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Giant-pumpkin grower strives to improve each year

By Lucas Shivers

Jacob Marintzer from Westmoreland is working on perfecting growing giant, record-setting pumpkins.

In 2018, Marintzer broke records with a 1,176 pound pumpkin. In 2019, he won again with a 1,242-pounder weighed in last year.

"On the same day in 2019, a buddy was at a different weigh-in, and his was 1,252," Marintzer said. "Even though I won my contest, it still lit a fire in me to get better. I had to beat that one for this coming year! I am extremely competitive."

Marintzer hopes to top 2,000 pounds with his prize pumpkin this year. 2020 will be his best product yet as a culmination of all his experiences.

"I grow a variety called Atlantic Giant," Marintzer said. "They've been cross-bred. Some are white, orange or a little green. The colors and patterns are all different. These you don't eat; they're just for show."

Club of Giants

The giant pumpkin growers club only has a handful of serious contenders in Kansas. Producers often attend regional events in nearby states each fall to officially weigh in their top crops of the season.

"The weigh-off events are our Super Bowl!" Marintzer said. "We're a small community who stay in touch regularly, and our little club gets together online often to share notes."

Always learning, researching and getting better, Marintzer took all of their bits and pieces to apply to his own experience.

"When I first started more than a decade ago, I found a few websites," Marintzer said. "Basically all winter, I combed through everyone's diary. I studied what people did to grow bigger and bigger pumpkins. I learned and saw what they were

doing."

Rather than compete at state fairs where the prizes are limited, Marintzer finds premier opportunities to earn money.

"I find events from the Giant Pumpkin Commonwealth organization to be certified," Marintzer said. "First place may be \$1.50 per pound for the pumpkin."

YouTube Features

By day, Marintzer has worked in Information Technology at the K-State Alumni Association for the past dozen years. His wife is Tara and their kids include Kade who is 11, Phoebe, 9 and Elsie, 7.

"They all help," Marintzer said. "They love it. They hang out in the greenhouse, and they all get into it. We do quite a bit on our YouTube channel called Growing Giants."

From throwing darts at the giant pumpkins to showing measurements, YouTube reaches thousands.

"Every year I have different and new ideas on what to do," Marintzer said. "We asked the YouTube audience to guess and anyone closest won some seeds. We can predict how much each pumpkin weighs by measuring the circumference, end-to-end over the top and side-to-side with a tape measure."

For example, 360 inches is around 1,000 pounds.

"We can take those measurements often and as the pumpkin grows, it's really cool and people get into it," Marintzer said.

Off Season

Marintzer has no down time. Growing giant pumpkins is a year-round endeavor.

"The minute they're done with the weigh-off, I'm already working soil for the next year," Marintzer said. "I add sand, compost and topsoil. I sit down and figure what happened best and worst



Jacob Marintzer shows off one of his Atlantic Giant pumpkins that he hopes will tip the scale to a record-breaking weight.

from the previous year. There's tons of hours in the off season."

Marintzer completes twice-a-year soil tests to guide the exact blend of soil composition and fertilizers.

"After I take a plant out of the greenhouse, I take a soil test immediately," he said. "They suck out all of the nutrients out each year, so I put all the nutrients back in. Then I plant a cover crop mixture of clovers, rye, peas and more."

Each winter, Marintzer said it's like horse breeding to get the right seeds.

"The best seeds from those over 2,000 pounds are all put into a system to auction for the next growing season," he said. "Certain seeds will go for \$60 to \$100; but the proven seeds will go for anywhere for \$200 to \$1,000 a seed at the auction, sometimes with a little thrown in for charity."

For 2020, Marintzer bought seeds from a 2,416-pound pumpkin from New York.

Seedlings

Once the seeds arrive in early spring, Marintzer

gets rolling.

"We start the seeds inside at the end of March," Marintzer said. "We file the edges because they're super tough. We have grow lights to keep them going until they're a foot tall and start to vine out."

Then the plants are moved to a specially-equipped greenhouse. Only two plants will eventually fill the entire greenhouse with huge leaves and vines trained daily by Marintzer. Each of the two plants takes up a 30 by 26' space.

"We put all of our goodies in with the planting," he said.

By early to mid-April, the two plants are in the greenhouse and set for mapping huge gains each day.

"I want as much growing time as possible," Marintzer said. "I'll have two heaters in the greenhouse for early spring and several ways to keep it cooler in the summer."

Marintzer has crafted several creative 'do it yourself' methods for cooling the greenhouse

including swamp coolers, geothermal pumps and several fans to keep air circulating.

Moisture control from an overhead irrigation system keeps the plants watered just right.

"They grow all summer," Marintzer said. "With soil moisture probes in the ground, I know exactly how wet or dry. As plants grow, they use a lot more water than most."

Marintzer fertilizes lightly each day.

"When they grow early on, we put on heavier nitrogen," he said. "When they flower and fruit, you put special blends in. In the end, you put in phosphorus to put on poundage."

Finishing Off

For 2020, Marintzer focused on two goals: 1) perfect stems, and 2) healthy plants.

"Every day out, I'd go out and spray the stems and butts twice a day," he said. "The stems turned out to be the size of paint buckets."

Marintzer mixes several different methods and

chemicals to ward off insects.

"I plant zucchinis in other areas as trap plants," he said. "I watch and know when the squash bugs arrive. I pick off and spray from there on out. I keep notes each year."

For the past two years, Marintzer's plants quit growing from a soft spot of fungus on the stems. This year, he took action.

"Back then, I was just spraying with one fungicide so I researched it all," Marintzer said. "Now, I spray in rotation with five different varieties."

Generally, the plants die off at the end of August; but this year, they're still growing.

"It's been so healthy and green that it clearly worked," Marintzer said.

Moving Day

To move the pumpkins, Marintzer has tried several ways of getting them out from the greenhouse and to the events.

"Over the years, I've progressed in my methods," Marintzer said. "Originally, I slid pallets over boards; but once one fell off in my soft soil."

Now, he uses a 'dirt blanket' placed under the pumpkins during the growing season for easier access to position and move them.

"I can move it around much easier and I don't have to lift it up, I can pull it right out with a pickup truck," Marintzer said. "We lift it up with machinery, and we can put it right on a trailer. It used to take me all day."

For 2020, Marintzer will travel with one pumpkin to Iowa and one to Colorado for weigh-in events this fall.

"I hope to keep setting records, and one day I have even bigger plans," he said. "There's a weigh-off in California and my dream is to get one out there for a \$7 a pound payoff!"

Sorghum crop art calls on policymakers to #SupportEthanol

National Sorghum Producers (NSP) recently shared a high-altitude view of a top policy priority with newly released aerial photos of a farm plot in Kansas emblazoned with "#SupportEthanol" spelled out in giant letters of sorghum. Rocky Ormiston, a farmer from Kismet, planted the message using the latest in precision agricultural tools and a mix of red and white/yellow sorghum varieties.

"Innovative tools not only help U.S. sorghum growers lead the way on sustainable agriculture, they can offer a unique platform to share our sup-

port for low-carbon biofuels," said NSP CEO Tim Lust. "One-third of the U.S. sorghum crop is used to produce fuel ethanol, which protects our climate and lifts up rural communities struggling in the wake of COVID-19."

"Unfortunately, secretive exemptions from the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) have threatened those markets, so farmers are using every tool available to remind President Trump why we need him to put a stop to biofuel demand destruction by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The recent denial of 54 retroactive refinery waivers was a good first step in doing so."

Ormiston planted the design using customized equipment on a DB80 John Deere planter, which drops seeds in a pre-set pattern guided by satellite, aerial and drone imagery. Details on the process were featured in this summer's issue of *Sorghum Grower* magazine.

"We are investors in our local ethanol plant because it plays a large role in the continued success of our community and the corn and milo industries, both economic drivers for rural southwest Kansas," Ormiston said. "I chose the #SupportEthanol design for one of my sorghum fields because ethanol is



Kismet farmer Rocky Ormiston demonstrated his support for ethanol by using precision agriculture to emblazon the message #SupportEthanol with a mix of red and white/yellow sorghum varieties. Courtesy photo

made from crops produced by American farmers and is a renewable resource that can be used by all, and we need to support that."

