



Higgs siblings leave mark on WRCA National Finals Rodeo

By Donna Sullivan, Editor

Eighteen-year-old Makenzie Higgs is no stranger to the toils of a ranch hand – she's been working cattle on horseback on her family's Lonesome Pine Ranch in Chase County since as far back as she can remember. And she's no stranger to competition – she's been a member of the Lonesome Pine Ranch Rodeo team for several years, making her first appearance at the World Championship Working Ranch Rodeo in Amarillo back when she was just 13. Lonesome Pine won the championship with Makenzie being the only young female on a team that year.

The 2020 event was the same story, as she was the only woman to compete in the arena in the WRCA National Finals competition.

She and her brother Troy represent the third generation of the Higgs family on the team, along with their grandfather Frank and their father Bud. Bo Krueger and Travis Duncan round out the team.

Just as Makenzie was making her mark as the only woman competing in the arena, Troy battled his way to the title of Top Hand in the rodeo.

While their father is proud, he isn't really surprised. "They have been in the saddle with me since they were in diapers," Bud

said. "They've grown up doing this kind of stuff, so they have a bit of an advantage over average kids that come along."

Makenzie's appearance in the arena in Amarillo was precipitated by Bud injuring himself back in April riding a two-year old gelding. "Apparently he wasn't as far along as I thought he was," he said of the horse. He suffered a compound fracture in his right arm and broke his left wrist. The plan was to evaluate the size and temperament of the cattle in Amarillo, then decide the events Makenzie would compete in. It was determined she would run the branding iron in the branding event and rope the heels in the stray gathering. She had done the branding in Amarillo since 2014, but this was her first year to rope in the competition. She says competing on such a big stage was a little nerve-wracking. "But I had my mind set to go out and do what I usually do," she said. "There were a lot more people and you just had to go out and do the best you could."

Makenzie said she practices almost every day, "Dragging calves and roping stuff out in the pasture, we stay pretty consistent doing things like that," she said. "It's always been pretty fun, but it was more exciting this year getting



Makenzie Higgs heels a calf at the WRCA National Finals in Amarillo. Higgs was the only female competing in the rodeo.

my nerves up to go rope, but it turned out good. All the work I've put into roping, it was good to be able to show everybody that I can rope. It made me feel better about myself that I

can go out and do an event that really levels the playing field and gets teams spread out. It's not easy to do." She made all three of her heel catches and had to tie two of the steers.

At the end of the competition, Lonesome Pine had captured fourth place. Another Kansas team, Beachner Bros. Livestock, placed third.

And winning the highly regarded title of Top Hand was Troy Higgs.

Like his younger sister, Troy competed for the first time in Amarillo when he was just 13. The Lonesome Pine team has qualified for the national finals all eight years since then. To earn the Top Hand award, he rode broncs for the team, roped calves in the branding and the cow in the wild cow milking as well as headed the three steers in the stray gathering and also competed in the penning event. "You get points for every event and for how well you do in them," he explained. Being in all five events gave him a bit of an advantage. "The other thing that helped was we got along pretty good in most of the events," he said. For winning Top Hand, Troy received the use of a Hughes trailer, a custom handmade Tad Sanders saddle, a set of stirrups, pair of boots, Yeti duffel bag, a buckle and a handmade

bit.

While the accolades and prizes are good, it was competing with his sister that really made the event meaningful for him. "It was pretty special to go down there and have her be the only girl competing," Troy stated. "She never missed a loop. We told her, if the arena is small, you've got to be aggressive and get your loop out of your hand, and she did that very well."

Makenzie had spent the summer leading up the National Finals competing with the team, so she was ready for the trip to Amarillo.

"When my dad got hurt in the spring, we were already entered in several rodeos and a lot of them have a waiting list. If you don't go, they fill your spot with someone else. She was the next person on the card that we were going to take and see what we could get done," Troy explained. "She was nervous at first, but she's had enough experience at home, and been in some tight spots and knows how to get through it."

The patriarch of the family and the team is Frank. While he doesn't compete in any of the events at the rodeos, he still rides almost every night at home and helps work the cattle. He also raises quality horses.

"We've always credited the success we have to the horse power that he has worked for over 53 or 54 years that he's been raising horses," Troy said. "We all ride H branded horses that he raised."

Troy attended Butler County Community College for two years, where he earned a degree in farm and ranch management. He then earned an animal science degree with a production option at Kansas State University. He's now back on the family ranch working full-time as well as helping neighbors when he can. Makenzie is currently enrolled at Butler Community College majoring in farm and ranch management. But whenever possible, she's got the guys at the ranch pulling the roping dummy for her so she can practice throwing her loops.

After all, the next WRCA National Finals Rodeo is only 11 months away.



Troy Higgs, center, is shown with his prizes for winning Top Hand in the World Championship Working Ranch Rodeo, held in Amarillo in November.

Wheat industry welcomes final congressional passage of the Grain Standards Reauthorization Act

In early December the House of Representatives passed the United States Grain Standards Reauthorization Act (GSA) of 2020, S. 4054. The National Association of Wheat Growers

(NAWG) applauds both the House and Senate for their bipartisan work to move the bill forward and reauthorize the GSA through September 30, 2025. NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) have worked collaboratively over the last year and a half to identify priorities for the reauthorization process, given the critical importance of the United States' weighing and inspection system to our competitiveness in the world market.

"With our farmers facing tough economic challenges, including several years of low commodity prices and headwinds blowing against overseas demand, it is critically important that we at least maintain a smooth grain inspection system. We applaud Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate for working together to get this piece of legislation passed by the end of the year," said NAWG president and Cass City, Mich., farmer Dave Milligan. "To maintain a properly functioning grain inspection system, NAWG

encourages the president to sign this bill into law before the closing of 2020."

"This law and our system of standardized, independent grain inspection makes U.S. wheat more valuable," said USW chairman Darren Padgett, a wheat farmer from Grass Valley, Ore. "The proof of that came this year when many of our overseas buyers expressed a real concern that the pandemic would interrupt our supply chain and Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) inspections."

The Grain Standards Act serves a critical role in exporting grains and oilseeds, including U.S. wheat, of which about 50 percent is exported each year. The grain inspection system assures overseas buyers that an independent agency has certified shipments to their contracted specifications. This objective certification adds a competitive advantage to U.S. wheat and other commodities that helps maintain and grow export markets.

On Dasher, on Dancer... on John Deere M!



Kenny and Sandy Cravens of rural Manhattan created this country Christmas display at their farm northeast of Manhattan. Their eight-year-old granddaughter Emily Cravens helped Gramma Sandy cut cedar boughs from the pasture, then they tied them to an 8' wheel frame provided by their son Tim. They finished it off with Christmas lights. Grampa Kenny supplied the collector John Deere M tractor in place of reindeer – complete with whitetail deer antlers attached to the front of the hood. Kenny also has many collectible Ford tractors, other antique and classic tractors. You can view their Christmas display at 7725 Myers Valley Rd, Manhattan (Pott County). Photo by Bonnie Cravens



Moving Forward

By Glenn Brunkow, Pottawatomie County farmer and rancher
This year, this week, we start our 103rd year at Kansas Farm Bureau having just finished our business session at our 102nd annual meeting. One hundred and three is a big number and a lot of years. Dare I say no year has been quite like the one we just fin-

ished up? Note that I did not say it was our hardest year. It was not even our first pandemic at Kansas Farm Bureau, but it was a year a lot of us would like to move past and put in the rear-view mirror.
Yes, there have been harder years in the ag community. Years of more extreme drought, heat, rain or pests. I am sure

we have seen years with worse markets and more trying times. Maybe not, bad years and good years are so personal to each of us. If you were touched by COVID-19, 2020 may very well have been your worst year ever, and if that is the case, my heart goes out to you.
My point is 2020 was not a good year, and I am sure that most of us hope that 2021 will be a much better one. The one thing I do know is those of us in agriculture have learned to deal with adversity and keep moving forward. We know how to absorb the blow of a bad year and

pick ourselves up and keep, keeping on. That is what we do, that is who we are and that is why agriculture is the backbone of the United States.
What will 2021 look like? Who knows? I have seen long-range forecasts, but I do not put much faith in them. As far as the pandemic goes, we have no idea; even the experts are split on what the next 12 months will look like. But I do know this. We will plant the next crop this spring, we will help new lambs, calves, pigs, goats, chickens and horses come into this world. We will persevere with the faith of

a farmer and rancher because that is what we do.
We will go to the field and to the pasture with the same optimism that our parents and grandparents carried with them, even through the toughest of times. I also know Kansas Farm Bureau will be right there alongside us making sure our voices are heard in Washington D.C. and Topeka. That voice is one each of us have a note in, coming up from the grassroots and making sure those of us who feed the world are heard.
No, I had no idea what was ahead of us at this time last year, but we made

it through it, and I have no idea what is ahead of us in 2021. We will change and adapt just like we have for the previous 102 years, and we can all be proud knowing that we are part of an organization leading the way when it comes to ensuring our farms and ranches survive and thrive no matter what the year brings.
"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.

Farmers and ranchers wrap up business at KFB's 102nd annual meeting

Last Saturday, more than 400 Farm Bureau members of Kansas wrapped up business for their farm organization during a virtual session for Kansas Farm Bureau's 102nd annual meeting.

