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## Ag community steps up to help those affected by western Kansas wildfires

By Donna Sullivan, Editor

It was a bright spot in a very difficult week. Ken Stielow had just located a group of cows that had been missing since brutal winds sparked wildfires in western Kansas, burning hundreds of thousands of acres across four counties. "We're sparsely populated out here," Stielow said. "But the ones it hit, it hit hard. A lot of cattle lost, a lot of houses lost."

Stielow and his wife Pat are the owners of Bar S Ranch in Paradise. Of four houses on the ranch, two were lost to the fire, one of which was home to his daughter Stephanie Dickerson, her husband David and sons Grady, Ethan and Jayce. And while he did lose many head of cattle, he recognizes it could have been even worse. "There are some smaller producers that lost every cow they had," he said.

Unseasonably warm temperatures combined with dry conditions to set the stage for disaster when winds of up to 90 mph hit the state. "Embers got caught up in the air, traveled then started another fire," Stielow described.

As the fires raged, towns were evacuated and volunteer fire departments poured all they had into protecting the livestock and property of their friends and neighbors.

"The rural fire departments in this deal deserve a medal, because they did a really good job," said Clinton Laffin, who serves as the livestock agent for Midway District Extension, which includes Russell and Ellsworth counties. He rents part of the Stielow ranch, including one of the houses that was not burned. "That night Ethan (Dickerson) and I had gone out in my truck because I had one of only two working vehicles on the ranch," he said. Other vehicles on the ranch had already succumbed to the heat and flames. "We went



Grass burns in a pasture as part of a fire that burned and stretched across Ellis, Russell, Osborne and Rooks counties Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021, near Natoma after a powerful storm blew through the state.

out to move some pairs, and got those cows moved right before the wind direction switched from west to north. So it was pushing that fire directly at us and I didn't know if we were going to make it out. We did and those pairs are safe." He took them down to Bob and Marilyn Brink in Greenwood County a few days later. "I was happy to see those cows and calves happily eating hay on Sunday," he said.

As they were exiting the area, Clinton called 911 to tell them there was a house and cows in the path of the fire that he believed could still be saved. "She told me good luck because they were so slammed with fires and didn't have enough help."

When the worst of the fires were put out, it was quickly apparent the need for assistance was great. Along with the devastating loss of homes and personal property, ranchers faced immediate needs in caring for their livestock. Fences were gone, cattle were missing, dead or injured and those that survived would still need to be fed. As demonstrated many times in the midst of past disasters, the community stepped up.

"We've had a bunch of people show up to do what they can," Stielow said. "I'm overwhelmed by the goodness of people."

Fences are one of the most pressing needs. "A lot of these fences are non-existent now," he described.

Stielow said a group called Ashes to Ashes that came together after the devastating Starbuck fire at Ashland in 2017, was quickly on the scene to help. From hauling in hay to providing trucks for moving cattle, Stielow says the group has done a tremendous job. He said the organization would be a good one to send donations to if people were so inclined. According to Bernie Smith, one of the founders of Ashes to Ashes, as of last Tuesday they had taken fifteen semi loads of hay to the area. They have also brought cattle trailers to move cattle, which is a first for the group, according to Smith. They operate completely on donations. More information can be found

AP photo by Charlie Riedel

on the Ashes to Ashes Facebook page.

Along with dealing with his own cattle situation, which included the loss of a handful of embryo transfer calves and a few spring-bred cows, Laffin is also helping to coordinate relief efforts as the livestock Extension agent. "It has definitely been a team effort as far as organizing the army that has come to help," he acknowledged. He is working with Marsha Gier, who is the 4-H agent in Russell County. "Between Marsha and I, we have been coordinating a lot of the relief effort from an Extension standpoint, along with a lot of other volunteers," he said. "We have a donation drop at the Russell

County Fairgrounds and at Russell Livestock. I've also coordinated a number of donations directly to affected producers." He said they have had donations come in from Canada to Mexico and from California to Maryland. "It's one of those things where we're trying to pull together and cover as many people as we can. You realize just how big your network is in something like this."

Laffin said right now the needs focus around things like fencing materials - barbed wire and t-posts, as well as veterinarian supplies. "Our pharmaceutical companies have really stepped up," he said. "Grant Davidson with Zoetis and Craig Talkington with Merck, have really stepped up, along with our local veterinarians to doctor these cattle that are still living, to doctor these cattle that have respiratory issues, problems with their feet, that kind of thing."

A general relief fund has been set up at Southwind Bank, 436 N. Main, Russell, KS 67665. Checks should be made to The Fire Relief Fund. The fund is currently going through a Methodist Church in Russell until a committee can be put together to manage it. Laffin said producers who need help should call the Extension office directly at 785-483-3157. "We want to make sure that everyone that was affected has the potential to get something from this," he stated.

Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Farm Bureau and Kansas Department of Agriculture are also working to coordinate resources and donations. For KLA, donations can be made at [www.kla.org](http://www.kla.org) or checks can be mailed to Kansas Livestock Foundation at 6031 SW 37th Street, Topeka, KS, 66614. To donate through KDA, visit the resource page at [www.agriculture.ks.gov](http://www.agriculture.ks.gov).

## Panelists ignite passion in Angus Convention attendees

By Briley Richard, Angus Communications

Passion. It's what drives people to chase big dreams, to push through the nitty gritty, to accept the lows of defeat and savor the highs of achieving success. It's the reason why cattlemen do what they do.

In every sector of the beef business, there are people with passion for their way of life. As a part of the 2021 National Angus Convention and Trade Show, a panel of those professionals shared stories of dedication, hardships and celebratory moments in their lives. Speakers included moderator Mark McCully, American Angus Association chief executive officer, and five panelists - Debbie Lyons-Blythe, owner of Blythe Family



Passion panelists discuss their purpose and unique appreciations for Angus cattle. Pictured, from left, are: Mark McCully, Josh Jasper, Debbie Lyons-Blythe, Bodey Langford, Shane Tiffany and Curtis Osmond.

Farms; Bodey Langford, owner of Langford Cattle Company; Shane Tiffany, co-owner of Tiffany Cattle Company; Curtis Osmond, president of III Forks Prime Steakhouse and Silver Fox Steakhouse; and Josh Jasper, foundation director of the National Junior Angus Board.

Jasper spoke about his auctioneer dreams, made possible by his involvement in the junior program and life lessons learned from continuous trips to sale barns with his grandparents.

"I remember just sitting down and watching those guys just sing their chants on sale day, just being like, wow, I wish I could wear that silver belly hat up there, hit that gavel down and be the voice of the sale," said Jasper. "So going from watching

those guys to eventually working with them. Just a couple months ago, I got the chance to finally say, 'Sold it your way, A-rod,' and that was one of the coolest moments I've had. I'll forever cherish that moment."

Osmond said he values the relationship between the producer and consumer, respects the dedication poured into the product he serves and aims to relay that message to his customers.

"I think it's really important for you to understand that we understand what your passion is," said Osmond. "We know that what we're representing each and every night is the fruit of your passion, of your hard work. We want to represent that in the best light possible."

Any path taken will

surely include obstacles and Osmond said those challenges force people to band together and persevere.

"See when family faces adversity, you know what they do," said Osmond. "They rally, they get together, they pick themselves up and they continue to push forward, knowing it's the passion for what we do that keeps us going."