Like much of the sorghum grown across Kansas, portions of the harvest are likely destined for one of twelve Kansas ethanol plants, seven utilizing sorghum, which produce half a billion gallons a year.

"This is one message that would be hard to miss for lawmakers flying to and from Washington, D.C.," said NSP and Growth Energy board member Tom Willis, CEO and president of Conestoga Energy Holdings, LLC, which operates the nearby Arkalon

Ethanol plant in Liberal. "Now more than ever, policymakers need to hear from rural communities about our priorities and the vital role of biofuels in rebuilding the agricultural economy. That's why Kansas ethanol producers are proud to work hand in hand with local growers to protect the market for clean, affordable energy."

To learn more about precision agriculture and U.S. biofuels, visit SorghumGrowers.Com. To share a message with lawmakers about harmful EPA policies, supporters can take advantage of the Growth Energy comment portal at <https://GrowthEnergy.Org/takeaction>.

A day dreams are made of



4-year-old Doak Pyle was a happy camper when his daycare, run by Wallea Bergsten, got to experience soybean harvest in Clay County, thanks to Bob Wietharn and his crew. Photo by Tisha Hill



Down to Turnout

By Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau
There's an old cliché that's become something of an inside joke among people who follow politics a little too closely, me included.

"It all comes down to turnout." On the surface, it's a meaningless tautology, similar to saying the winner of a football game will be the team with the most points.

Dig a little deeper and it captures something reporters know all too well. The number of people voting doesn't determine winners, rather it's the types of voters who cast their ballots. Just as importantly, it also includes those who don't bother to show up. Small shifts in who goes to the polls and who stays home can have lasting impacts.

We're now a week away from the 2020 election, and turnout is projected to set records. Good campaigns will lose. Bad ones will win. Weak candidates will surprise strong ones. Ballot measures will succeed

or fail. And just like every election, you get to play a role in deciding the outcome.

For anyone engaged in agriculture, there's a lot on the line in this election. Issues in federal races range from trade and taxes to the next Farm Bill and even Endangered Species Act reforms. Taxes, water issues and reapportionment will be big items on the docket in Topeka.

While these issues are near and dear to the hearts (and wallets) of farmers and ranchers, they're probably not on the list of matters suburban and urban voters are using to make their voting decisions. There's nothing wrong with that. People living in populated areas have their own issues, their own values.

One need look no further than 2018 to see how a rural/urban divide works when Laura Kelly won the gubernatorial race. She garnered a majority of votes in just six counties and a plurality in three others.

More than 40 percent of registered voters didn't pull a lever in that election. Boosting turnout just a percentage point or two in the 96 other counties would have easily changed the results of the election. Small shifts would have made a big difference.

The same is going to be true on Nov. 4. It will be easy to look back at who voted, and who didn't, and identify races that could have gone differently.

Voting is the first step, but there's more farmers and ranchers can do to amplify their voices, like boosting turnout. Make those personal phone calls, have those in-person conversations and post to social media. Talk with your friends and neighbors. Talk with your cousins in Kansas City or landlord in Wichita. Talk with anyone else who shares your values and make sure they'll cast a ballot this year.

Like every other election, this one will come down to turnout. Be sure you're included in the outcome. Your voice and your values are on the ballot.

"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.

Prairie Ponderings

By Donna Sullivan

If there is one word I hope to be able to go through all of 2021 and not hear again, it would be the word 'canceled.' We have heard that word more since last spring than we probably did in the ten years preceding the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. Events big and small, from run-of-the-mill to once in a lifetime have felt the indiscriminate sting of the 'canceled' proclamation. High school graduates, brides to be, families mourning a loss without proper closure... the list is long. In fact, if each of us sat down and made a list of the things we'd been forced to forego these last several months, it would be a depressing exercise to be sure. And yet, from the very beginning, people found ways to continue to connect, celebrate and live life. In some cases, it

was through the miracle of modern technology; in others, with teddy bears placed in windows for children to "hunt" while on walks with their families.

No doubt, 2020 will hold many memories for people - some stressful, frightening and depressing; some magical, precious and rare. For most of us, it will be a combination of both.

I started writing this column thinking of all the agriculture events and meetings I usually cover that this year fell victim to the virus and subsequent cancel stamp. I miss my ag folks who I see at so many different places. Email and Zoom have kept me in touch with many of you, but it's not the same. I miss the handshakes and warm smiles, the jokes and pleasantries. I imagine we are pretty much

all in the same boat. Lest this all becomes a depressing train of thought, I challenge us to think of ways we've been blessed and encouraged during these months of social distancing. I was able to spend more time in my home the last eight months than I had the previous eight years working at my kitchen island, looking out the window at the goldfinches on the feeder. There was my chicken project, which I greatly enjoyed. They've gone back to their home farm to live now, as my little chicken hutch was more of a summer vacation home than winter dwelling. I've written and received more hand-written letters than I had in many, many years.

By the time you get this, the election will be one week away. In that regard, there are a few things I would like to permanently apply the cancel stamp to. Could we cancel the hate? Could we banish forever the divisiveness that keeps us from solving problems, instead keeping us endlessly posturing for power? Could we cancel the idea that if we disagree we must inherently be enemies? Could we cancel the concept that compromise is evil and common ground impossible to find? I'll close before I start to sound like a John Lennon song. Except for just one more: calories - could we just cancel them and enjoy the darned chocolate cake? Trust me, the world will be a much better, happier place.

"Democracy is based upon the conviction there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people."
-- Harry Emerson Fosdick

Beef industry finished stronger during third quarter

The beef industry finished the third quarter in a better position than where it started, while pork exports appear poised to pick up and demand from foodservice is buoying chicken, according to a recent CoBank report.

Boxed beef cutout

climbed 5% over the last three months, helping lift cattle prices by 10%, and profitability for cattle feeders has improved to break-even levels. Beef packer margins have remained elevated with strong demand and improvements in plant operating capacity.

CoBank also reported that the U.S. consumer's beef budget is going further with more meals now eaten at home. Still, the report identified two potential challenges ahead: the effect on demand from cooler weather due to limits on indoor restaurant dining and the risk of

a disruption at plants.

In other good news, August exports of U.S. beef and pork muscle cuts were above last year's strong volumes, according to USDA data compiled by USMEF. Led by record-large demand in South Korea and Taiwan, beef muscle cut exports

were the largest in more than a year-up 3.5%, while export value increases slightly to \$611 million. Combine beef/beef variety meat exports were down 4.5% from a year ago. Export value was down 2% but the highest since March.



We finished harvest last week. For the most part it was a pretty good harvest, it went relatively smooth with few delays and fewer breakdowns. I would not have said that until I finished because I know one of the first laws of farming is to never comment on how smooth things are going until the last acre is harvested and the last bushel is in the bins. We had few problems, other than one lost spring, one broken chain and the fire.

Yes, I said the fire. It was a couple of weeks ago on Sunday. I know, my problems on Sunday are well chronicled and I should know better than to try to work on Sunday. At least in this case I had gone to church first and maybe that is why it was just a small fire. To set the stage, it was a hot, dry day in the middle of a hot dry week, in the middle of a hot dry month. To top it off, the wind was blowing at around thirty miles an hour with gusts up to forty. As I serviced the combine and looked it over that day, the thought of how bad a fire would be had crept into my head. I suppose that is where the problems started. I had also seen posts from friends about combine fires all over the Midwest and my alert level was high.

I was on one of my favorite fields - it is relatively big for me and the rows are about as long and as straight as they get in my part of the world. The beans were good and dry and harvesting them was a pleasure. The Kansas City Chiefs were on the radio and life was good - nowhere else I would rather be in the world. I was really looking forward to the afternoon. My only problem was that the air conditioner was not working, and I was operating with the cab door open and the dust was all around me. I know I should have had a mask on, we do have a healthy supply these days, but I just do not like wearing a mask. I know, it is not a good problem to have in the times we are living in.

