Yes, in my case, since I am well under five feet tall, up to my eyeballs is not very far, but it's all relative...).

Topics of ongoing research: the Santa Fe Trail and its connections to the Smoky Hill Trail. At the heart of this research, and how it relates to Fort Wallace, is the town of Sheridan. Sheridan was the

"Hell on Wheels" town in Logan County for a couple of years as the railroad went broke and reorganized. It's story is the stuff of Wild West legend but the real story, or the story behind the story, is even more interesting. With trade goods coming in and out of Sheridan bound for the Santa Fe Trail and warehouses full of goods from New Mexico,

the story of trade is fascinating. Since Sheridan is the depot for Fort Wallace during that time, its ties to the military history make that piece of the story equally compelling.

Dr. Loring Miner: The country doctor who reported the Spanish flu from Haskell County is being featured in the current issue of *True West* magazine (I urge you to pick up a copy and/or subscribe. Bob Boze Bell shares his incredible artistic talents and western history connections in each issue). When Bob Boze Bell messaged and asked for my help in tracking down an image of the famous doctor, it started me down a research path that turns up one fascinating story after another. Look for a full-blown feature on *Around*

Kansas soon.

The German Family Story: The family of John and Lydia German was attacked by a party of Cheyennes in Logan County in 1875. Five of the family members were killed and four girls taken captive. In the annals of the Plains Indian Wars, it is one of the most oft-told tales. It has been told over and over, sometimes embellished, and almost always with the opinions and point of view of the reporter included. Sorting the real story and the motivation of those involved is challenging and rewarding. It is a rich, poignant story. I do not think it is a secret than Ken Spurgeon and I have been working on this story for a while and I will keep you posted as our plans come to fruition.

Charles Curtis: Since I moved to Kansas, I have been fascinated by the life of Vice President Curtis, the boy who grew up on the Indian Reservation at Council Grove and later had a successful career in politics. I often speak on him or members of his family. So, for more than 20 years I have been researching and it just gets more interesting.

Bleeding Kansas: The period of the Kansas Territory fascinates me like no other time in history. There is simply nothing quite like it in the story of America and nothing so necessary in understanding the America of today. Those complex stories kept me in Kansas when I planned to be here long enough just to graduate Washburn; they have kept

me entangled in Kansas history to these many years!

I appreciate each one of you who shares stories. There are some things that cannot be discovered but must be delivered. You deliver treasures every day and build up my storehouse with them. Many of these are shared on *Around Kansas* and I am so grateful for that platform for us to connect.

Blessings, dear reader, as I return to my books and clippings!

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*, the bi-centennial to be marked in 2021. Contact her at author: debgoodrich@gmail.com.

LCS debuts three new CoAXium varieties

Not long ago, taking nine or more years to release a new wheat variety was considered standard practice. Breeders would cross two varieties and then spend years stabilizing the genetics and making selections. Now, with the help of new breeding techniques such as double haploid, genomic selection using molecular markers and rapid-cycle speed breeding, wheat breeding programs can turn out new varieties in six years or less. This improved efficiency has been a gradual change in the industry that, for the most part, has gone without much notice from

farmers — with the exception of the CoAXium® Wheat Production System.

In June of 2015, the Colorado Wheat Research Foundation (CWRFF), Albaugh, LLC and Limagrain Cereal Seeds (LCS) joined forces to change the way farmers produce wheat and control winter annual grassy weeds. Together, they created a cost-effective production system that combines elite wheat varieties with a patented non-GMO herbicide-tolerance trait and a new post-emergent ACCase grass herbicide. CoAXium allows growers to produce more, higher quality wheat with less dockage

and foreign matter.

Breeding companies have been moving quickly to develop wheat varieties that work with the new production system ever since — at a speed never before seen in wheat genetics. A short five years after the CoAXium collaboration began, there have been 11 AX variety releases.

Limagrain Cereal Seeds is one of the breeding programs leading the charge, with four CoAXium hard red winter wheats in its portfolio. All four varieties provide ex-

cellent grassy weed control, and each one offers additional distinct advantages for Central Plains farmers:

LCS Fusion AX, the first LCS AX release, is a proven performer across the Central Plains and shows especially good drought tolerance.