Lyons-Blythe described the challenge her family faced when her youngest son needed a liver transplant, then battled lymphoma a few years later. She fought back tears as she expressed how the Angus family showed up for her family.

"My son, Tyler, had a major health crisis seven years ago, and our Angus family sent messages,

phone calls, prayers and you helped us raise money for our charity to increase awareness for organ donation," said Lyons-Blythe. "Then a year ago, Tyler got lymphoma and you did it again. You helped us feel God with us that whole time. It's family, it's you all, you mean so much to me."

Langford told attendees about a childhood memory at his grandfather's Alabama home. Surrounded by Angus herd bulls, he recalled how they would line up, single file, and low as they paraded around the pasture. Like his grandfather, Langford built his home in Texas in the middle of his bull pasture and replicates those memories with his family.

"I had my little two-and-a-half-year-old grandson at the house just a month or two ago," said Langford. "We were sitting in the living room and he said, 'Grandpa, what's that sound?' I said, 'Son, that's just those little Angus bull's lowing around, walking and doing their thing.' So maybe that's the first sound he'll ever remember and record just like I did when I was his age." Tiffany explained the unique way he and his brother got their start in the feedlot business. After he accepted a corporate position and his brother as a ranch manager, an unsuspected source approached them with a unique opportunity.

"The man that owned the feedlot our dad managed had, unbeknownst to us, been following our careers and keeping tabs on us and how we were conducting ourselves and things like that," said Tiffany. "Out of the blue in 2007, we got a call that went something like this,

'Would you guys consider coming home, buying the feed lot and being part of my legacy?'"

The brothers, unsure of their futures if they accepted, had a decision to make.

"We said 'Man, we'd love to, but we don't have any money,'" said Tiffany. "He said, 'That's fine, I'll finance you.' So we came back and we ended up with the opportunity to buy in."

With this opportunity, Tiffany not only received the chance to live out his dream, but now passes on his knowledge to the next generation and watches them carve their own path.

"I love giving them opportunities to take ownership in their own different divisions, teaching them what I was taught, and then to empower them to go on and do great things in this industry," said Tiffany. "I'm passionate about producing the best protein source in the world."

At the root, Angus cattle serve as more than means to make a living or just a hobby, said Lyons-Blythe. Passion for the industry, for raising beef and for black-headed cattle is embedded in core values.

"Foundationally, it's all about our kids," said Lyons-Blythe. "It's the legacy of ranching and farming. It's passing it on to the next generation. It's learning more about ourselves, about the land, the animals and the people."

The 2021 National Angus Convention and Trade Show was held Nov. 6-8, 2021 in Fort Worth, Texas. For news and information about NACTS, visit [www.angusconvention.com](http://www.angusconvention.com).



## Among Friends Again

By Glenn Brunkow, Pottawatomie County farmer and rancher

Recently we all came together as Kansas Farm Bureau members at the 103rd annual meeting. This annual meeting was especially memorable because we could not be together in person last year. There is something special when farmers and ranchers from all parts of Kansas come together, and our time apart made

it even better.

Many old friendships were renewed, and new acquaintances were forged during the meeting. One of my favorite things is to watch the conversations in the hallway between sessions. Watching the handshakes, pats on the backs and warm greetings, in many cases with people you see once or twice a year. It was good to be among friends once again.

The general session and workshops were incredible, but they were not the main event. The featured event came Monday morning when delegates from all across the state met to discuss and formulate the policy for Kansas' largest farm organization. Every proposal discussed came from the grassroots. That is what makes our organization so strong. Every member, no matter the type, size or location of their farm and ranch, can bring ideas forward, and that is why I am a proud member of Kansas Farm Bureau.

Those policy proposals then go through our resolutions process before they become policy of

Kansas Farm Bureau. The last step in that process is the approval by the majority of the voting delegates from each county in the state. Our policy book is the guidepost for advocacy efforts in both Topeka and Washington D.C., and it is the direct result of involvement at the county level.

Each year I come away from this process with a great deal of satisfaction. Maybe not the satisfaction of always being on the winning side but the satisfaction of knowing that the policy in the book reflects work of members surfacing, debating and refining the issues and the subsequent policy before giving their ultimate approval to

the language in the policy book.

I am proud of the way we can debate difficult topics and yet come together after the votes are counted. I do not know if you have noticed but that is not always the case in our society. I genuinely believe our ability to debate topics we believe in and are passionate about and still be able to be unified is because of those relationships and friendships that are forged in the hallways and meeting rooms.

My fervent hope is that this next year brings more normalcy, and we can carry on more meetings in person because I believe the relationships

formed by those meetings are our strength. We are an ever-shrinking band of brothers and sisters, and our power is in our grass-roots bonds. Just like the roots of our native prairie we are anchored by the very network of grass-roots. Those intertwined roots give us strength when storms approach and gale winds blow. Just like the prairie, if we maintain those roots we will be around for a long, long time.

*"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.*

# Recovery continues following devastating wildfires and storm

Last Monday, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Beam and Animal Health Commissioner Dr. Justin Smith visited local officials, farmers and ranchers in several of the Kansas communities which are working to recover from the wildfires and storm that raged through the area last week.

There has been an outpouring of support from near and far, offering everything from clothing and food to labor and use of large equipment for recovery efforts.

Local services — including local emergency management offices, Extension offices, veterinarians, churches and others — have been instrumental in providing the help that the families in that area need right now. They know the communities and the people involved, and have been able to work on specific needs of the individual families who were impacted, ensuring that they have safe places to stay and support as they move forward.

"Kansans — and farmers and ranchers in particular — are resilient," said Secretary Beam. "Even in the best of times, they endure under forces they can't control and keep working day-in and day-out to care for their livestock and to harvest their crops." He noted that many

of the ranchers focused their most immediate attention, after the fires were extinguished, to care for their livestock and help their neighbors, even before considering their own personal needs. "This disaster will certainly test that resilience to the limit, but the communities which surround these individuals will continue to support them and will help them persevere."

The total impact of last week's storm is difficult to quantify, partly due to the many layers of the disaster. Clearly, the Four County Fire which burned over a hundred thousand acres in northwest Kansas, had the largest immediate impact. But there were several other smaller fires across the state as well, which affected Kansans in other communities. The extreme high winds caused damage to many agricultural entities statewide, especially those with greenhouses and high tunnel growing systems. In addition, the wind, dust and ash may have caused damage to crops that were in the ground, like the winter wheat crop, and we may not know the extent of that damage for several months.

What we do know is that dozens of homes were reported to be destroyed or heavily damaged, over a thousand

cattle were lost as a result of the wildfire, and thousands more cattle survived the fire but are being displaced because of the loss of grassland to sustain them.

"Ranchers are now focused on the health and welfare of the cattle who have survived," said Dr. Smith. "They may still see health decline due to exposure to smoke and heat, but most should recover. The majority of those cattle will need to move to other locations, though, because the grazing land destroyed in the fire won't grow back for several months."

This recovery can take a significant physical and emotional toll on the individuals who have experienced these losses. Resources are available to help those who need this support and can be found at KansasAgStress.org.

Other information about recovery efforts and lists of resources available to those who have suffered damage from the storm can be found at KDA's Recovery Resources webpage at [agriculture.ks.gov/Recovery](http://agriculture.ks.gov/Recovery). That page also includes ways to make a donation to help with recovery efforts.