In any case, I was combining away, free as a bird, listening to the Chiefs beat up on the Raiders. That was when I smelled it, just a slight twinge of smoke in the air. After a second, I convinced myself it was just the diesel exhaust and kept going. But the thought just would

not go away and occasionally, I kept getting just that slight tickle of smoke. Like I said, my radar was already on high alert for some reason and I could not get the thought out of my head.

I got to the end of the field and decided to get a closer look. It was a good spot because it was down in the timber and the wind was well blocked. I walked around the combine and got more and more of an odor of smoke, but I could not see any. My nose was not working real good after about a week of open cab with no mask but soon I got it narrowed down to the area between the engine and the grain bin and then I saw it. Just a few wisps of smoke. I decided not to be a hero and called for backup.

Isaac and Jennifer were feeding cattle and sheep and I called Isaac. I calmly told him I had a fire on the combine, and I needed him to bring the fire extinguisher. His first response was that they were in the middle of feeding ewes and he did not have time and then he paused and asked me again to repeat what I had said. Soon after that he and Jennifer were there with the fire extinguisher that should have been on the combine. I had already pretty much put the fire out with my water jug, but we finished it off with the extinguisher.

A quick inspection revealed the start of a pack rat nest just in front of the engine and removal was easy. A pack rat nest that was not there the day before. The extinguisher was refilled and recharged and it was determined that the smoldering fire had not caused any damage and probably not having an air conditioner had saved the day. I went back to cutting beans and listening to the football game and at least the cutting beans part went well.

I learned something that day. First, never forget the extinguisher and second, it is better to be lucky than good. Old Sparky and I finished the harvest without further incident, and I was once again reminded about working on Sunday. All in all, it was one of definitely one of those experiences that got filed in the "Well, that could have been worse" category.

COWPOKES® By Ace Reid
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"Naw, Senator, we ain't in competition, 'cause you boys in Washington peddle a different breed of bull!"

EARL...

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Veterinary student conducts anaplasmosis research with national fellowship

Kansas State University's Lauren Herd, a second-year veterinary student, Wichita, is one of 12 students selected nationally for a Veterinary Student Research Fellowship to Address Global Challenges in Food and Agriculture.

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, in partnership with the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, launched the Veterinary Fellows Program in 2019 to encourage veterinary scientists to explore and better understand the complexities of animal production, improve animal welfare and enhance human health. The three-month fellowship creates opportunities for veterinary students to pursue research related to global food security and sustainable animal production.

Herd's research project focuses on anaplasmosis, considered the most prevalent tick-transmitted disease in cattle worldwide, and a disease that affects almost 50% of Kansas beef cattle herds. Herd's research mentor is Kathryn Reif, assistant professor of diagnostic medicine and pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

"Cattle that survive initial infection with *Anaplasma marginale*, the bacterial pathogen that



Kansas State University's Kathryn Reif, left, assistant professor of diagnostic medicine and pathobiology, and Lauren Herd, second-year veterinary medicine student.

causes anaplasmosis, become chronic carriers of the pathogen and can serve as future transmission reservoirs," Reif said. "Chlortetracycline is the only FDA-approved antimicrobial indicated for the control of active anaplasmosis in carrier cattle."

Reif said clinical an-

aplasmosis can reoccur in carrier animals if they become immunocompromised and their immune system isn't able to keep the pathogen under control. Cattle often experience transient periods of immunosuppression in a normal production season during estrus, calving, harsh weather conditions,

or concurrent infections.

For her project, Herd assessed whether chlortetracycline protects transiently immunosuppressed calves from developing clinical anaplasmosis. Reif said the results of Herd's research could impact the way producers manage this disease and will provide data related

to the efficacy of the current legal dose.

Herd and Reif were paired up by K-State's Veterinary Research Scholars Program, a summer program that provides veterinary students with in-depth, hands-on research opportunities with experienced faculty mentors. The program's goal is to motivate students toward a research-focused career.

"We are so proud of the impactful research that Lauren and Dr. Reif were able to accomplish this summer and so grateful to the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research and Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges for their support of Lauren and other fellows in their pursuit of important agricultural research," said Kate Kukanich, the college's Veterinary Research Scholars Program director.

"I am excited to be a part of this project because anaplasmosis has such a large economic impact on the U.S. cattle industry," Herd said. "Tetracycline antimicrobials, including chlortetracycline, are commonly used in cattle production. If chlortetracycline is not effectively controlling anaplasmosis at the current legal dose, it would need to be re-evaluated. It is important to assist producers in making the best economical

decision for their herds, as well as maintaining the efficacy of these medically important antimicrobials by ensuring they are used judiciously."

Anaplasmosis conservatively costs the U.S. cattle industry \$300 million annually, Reif said.

"Use of chlortetracycline-medicated feed products is one of the most common ways producers control anaplasmosis in their herds; however, data from our lab demonstrates that there are many strains of *Anaplasma marginale* circulating in Kansas and not all strains may be equally susceptible to chlortetracycline," Reif said.

"To be most effective, use of chlortetracycline should protect carrier animals from redeveloping clinical disease during times of transient immunosuppression," Reif said. "Lauren's project will directly evaluate this using two different *A. marginale* strains: one a historic strain isolated over 30 years ago, and a second strain isolated from a Kansas beef cattle herd two years ago and that is still actively infecting cattle. We are excited to be doing research that contributes needed information to support U.S., and especially Kansas, cattle producers."

25th anniversary winter conference set for January 26

Registration is now open for the 25th annual No-till on the Plains Winter Conference. Online registration is open for growers, industry partners and soil health enthusiasts to attend the soil health educational event. The event has been reformatted to comply with local health guidelines, but will take place in person. Botanica Wichita will host the event on January 26th, 2021. This annual event offers great networking opportunities for attendees, and Wichita offers ample entertainment and dining options. Registration is available at www.notill.org

In its 25th year, the Conference continues to offer international, national and state experts focused on improved soil health systems for increased farm profit. The 2021 Win-

ter Conference features a line-up of farmers, soil health researchers and conservation professionals aiming to share their expertise and knowledge with attendees.

To accommodate the local requirements, a limit of 200 registrations are available for the in-person event. The Winter Conference registration price is \$150, spouse and student rates are available. Walk-in registrations will not be allowed. Registration for the No-till on the Plains Conference is available now online at notill.org. Registration will be available until capacity is reached. If local circumstances prevent the in-person event from being held, the Conference will move to an all virtual format.

This year's speaker lineup features physician,

author Darin Qualman. Darin is the author of *Civilization Critical*. The book focuses on civilizations, energy, food, and material flows. *Civilization Critical* looks at the big picture and the long term. It tackles the big questions and big ideas of history and the modern world: how food systems work, the spread of railways, the rise of industry, the dawn of the consumer age, the transformative effects of the steam engine, and how we wrest fuels from the Earth.

Returning this year is John Kempf, one of the most requested speakers from the last five years. John will focus on nutrient dynamics, providing insight into how to reduce fertilizer input costs through soil and plant health. Regenerative agriculture producer Chris

Teachout from Shenandoah, Iowa rounds out the speaker lineup. Longtime soil health advocate and director at the Dakota Lakes Research farm Dr. Dwayne Beck will also be speaking as a moderator and panelist.

Sponsors for the 2020 Winter Conference are: Green Cover Seed, Exapta Solutions, AgBiTech.

Visit notill.org or call (785) 210-4549 for registration information. Pre-registration online is required.

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New legislation introduced to help improve marketing environment

U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson of South Dakota and a group of bipartisan cosponsors, including Rep. Roger Marshall, have introduced the Price Reform in Cattle Economics (PRICE) Act, which seeks to improve the marketing environment for cattle producers. According to Johnson, the PRICE Act combines several new ideas with existing bipartisan proposals to create consensus legislation that would eliminate regulatory barriers, improve mar-

ket signals and support small meat processors.

Included in the bill are existing legislative proposals to open new markets for state-inspected beef products, such as the Direct Interstate Retail Exemption for Certain Transactions Act, and new provisions to aid producer-owned beef processing facilities. The legislation would give a directive to USDA to provide Congress cost-benefit and feasibility of various proposals to enhance

price discovery through mandatory price reporting and seeks to increase transparency in fed cattle transactions through a Beef Cattle Contract Library overseen by the Packers and Stockyards Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

A section-by-section analysis exploring all provisions of the bill can be accessed by going to Johnson's website located at dustyjohnson.house.gov/price-act-section-section.