The policies adopted will now become the organization's road map for the 2021 legislative session. Topics of discussion included livestock marketing, trade and water.
Montgomery County farmer Rich Felts was re-elected as president.

Others elected to the board of directors include:
George Pretz, Miami County; Steven McCloud, Harvey County; Doug Zillinger, Phillips County; Joe Jury, Gray County; Kevin Holle, Rawlins County.

Other activities included a host of agriculture-related workshops and speakers including a keynote from Vance Crowe, an update on American Farm Bureau Federation activities from Andrew Walmsley and a townhall with

members of the Kansas congressional delegation, including Sen. Jerry Moran, Sen.-elect Roger Marshall, Reps.-elect Tracey Mann and Jake LaTurner, and Rep. Sharice Davids.
KFB also honored retiring Sen. Pat Roberts

for his decades of service to Kansans, especially his dedication to ensuring farmers and ranchers had their voices heard in Washington, D.C.
County Farm Bureaus and volunteers were recognized for their 2020 achievements.

Congratulations to Kansas winners in 2020 National Wheat Yield Contest

Kansas wheat farmers demonstrated their agronomic prowess in the 2020 National Wheat Yield Contest. State winners from this year's contest were recently released by the National Wheat Foundation, which organizes the competition.

Seventy-seven wheat growers from 25 states participated in the contest, which allowed Kansas wheat farmers to compete against their counterparts in other states and learn more about potential ways to further boost production through new and innovative techniques. The sponsors for the 2020 National Wheat Yield Contest were AgriMaxx, Ardent Mills, BASF, Corteva, Croplan/Winfield, Grain Craft, John Deere, Miller Milling, Syn-

genta and WestBred.
The contest was split into winter wheat and spring wheat and then further divided into dryland and irrigated production.
In the dryland winter wheat category, Tyler Ediger from Meade came out on top with a final yield of 108.43 bushels per acre. The variety for this winning entry was WestBred WB4792.

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In the irrigated winter wheat category, Ki Gamble from Kiowa took the top slot. His entry of WestBred 4792 yielded 135.39 bushels per acre.
Eric Purvis from Wallace placed second with a WestBred WB Grainfield plot that yielded 124.77 bushels per acre. Brock Neville from Sedgwick earned third place at 106.14 bushels per acre with a WestBred WB4699

entry.
"Congratulations to all our state winners in this year's National Wheat Yield Contest," Gilpin said. "We are excited to watch how Kansas wheat continues to excel and increase in profitability by maximizing yields."
Official rules and entry details for the 2021 Contest will be available by Jan. 1, 2021, at <https://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org/>.

Peterson unveils legislation to expand CRP to 50 million acres

In a press conference recently, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson of Minnesota announced the introduction of H.R. 8843, which makes an additional 25 million acres available over the next five years for general sign-up under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Instead of a cap, the bill establish-

es a minimum floor of 50 million CRP acres nationwide.
"CRP incentivizes farmers to remove sensitive land from agricultural production and plant cover to enhance wildlife habitat and provide other natural resource benefits," Peterson told reporters. "CRP has a decades-long track record of engaging

farmers in the effort to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and create wildlife habitat."
"In addition to the increase in acreage, the bill will help CRP prioritize those applications that promote soil health and carbon sequestration," Peterson added. "Applications for the enrollment of land on which deep-rooted perennials will be planted will also be prioritized."
Peterson pointed to the importance of CRP in helping farmers and landowners meet environmental quality goals.
"Land enrolled in the program has helped to keep billion of tons of soil from eroding and sequestered millions of tons of carbon," he said. "It has improved wildlife and pollinator habitat, and it has provided benefits to farmers through rental payments and drawing hunters and other recreationists, which in turn makes its way through rural economies. This is a good bill that uses a successful, existing program to pay farmers to store carbon - we don't need a whole new regime - we have CRP."

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The livestock world lost a great man recently. Merv Sexton was one of the good guys - no, Merv was a great man. Anyone who has ever sold cattle at the Manhattan Commission Company knows exactly what I mean, and I am sure feels the same way.
It's funny how someone you see a couple of times a year can have such an impact on your life, but Merv was one of those guys. We sell our calves every winter and then throughout the year we come in with a few cull cows, a bull or two and other odds and ends but we do not frequent the sale barn very many times a year. That was why it was so amazing that Merv knew us and treated us like old friends each time we were there.

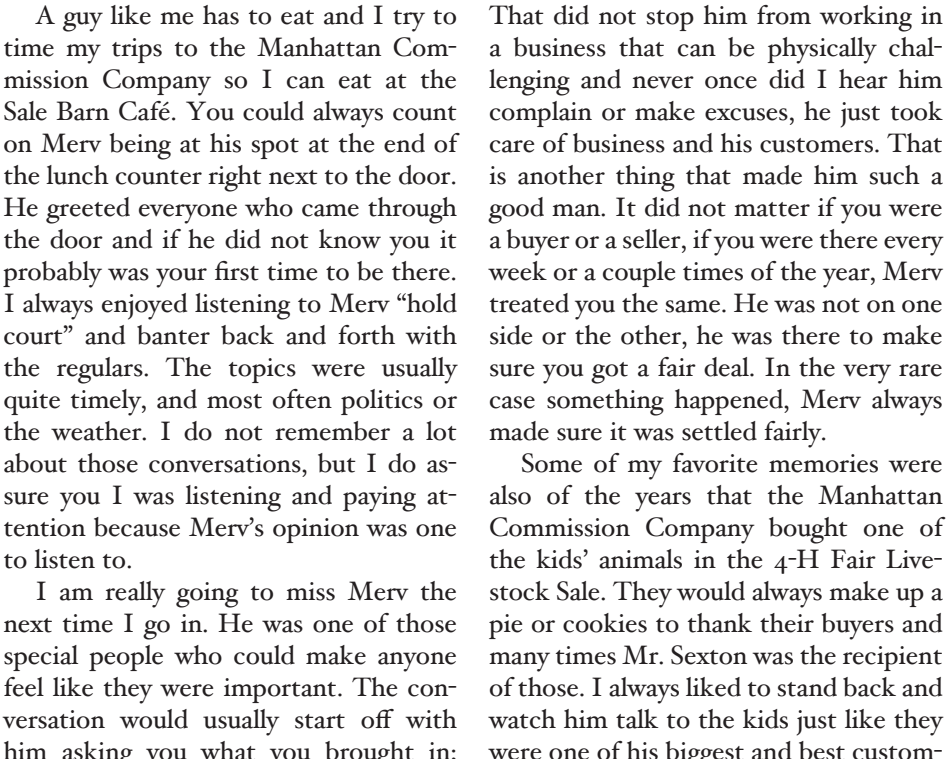
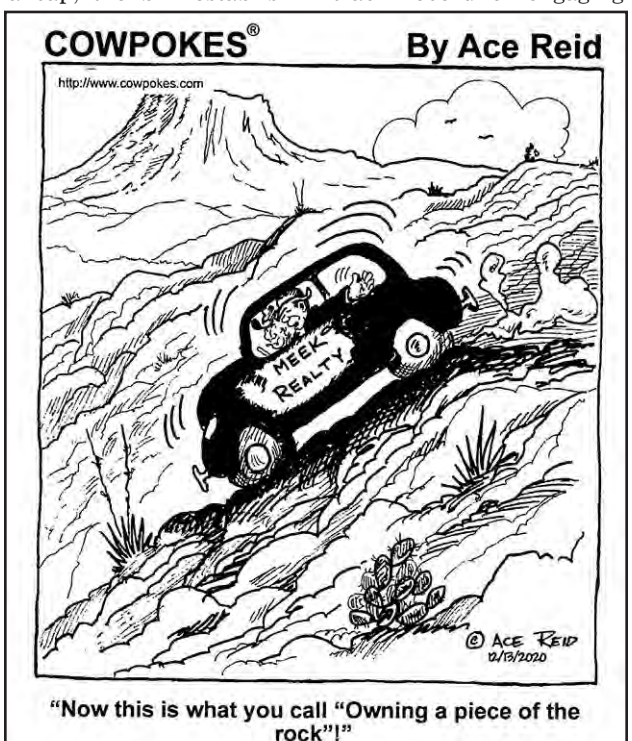
good things about our calves. As a kid that made a huge impression and I left thinking that my parents were important if Mr. Sexton knew them.
Then as I got older and I had cattle of my own I understood just how important Merv was to our family. He oversaw our once-a-year paycheck and more importantly you knew things were handled right and fairly. He was this soft-spoken, humble man who represented all that is good and right in the world of livestock. In just a minute or two of talking to him you knew that he was a fair and honest man who would treat you right.
Did I mention that Merv had a disability? I did not because I do not know that I ever really noticed it. He had polio and it made it hard for him to walk. That did not stop him from working in a business that can be physically challenging and never once did I hear him complain or make excuses, he just took care of business and his customers. That is another thing that made him such a good man. It did not matter if you were a buyer or a seller, if you were there every week or a couple times of the year, Merv treated you the same. He was not on one side or the other, he was there to make sure you got a fair deal. In the very rare case something happened, Merv always made sure it was settled fairly.