# Growers to EPA: greater clarity is needed on data tied to complaints

Grower groups including the American Soybean Association, National Cotton Council and American Farm Bureau Federation are raising questions about data released Dec. 21 by EPA regarding re-

ported dicamba off-target complaints during the 2021 growing season. Growers are concerned with the potential of significant gaps in the data provided by the agency.

For example:

It is not clear whether complaints were submitted to multiple sources/regulators and were therefore double-counted.

It is unclear if EPA, state regulators, or others investigated complaints to

verify injury or assess potential causes.

Alan Meadows, a soybean grower from Halls, Tennessee, and ASA director said, "The agricultural community expects regulators to be clear with

the data on which they are making decisions. It is concerning the information released provides an incomplete picture. Data that is not present in this EPA release may tell as much or more about the

story than what the agency has included."

NCC Chairman Kent Fountain, a Georgia cotton producer, said, "EPA's report doesn't align with what the U.S. cotton industry has seen and heard in the field. The data needs to be analyzed carefully to ensure accuracy because dicamba is too important to our industry for decisions to be made on incomplete or faulty data."

AFBF President Zippy Duvall said, "The decisions EPA makes regarding herbicides have wide-ranging consequences for America's farmers and ranchers, so they should be made after careful review and consideration of peer-reviewed science. The stakes are simply too high to make major label changes without due diligence from EPA to learn all the facts surrounding reported incidents. America's farmers deserve a fair process as they work to use climate-smart practices to produce food, fuel and fiber for our nation."

The groups will continue to review the release for additional insights or information that may require clarity.



The Christmas story is one of my favorite things. I do love the telling of Jesus's birth and being reminded of the greatest gift I have ever received or will ever receive. There are many parts of the story that I really like but my favorite part of the story and the one I take the greatest pride in is the fact that the news of the birth was first told to shepherds. Being a shepherd, I take great honor in knowing that I was one of the fraternity God picked to announce his son's birth to.

I have always wondered why God chose shepherds and lately I have had a lot of time to think about this while I fed the sheep. Why did he not choose the media? Reporting things like this would be right up their alley. Probably because he wanted all of the versions to be the same. We all know that while they are a bit different, the gospels are pretty much the same. Well, I am sure the various outlets, even back BC, would have had vastly different slants on the story, but we will save those musings for a later date.

Doctors or even veterinarians would have made more sense from a medical standpoint. Accountants would have given a very accurate, detailed account and motivational speakers would have been really excited, but God chose the lowly shepherd. It makes you wonder why they got the call.

First of all, who else would have been awake in the middle of the night? My guess is it was lambing season and they were on night checks. A couple of weeks of getting up in the middle of the night to check ewes will make you believe anything you see and not question it. They probably walked out, saw the angels and were relieved that it was not a half a dozen ewes in labor.

Shepherds would have been ready to see the baby at the drop of a hat. Any excuse to leave the stinking sheep ranch and go to town. Even better that the baby was in a stable and they did not have to change out of chore clothes to go. Come to think of it, who else would not have stood out in a barn? The shepherds smelled just like everything else and blended right in. God really does know what he is doing.

That brings up another reason — they

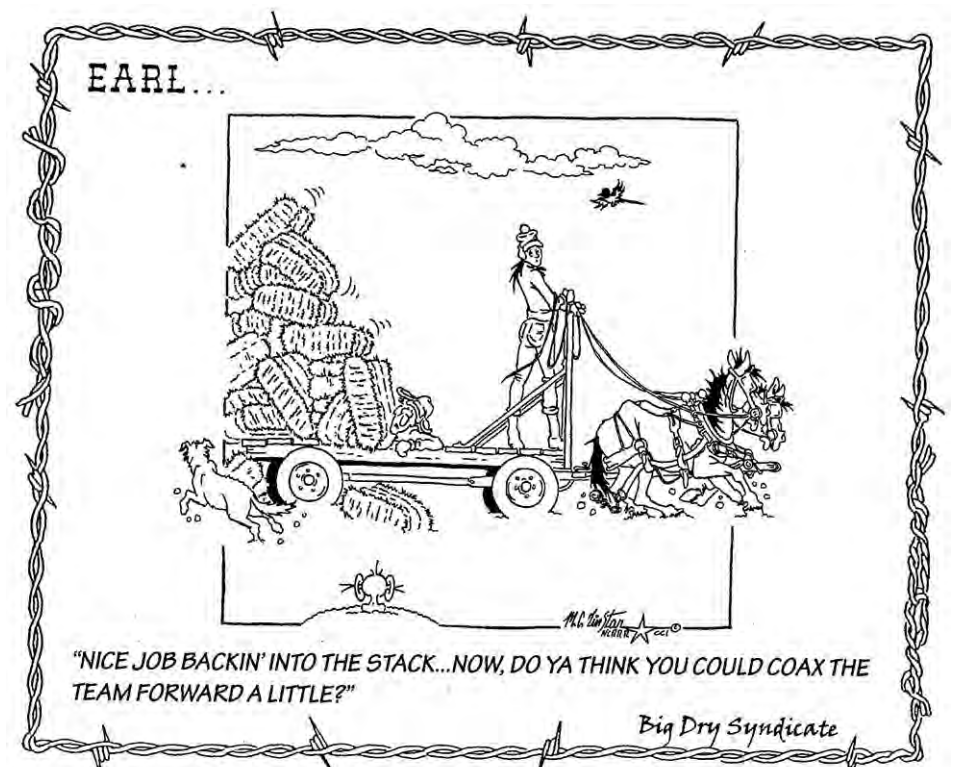
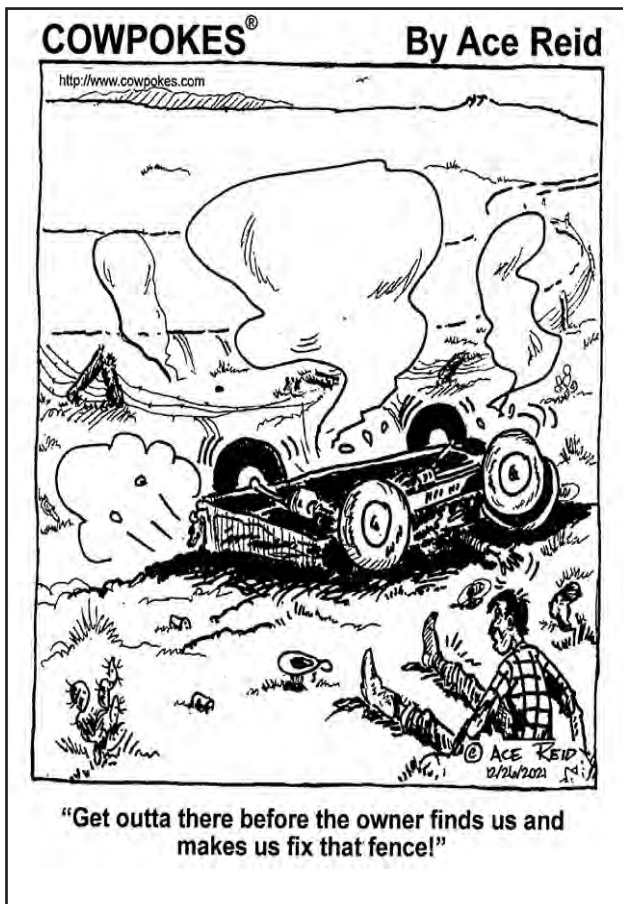
did not have to spend a lot of time getting dressed up in their best clothes. Nope, they just went as they were, dressed in their lambing clothes that they had not washed since the season had started. Even back then I am sure shepherds knew it was bad luck to wash your chore clothes. The stench has been passed down from one generation to the next.