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

Mary Hedberg, Clifton, Submits Winning Recipe In Grass & Grain This Week

Winner Mary Hedberg, Clifton: "This pizza is great when the family gets together."

PEANUT BUTTER COOKIE PIZZA

7.5-ounce package peanut butter cookie mix
12 ounces softened cream cheese
3.9-ounce box instant chocolate pudding mix
8 ounces whipped topping
1/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Prepare cookie mix. Press onto a greased 12-inch pizza pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 minutes or until set. Cool it completely. Beat cream cheese until smooth (may add 1/2 cup powdered sugar if desired). Spread over cooled peanut butter cookie crust. Mix pudding mix according to directions on package for 2 minutes on medium speed. Spread over cream cheese layer. Refrigerate 20 minutes or until set. Spread whipped topping over pudding. Sprinkle chocolate chips over topping and chill 1 hour before serving.

Darlene Thomas, Delphos:

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

1 pound sliced bacon, diced
1 medium sweet onion, chopped
6 large eggs, lightly beaten
4 cups frozen shredded hashbrown potatoes, thawed
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

1 1/2 cups 4% cottage cheese
1 1/4 cups shredded Swiss cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large skillet cook bacon and onion over

medium heat until bacon is crisp; drain. In a large bowl combine remaining ingredients; stir in bacon mixture. Transfer to a greased 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Bake uncovered until knife inserted into the center comes out clean, 35 to 40 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting.

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:
OYSTER CASSEROLE
1 pint small oysters
1 regular size can evaporated milk
1 sleeve crackers, crumbled
1 1/2 teaspoons salt

3 eggs
1/2 of the milk can of water
1/4-pound butter
1 1/2 teaspoons pepper
Mix all together. Bake at 350 degrees, about 45 minutes or until done.

Claire Martin, Salina:
MAPLE COFFEE
2 cups half & half
1/2 cup maple syrup
2 cups hot brewed coffee
Whipped cream

Over medium heat in a saucepan heat half & half and syrup, stirring constantly until heated through (do not boil!). Stir in coffee and top with whipped cream. Makes 4 1/2 cups.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:

DILL PICKLE DIP
(2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese
3 tablespoons dry Ranch dressing seasoning mix
1 cup whole dill pickles, chopped
1 cup deli-style ham, chopped
1 green onion, diced
Mix cream cheese until smooth. Add rest ingredients and refrigerate. Serve with crackers or veggies.

Jackie Doud, Topeka:
CROCK-POT VEGETABLE SOUP
1 1/2 pounds ground chuck
1 medium onion, diced
24-ounce jar pasta sauce
1 cup water
1 can diced tomatoes, undrained

1 can ro-tel, undrained
2 tablespoons ketchup
3 potatoes, peeled & cut into chunks
1 can drained corn
1 can drained green beans
1 can carrots, drained
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper

Cook ground beef and onion. Drain. Put all ingredients into a 6-quart crock-pot. Stir together. Cook on low 6-8 hours or high 5-6 hours.

Kellee George, Shawnee:

OVEN BARBECUE CHICKEN
1 frying chicken, cut up
1/2 cup flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup shortening
6 tablespoons butter

1/2 cup sliced onion
1/2 cup chopped celery
1/2 cup sliced green pepper
1 cup ketchup
1 cup water
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
2 tablespoons brown sugar
Dredge chicken in flour, salt and pepper. Fry in the melted butter and shortening and cook until brown. Transfer to a 9-by-13-inch pan. Cook onion in the pan until clear. Add other ingredients and bring to a boil. Pour over chicken. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour.

The final two are from Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

REUBEN CASSEROLE
6 slices rye bread, cubed
1 pound sliced corned beef, torn into strips
16-ounce can sauerkraut, drained & rinsed
3/4 cup Russian dressing
2 cups shredded Swiss cheese

Set oven at 400 degrees. Spread cubes in bottom of greased 9-by-13-inch baking pan. Spread sauerkraut over bread cubes then layer beef over sauerkraut. Pour dressing over all. Spray foil and cover casserole. Bake 20 minutes. Remove cover and sprinkle with cheese and bake uncovered 10 minutes or until cheese is melted.

BREAKFAST DANISH
2 cans crescent rolls
(2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg
1 egg white
Glaze:
1/2 cup powdered sugar
2 tablespoons milk
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Set oven 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-13-inch pan. Lay one package of crescent rolls in pan and pinch openings together. Beat cream cheese, sugar, vanilla and egg until smooth. Spread over crescent rolls in pan evenly. Lay second package on top and brush with egg white. Bake 35-45 minutes or until golden brown. Top with glaze after cooling 20 minutes.



Baking With Sugarbuns

By Michele Carlyon
Forever A Poop Peanut Butter Cookies

Two little nieces, two and three, both little fire-crackers, although the spicier of the two would have to be little Chloe. She clearly mastered the art of antagonization from a very early age and for whatever reason she deems it necessary to point a majority of it in my direction, quite possibly my karma for antagonizing the rest of the world my whole life.

When I go to their house in an evening, I am greeted at the door by both girls, Mika always gives me the biggest hug, Chloe generally looks at me, turns and runs to her mom or dad and announces "Boo Boo is here!" Generally, that leads to false hope that today is going to be the day she likes me.

After the grand entrance, I am usually bombarded for treats. They both especially love it when I bring them something homemade, but they will ultimately settle for anything; Chloe just refuses to share with me. If I turn my back for a second though, you better believe the little monkey figures out a way to get ahold of my Yeti and backwashes whatever she might be snacking on right back into it, and then proceeds to giggle and run away.

Once snacks are completed, generally we have some time to play; last nights play consisted of Chloe sitting in a ball pit, looking at me, telling me, "Boo Boo, you forever a poop!" Of course, that was followed by lots of giggles and having to run around telling everyone that, "Boo Boo is a poop," or that "Boo Boo smells like poop." My inner child comes out with the age-old, "No you are," but it doesn't faze her, she just keeps laughing and tossing her toddler insults my way.

Any time I am with her, I always try to sneak in my favorite question, "Chloe, do you like Boo Boo today?" To which she always looks me dead in the eyes and very firmly says, "NO!" I tend to like to see if I am sinking in a ship all alone by asking her about other family members, but for the most part I am going down solo.

After some snacks, playtime, and general insults from a two-year-old comes bath time. My brother and sister-in-law switch off every night as to which girl they get ready for bed. I tend to follow my brother, trying to spread the love and spend time with both girls individually. As of recently, Chloe has decided it is a lot of fun to tell me to "go away," or "I don't want you in here," all followed by giggles of course. Although, when she wants spiders (tickles), then I am the best thing in the

world, but otherwise, she takes great pride in kicking me out.

A little bit of movie time follows the bath time routine. Mika bounces back and forth between sitting with her mom or me, Chloe, she would rather sit by herself than to give me the satisfaction of sitting next to me. Movie time is for about fifteen minutes and then it is potty time followed by bedtime. While Chloe is attempting to potty, I always ask, "Chloe, can I have a hug tonight?" To which she always replies, "NO," giggles and runs to bed.

She might be sassy, and she might be spicy but there are also those moments when she literally melts me. Those moments when she will randomly give me a hug, and of course I hold on for dear life. Those times when she insists on talking to me through the window or when she begs to ride with me or to come to my house, those are the moments I live for. At the end of the day, I will forever take her spunk in exchange for those moments of sweetness.

Peanut Butter Cookies
Betty Crocker Recipe
**Sometimes Chloe likes them, sometimes she doesn't, but everyone else approves!

1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup peanut butter
1/4 cup shortening*
1/4 cup butter, softened
1 egg
1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt

Mix sugars, peanut butter, shortening, butter and egg in large bowl. Stir in remaining ingredients. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or until firm. Heat oven to 375 degrees. Roll dough into balls and roll in sugar, mark with fork crisscross pattern. Bake 9-10 minutes. Cool and enjoy.

* I always skip the shortening and just replace it with equal amounts of unsalted butter, the results are always amazing fluffy cookies.