Some of my favorite memories were also of the years that the Manhattan Commission Company bought one of the kids' animals in the 4-H Fair Livestock Sale. They would always make up a pie or cookies to thank their buyers and many times Mr. Sexton was the recipient of those. I always liked to stand back and watch him talk to the kids just like they were one of his biggest and best customers; they would leave thinking they were big stuff.
The livestock world and the world in general lost a great man in Merv Sexton. He was a man with a wide swath of influence and integrity and one that none of us who knew him will forget anytime soon. I know when I sell my calves here in a week or two, I will probably walk into the café for lunch and as I do, I will look to my right ready to say hello. Its going to seem odd with him not there and something will be missing. What will not be missing is the legacy of warmth, honesty, and friendship he left all of us.

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K-State plans 2021 calving schools

In anticipation of calving season, beef cattle experts from the Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and K-State Research and Extension are planning a series of calving schools beginning in early January.

A.J. Tarpoff, an Extension beef veterinarian, said calving schools aim to increase producers' knowledge, practical skills and the number of live calves born. Each day-long program outlines overall calving management, including stages of the normal calving process and tips to handle difficult calving situations.

"Our goal is for producers to leave better prepared for calving season," Tarpoff said. "We will discuss timelines on when to examine cows for calving problems, and when to call your vet for help if things are not going well. It's an excellent program regardless of experience level."

Speakers will share tips on when and how to intervene to assist the cow and how those times may be different when dealing with young heifers. Presenters also will demonstrate proper use of calving equipment on a life-size cow and calf model.

Tarpoff said the meetings will cover such topics as body condition scoring, colostrum management and animal health product storage and handling.

Meetings scheduled include:

- Wednesday, Jan. 6, Emporia. For more information, email Brian Rees, Lyon County Extension, at bree@ksu.edu.
- Monday, Jan. 11, Winfield. For more information, email Kelsey Nordyke, Cowley County Extension, at holcombk@ksu.edu.
- Wednesday, Jan. 13, Blue Rapids. For more information, email Anastasia Johnson Meyer, Marshall County extension, anastasia@ksu.edu.
- Thursday, Jan. 21, Dodge City. For more information, email Andrea Burns, Ford County Extension, at aburns@ksu.edu.

More information about the calving schools is available online as it becomes available.

Biden says he will not immediately remove China Phase 1 trade deal

Reuters reported last week that U.S. president-elect Joe Biden said that he will not immediately act to remove the Phase 1 trade agreement. In an interview, Biden said that the United States needed to get leverage back to use in negotiations with China.

"I'm not going to make any immediate moves, and the same applies to the tariffs," Biden said. "I'm not going to prejudice my options."

Under the Phase 1 agreement signed by President Donald Trump earlier in the year, China agreed to increase purchases of American products and services by at

least \$200 billion over 2020 and 2021. The deal also leaves in place 25% tariffs on a \$250-billion array of Chinese industrial goods and components used by U.S. manufacturers, and China's retaliatory tariffs on over \$100 billion in U.S. goods.

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Meat Institute welcomes growing support for prioritizing vaccines for frontline meat and poultry workers

Governor Laura Kelly of Kansas and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) joined a growing chorus of support for prioritizing COVID-19 vaccination for frontline meat and poultry workers.

Meat Institute president and CEO Julie Anna Potts commented:

"We welcome growing support for building on effective COVID-19 prevention measures by ensuring priority access to vaccines for frontline meat and poultry workers. "Vaccination is the next critical step that will protect this diverse workforce and facilitate vaccine distribution in rural areas with limited health services."

According to *Meat and Poultry*, Governor Kelly said December 4 that meatpacking plants will be near the top of the priority list to receive the COVID-19 vaccination following health care workers and those in long-term care facilities.

LULAC welcomed Gov-

ernor Kelly's statement, saying "Food and agricultural workers are heroes. They have been on the front lines of the pandemic, ensuring Americans have access to safe, nutritious, affordable food and they should be at the front of the line for the vaccine as well."

The Meat Institute joined the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the National Pork Producers Council in requesting the nation's governors include meat workers in priority vaccine plans.

The Meat Institute is advocating that federal authorities also consider the scientific, ethical, and distribution benefits of prioritizing vaccination for frontline meat and poultry workers, which are also being considered around the world, including in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Meat Institute members are also offering cold storage capacity that could aid vaccine distribution for all Americans.

The GRASS & GRAIN staff is Zooming in

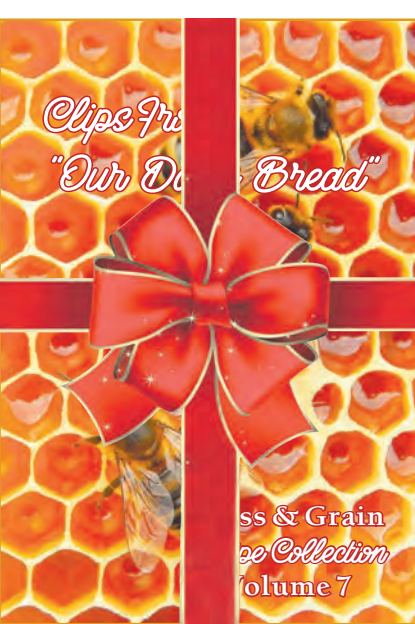


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2020 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Kellee George, Shawnee:
CRANBERRY SNOW DROP COOKIES
 1 yellow cake mix
 2 eggs
 1/3 cup oil
 Zest of 1 orange
 1 teaspoon orange extract
 1 cup sweetened dried cranberries
 1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans
 Combine dry cake mix, eggs and oil; beat until well blended. Stir in remaining ingredients. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto lightly greased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes until edges are lightly golden brown.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
CRANBERRY CAKE
 1 white cake mix
 1/3 cups water
 3 eggs
 1/3 cup oil
 1 tablespoon grated orange zest
 1 cup fresh or frozen cranberries, thawed & coarsely chopped
 1 cup finely chopped walnuts
Frosting:
 8 ounces cream cheese
 1/2 cup butter
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 3 1/2 cups powdered sugar
 1/2 teaspoon orange zest
 1/4 cup finely chopped walnuts

Set oven 350 degrees. Grease bottom of a 9-by-13-inch pan. In a large bowl combine cake mix, water, eggs, oil and orange zest. Beat on low speed for 30 seconds. Beat on medium 2 minutes. Stir in walnuts and cranberries. Put batter in pan and bake about 25 minutes (watch how your oven bakes; do not over bake). For frosting, cream the cream cheese and butter. Gradually beat in orange zest, vanilla and powdered sugar. Frost cake and sprinkle with walnuts.
NOTE: You can also make this in layer pans. Would have to adjust baking time.

Jackie Doud, Topeka, submitted the next two recipes:
CHOCOLATE ALMOND COFFEE MIX
 1 cup non-dairy powdered coffee creamer
 1 cup granulated sugar
 1/2 cup instant coffee granules
 1/2 cup cocoa
 1 teaspoon almond extract
 In a blender or food processor finely grind all ingredients until well-blended. Store in an air-tight container. Give with a gift card and instructions. To serve: stir about 2 heaping teaspoons coffee mix into 6 ounces hot water.

SPICY CRACKERS
 2 boxes saltine crackers

1 package taco seasoning mix
 1 package Ranch dip mix
 3 tablespoons red pepper flakes
 1 1/2 cups olive oil
 Put the crackers in a large bowl with lid. Dump the dry mixes over the crackers. Pour the oil over all. Put the lid on the bowl and rotate every 30 minutes for a few hours. Store in air-tight container.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:
WALNUT MINCEMEAT PIE
 2 eggs, beaten
 1 cup sugar
 2 tablespoons flour
 1/8 teaspoon salt
 2 cups prepared mince-meat
 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped
 1/4 cup butter, melted
 9-inch unbaked pie crust
 Put the eggs in a mixing bowl. In a separate bowl combine the sugar, flour and salt. Gradually add this mixture to the eggs. Stir in the mince-meat, walnuts and butter. Pour into pie shell. Bake in a preheated 400-degree oven for 15 minutes. Lower the heat to 325 degrees and bake for 35 more minutes or until knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

The final two recipes are from Darlene Thomas, Delphos:
PEANUT CLUSTERS
 6-ounce package chocolate chips
 6-ounce package butterscotch chips
 12-ounce package salted peanuts
 Combine chocolate and butterscotch chips in a 2-quart casserole. Heat in microwave for 6 minutes. Stir once during melting. Stir in peanuts. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper. Let set until firm.

FANTASY FUDGE
 3 cups sugar
 3/4 cup margarine
 2/3 cup evaporated milk
 12-ounce package semi-sweet chocolate pieces
 7-ounce jar marshmallow creme
 1 cup chopped nuts
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 Combine sugar, butter and milk in a 2 1/2-quart saucepan. Bring to rolling boil stirring constantly. Continue boiling for 5 minutes over medium heat, stirring constantly to prevent scorching. Remove from heat and stir in chocolate pieces until melted. Add marshmallow creme, nuts and vanilla; beat until well-blended. Pour into greased 9-by-13-inch pan. Cool at room temperature then cut into squares. Makes approximately 3 pounds.