LCS Photon AX also has excellent dryland performance, as well as the heaviest test weight and highest protein in the LCS CoAXium lineup. The new HRWW also offers improved end-use quality.

LCS Helix AX is a new release and the most broadly adapted CoAXium variety yet. LCS Helix AX offers an intermediate height, strong straw, improved stripe rust tolerance and desirable end-use quality.

LCS Atomic AX, also new, delivers top-end yield potential. With its early maturity, intermediate height and showy heads, LCS Atomic AX is ideal for the South Central Plains.

Other available CoAXium varieties include Incline AX, Crescent

AX, Battle AX, AP18 AX, CP7017 AX, CP7050 AX and Buckhorn AX.

The CoAXium Wheat Production System and U.S. breeders plan to continue advancing genetics while providing a cost-effective solution to yield-robbing grassy weeds. More CoAXium varieties are in the pipeline, including ones with well-known LCS Chrome in the pedigree, and the herbicide-resistant trait has been integrated into public and private breeding programs across the country.

PERC launches new grain drying calculator to help producers prepare for harvest

The Propane Education & Research Council launched a new Grain Drying Calculator tool to help producers determine the number of propane gallons needed each season using just three simple data points. The tool will allow users to estimate the amount of propane each operation will require, making it easier to fill tanks early and prepare for supply needs prior to an increase in demand.

Users of the calculator only have to input their average expected yield to determine the number of propane gallons needed to

dry their crops by a specific moisture percentage. From there, PERC's tool will calculate approximately how many gallons of propane will be required.

"With simple inputs, PERC's new tool provides a quick estimate to put producers in a good position well ahead of harvest season," said Mike Newland, Director of Ag Business Development at PERC. "In the end, produc-

ers are ensured they have access to the propane they need while saving money in the process."

There are many benefits for producers to use grain dryers powered by propane. These units provide the power necessary to dry large crops amounts on any schedule, which can curb hidden costs that aren't normally factored in, such as yield loss. Plus, propane grain dryers are 50 percent more en-

ergy efficient than other fuels, and because it burns clean, the dryers are long lasting and help to reduce downtime and maintenance costs.

To use the new Grain Drying Calculator, visit Propane.com/grain-dryers

For more information about the Propane Education & Research Council and engines available for agricultural and industrial use, visit www.Propane.com/Agriculture.

KLA endorses Marshall for Senate

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) is endorsing Rep. Roger Marshall, M.D., for the U.S. Senate. KLA was the first agricultural organization to endorse Dr. Marshall in his successful congressio-

nal bid in 2016 and believes he has represented the state's farmers and ranchers exceptionally well since that time.

"Dr. Marshall is the clear choice for agriculture in this race," said KLA

president Harry Moser, a rancher from Wheaton. "Like a true leader, when he needs guidance on an issue, he seeks out and listens to Kansans directly involved in farming and ranching."

During the development of the 2018 Farm Bill, Dr. Marshall proved to be an effective advocate for Kansas livestock producers on the House Agriculture Committee. He also provided key assistance to the Kansas livestock industry during the creation of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. KLA believes Dr. Marshall will continue this tradition of leadership in the Senate and encourages the remaining GOP candidates to unite behind him.

"It is imperative that agriculture has a trusted friend and effective leader to take over the seat being vacated by Sen. Pat Roberts," said KLA chief executive officer Matt Teagarden. "Realistically, this primary has become a two-person race. Therefore, it's time for the candidates without a viable path to victory to make the hard decision and unite behind Dr. Marshall."

KLA is a 5,600-member trade organization representing the state's livestock business on legislative, regulatory and industry issues at both the state and federal levels. The association's work is funded through voluntary dues dollars paid by its members.



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Grass & Grain Area Auctions and Sales

Due to the uncertainty of recent events and the phases of re-opening, if you plan to attend any of the following auctions and have any doubts, please contact the auction company to confirm that the auction will be conducted and inquire about safety procedures if you are concerned. And please check their websites.

Always great online Equipment auctions — www.purplewave.com.

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 19 — K-14 Online consignment auction including trucks, vehicles, trailers, telehandler, ATV, mower, tractors, farm equipment & more held online at Proxibid.com and Equipment/facts.com or absentee bids and phone bids: 620-899-

6227 (Hutchinson). Auctioneers: Morris Yoder Auctions, morris_yoder@yahoo.com

May 19 (RESCHEDULED 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.ham-mauction.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 (RESCHEDULED 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 Auction Co., Royce Bacon.