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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By Tyler Johnson, Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program Agent, Wildcat Extension District
Like it or not, the fall season is here. I know not everyone enjoys the fall and winter months like I do. At the same time, I have not found many people who dislike the flavors available during the fall. Fall foods have a wide range in flavors. Additionally, a number of fall foods are what many consider "comfort foods." Think of all the flavors you love during your Thanksgiving meal. When eaten in moderation, fall food can hold a number of health benefits as well. Here are some common ways to eat healthy during the fall.

eating, leading to weight gain and spending extra money. A good way to start your day with fiber is a nice bowl of oatmeal with fruit. If you want to keep from having midnight cravings, a nice warm bowl of lentil soup should keep you feeling full until morning.

Speaking of Soup...

Fall is the perfect time to always have soup on hand. A homemade batch of soup will warm your house, make it smell wonderful, and make it easy to have a bowl of healthy comfort food. Soups, particularly homemade soups, just seem to taste better in the fall. It is important to read the ingredient label or watch how much of certain ingredient you add though. Soups can be heavy on the sodium.

Bring on the Warmth

With the weather cooling outside, fall is a perfect time for warm foods. These can be foods that are warm in temperature and/or warm in spice. Soups and warm salads are more common in the fall. Along with foods that are warm in temperature, fall usually sees an increase in the use of certain spices. These spices are used more in fall because they help you stay warm during the cold season. Spices with "warming properties" are cardamon, cinnamon, garlic, ginger, horseradish, and pepper (ex. Cayenne, Chili, and Cracked Black Pepper). Not only do these spices flavor your food, they boost your immune system too.

Please contact me to schedule an appointment or for more information, please contact Tyler Johnson, tjohnson120@ksu.edu, or by calling 620-232-1930.

Fill up on Vegetables

Vegetables are everywhere and full of healthy nutrients. Rethink some of your favorite fall dishes to include more vegetables. Start your morning with a delicious bowl of butternut squash roasted with honey and topped with cinnamon. For dinner, use spaghetti squash instead of spaghetti noodles. You can even double up your vegetables by having spaghetti squash noodles with a garden vegetable marina.

Load up on Fiber

Many fall foods are rich in fiber. Eating both soluble and insoluble fiber found in foods like vegetable, fruits, legumes, and grains, helps us feel full faster and keep the feeling longer. While this is important all year long, it is particularly important as the weather gets cooler and we are less active. Fiber helps us control how much we eat. This helps keep from over-



Celebrating Harvest

By Lou Ann Thomas

There are so many things I love about this time of year. I love the colorful foliage that makes the landscape pop with oranges, reds and golds, and the cool nights that warm to a perfect sundrenched afternoon. But one of my favorite things about fall is the hustle and bustle of harvest.

The last few weeks the valley has been filled with big harvest trucks raising plumes of dust moving to and from the elevator, red and green combines whirling chaff from seed in nearly every field in the valley. Things are quieter now, and the fields, machinery and many of the farmers are getting some well-deserved rest.

Farmers have an odd rhythm compared to most other professions. Most workers receive a steady trickle of income throughout a year, but farmers basically have one payday a year. And that's our harvest. We work all year, from preparing the land once it begins its spring warm-up, to planting the seeds that will eventually be harvested in the cooler

days of fall.

Between those times there is watching, tending, hoping, and a good amount of praying that goes on. When those seeds are first planted there is no guarantee that they will ever make it to harvest. There are so many factors that go into a successful

crop. We are always bargaining with rain. Asking for some, but not too much, always hoping for just right because storm clouds gathering and hovering on the horizon can portend damage or destruction. When we do get to early fall and see the crop ripen and ready itself for harvest, we are still navigating unpredictable terrain with volatile markets.

But when the big machinery pulls in the dance of harvest begins. Watching the guys harvesting my soybeans this year reminded me of how well they orchestrate this annual ritual. All that doubt and worry falls to the background once harvest begins. All of us who have an interest in farming can feel the relief and a growing sense of joy

that rises up watching the line of machinery move into place. Once in the field the dance begins in earnest. Even though I know a great deal of this interplay between combine and grain cart is driven by technology these days, that doesn't limit my appreciation for the way these farmers move in tandem with each other and their machinery to get a crop harvested in the most efficient way.

Honestly I could watch them work all day! And I did just that as I felt a deep appreciation for this land, the crops it nurtures and grows, and the way we all - farm producers and operators, alike - work together to celebrate the amazing bounty of this fertile and beautiful earth!

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2020 Election Edition

November 3rd, 2020



Editor's note: Our sales staff made an effort to contact as many of the candidates running for office in our area as possible. Along with a paid ad, they were given the opportunity to submit a press release. Some chose to do so and others did not. All the press releases that were submitted will be printed, as well as Letters to the Editor we have received over the past several weeks.

Kansas Farm Bureau announces general election endorsements

Kansas Farm Bureau's Voters Organized To Elect Farm Bureau Friends (VOTE FBF) Political Action Committee has announced its general election candidate endorsements for federal and state races in Kansas for the Nov. 3 election. Since 1993, VOTE FBF has endorsed and supported candidates for public office who support farming and ranching and rural Kansas.

"We are proud to represent our members as the Voice of Agriculture, and we believe our grassroots-driven endorsement process does just that," says Rich Felts, Kansas Farm Bureau president. "County Farm Bureau boards across the state have been working for months talking to and

vetting candidates. Their voices are reflected in the endorsements VOTE FBF has made."

Kansas Farm Bureau encourages Kansans to support these VOTE FBF-endorsed candidates and continue to research candidates in races where no endorsements have been made as the organization works to elect candidates who understand and advocate for agriculture.

For more information about VOTE FBF and the endorsement process, visit www.kfb.org/votefbf.

In federal races, Kansas Farm Bureau has endorsed Roger Marshall for U.S. Senate, Tracey Mann (R-KS 1), Jake LaTurner (R-KS 2) and Rep. Ron Estes (R-KS 4).

The following is Kan-

sas Farm Bureau VOTE FBF's state House endorsement list, with the District number first, then the candidates name:

- 1 Michael Houser;
- 2 Kenneth Collins;
- 3 Charles Smith;
- 4 Trevor Jacobs;
- 5 Mark Samsel;
- 6 Samantha M. Poetter;
- 7 Richard Proehl;
- 8 Chris Croft;
- 9 Kent Thompson;
- 11 Jim Kelly;
- 12 Doug Blex;
- 13 Joe Newland;
- 14 Charlotte Esau;
- 15 John Toplikar;
- 16 Rashard Young;
- 17 Kristine Sapp;
- 18 Cathy Gordon;
- 20 Jane Dirks;
- 21 Bob Reese;
- 23 Jeff Shull;
- 26 Adam Thomas;
- 27 Sean Tarwater;
- 28 Carl Turner;
- 29 Jerry Clinton;
- 30 Laura Williams;
- 33 Tom Burroughs;
- 38 Timothy H. Johnson;
- 39 Owen Donohoe;
- 40 David French;
- 42 Lance W. Neelly;
- 43 Bill Sutton;
- 47 Ronald

- Ellis;
- 48 Terry Frederick;
- 49 Megan Lynn;
- 50 Fred Patton;
- 51 Ron Highland;
- 52 Jesse Borjon;
- 54 Ken Corbet;
- 56 Tim Clothier;
- 57 John Alcalá;
- 59 Blaine Finch;
- 60 Mark Schreiber;
- 61 Francis Awerkamp;
- 62 Randy Garber;
- 63 John Eplee;
- 64 Suzi Carlson;
- 65 Lonnie Clark;
- 66 Sydney Carlin;
- 67 Mike Dodson;
- 68 Dave Baker;
- 69 Clarke Sanders;
- 70 John Barker;
- 71 Steven K. Howe;
- 73 Les Mason;
- 74 Stephen Owens;
- 75 Will Carpenter;
- 76 Eric Smith;
- 77 Kristey Williams;
- 78 Ron Ryckman;
- 79 Cheryl Helmer;
- 80 Bill Rhiley;
- 81 Blake Carpenter;
- 82 Jesse Burris;
- 83 Henry Helgerson;
- 85 Patrick Penn;
- 87 Susan Estes;
- 89 KC Ohaebosim;
- 90 Steve Huebert;
- 91 Emil Bergquist;
- 92 John Carmichael;
- 93 Brian Berg-