By Ashleigh Krispense
APPLE CINNAMON CREAM-CHEESE BARS
 A multi-layer dessert bar with an easy streusel topping over layers of apples and sweetened cream cheese. A couple things to note: Make sure the cream cheese is room temperature or it will end up clumpy! Also, I used ginger in the recipe to give a little extra pop of flavor, feel free to just cut it out if you don't like ginger though. (This recipe was originally adapted from the I Am Baker website.)

Bottom layer:
 1 cup quick-cooking oats
 3 cups flour
 2 cups packed brown sugar
 1 teaspoon baking powder
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 3 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

1 1/2 cups (or 3 sticks) butter, melted
 Cream cheese mixture:
 (2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese, room temperature
 1/2 cup sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 2 eggs, room temperature
 Apple mixture:
 4 large apples, peeled, cored & sliced thinly
 2 tablespoons flour
 2 tablespoons brown sugar
 2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease a 9-by-13-inch pan.



For the bottom layer: In a large bowl, mix together the dry ingredients. Stir in the melted butter and mix until crumbly. Pull out 2 cups of the mixture and set aside for the topping.

Press the remaining mixture into the greased pan and bake for 15-20

minutes or until turning golden brown and puffy. For the cream cheese mixture: (Be sure the cream cheese is room temperature or you will end up with clumps!) In the bowl of your stand mixer, add cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla. Mix until smooth and creamy. Then on low speed, add eggs, one at a time. Mix well and set aside.



Apple mixture: Gently stir together the thinly sliced apples, flour, brown sugar, and cinnamon.



Once the crust has cooked, set the apples

on top of it. Then spread over the apples the cream cheese mixture. Grab the remaining oat mixture that you had set aside and crumble it over the top of the cream cheese.



Pop it back in the oven for another 35-40 minutes. Let cool to room temperature before serving or storing the bars in the refrigerator. Enjoy!

Ashleigh is a freelance writer and blogger for her website, *Prairie Gal Cookin*. (www.prairiegalcookin.com). She shares everything from step-by-step recipes and easy DIY projects, to local history, stories, and photography from out on the farm in Kansas. Follow PGC online or like it on Facebook for more recipes and ramblings!

With Care, Poinsettias Can Last Through The Holidays

MANHATTAN – For many, the rich color of poinsettias is a comforting symbol of the holidays. With proper care, the popular plant can last through the end of the year and beyond.

Ward Upham, a horticulture expert with K-State Research and Extension, said poinsettias should be kept in a spot where daytime temperatures are 65 to 75 degrees F, and 60 to 65 at night.

“Temperatures above 75 will shorten the life of blooms, and below 60 degrees may cause root rot,” Upham said.

“Place your poinsettia in a sunny window or the brightest areas of your room, but don't let it touch cold window panes. Move plants away from drafty windows at night, or draw the drapes

to avoid cold damage.” Upham called poinsettias “finicky” when it comes to soil moisture.

“Avoid over-watering poinsettias because they do not like ‘wet feet,’” he said. “On the other hand, if the plant is allowed to wilt (due to not getting enough water), it will drop some leaves.”

To maintain proper moisture, Upham suggests sticking a finger about 1/2 inch deep into the soil. “If it's dry to 1/2 inch, the plant needs water,” he said. “When it becomes dry to the touch, water the plant with lukewarm water until some water runs out of the drainage hole, then discard the drainage water.”

K-State Research and Extension has produced a video to help in choosing the best poinsettia.

ARE POINSETTIAS POISONOUS?

Despite rumors to the contrary, poinsettia leaves are not poisonous to humans or animals. Upham said that members of the Society of American Florists have tried to dispel the rumors in the past by eating poinsettia leaves at press events.

He said the plant could cause an allergic reaction to the milky sap in the leaves. There has never been a recorded case of poisoning due to a poinsettia, he said.

Some members of the genus Euphorbia, to which the poinsettia belongs, have a toxin that can cause vomiting. The poinsettia, however, does not contain that toxin.

Upham and his colleagues in K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources

produce a weekly Horticulture Newsletter with information on these and other horticulture-related topics. The newsletter is available to view online or can be delivered by email each week.

Interested persons can also send questions to Upham at wupham@ksu.edu, or contact your local K-State Research and Extension office.

Links used in this story: Video: Choosing the best poinsettia, https://kansashealthyyards.org/all-videos/video/choosing-the-best-poinsettia

K-State Horticulture Newsletter, https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/newsletters/index.html

K-State Research and Extension local offices, www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/stateandareamaps.html

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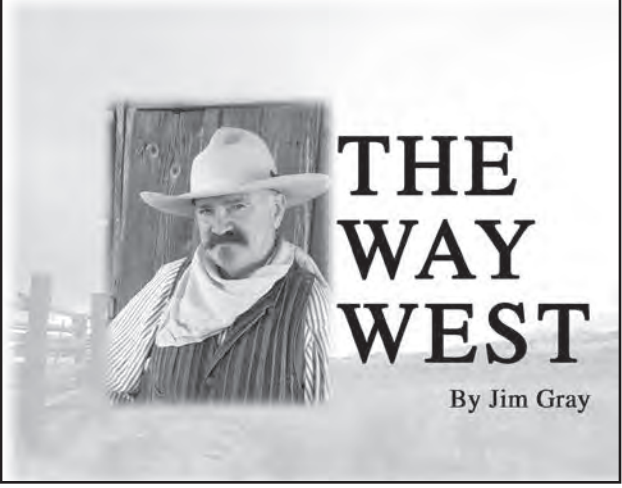
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THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

The Place Where Crying Began

Back in May of this year I wrote a story of Robert Poisal's "lost summer." Poisal was half Arapaho, from the sister of Chief Left Hand and a Kentucky-bred trader by the name of John Poisal. Robert was wagonmaster for a train that had lost its mules to a Cheyenne raiding party. Since the Arapahos had close ties to the Cheyennes he knew their ways and spoke the language. He spent the summer looking for the mules

and finally found that the army was holding them at Fort Sedgwick (near Julesburg, Colorado). Poisal was obliged to travel to the fort to identify them before taking them to the owner of the freighting company at Fort Union, New Mexico.

Anything do with the Arapaho people pulls me in right away. I cannot prove my notion that Arapaho people may have been living in the shadow of the Rockies long before any

of the other tribes of that region. I like to call them the original people, which I am sure carries a good bit of personal prejudice in favor of the Arapahos.

I have held an admiration for Chief Left Hand since first learning about him and his dedication to peaceful relations with the Americans even though they were invading his homeland. Left Hand's knowledge of the English language allowed him to make great strides toward peace. That proficiency came from Robert Poisal's father. John Poisal encountered the Arapahos in the 1830s when Left Hand was a young boy. Poisal met and married Left Hand's older sister, Ma-Hom or "Snake Woman," at their winter camp along Boulder Creek. Today the city of Boulder, Colorado, covers the traditional Arapaho winter camp.

John Poisal's presence in Left Hand's family afforded the young man the opportunity to learn the English language. He and his brother, Neva, became Poisal's students, not only

in language, but in the ways of American culture. That understanding was later enhanced when in 1849 Indian Agent Thomas Fitzpatrick married John and Ma-Hom's daughter, Margaret. Fitzpatrick learned much of Arapaho ways from his marriage. For his part as agent, Fitzpatrick did all that he could to explain Indian country to the government.

By the mid 1850s Left Hand became chief. His first recorded test came when gold was discovered in Colorado. On their way to the mountains a party of gold seekers stopped to winter over on Boulder Creek. Several cabins were already built when Left Hand's people arrived to prepare for winter. Alarmed, the young men of the tribe threatened to drive the invaders out. With support of the elders Left Hand held the young men at bay and met with the prospectors. Assured that they would move into the mountains when winter turned to spring Left Hand guaranteed their safety. During one of the

conferences a man known as Bear Head prophetically related a dream of a great flood of water that overflowed the banks of Boulder Creek washing all "the people" away. When the waters subsided only the white men remained. It was already dimly evident that nothing could be done to stop the tide that was washing over them.

In the coming years Left Hand would thread the needle between peace and war, time and time again, which brings me to the strange part of this story. Over the past several days (late November 2020) a rewind of a dream has come and gone like the unbearable "ear-worm" that plagues my thoughts of being awakened from a peaceful, sound sleep to shouts of "Soldiers! Soldiers!" From within my lodge of tanned buffalo hide I rush outside as bullets seem to shred the air. Panic and pandemonium arrests the peace of the valley. All is chaos and confusion. Soldiers are in the camp!

Perhaps the dream is the result of pandemic apprehension. Maybe all these stories just bouncing around in my head trying to get out, or maybe I am being heralded to tell this story. I wake up, but the dream returns. Not just in my sleep, but haunting and relentless in my waking hours as well.

Ma-Hom returned to live with Left Hand's people after she was widowed in 1861. She and her daughter were part of a handful of Arapahos that survived the infamous Sand Creek Massacre. Left Hand fled with the survivors, but died of his wounds somewhere on the prairie.

Sand Creek was not just another fight, it was the place where crying began, the place from which nothing would ever be the same 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.

KFB honors members, friends at 102nd annual meeting

Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) recognized members and supporters at its 102nd annual meeting, Dec. 3-4 in Manhattan.