May 30 — Cows, equipment, tools & household held at Princeton for Richard & Irish Gragg. Auctioneers: Eastern Kansas Auction Barn, Daryl Stottlemire & Ron Weatherbie.

May 30 (RESCHEDULED from April 11) — Guns & related items, automobiles & trailers, antiques & collectibles including a Great Western wood burning stove, Hiawatha 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 1 (Online only) — 110 acres m/l of Ag Land (Hamilton, KS) held online at UCGreatPlains.com. Auctioneers: United Country Real Estate, Great Plains Auction & Real Estate, Ross Daniels, auctioneer/realtor.

June 2 — Real Estate - Great investment property with nearly 8,000 square feet with office, large bay door and indoor and outdoor loading options. Also selling Ford F350 with cooler box bed, walk-in cooler, milk bottle washer, bumper stock trailer held at Wheaton for Union State Bank. Auctioneers: Foundation Realty, Morgan Riat.

June 3 — Real Estate, approximately 20 acres with 2 bedroom, 1 bath older home with several outbuildings and newer fencing held at New Cambria. Auctioneers: Wilson Realty & Auction Service. www.soldbywilson.com

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 — Yamaha 2 seat gas golf cart, collectibles including comics, vintage toys & games, 100s of vintage books, tools, misc., coins & more held at Lawrence for Carl and Peggy Silvers Estate. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

June 6 — Estate auction including Corvair con-

vertible, ATVs, UTV, antiques, boats, mowers, tractors, household bicycles, tricycles, trailers, tractor attachments, tools, pedal cars & much more at New Cambria. Auctioneers: Wilson Realty & Auction Service. www.soldbywilson.com June 13 — Continental Cargo enclosed trailer, 1998 Ford F150 XLT truck, 2014 Polaris Phoenix ATV, JD child's Gator, Craftsman riding mower, musical items including Ibanez acoustic electric guitar, Epiphone Duff McKay guitar, Willie Nelson acoustic guitar (autographed) & more, collectibles, office, tools & more held at Lawrence. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

June 13 — 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 (rescheduled from March) — Construction liquidation including Bobcat, Grizzly, Milwaukee, Bosch, HILTI, Bostitch, Johnson, CST Berger, HITACHI & Many Others: Vehicles, equipment, lawn mowers, dirt bikes, hand tools, shop

items & misc., masonry & concrete supplies, Kushlan KPRO 350DD concrete mixer, scaffolding, step & extension ladders, air, gas & electric power tools & accessories, culinary equipment & more held at St. George for Brian Weisbender. Auctioneers: Foundation Realty, Morgan Riat.

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

June 27 — Antique & household auction including glassware, some tools, furniture & more held at Manhattan. Auctioneers: Foundation Realty, Morgan Riat

June 20 — (RESCHEDULED from May 23)—Collectibles & household held at Frankfort for Donna & Nilwon (Nick) Kraushaar Estate. Auctioneers: Olmsted & Sandstrom.

August 8 & 15 — Household, 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 Auction Service.

BIF online symposium program announced

It was announced on April 2 the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) board of directors, along with the Florida 2020 BIF Research Symposium and Convention committee, made the decision to transition this year's conference to an online format due to COVID-19.

BIF leadership is in the process of planning an updated symposium online. “Our BIF program committee working with the Florida group has honed the original schedule to work in the new online format,” says Joe Mushrush, BIF vice president and program chairman. “Our goal is to provide learning opportunities that will help producers continue to improve their bottom line focused on beef improvement. As our president Tommy Clark said, ‘Our mission as an organization is intact during this challenging time and we will continue to provide educational programming focused on how the beef industry can enhance value through genetic improvement.’”

The virtual event will be hosted online the week of June 8 starting at noon Central time each day. The conference will be hosted on the Zoom webinar platform. By mid-May, participants will be able to register for the event, find a detailed schedule and Zoom tutorials on the BIF website — BeefImprovement.org.

2020 BIF award winners, including Seedstock and Commercial Producers of the Year, Pioneer and Continuing Service award winners will be recognized during the online symposium.