- kamp;
- 94 Leo Delperdang;
- 95 Tom Sawyer;
- 97 Nick Hoheisel;
- 98 Ron Howard;
- 99 Susan Humphries;
- 100 Dan Hawkins;
- 101 Joe Seiwert;
- 102 Jason Probst;
- 103 Ponka-We Victors;
- 104 Paul Waggoner;
- 105 Brenda Landwehr;
- 106 Lisa M. Moser;
- 107 Susan Concannon;
- 108 Steven Johnson;
- 109 Troy Waymaster;
- 110 Ken Rahjes;
- 111 Barb Wasinger;
- 112 Tory Arnberger;
- 113 Brett Fairchild;
- 114 Michael Murphy;
- 115 Boyd Orr;
- 116 Kyle Hoffman;
- 117 Leonard Mastroni;
- 118 Jim Minnix;
- 119 Brad Ralph;
- 120 Adam Smith;
- 121 John Resman;
- 122 Russ Jennings;
- 123 John Wheeler;
- 124 Marty Long;
- 125 Shannon Francis

The following is Kansas Farm Bureau VOTE FBF's state Senate en-

dorsement list:

- 1 Dennis Pyle;
- 3 Willie Dove;
- 5 Kevin Braun;
- 6 Diana Whittington;
- 7 Laura McConwell;
- James Todd;
- 9 Bever Gossage;
- 10 Mike Thompson;
- 11 Kellie Warren;
- 12 Caryn Tyson;
- 13 Richard Hilderbrand;
- 14 Mike Fagg;
- 15 Virgil Peck Jr.;
- 16 Ty Masterson;
- 17 Jeff Longbine;
- 18 Kristen O'Shea;
- 20 Brenda Dietrich;
- 21 Tom Bickimer;
- 22 Craig Bowser;
- 23 Rob Olson;
- 24 J.R. Claeys;
- 26 Dan Kerschen;
- 27 Gene Suellentrop;
- 28 Mike Peterson;
- 30 Renee Erickson;
- 31 Carolyn McGinn;
- 32 Larry Alley;
- 33 Alicia (Schartz) Straub;
- 34 Mark Steffen;
- 35 Richard Wilborn;
- 36 Elaine Bowers;
- 37 Molly Baumgardner;
- 38 Bud Estes;
- 39 John Doll;
- 40 Rick Billinger.

Carlson running for 64th District House of Representatives

Suzi Carlson, Clay Center, is the Republican representative for the 64th District in the Kansas House of Representatives. The District includes most of Clay County and the western corridor of Riley County, including the communities of Ogden, Riley, Leonardville, Wakefield, Morganville and Randolph in addition to Clay Center.

In the legislature Suzi is currently serving on three committees; Children and Seniors, Social Services Budget and Financial Institutions and Pensions. She is also currently appointed to a special legislative interim committee for Foster Care Oversight which has been meeting this fall.

Suzi has earned the endorsements of the Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansans for Life, the Kansas Livestock Association, the National Federation of Independent Business, Kansas Agribusiness Council and the National Rifle Association.

Suzi shares concern about rural healthcare, fiscal responsibility, fair and equitable total net taxes, protection of the unborn, Kansas families, the size of government, opportunities for business, maintaining our

second amendment rights, safe and efficient schools and rural revitalization in all areas of the district.

"The 64th District is filled with hard-working farmers, great businesses, wonderful schools, precious families, active retirees, and we're blessed with amazing health care... but each group is faced with constant and different struggles. Those struggles went to another level in 2020 for everyone. I listen to all sides of an issue and bring that approach to decision-making. I am focused on representing all people in this District and doing everything that I can for them."

Prior to the legislature, Suzi's background includes twenty-one years as Municipal Judge of Clay Center, Wakefield and other area towns. Now retired from the Clay Center position, she still serves as judge in Wakefield and several nearby towns. She was also a small business owner and employer for more than twenty years.

Suzi rose to leadership in the National Judges Association (NJA), chairing three different national educational conferences, each in a different area of the United States. She served two years as their national

president, and in 2017 was presented the highest honor the organization awards as a non-attorney judge. She also received the medal of valor from Kansas Law Enforcement in 1998.

Suzi and her husband Randy have three grown children spread among three different states, and two granddaughters. Becoming a grandmother seven years ago became her new favorite role.

Price Discovery Triggers Working Group releases framework

After months of bi-weekly meetings, the producer-led NCBA Price Discovery Triggers Subgroup delivered its report to the Live Cattle Marketing Working Group and the NCBA officer team recently. The framework lays out a plan to increase negotiated trade and incentivize


each of the major packers to participate.

In essence, the subgroup will evaluate the weekly negotiated trade information for each of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's cattle feeding reporting regions on a quarterly basis. Eventually, the subgroup will include in its evaluation an analysis of packer participation data, but this information is not yet published under Livestock Mandatory Reporting. To avoid tripping triggers, in any given quarter, each region will have to achieve no less than 75% of the weekly negotiated trade volume that current academic literature indicates is necessary for "robust" price discovery in that specific region (For Kansas that would be 15,750 head.); achieve this negotiated trade threshold no less than 75% of the reporting weeks in a quarter; achieve no less than 75% of the weekly packer participation requirements, to be determined in short order, and assigned to each specific region; and achieve this packer participation threshold no less than 75% of the reporting weeks in a quarter.

In the event three triggers are tripped in any two out of four rolling quarters, the subgroup will recommend that NCBA pursue a legislative or regulatory solution to compel robust price discovery. The subgroup will take into account black swan events on a case-by-case basis and allow for flexibility within the plan if the normal flow of cattle is disrupted. Periodic adjustments may need to be made to the framework in the event academic literature is updated, technological advances are made, or other conditions of supply and demand have changed. The subgroup will make these adjustments on an as-needed basis.

"While certainly not a silver-bullet solution, I truly believe that this approach provides the industry a goal to strive toward and, perhaps more importantly, a path forward if progress is not demonstrated toward that goal," NCBA President Marty Smith wrote in a letter to members.


To view the full report, go to www.kla.org/resources.



Dr Barry Flinchbaugh,
Ag Economist:

As an agricultural economist by trade, I'm a numbers person. And the numbers add up to keep **Tom Hawk's** hard-earned position at the Budget Table to work for our state's economic recovery. We need Tom's moderate and fair approach to agriculture and education issues, the issues so important to us. Please join me in returning **Senator Tom Hawk** to the Kansas Senate.


Letter of support from Dan & Cheryl Yunk



"I believe a strong rural economy is an important cornerstone of the entire Kansas economy!" ... Tom Hawk

- **Serves on the National Council of State Legislature's Ag Task Force**
- **Worked with Representative Carlson (R-Clay Center) and the Corps of Engineers to protect the rights of legacy farmers (around Milford and Tuttle Creek Federal Lakes)**
- **Introduced and passed a bill to create a Local Food and Farm Task Force to support Kansas Agriculture**
- ** Former Member Governor's Military Council working to keep FT RILEY strong**
- **Was member of Governor Brownback's Blue Ribbon State Water Plan Committee**
- **Worked and passed legislation to fund BROADBAND EXPANSION in unserved and underserved areas of the state**

- **Recognize the burden and pressure on family farms and support Community Mental Health Centers (Recognized in 2020 as Mental Health Centers "Public Official of Year")**
- **Supported Clay Center's GT Manufacturing (Batch Grain Dryers) as Kansas International Exporter of the Year**



Paid by Hawk for Senate Committee * Katha Hurt treasurer





VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

ADVANCE VOTE

OCTOBER 14 - NOVEMBER 2

ENDORSED BY:

KANSAS FARM BUREAU
KANSANS FOR LIFE
NFIB, THE VOICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
KANSAS LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION
A-RATING WITH THE NRA

Paid for by Committee to elect Susan Carlson, Mark Taddiken, Treasurer

Moser describes pro ag platform in 106th District race

By Lisa Moser

Born north of Lillis in Marshall County, I grew up on the family farm homesteaded by my great-grandparents in 1877 in north central Nemaha County. My family's faith life, working on the farm, 4-H and athletics instilled in me life values of hard work and the importance of making good decisions. I graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS in Agriculture-Animal Sciences & Industry, from KSU in December 1981. Married to Harry in 1982, I have been a rancher my entire adult life, owning and operating Moser Ranch, LLC, with him and in partnership with our son Cameron and his wife. Our daughters, Kendra and Kayla are also married and involved in agriculture in Kansas. Ten grandchildren bless our lives.