Finally, who else would have believed the story and dropped everything to go? We shepherds are a pretty gullible bunch. Sure, now we see the whole magnitude of the event and we would all stop what we were doing and go. I am sure the host of angels and all of the bright light was very convincing but my guess is most people would have still been skeptical. Not us sheep people, I mean if you follow sheep around all day and fight lions and wolves with rocks you will believe about anything without question.

I, for one, am enormously proud each time I look at the nativity and see the shepherds front and center. I also go out in the night and wonder what it would be like to have gotten that invitation from the angels. So far, I have gotten nothing but stinking, sleeping sheep when I go out with an occasional coyote singing in the background, but I am still proud of my shepherd heritage.

I can only imagine the next morning when their wives asked them how things went last night. Were they skeptical and thought the shepherds had produced an excuse to go into town and carouse? It would be a little hard to believe. My guess is that the very tired shepherds got peppered with all kinds of questions like: what was his name, how much did the baby weigh, how long was he, is Mary doing okay? The answer to which the shepherds only grunted and shrugged.

I guess the main reason the shepherds were included was because they were abundant and easy to find. Right out there on the outskirts of town. After all God had to go a long way and it took a couple of weeks just to find three wise men. In any case, shepherds were the first to find out and that has to be the proudest thing happening to shepherds in the history of humankind. Just my thoughts and something to think about as you look at your nativity scene this Christmas season.



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Ron Wilson, center, receives the We Kan! award from Marci Penner and WenDee Rowe of the Kansas Sampler Foundation.

**Wilson receives We Kan! award**

Ron Wilson of the Lazy T Ranch and Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development, was presented with a We Kan! award December 9 in a surprise presentation at the Lazy T Ranch.

The presentation was made by Marci Penner and WenDee Rowe of the Kansas Sampler Foundation. The Inman-based non-profit has been choosing ten recipients a year since 1993 to show appreciation for dedicated work in helping preserve and sustain rural culture.

Wilson's award had the words "Rural Kansas says thank you!" engraved on a round plate made by Elk Falls Pottery. Penner said, "Ron has done so many great things for rural Kansas and is probably best

known for his weekly column, "Now That's Rural" where he profiles rural Kansans and celebrates their efforts. He's the best kind of ambassador for rural and people all across the state appreciate him."

With planning help from Ron's wife Chris, around twenty people surprised Ron at his ranch. He got off the tractor to find a crowd gathered.

In addition to Wilson, the other 2021 awards presented to date have been to Marilyn Jones, Peabody; Grant Neuhold, Greensburg; and Sharolyn Wagner, Bennington. One other We Kan! Award will be presented for 2021.

To see a list of all We Kan! award winners go to [kansassampler.org](http://kansassampler.org).

**Kansas Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference registration opens**

Join young men and women from across the state at the 2022 Young Farmers & Ranchers Leaders Conference Jan. 28-30 in Manhattan.

The event will focus on connecting you with practical tools and resources to add value to your daily work, expanding your peer and professional network and providing encouragement and motivation to keep pushing forward in a tough time for agriculture. Regardless of the crops you grow, animals you raise or off-farm role you play, this conference has something for all young people connected to agriculture and will empower attendees to return home with the tools and knowledge to make positive changes for their farms, families and communities.

This conference is planned with KFB farmer/rancher and collegiate members who are 18-35 in mind, but all individuals who find the content valuable, regardless of membership, age or profession are welcome to register and attend. More informa-

tion and registration can be found at [www.kfb.org/Article/YFR-Leaders-Conference](http://www.kfb.org/Article/YFR-Leaders-Conference).

**Two dead in Kansas wildfires fueled by windy, dry weather**

AP - Two men have died from injuries suffered in wildfires that have burned hundreds of thousands of acres across Kansas, authorities have said.

Richard Shimanek, 84, a farmer and rancher who lived near Leoti, died at a hospital in Denver, Leoti Mayor and Fire Chief Charlie Hughes said. He was outside his home trying to fight the fire when he fell and couldn't get up, according to Hughes.

The Ellis County sheriff's office said that the remains of Derrick Kelley, 36, were found near his burned vehicle in a rural area of the county. The coroner identified the remains, the sheriff's office said.

Kelley was last seen in Hays on Wednesday, shortly before his fiancée reported him missing. The sheriff's office said he was believed to be driving on county roads toward Natoma.

Both men were killed in wildfires that erupted Wednesday, December 15 in western and central Kansas, fueled by dry conditions and winds up to 90 mph. The Kansas Forest Service said 625 square miles burned in 11 counties in western Kansas, with smaller fires in other counties.

In the small town of Paradise in Russell County, one family was count-

ing its blessings but also mourning the loss of their home and cows.

Brett Thompson, the 58-year-old mayor of Paradise, suffered eye injuries when he tried to rescue his cattle herd, said his daughter, Caity Thompson. While he was out, his home burned down - the only house in the town of about 50 to be destroyed by the fire.

His wife escaped before their home was destroyed, and the family's grain elevator business was also spared, said Thompson, a teacher in Jetmore who returned home when she heard about the fire.

"It's a mixture of emotions," she said. "We're devastated that the house is gone, along with half our cattle herd and a lot of our livelihood. But we still have the grain elevator, my grandma and sister still have their houses, and the main thing is my dad is alive."

As the fire moved through the region that Wednesday, residents in Paradise and three other small towns were evacuated, said Dustin Finken-

binder, fire chief in nearby Waldo. The fire destroyed an area about 45 miles (72 kilometers) long, he told *The Kansas City Star*.

"We fought fire and winds 50 miles an hour before, but nothing like maybe 100 miles an hour. So we just kind of did what we could," he said. "As far as damage, I mean I guess catastrophic would be the right word."

Several smaller fires across the state were contained by Friday and crews were monitoring them to prevent re-igni-

tions, said Shawna Hartman, spokeswoman for the Kansas Forest Service.

But several larger fires were still burning, some in areas that were inaccessible to ground crews, she said. Officials were using helicopters to dump water on those fires, in an attempt to knock back the flames and heat and allow ground crews in.

It will take several days to determine how many acres burned and to completely contain the blazes and make the areas safe, she said.