Below is a tentative schedule for the 52nd Annual Beef Improvement Federation Symposium – Online (all times are CDT):

Monday, June 8
Noon Welcome
12:15 p.m. YOUNG PRODUCERS SYMPOSIUM

What Will the Purebred Cattle Industry Look Like in 20 years – Bill Rishel, Rishel Angus

Financial Planning for a New Generation of Producers – Adam Trott, Financial Analyst Manager, Rabo AgriFinance

1:45 p.m. BIF Board/Officer election results

Scholarship award presentations — Roy Wallace, Baker/Cundiff

BIF Ambassador Award presentation

Tuesday, June 9
Noon Tuesday Welcome

12:15 p.m. GENERAL SESSION 1

Consumer Market Research — What They Say They Need, and They Want – Shawn Darcy, Director of Market Research, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Market Research

1:15 p.m. BIF Awards Program

Commercial Producer of the Year

Pioneer Awards

1:45 p.m. Perspectives from End-User — What We Need and What We Want – Henry Zerby, VP of Protein Procurement and Innovation, Wendy's Quality Supply Chain Co-Op (QSCC) Inc.

Wednesday, June 10
Noon Wednesday Welcome

12:15 p.m. GENERAL SESSION 2

Global Perspectives on Beef Sustainability – Don Close, Rabo AgriFinance

1:15 p.m. BIF Awards Program

Seedstock Producer of the Year

BIF Continuing Service Awards

1:45 p.m. Systems Approach to Beef Cattle Sustainability – Dr. Clay Mathis, King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management, Texas A & M University—Kingsville

Thursday, June 11
Noon Technical Breakout – Advancement in End-product Improvement
2 p.m. Technical Breakout – Advancement in Emerging Technology
4 p.m. Technical Breakout – Advancement in Selection Decisions

Friday, June 12

Noon Technical Breakout – Advancement in Efficiency and Adaptability

2 p.m. Technical Breakout – Advancement in Producer Applications

4 p.m. Technical Breakout – Genomic and Genetic Prediction

The BIF Board sends well wishes to our beef industry family during this global pandemic. While final details surrounding this transition are still taking shape, we are committed to providing an easily accessible, robust online conference experience that eliminates the health concerns that come with travel and face-to-face meetings at this time. We also wish to thank the Florida committee for their help planning this year's event and look forward to having the symposium in Florida in future years.

For details regarding the online conference as they develop, visit <http://www.beefimprovement.org>. Prior to and during this year's symposium, be sure to follow the event on social media channels using the hashtag #BIF2020.

NEW DATE! RESCHEDULED AUCTION
SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2020 — 9:30 AM
(Rescheduled from April 4)
Location: 1445 Granite Road — MINNEAPOLIS, KS
Location from: 106 & 4 lane Hwy. 81 interchange, go East Southeast on 106 continue on Heartland Drive 3 mi. to Granite Rd. Turn right go West 3 mi. to auction site. **WATCH FOR AUCTION SIGNS.**

To view the sale bill on the internet go to www.wacondatrader.com. On Facebook: Ottawa County Kansas Buy/Sell/Trade, Saline County Buy/Sell, Bennington/Minneapolis Buy/Sell/Trade

FARM MACHINERY including JD 4250 model tractor, JD 4440 model tractor, JD 7720 combine, JD 7720 combine & More!
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LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT, SHOP POWER & HAND TOOLS, GUNS POSSIBLE ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES & OTHER MISCL.

See March 24 Grass & Grain for listings!

GERALD NEWELL ESTATE
Sale Conducted By: **BACON AUCTION CO.**
Royce K. Bacon, Auctioneer, 785-392-2465

REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020 — 5:30 PM
LOCATION: 312 Front Street, WHEATON, KANSAS

Presuming that Government regulations allow, we will be conducting this auction on June 2, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Due to the national health crisis COVID-19 we will be executing our auctions with social distancing and other CDC recommendations in place. Here at Foundation Realty we value our customer's & staff's safety and wellness so we are taking all the appropriate measures to ensure safety and well being. We look forward to seeing you all here with us again for another FOUNDATION AUCTION!