Eddie Dahlsten, McPherson County, received KFB's Distinguished Service award. Eddie and her husband, Larry, have spent their lives advocating, educating and serving on behalf of their farm organization. Dahlsten started out on the State Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee and it was this

experience that launched her appointment to the KFB Board of Directors in 1989, then was elected vice president in 2002 and made the decision to retire in 2011. Today, she still serves Kansas Farm Bureau as a board member for KFB's Foundation for Agriculture.

The organization also presented 13 Friends of Agriculture awards. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to

Kansas Farm Bureau and agriculture. They included:

Erik Atkinson, Wabaunsee County, has worked in the agriculture industry throughout the last 40 years. He now hosts "Agriculture Today" for the K-State Radio Network to inform Kansans on leading agricultural topics.

Stacey Forshee, Cloud County, has served agriculture for 30 years in various roles throughout Kansas Farm Bureau, including

on KFB's Board of Directors, as YF&R State Committee Chair, District Resolutions Chair and an Ag Advisory Board member. She has always committed herself to advocating on behalf of farm families.

Herschel George, Miami County, started his career in agriculture 50 years ago. He has served as a 4-H Extension agent and a watershed specialist, educating farmers on strategies concerning water supply. Throughout his career, he has provided expert advice to many in the industry.

Rick McNary, Butler County, is a published author, photographer and global hunger expert. He also founded the Facebook group "Shop Kansas Farms," which has become an avenue for consumers to connect with local farmers. Although not directly engaged in farming, Rick

is an avid ag supporter through his passion to combat hunger.

Keith Miller, Barton County, has served agriculture for more than 45 years. He is a third-generation farmer and raises wheat, alfalfa, milo, corn and soybeans. He served on KFB's board of directors for 17 years and continues to serve agriculture as a commissioner for the Kansas Soybean Commission. Keith is a devout Farm Bureau member and his contributions to the industry are greatly appreciated.

Laura Moffet, Rooks County, is dedicated to educating youth about the importance of agriculture in our world by planning events such as Bushels for Backpacks and Ag in the Classroom. Along with her educational outreach efforts, she has served as the Rooks County Farm

Bureau coordinator for several years.

Joe Newland, Wilson County, is a dedicated agriculturalist, farming more than 2,800 acres of wheat, corn, soybeans and hay, as well as managing a 300 head cow/calf herd. He was elected to KFB's board of directors in 2011 and re-elected in 2019 to replace Representative Larry Hibbard who retired from the Kansas 13th House District. He's served as president of the Wilson County Farm Bureau board, on the state Resolutions Committee and volunteered on various school and bank boards.

Barbara Roux, Harvey County, has committed her career to preparing youth in the agriculture industry to be successful in life by serving the Kansas 4-H where she worked as an Extension agent and coach. She also served on the Harvey County Farm Bureau Board for ten years.

Harland Rupp, Ellis and Barton counties, has worked for 23 years to help Ellis and Barton counties with their agricultural accomplishments. He worked alongside K-State Research and Extension to develop the first Farm Safety Day and Kids Ag Day for students in both counties.

Randol Walker, Shawnee County, has made many contributions to agriculture throughout the last 47 years. He's been a member of the K-State Extension board and held several roles in Shawnee County Farm Bureau. Walker has also spoken at numerous county commission meetings on local agricultural issues.

Jay Overmiller, Smith County, received the Kansas Farm Bureau National Resources Award. This award goes to the farm family who exemplifies good land stewardship. Jay and his family operate a fourth-generation farm and grow wheat, soybeans and milo on 2,500 acres of side hills. The Overmillers use no-till techniques and implement vigilant soil testing, as well as utilize Conservation Security Program buffers to filter chemicals from field run-offs and provide a habitat for wildlife. The family has also planted nearly 300 trees and bushes over the last two years to increase water filtration and add more nutrients to the soil. Jay's ongoing passion is to preserve the land he tends so the next generation of Overmillers can continue to protect their natural resources.

Ray Will received the Kansas Farm Bureau Partnership Award. This award recognizes someone from Farm Bureau Financial Services (FBFS) who has gone above and beyond for the state's largest farm organization. Ray is a Business Center Director for FBFS with both underwriting and claims staff oversight. He has been a tremendous partner for KFB and helps ensure members have a positive claims and underwriting experience.

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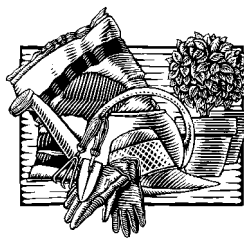
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Yard & Garden Tips By Gregg Eyestone The Mexican Poinsettia

It seems like the Christmas spirit arrives earlier every year. Holiday plants are readily available now. Cacti, Amaryllis, Christmas trees and the ever popular poinsettia.

A red poinsettia is a favorite Christmas time decoration. Several breed-

ers have put a spin on the color red. Besides many shades of red, poinsettias come in white, marble, pink speckled and others. You can take a white one and dye it any color you want, such as purple.

Poinsettia plants became a Christmastime dec-

oration because in their natural habitat of Mexico; they are in full flower at that time. Flowering is "photoperiodic" induced in the poinsettia. Without long nights of 14 hours, this plant will continue to produce leaves and will grow but never flower.

The flowers themselves are not that eye-catching. They give way to the colorful bracts or modified leaves. However, the flowers are a good indicator of the maturity of the plant. A fresh poinsettia is one on which little or no yellow pollen is showing on the flower clusters in the center of the bracts. Really old plants are missing their flowers, however, the colorful non-poisonous bracts remain.

Once you make your selections, place your poinsettia in a spot with bright natural light, but don't let it touch cold window-

panes. The day temperature is best when it doesn't get above 75 degrees with 60 to 65 degrees at night. Temperatures above 75 degrees will shorten bloom life, and below 60 degrees may cause root rot. Move plants away from windows at night or draw drapes between them to avoid damage from the cold.

Poinsettias do best with a constantly moist but not wet potting media. Examine the potting media daily for moistness. Picking up the container can be a good indicator of moisture. Heavy pots don't need water and light pots

need moisture added. Use room temperature water, add until some water runs out of the container's drainage holes and the potting media is moist. Discard the excess water.

You can find out more information on this and other horticulture topics by going to the Riley County, K-State Research and Extension website at www.riley.ksu.edu. And you can contact Gregg Eyestone at the Riley County office of K-State Research and Extension at 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan, by calling 785-537-6350 or e-mail: geyeston@ksu.edu

U.S. house ag committee chair and ranking member selected

U.S. Rep. David Scott (D-Ga.) will replace long-time agriculture leader Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. Scott ranks highest in seniority on the committee and has served since his election in 2002. He previously served as the subcommittee chair of the Commodity Exchanges, Energy and Credit subcommittee. He will be the first representative from Georgia to serve as a chairman.

National Cattlemen's Beef Association CEO Collin Woodall welcomed the nomination and called Scott a "devoted friend of America's cattle producers." Woodall

added, "His leadership and expertise on cattle issues demonstrates his commitment to helping producers succeed. He is a consummate leader and an ideal choice to lead the committee."

U.S. Rep. G.T. Thompson (R-Penn.) will serve as the next ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee. Thompson will replace former chairman and current ranking member Rep. Mike Conaway (R-Texas) who is retiring from Congress at the end of the year.

"Cattle producers in Pennsylvania and across the country are well represented by Congressman Thomp-

son," Ethan Lane, NCBA vice president of government affairs, said. "From his long-standing track record of bipartisan legislative victories to his work mentoring the next generation of agriculture leaders, G.T. does it all. He is an exemplary choice to guide the Committee for years to come and we are excited to work with him and his team in the next Congress."

The full committee membership roster will be announced in January after the Republican and Democrat steering committees make their recommendations and their respective caucus leaders approve.

Treat it right and Christmas cactus lives to bloom another year

With proper care, Christmas cactus is a gift that gives for many years, says University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein.

Trinklein has recommendations for success with Christmas cactus:

Christmas cacti tolerate low light but perform best in bright, indirect light in the home. They benefit from brighter light during winter, but full summer sun can result in pale plants. If placed outside for the summer, keep plants in a semi-shady location. Christmas cacti prefer temperatures of 70-80 F for the April to September growing season.

Like most cacti, Christmas cacti tolerate under-watering better than over-watering, Trinklein said. Water only when the growing medium is dry to the touch. If you put a saucer under the pot to collect excess water, empty it to keep the water from wicking back into the pot. Failure to do so results in a soggy root environment, which is an open invitation to root rot.

Reduce watering from fall through spring. Only fertilize plants during their growth period of early spring through late summer. Use a regular fertilizer at one-quarter strength or a houseplant fertilizer according to label directions.

Keep Christmas cacti slightly pot-bound to induce prolific flowering. Repotting may be necessary every three years. Use a porous, well-drained potting mix. Commercial mixes made for epiphytes are good choices. Make regular peat-lite mixes into epiphytic mixes by adding perlite or sterile sharp sand to increase porosity.

Reblooming Christmas cacti can be challenging, Trin-

klein said. The cacti are short-day plants, but temperature affects their response to day length. In fact, flowering will occur regardless of day length under cool night conditions (50-55 F).