**EARLY GRASS & GRAIN ADVERTISING DEADLINE FOR THE HOLIDAYS:**

**JANUARY 4th EDITION**

1<sup>st</sup> Section: **WEDNESDAY, December 29<sup>th</sup>;**  
**ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN 11:00 A.M.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Section: **THURSDAY, December 30<sup>th</sup>;**  
**ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON**

*Thank you for your cooperation!*

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# GRASS & GRAIN Our Daily Bread

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

Grass & Grain Awards Final Recipe Contest  
Prize To Lucille Wohler, Clay Center

Winner Lucille Wohler, Clay Center:  
EASY SALISBURY STEAK

1 can mushroom soup, divided  
1/3 cup bread crumbs  
1 finely chopped onion  
1 egg  
1 pound hamburger  
1 tablespoon oil  
Mix 1/4 can mushroom soup, bread crumbs, onion, egg and hamburger. Mix well and shape into 4 patties. Heat oil and cook patties until brown. Drain and add remainder of soup. Bring to a boil. Cover and cook over low heat for 10 minutes until cooked through.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

**CHILE POPPERS**  
1/4 cup chopped dill  
(2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese  
1 cup green chiles  
2 minced scallions  
1/2 cup bacon bits  
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder  
In a bowl mix dill and cream cheese. Roll into balls and freeze until firm. In a bowl mix chiles, scallions, bacon bits and garlic powder. Roll balls in mixture and serve. Refrigerate until using.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:

**RITZ CRACKERS**  
1 stick melted butter  
1 packet Ranch dressing mix  
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 tablespoon red pepper flakes  
1 box Ritz Crackers  
Put crackers in zip-lock bag. Toss with all ingredients. Bake at 300 degrees for 15 minutes. Let cool and store in sealed bags.

Kellee George, Shawnee:  
**ORANGE CRANBERRY SCONES**  
2 cups Bisquick

1/4 cup cranberries  
1/4 cup plus 1 teaspoon sugar  
1 teaspoon grated orange zest  
1/2 cup orange juice  
1/3 cup powdered sugar  
1 1/2 teaspoons milk  
Heat oven to 375 degrees. Coat an 8-inch skillet with cooking spray. Combine Bisquick, cranberries, 1/4 cup sugar and orange zest. Stir in orange juice until dough forms. Spread in skillet. Sprinkle with the 1 teaspoon sugar. Bake until no longer wet in center, about 20-25 minutes. Let cool. Mix powdered sugar and milk and drizzle on top. Cut into squares and enjoy!

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:  
**SAUSAGE BITES**  
1/2 pound cooked & crumbled sausage  
1/4 cup brown sugar  
2 tablespoons mustard  
Puff pastry sheets  
1 egg  
1 tablespoon sesame seeds  
Set oven to 375 degrees. Mix sausage, brown sugar and mustard. Cut puff pasty sheet into thirds. Spread filling over pastry starting at long side and roll into logs then cut into 1-inch pieces. Brush with egg

and top with sesame seeds. Bake 20 minutes.

Jackie Doud, Topeka:  
**ASPARAGUS WITH GRUYERE**  
1 1/2 pounds asparagus  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 stick butter  
1/2 cup grated Gruyere  
Set oven to 350 degrees. Break off tough ends of asparagus as far down as stalks snap easily. Arrange in single layer in ungreased baking dish. Sprinkle with salt. Cover with foil and bake about 25 minutes or until tender. Heat butter over low heat until light brown then drizzle over asparagus. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake uncovered for 5-8 minutes or just until cheese softens.

The following are recipes from the Holiday Contest that unfortunately were unable to be printed due to space and slow mail service:

Linda Falk, Wheaton:  
"Very pretty on snack trays at Christmas."

**CHRISTMAS PARTY PINWHEELS**  
(2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese, softened  
0.4-ounce package Ranch salad dressing mix  
1/2 cup minced sweet red pepper  
1/2 cup minced celery  
1/4 cup sliced green onions  
1/4 cup sliced pimiento-stuffed olives  
(4) 10-inch flour tortillas  
In a bowl beat cream cheese and dressing mix until smooth. Add the red pepper, celery, onions and olives. Spread about 3/4 cup of filling on each tortilla. Roll up each tortilla tightly and wrap each individually in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Cut into 1/2-inch slices.

Kellee George, Shawnee:  
**CHEESE BALL**  
(2) 4-ounce packages goat cheese at room temperature  
2 ounces cream cheese  
1/2 cup finely chopped dried cranberries  
1/2 cup finely chopped pistachios  
Mix goat cheese and cream cheese until mixed. Refrigerate until firm, about 15 minutes. Make into a ball. Mix cranberries and nuts together. Roll the cheese ball in cranberries and nuts. Serve right away or wrap and refrigerate.

Claire Martin, Salina:  
**CAT HEAD BISCUITS WITH CHOCOLATE GRAVY**

**Cat Head Biscuits:**  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 cup cold butter, cut into 1/4-inch cubes  
1 1/4 cups whole buttermilk  
Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a large bowl stir together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Using your fingers rub butter into flour until dough resembles coarse meal. Add buttermilk and stir until dough is combined and pulls away from side of bowl. Using a 1/2-cup measure, drop dough onto an ungreased baking sheet placing biscuits 2 inches apart. Bake until golden brown and cooked through, approximately 15 minutes. Yield: approximately 8 biscuits.

**Chocolate Gravy:**  
1/4 cup butter  
1/2 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
1/3 cup natural unsweetened cocoa powder  
2 1/2 cups whole milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
In a medium saucepan melt butter over medium heat. Add sugar, flour and cocoa, stirring to combine. Add milk and vanilla; whisk until no lumps remain. Simmer until thickened, approximately 4 minutes. Serve hot with biscuits. Yield: approximately 3 cups.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:  
**CRANBERRY CHICKEN**  
8-ounce bottle Catalina dressing  
1 package dry onion soup mix  
15-ounce can whole cranberry sauce  
3 pounds skinless boneless chicken thighs  
Salt & pepper  
Set oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-13-inch glass baking dish. Combine dressing, dry onion soup mix and cranberry sauce. Pour into prepared pan. Season with salt and pepper. Place chicken in a single layer. Turn thigh once to coat both sides. Bake uncovered for 1 hour or until done.

Linda Whiteman, Mayetta:

**BARBECUED MEATBALLS**  
13-ounce can evaporated milk  
3 pounds hamburger  
2 cups quick-cook oatmeal  
1/2 teaspoon pepper  
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 medium onion, finely chopped  
2 teaspoons salt  
2 teaspoons chili powder  
Mix milk, hamburger, oatmeal, pepper, garlic powder, onion, salt and chili powder and shape into balls. Place in a baking pan, one layer to a pan. Cover with the following sauce:  
2 cups ketchup  
2 tablespoons liquid smoke  
1/2 cup finely chopped onion  
1 1/2 cups brown sugar  
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 tablespoon chili powder  
Combine sauce ingredients and heat to dissolve sugar then pour over meatballs. Cover with foil and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

**NOTE:** This makes (1) 9-by-13-inch pan and (1) 9-by-9-inch pan full of meatballs and sauce.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

**PINEAPPLE PIE**  
1 graham cracker crust  
8 ounces cream cheese  
1 cup powdered sugar  
1 cup crushed pineapple, drained  
8 ounces Cool Whip  
Topping:  
1/4 cup coconut  
1/4 cup pineapple tidbits, drained  
Beat cream cheese until fluffy. Gradually add powdered sugar. Mix well until combined. Mix in Cool Whip and beat until fluffy. With spatula fold in crushed pineapple. Spoon filling into crust. Top with pineapple tidbits and coconut. Refrigerate at least 4 hours before serving.