Past community involvements include leading youth beef projects, presiding over fair boards and cattlemen's groups, and volunteering in the public school system. Current memberships include

beef organizations, and the Livestock and Meat Industry Council, in the Department of Animal Science at KSU. I volunteer as a baby cuddler at Stormont Vail's NIC unit; I have been involved for twenty-two years in hospice, the last nine of which have been as part-time client aide at Good Shepherd Hospice House, Manhattan. Raising Border Collies for twenty-one years, since 2011 I have donated puppies to CARES in Concordia, a service dog association. I have been involved in church activities all my life; lecturing, teaching religion, serving on parish council and altar society. Harry and I are members of St. Columbkille's Catholic Church, Blaine.

My campaign platform is: ProLife, ProAg, ProKansas. I believe in the sanctity of human life from conception through natural death. Production agriculture, namely ranching, is the bedrock of my ProAg platform plank. I have "walked the walk" with fellow farmers and ranchers. My agricultural experience serves well the process of addressing issues that affect the very lifeblood of District 106. My ProKansas priorities include: restoring our rural economy to pre-COVID 19 performance, supporting Second Amendment rights, serving the needs of veterans, rural revitalization, improving broadband access, addressing health care disparities that exist in rural Kansas, state spending extremes, and property tax relief.

Life is an accumulation of moments we have lived. I consider myself not a politician, but rather a voice of the people of District 106. In my mind, public service revolves around truth, justice, being approachable and prudent, and doing good for Kansas and its citizens. I am a listener and a communicator. I believe courage and respect in open and civil dialogue are paramount, especially in today's polarized environment. I am passionate about the value of rural life in today's culture. Rural life teaches responsibility, honesty, integrity, work-ethic, and a fundamental importance of our dependence upon our Creator. I offer my ProLife values and my experience in agriculture in service to district constituents and I look forward to an opportunity to represent your interests, advocate for your concerns, and bring about positive change for rural Kansans as your State Representative for District 106.

tegrity, work-ethic, and a fundamental importance of our dependence upon our Creator. I offer my ProLife values and my experience in agriculture in service to district constituents and I look forward to an opportunity to represent your interests, advocate for your concerns, and bring about positive change for rural Kansans as your State Representative for District 106.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In our 64th District race for State Representative, I am supporting Suzi Carlson and I will tell you why. Many of you may know my son, Luke, has the rarely-diagnosed auto-immune condition, PANS which stands for Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome. PANS and PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal infections) are inflammatory brain disorders impacting an estimated 1 in 200 children. Symptoms can include OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder), tics, anxiety, restricted eating, aggression, behavior regression and loss of handwriting or math skills. It is not only a challenge with the condition itself but also to find doctors and specialists who will treat it. Kansas is behind on access to providers and treatment options. Furthermore, not only is it extremely difficult to find a doctor to treat it; some doctors don't even think the condition exists!

Rep. Carlson has been extremely helpful to our family personally and our PANS/

PANDAS Kansas group in increased education about PANS/PANDAS in the State Legislature. Thanks in large part to Rep. Carlson we were able to schedule a hearing and testify last year during the 2020 Legislative session. She is still helping us communicate our needs to the other state legislators and we are working with her to secure legislation for the upcoming 2021 Kansas Legislative Session. Our goal is to get more doctors in the state to diagnose and treat this condition as well as insurance coverage. As a mother, she understands how we are fighting for our children to provide them the best medical care and insurance coverage.

She has fought for my son and other youth who have this condition, give her the opportunity to keep fighting for us as our State Representative in Topeka! Re-elect Republican Susan Carlson for 64th District State Representative on November 3!

Melanie Musselman Clifton



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REPUBLICAN FOR LEGISLATURE

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ProKansas**

Endorsed for the General Election by the following:

- Sharon Schwartz, Washington-Twenty-year Representative for District 106
- Kansans for Life PAC • Family Policy Alliance of Kansas • Kansas Farm Bureau
- Kansas Livestock Association • Kansas Chamber of Commerce
- National Federation of Independent Businesses Kansas PAC
- Kansas Grain & Feed Association • Kansas Agribusiness Retailer's Association
- Kansas Cooperative Council • National Rifle Association-"AQ" Rating

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VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 3RD

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On Nov. 3rd

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- ✓ Livestock Marketing Association
- ✓ National Sorghum Producers
- ✓ Renew Kansas

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House District 67

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- ▶ Ensure that Kansans have quality, first-rate education for our students at all levels, during the pandemic and beyond.
- ▶ Advocate for comprehensive plans for energy production, water usage, and environmental practices that move Kansas toward a sustainable future.

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ADVANCED VOTING BEGINS OCTOBER 14

Paid for by the committee to elect Cheryl Arthur for State Representative-John W. Carlin, Treasurer

"In Topeka there are too many people with the wrong priorities. They put partisanship ahead of getting results on health care, education, and climate change. I'll follow the facts to do what's right for our community."

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- ▶ Advocate for comprehensive plans for energy production, water usage, and environmental practices that move Kansas toward a sustainable future.

CHERYL
ARTHUR

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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VOTE CHERYL ARTHUR FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 67
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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:
It has been 13 years since the Kansas Family Protection Act of 2006 was passed, and the ability for citizens to carry a concealed firearm has not resulted in any of the prophesied mayhem that the anti-gun Democrat party and their special interest groups, Moms Demand Action and Every Town for Gun Safety (both funded by former Democratic presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg) declared would happen. The ability of law-abiding Kansans to protect themselves outside the home has increased steadily

over the decade and has not caused "wild west shootouts or blood to run in the streets," or any of the other half dozen hyperboles leveled at lawmakers throughout the process. As a matter of fact, according to the latest concealed carry annual report, compiled by the Kansas Attorney General, 123,284 armed Kansans have not become Wyatt Earps.

Since then Gun Control Democrats, like Kansas State Senator Tom Hawk, have continued to fight the positive changes in the law that allow the ability of self-defense to Kansans

constituents. If Tom Hawk had the support and the votes, he would unravel each and every pro-gun amendment passed since the initial Family Protection Act. According to justfacts.votessmart.org, Senator Hawk has voted No on legislation that lowered the age requirements to obtain a concealed carry license, and No to Conceal Carry on College Campuses. Both laws were created to allow younger Kansans to practice their 2nd Amendment rights, along with its fellow amendments in the Bill of Rights, to include the 15th Amendment (a Right to Vote Not Denied by Race), and the 26th Amendment (Right to Vote at Age 18).

There is something wrong when a politician such as Tom Hawk can determine which "Right," that is recognized and guaranteed in the Constitution, a Kansan of adult age can practice.

State Senator Hawk's personal dislike of our right of personal protection is to a point that he would even support and vote for, if given a chance, the failed "Red Flag" law (SB 390) submitted this past legislative session by former Republican, turned Democrat, Barbara Bollier. This law would deny a Kansan their protection from unreasonable seizures, and their protection of life, liberty, and property, without due process of law. This law would deny our ability to face our accuser in the court of law, and place upon citizens a heavy personal and financial burden to fight against such an unconstitutional law. Anti-self protection politicians like State Senator Hawk, and Barbara Bollier, would argue a law

such as this is important to the safety of their constituents, while ignoring the fact that such tools are already available for Law Enforcement, the lack of need for it in our community, and most significantly - its unconstitutionality.