REAL ESTATE: A Great Opportunity to purchase this part of Historic Wheaton, 312 Front Street, as well as a great investment property with great square footage! This warehouse was previously a milk processing plant that boasts almost 8,000 sq. ft. of space to use to your advantage! It has a great office space up front with a bathroom, as well as a large Bay Door on the side of the building with indoor and outdoor loading options.

For questions contact Morgan Riat, 785-458-9259 or email morgan@foundationks.com

PERSONAL PROPERTY: Ford F350 with cooler box bed; walk-in cooler; milk bottle washer; bumper pull stock trailer.

TERMS OF PAYMENT: Cash or valid check. Any and all titles will be mailed out at least 10 business days post sale. **TERMS OF SALE:** All items will be sold to the highest bidder except in the case of a reserve. Auctioneer has no obligations to disclose reserve prices. All items are sold as is where is with NO implied or expressed warranties. Buyers are responsible for their property when the Auctioneer says sold. Buyers must have valid government issued ID at time of registration. All announcements on the day of sale take precedence over advertising. Foundation Realty represents the seller.



For questions call:
MORGAN RIAT,
REALTOR®/AUCTIONEER
785-458-9259
or email:
morgan@foundationks.com

FOUNDATION REALTY
210 N. 4th St., Suite B, MANHATTAN, KS

SELLER:
UNION STATE BANK

Visit us at www.foundationks.com for more details & pictures!

110 Acres **INTERNET ONLY**
AG LAND
AUCTION
Monday, June 1, 2020 ~ 6PM
00000 Hwy. 99, Hamilton, KS 66853

Auction Location ~ UCGREATPLAINS.HIBID.COM
Full Terms & Photos at
UCGREATPLAINS.COM

**Great Plains Auction & Real Estate**
Ross Daniels
Auctioneer Realtor
(620) 431-8536

LAND AUCTION
160 acres +/- & 320 acres +/-
Mitchell County, Kansas

Thursday, June 4th, 2020 at 11:00 am
Auction held: The Ballroom
121 W. Court, Beloit, KS

TRACT 1: 160 acres +/- of dryland cultivation, grass and pond.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NE1/4 of Section 6, Township 9, Range 6 West, Mitchell County, KS.
LOCATION: Approximately 11 miles south and west of Asherville or at the southwest corner of the intersection of S Rd. and 350th Rd.

TRACT 2: 320 acres +/- of dryland cultivation, grass, watershed lake and creek.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: West Half of Section 8, Township 9, Range 6 West, Mitchell County, KS.
LOCATION: Approximately 12 miles south and west of Asherville or at the southeast corner of the intersection of T Rd. and 350th Rd.

GENE FRANCIS & ASSOCIATES
REAL ESTATE BROKERS & AUCTIONEERS

Gene Francis • Broker & Auctioneer
316.641.3120 • gene@genefrancis.com
Lori Rogge • Broker & Auctioneer
785.556.7162 • lori@genefrancis.com

see www.genefrancis.com for full auction flyer

LAND AUCTION
Thursday, May 21, 2020 @ 7pm
Where: Abilene Civic Center
201 NW 2nd St., Abilene, Kansas

Legal Description: The West 50 acres of the S/2 of SE/4 of 18-13-2E, Dickinson County, Kansas, less a .41 Acre tract

Located: West edge of Abilene @ 1808 NW 1st St

Directions: Take NW 1st St west from Old 40 HWY approx. 1/4 mile, on north side of street.

Tract 1: 46 Ac+/- of tillable & 2 Ac +/- timber

Conveniently located close to Abilene, this property has blacktop frontage and would make a great addition to your operation or a potential building site.

FSA Information * 49.58 Farmland Ac –46.3 Base Ac

Taxes: \$ 475.60 on 48.8 taxable acres

Possession: upon closing subject to farm tenant rights.

For complete sale bill, aerial maps, soil maps, and pictures, call or visit our website!

This is a great farm/bldg. site on the edge of Abilene!

Online bidding via Proxibid.....see our website.