Prolific flowering happens when plants experience cool nights with at least 13 hours of darkness. Reducing water at this time to slightly stress the plant improves flowering. Expose Christmas cacti to short days, cool nights and dry conditions in mid-October for full bloom during the holiday season.

Sudden changes in temperature, light or other factors, such as excessive drying of the growing medium, can cause Christmas cacti to drop unopened flower buds. Poor flowering also happens when stray light interrupts the required long periods of darkness during short-day treatment. Interior lights, streetlights and even car

lights can disrupt the required dark period and cause disappointing flowering, Trinklein said.

Christmas cactus is prone to root rot. Avoid overwatering and maintain strict sanitation. Remove common insect pests, which include mealybug and scale.

"Given proper care, Christmas cacti often outlive their caretaker and provide years of brilliant color around the holidays," said Trinklein. "The small amount of effort required by these plants is well worth it when one considers the reward of seeing an 'heirloom' plant bloom year after year."

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Things that keep running through my head: Merle Haggard's *If We Make It Through December* and the Bible verse, "It came to pass..." We have high hopes that 2021 will be

kindler to us than 2020 has been. We can only make plans as though events will happen and be ready for Plan B if they cannot. With that in mind, we hope you can join us at the Fort Wal-

Corn harvest quality report: higher average test weight, lower moisture and lower total damage relative to each quality factor's average of the previous five

The 2020/2021 U.S. corn crop - entering marketing channels now - has a higher average test weight,

lower moisture and lower total damage relative to each quality factor's average of the previous five

lace Museum for events we have planned this year.

The Guardians of the Fort Wallace Museum will host its annual symposium on March 13, 2021. The theme is "Taking the Smoky Hill Trail to Santa Fe" and will focus on the links between the two historic trails. The cost for the symposium is \$50 and includes lunch. The day culminates with Capt. Keogh's Emerald Banquet and Auction on Saturday evening. The banquet is free with a Guardians membership which begins at \$25.

In 2021, the Santa Fe Trail will mark 200 years of crops, according to the U.S. Grains Council's (USGC's) 2020/2021 Corn Harvest Quality Report.

The report is the tenth annual such examination of the U.S. corn crop and was recently published globally.

While wet weather conditions in April and May contributed to historic delays in planting and crop maturity in 2019, the 2020 crop was planted slightly ahead of the average pace of the previous five crops and experienced generally favorable conditions during the remainder of the growing season, resulting in both high grain quality and yield.

The average aggregate quality of the representative samples tested was better than the grade fac-

tor requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade. The report also showed that 84.7 percent of the samples met the grade factor requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade and 94.5 percent met the grade factor requirements for U.S. No. 2.

Speakers include: Joanne VanCoevern, An Overview of the Santa Fe Trail; Marla Matkin, Women on the Santa Fe Trail; Mike Olson, Otero, Sellar & Co. - A Saga of Two Families.

The Dennis K. Clark Lecture will be delivered

by Frank Norris who will discuss the ever-changing route of the trail. The lecture series was established two years ago to honor Lt. Col. (ret.) Dennis K. Clark for his distinguished career in service to our country as a soldier and instructor.

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Through trade, the Council is committed to the furtherance of global food security and mutual economic benefit. We offer this report to assist buyers in making well-informed decisions by providing reliable and timely information about the quality of the current U.S. crop," said USGC chairman Jim Raben, a farmer from Illinois. "This year's ample supply allows the United States to remain the world's leading corn exporter and accounts for an estimated 36.4 percent of global corn exports during the marketing year."

The report is based on 601 yellow corn samples taken from defined areas within 12 of the top corn-producing and exporting states. Inbound samples were collected from local grain elevators to measure and analyze quality at the point of origin and provide representative information about the variability of quality characteristics across diverse geographic regions.

USDA projects increased feed prices

Forecasts for feed prices have been raised sig-

nificantly, USDA said in the November Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Outlook from the Economic Research Service.

The corn price estimate for the 2019-20 marketing year is \$3.56 per bushel, and the 2020-21 forecast is \$4.00 per bushel, up 40 cents from last month's forecast. The soy-

bean meal price estimate for the 2019-20 marketing year is \$299.50 per short ton; the 2020-21 forecast is \$355 per short ton, \$20 higher than the last forecast.

Record U.S. corn exports are projected for 2020-21, the ERS said in its Feed Outlook report for November. The United States is expected to export 2.65 billion bushels of corn in 2020-21, a 325-million-bushel increase from the October report.

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Busting the bin in the 2020 National Wheat Yield Contest

Derek Friehe of Moses Lake, Wash., led the field in the National Wheat Foundation's 2020 National Wheat Yield Contest (NWYC). Friehe's 206.7 bu/ac yield with LCS Jet was the highest in the contest and landed him the Bin Buster award for irrigated winter wheat.

LCS Jet is a NWYC heavy-hitter, giving LCS farmers wins for the past four years and topping the contest for three of those four years. Friehe knew about LCS Jet's past NWYC performance and had been following the data. "In all the trials, LCS Jet has done really well in our area," explains Friehe, who has been planting LCS Jet for a few years. "It's one of the top yielders with good quality, and this year we grew it at full irrigation."

LCS varieties delivered NWYC award-winning yields for growers in both irrigated and dryland wheat, including a nation-

ally irrigated winter wheat win for Joel and Emily Zwainz with LCS Shine and a national dryland spring wheat win for Jon Wert with LCS Trigger.

LCS Shine was recommended to Emily and Joel Zwainz by their local cooperative HighLine Grain Growers after strong yield trial results. "It performed extremely well for us," says Joel, who also credits their Nutrien agronomist with helping them achieve big yields. "This was our first year farming irrigated."

"We're dryland farmers who got a chance to farm with water for a change," laughs Emily. "We had a good first year with the water." Joel and Emily knew the yield they were getting with LCS Shine and how their neighbors were faring in comparison. They thought they had a shot, decided to enter the yield contest for the first time and came away with a national win.

Released in 2018, LCS Shine is a relatively new variety for Limagrains Cereal Seeds. Emily and Joel Zwainz were part of a smaller group of farmers in the Pacific Northwest who received early access to Certified seed last fall. "Now, anyone who wants to grow LCS Shine has a better chance of getting seed," reports Hannah Kammeyer, Limagrains Cereal Seeds marketing lead. "We've been ramping up seed production to try and meet growing demand. LCS Shine is broadly adapted across the PNW, so seed increase has been a group effort with dealers in the region."

In the Northern Plains, LCS Trigger has been a blockbuster yielder for Jon Wert. 2020 marks his third NWYC win in as many years.

"LCS Trigger is such a great variety with such high yield potential. It just performs. It's insane," says Wert. He cautions that LCS

Trigger is low in protein but is otherwise, "the best variety I've ever had."

"In addition to yield, it has disease tolerance and standability — and shatter tolerance." Shattering isn't usually a problem for Wert, but last season brought a pummeling. "When the hail hit, the variety [planted next to LCS Trigger] completely shelled out from the hail, but LCS Trigger did okay."

The National Wheat Foundation created the National Wheat Yield Contest in 2015 to spur wheat productivity and encourage innovation in wheat growing. The competition has grown along with yields over the years, attracting a record-breaking 418 entries from across the United States this year.

"It's great to have a place for healthy competition," says Friehe about his decision to enter the contest. "You can really see where you stand on a national level."

On the state level, LCS varieties swept the NWYC irrigated winter wheat category in Washington, led dryland spring wheat in South Dakota and produced dryland winter wheat winners in Idaho and Washington.

"Having our varieties win awards is a lot of fun, but what I enjoy most is getting phone calls and texts during harvest when farmers are excited about their yield," declares Kammeyer. "With or without wins, the National Wheat Yield Contest is great for generating interest in getting the most out of your wheat crop."

LCS National 2020 National Wheat Yield Contest Winners:

- Bin Buster, High Yield Winter Wheat Irrigated: Derek Friehe, 206.7 bu/ac with LCS Jet
- 1st Place, High Yield Winter Wheat Irrigated: Joel and Emily Zwainz, 197.15 bu/ac with LCS Shine

- 1st Place, % Increase Spring Wheat Dryland: Jon Wert, 160.68% increase of county average, 105.0 bu/ac with LCS Trigger

LCS State 2020 National Wheat Yield Contest Winners:

- 1st Place Washington, Winter Wheat Irrigated: Derek Friehe, 206.7 bu/ac with LCS Jet
- 2nd Place Washington, Winter Wheat Irrigated: Joel and Emily Zwainz, 197.15 bu/ac with LCS Shine
- 3rd Place Washington, Winter Wheat Irrigated: Travis Schuh, 196.44 bu/ac with LCS Jet
- 2nd Place Washington, Winter Wheat Dryland: Jason Beechinor, 171.92 bu/ac with LCS Art-deco
- 2nd Place Idaho, Winter Wheat Dryland: Harlan Zenner, 176.4 bu/ac with LCS Hulk
- 1st Place South Dakota, Spring Wheat Dryland: Robert Holzwarth, 87.73 bu/ac with LCS Cannon

American Farmland Trust releases guide to 'Outcome Estimation Tools' to support farm conservation practice projects

American Farmland Trust, the organization that for 40 years has been saving the land that sustains us and advancing the implementation of regenerative practices on the land has released, *A Guide to Water Quality, Climate, Social, and Economic Outcomes Estimation Tool: Quantifying Outcomes to Accelerate Farm Conservation Practice Adoption* featuring tools and methods for use by managers of projects funded by the USDA, EPA, states, and the private sector who are supporting conservation practice adoption on millions of acres.