We constituents of District 22 need to ask ourselves, do we allow a politician like State Senator Hawk (and Barbara Bollier) to support, and even create, laws that pick and choose what rights to deny because of a personal bias, or gun control special interests to bring their national influence to push an agenda that goes against Kansas values? Or do we vote in someone who sees all our inalienable rights guaranteed by the Constitution as equal in value, who will not prioritize them, based on a personal bias? We need to vote for Craig Bowser for State Senator of District 22 and send Tom Hawk home!

Charles Cherry
Wakefield, KS

Court denies challenge to California's Proposition 12

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has rejected a challenge to California's Proposition 12, the ballot initiative that required all eggs sold in the state come from cage-free hens by 2022. The proposition also sets new minimum cage size requirements for breeding pigs and calves raised for veal and sold in California. The proposition was challenged by the North American Meat Institute, the National Pork Producers Council and the American Farm Bureau Federation arguing that the excessive and expensive requirements will be detrimental to producers. The groups also say the proposition violates the interstate commerce clause.

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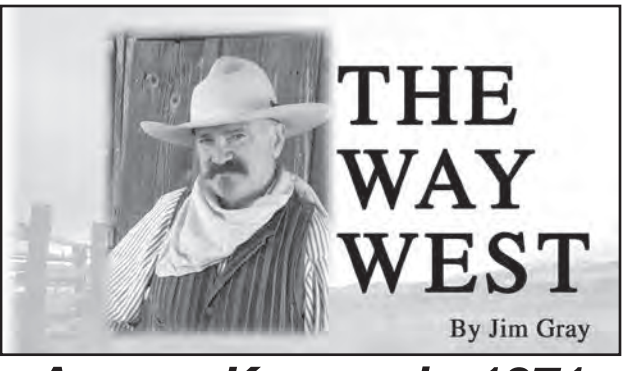
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THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

Across Kansas in 1871

In the Autumn of 1871, Rose Georgina Kingsley traveled from England to America chronicling her experiences in the book *South by West, or Winter in the Rocky Mountains and Spring in Mexico*, published in 1874.

After a whirlwind tour of New England and parts of Ontario, Canada, she and her escort, "Mr. B." were "fairly launched" on their way to the "unknown West," on her way to meet her brother at Denver.

After days of travel by train, interrupted by a necessary ferry over the Mississippi River, she awoke to, by all appearances, the perfect specimen of a "mushroom town." The collection of shanty buildings and frontier storefronts near the depot was her first impression of Kansas City. To her dismay, an unexpected delay forced a stay in the border

city on an unusually hot day. "My heart sank; for of all places to wait at, a more unpleasant one on a hot day than Kansas City... can hardly be found."

She and Mr. B. breakfasted at the Lindell Hotel "in a very hot room." A tour of the town revealed two or three "partly finished," good streets serving several hotels. Scattered stores alongside several wooden saloons with glass fronts lined the streets. On the corners of future streets of mostly mud and stone a store or two selling candy and fruit could be found. Higher up the bluff overlooking the Missouri River were churches, schools, and many good residences but the heat of the day drove her back to her room, leaving the more developed part of Kansas City undiscovered. After dinner tickets to Denver were purchased at the

Kansas Pacific depot. Returning to the hotel and an uncomfortable afternoon of waiting; the omnibus finally arrived at 10:30 in the evening to take her and Mr. B. to the train.

Daybreak, October 29th, disclosed that the train was "on the prairies in good earnest." One hundred eighty-five miles west of Kansas City the train stopped for breakfast at Salina, Kansas. Having no dining car, stops were scheduled to allow passengers to take their meals.

A return to the train following breakfast led to an introduction to one of the prairie's most unique inhabitants. Prairie dogs "sat by the scores on their hind legs praying at the train and rubbing their noses with their fore-paws." With a full head of steam the train carried its passengers through a morning of swift travel. The prairie seemed to "roll away wave after wave, like some great ocean turned into land in the midst of a heavy ground swell after a storm."

Just beyond Brookville large herds of cattle and horses grazed among smooth grass-covered slopes rising from the prairie to end abruptly on steep rocky faces. Occasional lonely ranches were seen, and passengers anxiously awaited the coming

of the buffalo plains, some going out on the platform to watch for the shaggy beasts. "A most cruel and foolish fashion prevails on these trains, of shooting the poor animals from the cars... for the mere pleasure of killing. Endless skeletons lay on each side of the track."

Not a buffalo could be seen until well after reaching Fort Harker (present-day Kanopolis, Kansas). Suddenly, the crack of a pistol was heard from the front of the train. Three buffalo galloped with their heads down parallel to the train. They continued galloping in their clumsy way after the train had passed, apparently unharmed.

At Ellis Miss Kingsley and her escort were offered "a nasty meal of tough and almost uncooked buffalo-steak." They decided to rely upon their own provisions for dinner, before returning to the train.

Once again the cars raced through blinding sun and dust over the "endless plains." Beautiful lakes and rivers with trees on their banks could be seen on the southern horizon, and to the west a lake was seen. But as the

train approached, the lake gradually faded away. It was a mirage, a curious feature of the boundless western prairie.

The utter desolation and monotony was interrupted by pronghorn antelopes bounding away from the train. There were occasional stations made of sod or dugouts in side hills and soon thousands of buffalo grazed within sight of the track. They were so numerous that they were never out of sight the rest of the day.

At the Fort Wallace depot, "the sun set in crimson glory." The station was full of officers who had driven from the post to get the mail and eastern newspapers brought in by the train. Miss Kingsley had heard the stories of Indian warfare at Fort

Wallace, bringing a heightened imagination that they could be attacked at any minute, "but we met with no worse a misfortune than a very bad supper."

Denver was finally reached at six o'clock the next morning of October 30, 1871. Her brother met her on the platform and treated her to a memorable breakfast of "delicious mountain trout, eggs, and good coffee," a far cry from the less-than-tempting meals she had endured while traveling across Kansas 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.*

Area KLA roundtables offer opportunity for member input

Kansas Livestock Association officers and staff will host a series of seven roundtables during November. Five of the meetings will be in-person and two will be virtual. During the meetings, members are encouraged to bring up issues KLA may need to address, as well as share how the organization can better serve its members. Updates also will be provided on a number of issues currently being addressed by KLA and NCBA.

Dates and locations for the in-person meetings are November 2, Pratt Area 4-H Building, Pratt; November 4, Ottawa County Extension Office, Minneapolis; November 11, Va-

quero's Restaurant, Yates Center; November 12, Hilton Garden Inn, Topeka; and November 17, KLA West Office, Scott City. Virtual dates are November 16 and 19. All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. CST and wrap up by 8:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served at all locations. Social distancing and local health guidelines will be followed, and face masks and hand sanitizer will be available to attendees.

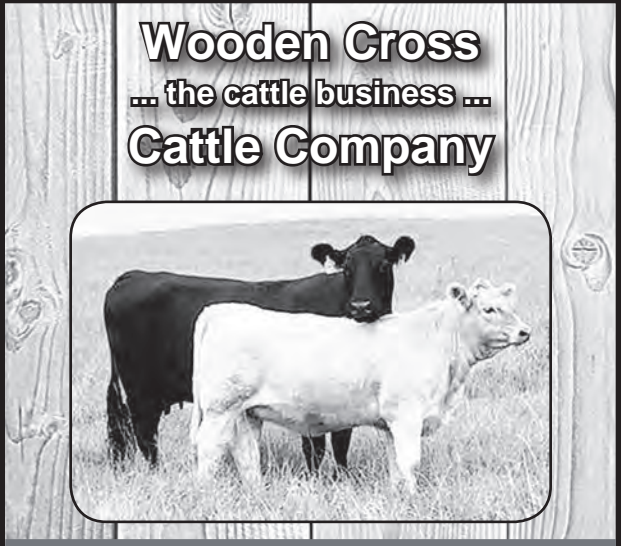
Please make your reservation by calling the KLA office at (785) 273-5115 or emailing letty@kla.org. Be sure to indicate the number attending and which location. Specific meeting information will

be posted on www.kla.org/events-meetings. If you sign up for a virtual roundtable, be sure to provide your email address so an invitation can be sent to you with the link. This year's roundtables are sponsored by KLA Environmental Services, Inc., with offices in Salina and Scott City.

FARM AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2020 - 10:00 AM
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