Mary Hedberg, Dwight:  
**CHEESY HASHBROWN CASSEROLE**

2 pounds frozen hash-browns  
1/2 cup melted oleo  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1 can cream of chicken soup  
2 cups grated Cheddar cheese  
1/2 cup chopped onion  
2 cups sour cream  
Topping:  
2 cups Corn Flakes  
1/2 cup oleo, melted  
Combine casserole ingredients and place in a 9-by-13-inch casserole dish. Combine Corn Flakes and melted oleo and place on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Katrina Morgan, Americus:

**GOLDEN POTATO CASSEROLE**  
4 large potatoes, peeled & cut into 1/2-inch cubes  
3 cups shredded Cheddar cheese  
1 can condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted  
3/4 cup sour cream  
3 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted  
6 green onions, sliced  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
Place potatoes in a large saucepan and cover with water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and cook

for 12 to 15 minutes or until tender. Drain. In a large bowl combine the remaining ingredients. Cool potatoes slightly then gently stir in the potatoes. Transfer to a greased 8-by-10-by-3-inch baking dish. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 45 to 50 minutes or until bubbly.

Jackie Doud, Topeka:  
**BISCUIT & GRAVY CASSEROLE**

10-ounce tube buttermilk biscuits (like Grands brand, not little can)  
1 package powdered country gravy (2-cup size)  
1 pound sausage  
6 eggs  
1/2 cup milk  
Salt & pepper  
1 cup shredded cheese  
Set oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-13-inch pan. Cut each biscuit into 4 pieces and line bottom of pan. Brown sausage and drain. Scatter sausage over biscuits. Mix eggs, milk and salt and pepper and pour over sausage then top with cheese. Make gravy according to package directions. Pour over top. Bake 30-40 minutes. Cut serve.

Jackie Doud, Topeka:  
**BAKED GREEN BEANS**  
5-6 cans green beans, drained

8 slices bacon  
2 cups brown sugar  
2 teaspoons pepper  
Place beans in 9-by-13-inch pan. Sprinkle pepper over beans. Cut bacon into 2-inch pieces. Place over beans. Sprinkle brown sugar over beans and bacon. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:

**SALTED CARAMEL CRACKER BITES**  
4 cups oyster crackers  
3/4 cup butter  
3/4 cup brown sugar  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
1 teaspoon salt  
Set oven to 350 degrees. Line a jelly roll pan with parchment paper. Spray with cooking spray also. Spread crackers in even layer in pan. In a skillet melt butter. Add brown sugar and vanilla. Stir to melt brown sugar. Heat until begins to boil. Stir and cook 3-4 minutes until mixture becomes bubbly and light in color. Turn off heat. Carefully pour over crackers gradually to totally cover crackers. Sprinkle salt over top. Use a spatula to even out crackers in pan. Bake 8 to 10 minutes.

Linda Whiteman, Mayetta:

**PETITE CHERRY CHEESECAKES**  
(2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
Cherry pie filling  
2 eggs  
3/4 cup sugar  
24 vanilla wafers  
Cool Whip  
Place one vanilla wafer in mini cupcake liners in muffin pan. Cream all ingredients except cherry pie filling and Cool Whip. Fill liners 3/4 full. Bake at 375 degrees for 20 minutes until set. Let cool. Top with pie filling and a dollop of Cool Whip. Makes 24 mini cakes.

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# Baking With Sugarbuns

By Michele Carlyon  
**Holiday Baking**  
*Mom's White Chocolate Treats*

A few weeks ago, I was at Mike and Marissa's house when the girls recruited me to help put up Christmas ornaments on their tree. I have not had a tree in years; I live by myself with two cats and a tree seems dangerous with the two of them. I would be lying to you if I said that I was not originally dreading them asking; I did not want to do it, but after getting started, I quickly realized that I miss having Christmas décor up and out for the holidays. Gives me something to look forward to as I get closer to a life as a wife.

The decorating of the tree brought back all kinds of childhood memories. Memories of my mom's house being covered in Christmas (it still is). Her having more than one tree, at the time us thinking we were big stuff because she let us decorate it by ourselves, but looking back on it now, the realization hits that she just did not want us to ruin her showpiece of a tree, which it still is to this day.

My favorite memory that it brought back, and that the holidays always bring back, is that of our baking day. That one day a year my mom would turn her kitchen over to us to do with whatever we like. We would spend an entire day baking, sometimes having great luck, others having pure disasters, but laughing and having a blast the entire day regardless.

This year as I was doing some of my own baking, I remembered a treat that my mom always made for us around Christmas. She did not really have a name for it, but I loved everything about it. It was easy, tasty, fast, and always a crowd pleaser. I must warn you though, you will not be able to stop at just one bite, but it is the holiday season, so enjoy, live a little and treasure this holiday season with the ones you love.

## MOM'S WHITE CHOCOLATE TREATS

- 10 ounces M&M's (I prefer the Christmas bag of the red & green)
- 24 ounces or two small bags of white chocolate chips
- 1 ½ cups lightly salted peanuts
- 5 cups pretzels
- 4 cups Rice Chex
- 2 cups Corn Chex
- 4 cups Cheerios

Line cookie sheets or your counter with waxed or parchment paper.

If you have a big enough bowl to do it all in one batch, fantastic, but if not, divide all the ingredients, other than the white chocolate, in two large bowls. Gently toss the ingredients to get them good and mixed.

In a microwave-safe bowl, heat the white chocolate chips (one bag at a time) in 20-second increments, stirring after each 20 seconds. Once a smooth consistency has been reached, pour it over one of your bowls and mix it all together.

Pour the contents of the bowl onto the lined tray or counter and spread out slightly. Repeat with the other bowl. If you had a big enough bowl to do it all in one, then do both bags of chocolate at one time.

Let the mixture cool. Once cooled, break into chunks and store in an airtight container until ready to serve. Enjoy!

*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: boobs-brainsandbaking.*

If you would like to contact Michele with comments please email [mcarlyon88@gmail.com](mailto:mcarlyon88@gmail.com)



The most wonderful season of the year has just wrapped up and for many it's a little bit sad to take down the tree, turn off the Christmas music, and clean up the shredded wrapping paper scattered across the living room floor. In our house, the tree will likely stay up well into January. I love for the winter season to be warm and joyous as long as possible, because as soon as the tree comes down, I'm ready to kiss winter goodbye and start playing in the dirt. Gardening catalogs have already been gracing my mailbox and my plans for next spring started forming before my last garden was even finished.

Before we jump right into spring planning, there's sometimes a little after-Christmas shopping that can be done. Gift cards or Christmas money from sweet family members may have made its way to your kitchen table and if you're like me, sometimes you just aren't sure what to use it for. In hopes you might find a little inspiration, here are just a few pieces that I've added to my collection over the years. Nothing too fancy, but you might find an idea for your next shopping spree, whether it be online or in a flea market!

## Enamelled Cast Iron Dutch Oven

Almost anyone close to me knows my love for old cast iron skillets. Griswold, Wagner, BSR, Ozark, etc., I use a variety of them. What might surprise some is that I went out of the way to buy a turquoise Pioneer Woman dutch oven a couple years back. If I was going to drive back to Walmart to get it, I was going to make it worth the while and be sure to use it often. I can happily say that it has a permanent home on my stove and is used for a good chunk of our meals. It has proven to be one of the most handy pieces of cookware in the kitchen, thanks to its perfect size. It's small enough I don't feel like I'm over doing it to brown a few pounds of hamburger in it, yet large enough I can whip up a batch of chili.