SELLER: Leonard Daniels Estate
Ray Swearingen - Broker
Cell # 785-452-8498

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www.horizonfarmranch.com
RAY SWEARINGEN - BROKER



BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Second Time Around

We must sell it, I told Mother, for we really have no other choice. The price is much too dear to harbor any doubt. And though I know we'll miss it the time has come to kiss it

goodbye and find another place a little farther out. When the Indians sold Manhattan to a Dutch aristocrat in fancy breeches for a blanket and a twenty-dollar bill

It presaged a corrosion, an urban sprawl erosion that covets all the fertile ground and overruns us still. It's not givin' up, I told her, just that we are gettin' older and besides, the country's really not the country any more. We're surrounded by construction that has zoned the mass destruction of our pastures and our neighbors and our never lockin' door. Why, just look at that horizon where we watched the sun a-risin' after milkin' on those

mornin's when the air was clear and still. Now the houses clone each other, everyday, it seems another, as they creep a little closer like a stain upon the hill. But there's no way we can change it. No way to rearrange it that would suit us 'cause the truth is, they'd plow us underground. So we take the offer made us, be thankful that they paid us enough to make a better start the second time around. And we'll find a place less crowded, where the air is still unclouded,

where the country still is friendly to our kind of pioneers. Though the homeplace still might beckon, they will ravage her, I reckon, so we're better off just

movin' while we've got a few good years... And are able to think clearly and can still hold back the tears. www.baxterblack.com



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Condensed version of Beef Quality Assurance Manual now available

A more condensed version of the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Manual is now available to BQA followers in digital or print form. The BQA Field Guide is a more compact version of the manual that can be used as a convenient reference piece. It covers the key points of the BQA program without program background and other information that may not be useful in the course of day-to-day operations. The BQA Program is managed by the producer education team at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), a contractor to the Beef Checkoff. The digital Field Guide has ten chapters that cover everything from behavior and handling to transportation to emergency action planning. It allows producers to assess their management decisions in a way that recognizes a responsibility to the animals, consumers, the environment and the larger beef industry. The digital Field Guide contains embedded links and videos that allow producers to interact with various elements of BQA. The digital guide, the print version and the larger, more in-depth manual represent the foundation for training and certification programs offered nationally and by many states. For more information, visit bqa.org.



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Farmers & Ranchers

AUCTIONS EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY

Selling Cattle every Monday
Hog Sales on 2nd & 4th Monday of the month only!

RECEIPTS FOR THE WEEK 4,853 CATTLE & 72 HOGS			
STEERS			
300-400	\$177.00 - \$185.00	10 blk	Carlton 738@135.50
400-500	\$167.00 - \$178.00	58 blk	Ada 767@135.00
500-600	\$161.00 - \$165.00	4 mix	Hillsboro 726@132.00
600-700	\$145.00 - \$155.00	5 blk	Claffin 781@131.00
700-800	\$131.00 - \$140.00	16 mix	Bushton 781@131.00
800-900	\$120.00 - \$126.25	66 blk	Sedgwick 774@128.75
900-1000	\$103.50-\$114.50	41 mix	Bennington, OK 738@128.50
		72 blk	Bennington, OK 745@127.75
		24 mix	Solomon 806@126.50
		9 blk	Lincoln 827@125.50
		61 mix	Enterprise 832@125.35
		31 blk	Delphos 847@123.50
		16 red	Ellsworth 814@122.50
		64 mix	Abilene 847@121.85
		88 mix	Abilene 877@121.25
		40 blk	Delphos 872@120.10
		123 blk	Bennington, OK 820@120.00
		62 mix	Hope 918@119.25
		23 red	Ellsworth 907@114.50
		26 blk	Sedgwick 906@114.00
		100 blk	Bennington 1001@105.75
		13 mix	Marion 1010@103.00
HEIFERS			
300-400	\$165.00 - \$169.00		
400-500	\$153.00 - \$161.00		
500-600	\$139.00 - \$146.00		
600-700	\$129.25 - \$135.00		
700-800	\$118.00 - \$127.50		
800-900	\$110.00 - \$114.25		
900-1,000	\$101.00 - \$107.00		
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020:			
STEERS			
3 mix	McPherson 393@185.00		
15 mix	Moundridge 470@178.00		
3 blk	McPherson 477@175.00		
7 blk	Chase 476@173.00		
10 mix	Waldo 415@172.00		
8 blk	Clay Center 518@169.00		
6 blk	McPherson 483@166.00		
2 blk	Culver 500@165.00		
10 blk	Chase 541@163.50		
27 mix	Moundridge 546@162.75		
6 blk	Miltonvale 525@161.00		
9 blk	Carlton 644@155.00		
5 blk	Newton 585@154.50		
8 blk	Moundridge 638@150.00		
4 blk	Falun 645@149.50		
23 blk	Miltonvale 633@148.00		
8 mix	Luray 682@1420.00		
12 mix	Miltonvale 712@140.00		
13 blk	Lincoln 743@139.75		
3 mix	Hillsboro 707@138.00		
HEIFERS			
6 blk	Chase 367@169.00		
5 blk	Waldo 351@166.00		
16 mix	Moundridge 465@161.00		
11 mix	Waldo 403@159.00		
4 blk	Chase 454@154.00		
5 blk	Tescott 477@153.00		
9 blk	Miltonvale 510@151.00		
6 mix	McPherson 429@149.00		
18 mix	Waldo 467@148.00		
8 blk	Newton 502@146.00		
14 blk	Moundridge 543@146.00		
4 blk	Tescott 525@145.00		
10 mix	Carlton 596@139.50		
10 blk	Gypsum 594@139.00		
10 blk	Moundridge 613@135.00		
24 blk	Barnard 649@135.00		