Agricultural production can result in the unintended effects of impairing water quality in surface and ground waters and producing harmful climate changing gases. In fact, agriculture remains "the leading source of water quality impacts on surveyed rivers and lakes" (EPA, 2016) and as a sector, "agriculture emits an estimated 9.9 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gases"

(EPA, 2020). Addressing these unintended environmental impacts, increasing resilience to climate change, and keeping farms viable are among the paramount challenges that agriculture faces today.

A large and diverse conservation community is addressing these challenges from many sectors including government, academic, environmental and farm groups, and more recently, corporations with supply chain sustainability programs. This community supports farmers through educational, financial, and technical assistance projects to adopt conservation practices that can result in improved water quality, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, increased soil health and carbon sequestration, a boost to the farmer's bottom line, and many other benefits. AFT estimates there are over one thousand federally-funded farm conservation projects collaborating with tens of thousands of farmers on millions of acres.

"One way to develop awareness and positive farmer attitudes for farm conservation practices is to quantify results. In fact, outcomes quantification is moving to the forefront of the emerging food and corporate supply chain sustainability efforts, state policy consortiums like the U.S. Climate Alliance, and USDA programs focused on soil health and carbon sequestration," said Michelle Perez, AFT water director. "We hope that estimating practice outcomes will increase farmer confidence in the conservation practices and we envision "a self-strengthening cycle" where outcomes quantification results in more practice adoption which then offers more quantification opportunities inspiring even more adoption."

"AFT believes outcomes quantification may help project managers to dialogue more persuasively with local farmers and develop more effective outreach and educational

events to help "sell" conservation better, faster, and across more acres," said Emily Cole, AFT's climate and agriculture program manager. "Effectively, practice- and project-scale outcomes quantification by local project managers can become another "tool" in the "conservation toolbox" alongside educational, financial, and technical assistance efforts to accelerate practice adoption."

The guide features 14 tools and two methods that provide quantitative estimates of the impacts that conservation practices can have on of water quality, climate, social, or economic outcomes. The featured tools were chosen based upon their availability, applicability, and usability by conservation project managers.

Finally, the paper offers 14 recommendations to stimulate efforts by

government agencies, academics, foundations, and the private sector to: (1) further refine existing tools and methods, (2) provide additional guidance and support to project managers, and (3) build a national dataset to continually calibrate and validate outcomes quantification models and tools.

If you would like a free print copy of the 100-page guide mailed to you, please fill out this form: https://farmland.salsalabs.org/outcomesguide_free_

copy/index.html. AFT will host an in-depth webinar presentation on the Guide and discuss the recommendations on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 11 a.m. to noon Central. See registration details here to join: http://farmland.org/outcomes_guide_webinar.



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Though Kansas 4-H members have their pick of nearly three dozen projects offered each year, there really are three key principles they're likely to pick up: Leadership. Communication. Civic engagement.

"I was just having a conversation with another person the other day with how thrilled it makes me to see young people who have been in the 4-H program to put up their 'I Voted' sticker," said Beth Hinshaw, a Kansas 4-H youth development

specialist in southeast Kansas. "Young people who are involved in their communities, taking leadership and communicating... are going to do that as adults, as well."

Sign-up for Kansas 4-H programs is currently underway across Kansas, and Hinshaw is encouraging youth to check out what the state's largest youth organization might offer them. In Kansas, more than 86,000 youth and their families participated in a variety of 4-H programs in 2019.

Aliah Mestrovich Seay, a youth development specialist for community vitality, notes that while youth are often drawn to 4-H programs because of their interest in a subject area – such as woodworking, shooting sports, livestock and many others – it is what they learn by participating in those activities that is the real benefit.

"We build 4-H programs intentionally so that youth can be agents of change in their community while they're also

using leadership and communication skills," she said.

Hinshaw notes that such events as the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum relate to leadership. Ongoing activities like project talks, demonstrations and public speaking build on their communication skills.

"Communication is not just about speaking," Mestrovich Seay said. "It's also about learning how to deeply listen... to what your community needs, what your peers need and

what people who might not have the same privileges need."

The program also hosts well-known activities like Citizenship Washington Focus and 48 Hours of 4-H that focus on service to one's community and world.

Newer programs, Mestrovich Seay added, incorporate all of these skills, such as a Community Conversations series that relies on youth serving as facilitators for talks around often-contentious issues.

"When Aliah talks about listening, we want to listen to understand," Hinshaw said. "We have to put that leadership and citizenship hat on to think about what it is that I really heard and how others might interpret that. I think that 4-H helps youth build those skills."

Hinshaw urges youth and families to learn more about the program by contacting their local 4-H club leader, or their local K-State Research and Extension agent.

What are you "in search of" on HitchPin? Platform rolls out new categories

Connecting farmers and ranchers to the goods and services they need has allowed HitchPin to grow to a point where there are listings in every state in the U.S. This online marketplace offers many of the advantages farmers turn to online auctions and sale sites for, with added benefits of giving more control and security back to the buyers and sellers.

After starting out in hay, the platform quickly grew to include categories for livestock, agriculture equipment, custom farming and livestock services, and even farm-fresh food. This drew quite the crowd of online visitors as more and more farmers and ranchers found opportunities to list their items or services for sale.

The next logical step in further connecting supply and demand in agriculture was to provide an outlet for those involved in the agriculture industry to post items and services they needed. With the release of their "in search of" feature, HitchPin has further completed the circle.

"Up to this point, the opportunity has been in the hands of the buyer. We relied on sellers and service providers to create listings on HitchPin and buyers to come seek those out. Now, we are giving buyers the opportunity to list things they need, like a bull for rent or a specific type of implement. The folks who can fulfill those needs then have an opportunity to take action and connect with them. Being able to offer both sides of the equation to farmers at the same time really makes business better for both sides," says McKeeman, founder of HitchPin.

Creating an "in search of" listing on HitchPin takes only about a minute.

After signing up for a free account at HitchPin.com, a listing can be created with a few clicks of the button, stating what category of item or service you are looking for and any specific requirements or requested dates for a service to be completed.

Then other farmers and ranchers can send a bid for your listing and chat with you about moving forward, all

in app, and all with records stored that you can refer back to in the future so there is no opportunity for miscommunication.

Finally, payment is made in the app from the buyer to the seller, keeping all transfers of funds secure and timely, so both parties know exactly where the money is during each step of a transaction.

This flexibility in allowing buyers and sellers to come together through different types of interactions gives everyone more choices and makes more economic sense. The value of technology built specifically for agriculture, by companies who understand how agriculture works, becomes apparent in an age where refusing to try new things often means being left behind.

"The HitchPin team is composed of people who grew up farming and those that love technology. We chose to build HitchPin in the heart of ag country. We understand how complex agriculture is and want to deliver the most powerful tool possible for farmers, to level the playing field. If you see something we should add or can improve, contact us" said McKeeman.

Prepare now for calving season

As a young boy growing up in Central Nebraska, we had a spring calving cow herd. The "calving shed" that was available to us was one side of a large red barn. This barn was built in the early part of the 20th century and had stalls on one side that were meant to stall draft horses. Because we used the stalls only during March and April for the "calving shed," the other ten months of the year they became a storage facility.

Fencing materials, five-gallon drums of grease for farming machinery, sacks of grass seed, and mineral blocks were just some of the items that were stored in the stalls. Invariably, the calving season would begin before the gestation table suggested that it should. One of us would find a two-year-old that was in the midst of labor, and the calving shed was still full of supplies.

Someone once said "Success occurs when Opportunity meets with Preparation." Planning and preparing ahead for next spring's calving season can help increase the chances of success. There are several key preparation steps that would be good to conduct in December to ensure success in February, March, and April. Before calving

season starts do a walk-through of pens, chutes, and calving stalls. Make sure that all are clean, dry, strong, safe, and functioning correctly.

Check the gates and the squeeze panels to make certain that they are ready for use. Do you still have the extra farm supplies stored in the calving shed or stalls? Now would be a good time make certain that these items are placed in another facility or at least out of the way. This is a lot easier to do on a sunny December afternoon than on a cold dark night when you need to have the calving area ready in a short time.

If calf diarrhea has been a significant issue in your herd in the past, now is a good time to visit with your large animal veterinarian. Ask about a scours vaccine given to the cows before calving, and about other management strategies that help reduce the pathogen exposure to baby calves when they are most vulnerable.