## Heirloom Wooden

### Recipe Box

Bought several years ago from the Heart of the Farm planner company, this recipe box is large enough to fit 4 by 6 inch cards. While the box itself is no longer available, the beautiful cards are still there in several styles and can be ordered alongside the large Recipe Keeper binder. Whether you put them in a binder or box, handwritten recipes have become something so special to me. You can find a variety of wooden recipe boxes online, or have some fun and pick out a vintage

metal one from a flea market. (If you want to take this a step further, start asking your friends and family members to write out some of their favorite recipes. Before you know it, you'll have a box full of tried-and-true favorites!)

## Cast Iron Cookbook Stand

This was a fun find in our local thrift store a year or so ago. It sits proudly on the wooden shelf above my stove, holding an old Farm Journal canning and freezing cookbook. While it's sturdy enough to support about any cookbook, try looking for one that has metal hooks on the front to hold your pages open. Mine does not and it would make it more helpful if it did!

## Nordic Ware Jelly Roll

### Pans with Lids

From sheet cakes and brownies to roasted vegetables and meat, these pans can do about anything. I love the pans that come with a matching lid. The lids are sturdy enough you don't feel like they'll

smash the cake inside if something is set on top. You can get a variety of sizes with matching lids, so don't worry about having to purchase a huge pan if you just need a 9 x 13.

I love wandering through a flea-market booth full of old cookware and kitchen supplies. There are some specific items I look for (Fire King Philbe dishes being one of them), but sometimes a sturdy, USA-made utensil or other random piece just might find its way home with me. You don't have to buy the latest gadget off Amazon to have a well-functioning kitchen. With a few basic pieces that can be used for a large variety of jobs, you'll be set (and have a lot more counter room, too!).

*Ashleigh is a freelance writer and the gal behind the website, Prairie Gal Cookin' (www.prairiegalcookin.com), where she shares step-by-step recipes and stories from the farm in Kansas.*

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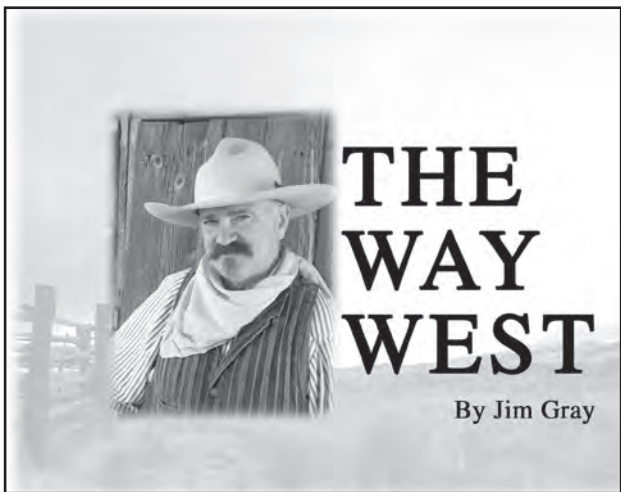
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### Silent Testament

Edwin Tyler was a new arrival to the Walnut Creek valley in the spring of 1871. Near the big bend of the Arkansas River in central Kansas the new town of Great Bend had just been platted. The first building at the townsite was a hotel. Drovers' Cottage, built by Col Thomas L. Stone (Col.

Tom), catered to Texas cattlemen. It was later famously remembered as the Southern Hotel.

Tyler rented a 12 x14' house a short distance west of the town. The house had no floor other than the prairie sod on which the shelter was placed. The building was

bolted together. The building was secured by bolting the walls to posts "driven or sunk in the ground." Upper and lower bunks lined one wall. Tyler and his wife slept in the lower bunk. The three children shared the upper bunk.

The morning of November 16, 1871, Rube Fry came by the Tyler house in his shirt sleeves, not even bringing a coat along. The morning sun was "beautiful, bright, and warm." Fry was headed to Dry Creek with a team and wagon to get a load of wood., a short distance north of Tyler's place. He asked Tyler to go along. Mr. Tyler decided to stay home because Mrs. Tyler was afraid that Indians might pay an unexpected visit.

About nine o'clock a Kansas breeze began to blow. An ominous haze appeared in the north. The wind increased little by little, growing colder as it

strengthened. Fry was not long in returning "at the rate of two forty," a term used in those days to describe very fast movement. Fry needed warming up by the stove. The two veteran soldiers cracked a few jokes before Fry left at the same speed that he had arrived, two forty!

A little after noon a mist set in followed by sleet before a combination of rain and snow struck in full force. At three p.m. it became so dark that Tyler could barely see objects ten feet away. The little family huddled by the stove and just looked at one another with very little to say. The gale roared. Twenty-nine years afterward Tyler recalled in a newspaper memoir, "we were expecting the shanty to blow over, and I knew that would be the last of life... if the house hadn't been bolted as it was I wouldn't be here to write about it."

Luckily before coming to Kansas Mrs. Tyler had seen fit to bring two feather beds and plenty of quilts and comforters. A large tarpaulin formerly used to cover a cannon in the late war was among Mr. Tyler's possessions.

The tarpaulin was spread on the dirt floor, covered by a feather bed and a comforter and topped off with a quilt or two. The other feather bed was placed on the pile, making a cozy sanctuary

from the storm. Removing only their shoes the family burrowed deep in the folds until ten o'clock the next morning when they ventured from their retreat long enough to build a fire for coffee and a little warm food. Concluding that the bed was a proper place, "back to bed we went," until the winds calmed during the afternoon of the 18th.

The morning of the 19th dawned bright and clear, but very cold. Wagons, dead horses, and frozen cattle were common things to see banked up in snow drifts. Settlers were caught on the open prairie bringing provisions from Ellsworth. Two wagons and a frozen horse were abandoned at Cow Creek (seven miles southwest of present-day Bushton). Three men were stranded at Dick Strew's ranch and stage station on Plum Creek (approximately two miles northeast of present-day Bushton). Buffalo hunters from Great Bend suffered through the storm south of Fort Larned. Everyone made it home alive, but the November storm was just the begging of a long dreary winter.

Just before New Year's Day, Paul Schneck left his homestead, a couple of miles northwest of Great Bend, going southwest to hunt buffalo. With Mrs. Mellissa Schneck were two-year-old Lizzie and eight-month-old Willie.

Stories do not mention Lizzie although she was born in 1869 and lived to the age of ninety-three years. After the storm struck Willie sickened and died on January 4, 1871. For nearly forty-eight hours the blizzard raged just outside the little shanty on the prairie. The wolves jumped at the windows and scraped at the door while inside the grief-stricken mother protected little Lizzie and the lifeless body of her dear Willie.

A man passing by with a team and wagon discovered Mrs. Schreck's desperate condition and brought her to town "more dead than alive." She was cared for at the Drovers' Cottage. The next day the first funeral services were held in Great Bend by the Reverend E. R. Glenn. Willie was temporarily buried on a nearby lot and reburied on the homestead in the spring. Today Willie lies in the family plot at the Great Bend Cemetery with his parents and several siblings, a silent testament to the early settlers who lived and died 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.*


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## Bartlett sustainability project to reduce environmental impacts of Kansas wheat production

Bartlett, a Savage Company, is pleased to announce the launch of a new sustainability project to reduce environmental impacts of Kansas wheat production, in partnership with Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture. The Bartlett Kansas Hard Red Winter Wheat Project will help combat climate change by driving innovation in farming practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve soil conservation.