UPCOMING SALES:

THE LAST THURSDAY SALE WILL BE MAY 28

Summer Schedule starts,

all classes of cattle sold on Mondays

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.fandrive.com



LIVE CATTLE AUCTIONS

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

6 mix	Gypsum	613@135.00	1 blk	Barnard	190@400.00
18 blk	Miltonvale	611@134.50	1 bwf	Simpson	165@400.00
13 blk	Gypsum	620@132.25	1 bwf	Ada	220@385.00
6 blk	Luray	648@129.25	1 blk	Lindsborg	160@325.00
10 mix	Gypsum	709@127.50	1 red	Holyrood	150@300.00
19 blk	Barnard	722@126.50	1 bwf	Simpson	105@285.00
7 blk	Lincoln	706@125.00	1 bwf	Ada	125@275.00
23 mix	Carlton	671@124.50			
9 red	Ellsworth	750@124.50	BULLS		
18 blk	Miltonvale	674@123.00	1 grey	Canton	2435@103.50
5 blk	Delphos	702@122.00	1 char	New Cambria	2255@103.00
37 blk	Ada	737@122.00	1 blk	McPherson	2195@102.00
52 blk	Gypsum	761@120.00	1 red	Lincoln	2120@101.75
12 mix	Goddard	733@119.50	1 blk	Abilene	2170@100.50
36 mix	Bushton	788@119.25	1 blk	McPherson	1965@100.00
28 mix	Gypsum	734@118.75	1 red	Minneapolis	2035@99.00
16 mix	Carlton	749@118.50	1 char	Hillsboro	1880@95.00
62 mix	Assaria	704@118.00	1 blk	Hutchinson	2040@94.00
76 mix	Gypsum	776@117.75	1 blk	Tampa	1970@94.00
7 mix	Marion	764@114.50	1 bwf	Wells	1850@92.50
121 mix	Whitewater	831@114.25			
62 mix	Assaria	810@113.00	COWS		
62 mix	Herington	859@112.75	1 red	Lincoln	1445@68.25
11 mix	Solomon	819@110.50	1 blk	Marquette	1635@67.50
5 red	Ellsworth	936@107.00	1 char	Kanopolis	1495@67.00
10 blk	Marquette	926@106.00	2 blk	Salina	2095@67.00

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020:			
HOGS			
6 fats	Moundridge	252@38.00	
4 fats	Miltonvale	310@28.00	
2 fats	Moundridge	340@27.00	
2 sows	Victoria	658@24.50	
2 sows	Moundridge	518@22.00	
CALVES			
1 blk	Barnard	170@450.00	
1 blk	Barnard	265@425.00	
1 blk	Barnard	155@400.00	

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

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020
90 steers, 800-850 lbs.

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020
18 black cow/calf pairs, 5-8 yrs, calves are Char-x & March born

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 H: 785-729-3473, C: 785-565-3525 Agenda, KS	Austin Rathbun 785-531-0042 Ellsworth, KS
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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.

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