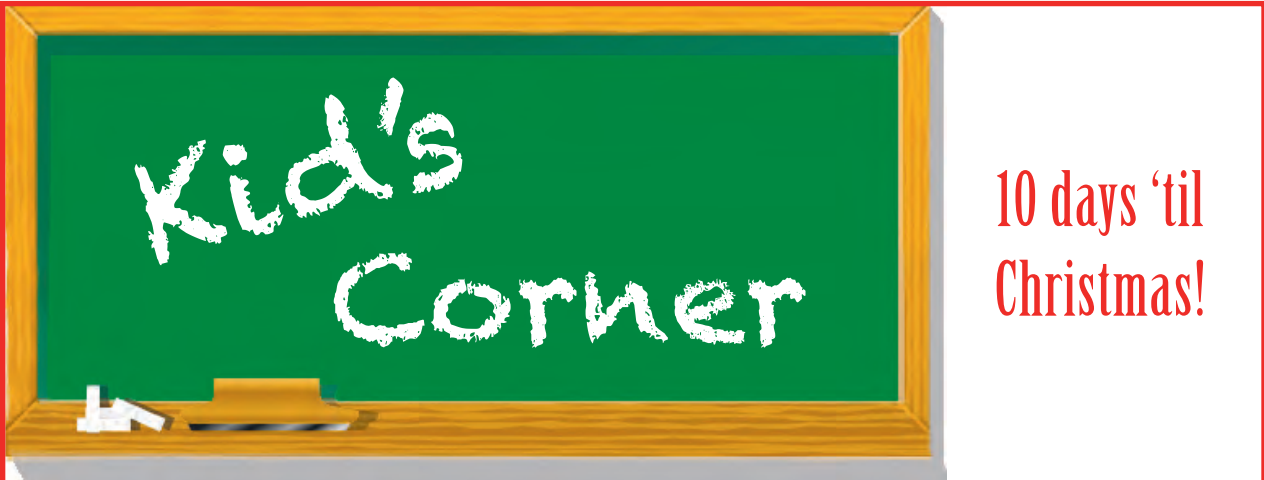
More information about management of cows and heifers at calving time can be found by downloading and reading the Oklahoma State University Circular E-1006 *Calving Time Management for Beef Cows and Heifers*.

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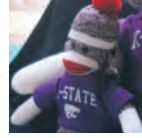


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12. An implement dealer who insists on being paid in bales of hay.
13. A banker who inadvertently has gotten your financial statement mixed up with Jeff Bezos'.
14. A son who can rope and ride, loves to work and doesn't plan on going to vet school.
15. A wife who rubs your back.
16. The time, occasionally, to enjoy what you do for a livin'.
17. And a loving God who doesn't look down at you every time and say, "Oh, well, I can't win 'em all!"

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Strong October for pork and beef muscle cut exports; variety meat trends lower

U.S. pork exports posted broad-based gains in October, solidifying 2020's record pace, according to data released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). Beef muscle cut exports were also higher than a year ago in October, though lower variety meat volumes pushed total beef exports slightly below last year.
October pork exports were up 8% year-over-year to 242,536 metric tons (mt), with value also increasing 8% to \$641.1 million. Exports to Mexico, Japan, China/Hong Kong, Canada and the Philippines were substantially higher than a year ago while shipments to Central and South America were the largest since March. Through the first ten months of the year, pork exports were 15% ahead of last year's record pace at 2.46 million mt, with value up 16% to \$6.33 billion. With Mexico as the top volume destination, October muscle cut exports posted double digits gains at 201,723 mt (up 11%), with value up 10% to \$551.8 million. This pushed January-October

totals for pork muscle cuts to 2.07 million mt (up 20%) valued at \$5.49 billion (up 18%).
October beef exports were slightly lower than a year ago at 107,591 mt (down 0.4%), valued at \$646 million (down 0.5%), but exports to China set another new record and volumes were above year-ago levels to Japan, Taiwan, Central America and Africa. While still below last year, beef exports to Mexico were the largest since March. For January through October, beef exports trailed last year's pace by 7% in volume (1.02 million mt) and 8% in value (\$6.2 billion). Beef muscle cut exports trended higher than a year ago in October, increasing 5% to 85,445 mt valued at \$573.8 million (up 1%). January-October muscle cut exports were 5% below last year in volume (791,694 mt) and 8% lower in value (\$5.48 billion).
"While the tight labor situation continues to limit the cut and variety meat specifications available for export, red meat demand is strengthening in many critical markets,"

said USMEF president and CEO Dan Halstrom. "October exports of bone-in hams, for example, were near the July record and up 50% from a year ago. This has been a volatile year, filled with shifts in consumer preferences and a lot of uncertainty for international buyers. But the U.S. industry has responded positively to these challenges and the demand dynamics for red meat are quite strong as we approach year's end. When the gains made at retail over the past several months are combined with a stronger foodservice recovery, the prospects for export growth are very promising."
October exports of U.S. lamb were below last year but muscle cut exports trended sharply higher, mainly on strong growth to Mexico. Through October, lamb exports increased 31% from a year ago to 17,355 mt, but value was down 5% to \$20.5 million. Lamb muscle cut volume was substantially higher at 8,203 mt (up 355%) with a more modest increase in export value (\$12.4 million, up 7%).

ATTENTION: HOLIDAY ADVERTISING DEADLINE CHANGE

DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS (classified AND display) for the DECEMBER 29th EDITION WILL BE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON

DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS (classified AND display) for the JANUARY 5th EDITION WILL BE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30th, ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON
Thank you for your cooperation!

Farmers & Ranchers AUCTIONS EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY

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

RECEIPTS FOR THE WEEK: 3,846 CATTLE.

Table with columns for STEERS and HEIFERS, listing weight ranges and prices. Includes sub-sections for THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020.

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

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

Table listing cattle sales with columns for breed, weight, price, and location. Includes sub-section for CALVES.

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

- List of consignments including: 55 S&H 600-700, 35 days weaned/fink genetics; 120 blk/bwf S&H 500-700, long weaned/2rd fall vacc; 65 blk&char S&H 700-825, HR/80 days weaned; 75 S&H 500, weaned 30 days/HR/knife cut; 10 S&H 350-450, HR; 30 S&H 500-800, HR/weaned early Oct; 70 S&H 750, LTW; 20 red S&H 500-600, 2rd/implanted/off cover crop; 225 blk S&H 550-775, weaned 90 days, 2rd fall vacc/latalace; 5 str 600, weaned / fall vacc; 82 str 700-800, HR/LTW/knife cut/2rd vacc/off reg angus bulls; 9 hrs 350-450, 45 days weaned/fall vacc; 60 blk str 700-800, HR/LTW/2rd vacc; 130 blk S&H 500-700, HR/weaned 60 days/vacc; 22 blk S&H 650-750, 60 days weaned/vacc; 36 blk S&H 500-650, fall vacc; 15 S&H 400-600, weaned 45 days/fall vacc/wolf ceek or Cheyenne angus; 61 mstly blk str 925, all native

SPECIAL WEANED/VACC. SALE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

All weaned at least 30 days & all fall vacc.
13 blk S&h 450-600; 20 blk S&H 450-600; 47 S&H 400-450; 65 blk S&H 500-550; 75 blk S&H; 50 charx S&h; 100 blk S&H 500-600 docweiler angus sired; 96 blk&red S&H 450-700; 18 S&H 500-600 blk ang/60days weaned fall vacc; 110 blk&red S&H 550-700 Judd Ranch; 110 S&H 700-800 HR weaned September green garden BJ sired hrs OCHV; 45 blk S&h 500-700; 70 blk few red S&H 600-800b,ostly balancer&angus sired; 85 blk&charx S&H; 110 sim/ang S&H 750-900; 500 blk S&H 650-800 FANCY walrod simk composite; 200 blk S&H 550-800; 85 S&H 550-700; 320 blk S&H 650-850; 340 blk S&H 650-850 hrs rep1 quality; 110 S&H 650-800 sim/angusx; blk str 600-700 90 days weaned vacc; 90 S&H 600-800 75 days weaned vacc; 115 blk S&H 550-650 HR; 130 blk S&H 600-650 HR; 70 blk S&H; 160 S&H 600-750 2rd vacc; 200 blk/bwf S&H 2rd vacc; 75 str 650-800 weaned Nov 5th vacc; 25 S&H 650-850 vacc; 56 S&H 600 Don Johnson angus sired open; 60 S&H 700-750; 120 angus str 650-800; 50 char S&H 650 vacc weaned; 125 ang str 700-775; 25 blk S&H 650-800; 44 blk S&H 650-800 HR 2rd no implant weaned Nov 1st; 41 blk/bwf S&H 700-800 HR 2rd fall vacc weaned Oct 30th; 90 blk balance-x S&H 600-850

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 WILL BE THE LAST THURSDAY AUCTION OF THE YEAR!

UPCOMING SPECIAL SALES: All Sales are on Tuesday at 11 AM
WEANED/VACC. SALES: Tuesday, Jan. 5 • Tuesday, Feb. 2
COW SALES: Tuesday, Dec. 15

IN STOCK TODAY: • Heavy Duty Round Bale Feeders
• 42' ROUND BALE DUMP TRAILERS • HEAVY DUTY 5000# GRAIN TOTE

For Information or estimates, contact: Mike Samples, Sale Mgr., Cell Phone 785-826-7884
Kyle Elwood, Asst. Sale Mgr., Cell Phone 785-493-2901

Table with contact information for Jim Crowther, Lisa Long, Cody Schafer, Kenny Briscoe, Kevin Henke, Austin Rathbun, Roxbury, KS, Ellsworth, KS, Durham, KS, Lincoln, KS, Agenda, KS, Ellsworth, KS.

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