"We're excited to work with our customers and partners to improve on-farm environmental outcomes while increasing overall sustainability across the milling and

baking supply chains," said Bartlett president Bob Knief. "We have a strong commitment to continuous improvement, and look forward to engaging and supporting Kansas wheat producers in measuring and optimizing their sustainability performance."

Working with Kansas wheat producers and other stakeholders, Bartlett will help establish a credible baseline of current farming practices and environmental impacts, and implement strategies to improve sustainability. Results will be benchmarked against traditional farming practices and project goals, with support from Field to Market's Continuous Improvement Accelerator.

## Gamble among NSP 2021 Sorghum Yield Contest winners

National Sorghum Producers is proud to announce the winners of the 2021 Sorghum Yield Contest, including Bin Buster winner Kasey Gamble from Kiowa County, Kansas, with the top yield in the contest at 244.03 bushels per acre—the highest dryland yield on record in contest history west of the Mississippi River.

"National Sorghum Producers congratulates the winners of the 2021 sorghum yield contest," NSP Board of Directors chairman Kody Carson said. "You will see from the results striking top-end yields. We are proud of these achievements and look forward to recognizing the winners at the 2022 Commodity Classic in New Orleans."

Top yields are highlighted in three different categories ranging from the eastern to western U.S. regions. The 2021 first place national winners of the NSP Yield Contest are Tom Vogel from Hartley County, Texas, in the Irrigated West category with a yield of 241.18 bushels per acre - Pioneer 85P75; Mike Scates from White

County, Illinois, in the Irrigated East category with a yield of 182.24 bushels per acre - Pioneer 84G62; David Knoll from Charles Mix County, South Dakota, in the Dryland Tillage West category with a yield of 170.21 bushels per acre - Pioneer 89Y79; Harry P Johnston from Fulton County, Pennsylvania, in the Dryland Tillage East

category with a yield of 221.50 bushels per acre - Pioneer 84G62; Kasey Gamble from Kiowa County, in the Dryland No-Till West category with a yield of 244.03 bushels per acre - Pioneer 85P44; and Chris Santini from Warren County, New Jersey, in the Dryland No-Till East category with a yield of 234.90 bushels per acre -

Pioneer 84G62.

The national winners will be recognized further in March 2022 during Commodity Classic in New Orleans.

To see a complete list of the NSP Yield Contest national, state and county results, or to learn more about the contest, visit [sorghumgrowers.com/field-contest](http://sorghumgrowers.com/field-contest).

## KSU soybean production schools return to northeast Kansas

The K-State Soybean Production Schools are back, this year with a full slate of in-depth topics important to Kansas soybean producers. The northeast Kansas event will be Tuesday, January 25th at the

Northeast Kansas Heritage Complex, 12200 214th Rd. south of Holton.

Doors open for registration (no cost to attend) at 3:30 p.m. K-State Extension Weed Specialist Dr. Sarah Lancaster will kick

off the program at 4:00 p.m. with a discussion on weed control options for soybean growers. A summary of management practices research will follow from Cropping Systems Specialist Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti

then soil fertility considerations for soybean production with Extension Nutrient Management Specialist Dr. Dorivar Ruiz-Diaz. We'll wrap up with an insect update from Dr. Jeff Whitworth and a catered

meal for attendees.

Dinner is provided at no cost courtesy of the Kansas Soybean Commission. To assist with meal arrangements and meeting materials, participants are asked to pre-register by Friday, January 14th. Online registration is avail-

able at <http://bit.ly/KSU-Soybean> or via the Holton Office of the Meadowlark Extension District at (785) 364-4125 (e-mail [dhallaue@ksu.edu](mailto:dhallaue@ksu.edu)). In case of inclement weather, contact the Holton Office or visit [www.meadowlark.k-state.edu](http://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu) for details.

## Realizing no-till benefits requires residue management

No-tillage crop production is increasingly popular as growers seek to reduce costs and enroll in new conservation programs. While reducing tillage offers several benefits, including trapping more soil moisture and reducing erosion, avoiding residue problems requires proper management.

"Being able to maintain and keep any sort of residue on a field would have been unheard of 40 years ago," said Matt Montgomery, Pioneer field agronomist. "Back then, soil would have been completely rolled over and all you would see are bare fields."

Corn residue resists

decomposition, which can create excess residue. Residue that is not incorporated in the fall will largely remain intact in the spring. In general, more corn residue decomposes when tillage is done in the fall than in the spring.

Whether tillage or stalk chopping was performed in the fall, it is important to bury residue as early as practical in the spring if the goal is to reduce high residue loads.

Residue can also be managed at the planter. Planter-mounted devices, such as coulters, clearing discs, sweeps, brushes and rolling fingers, can cut and move residue to clear a six- to ten-inch path in

front of the planting units. This can minimize the detrimental effects of residue in the row area while maintaining the residue benefits on the surrounding field.

"We may not have been handed our fields in great

condition, but we want to ensure we're handing off fields better to those generations coming after us," Montgomery said. "Starting clean and staying clean will help us hand off a better, more fertile field to future generations."



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**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Sadly, having sold the business, this will be the last auction held at 2323 N Jackson. COME SEE US OUT HERE BEFORE WE HANG UP OUR HATS!**

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## UPCOMING SPECIAL ISSUES

- Topeka Farm Show - Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>**
- Spring Full of Bullz - Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>**
- Crop Production & Protection - Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>**
- Farm Building Issue - March 1<sup>st</sup>**
- Equifest Issue - March 8<sup>th</sup>**
- Salina Farm Show Issue - March 15<sup>th</sup>**
- Bring on Spring - March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

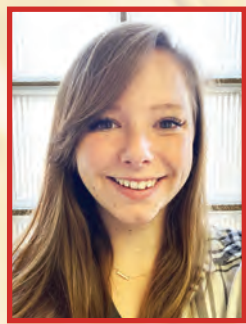
### DEADLINES:

- Topeka Farm Show - Wed., Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, before Noon**
- Spring Full of Bullz - Wed., Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, before Noon**
- Crop Prod. & Prot. - Wed., Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, before Noon**
- Farm Building - Wed., Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, before Noon**
- Equifest - Wed., March 2<sup>nd</sup>, before Noon**
- Salina Farm Show - Wed., March 9<sup>th</sup>, before Noon**
- Bring on Spring - Wed., March 16<sup>th</sup>, before Noon**

*To advertise in these or future special issues, contact your GRASS & GRAIN sales rep:*



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- 8:30 A.M. REGISTRATION & EXHIBITS**
- 9:00 A.M. WELCOME**  
*KSA President Teresa Brandenburg, Osborne*  
*KSC Chairman Bob Haselwood, Berryton*
- 9:15 A.M. KANSAS SOYBEAN COMMISSION PARTNER UPDATES**  
U.S. SOYBEAN EXPORT COUNCIL  
INTERNATIONAL GRAINS PROGRAM INSTITUTE
- 10:15 A.M. KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
*Larry Weaver, comedian*
- 11:30 A.M. LUNCHEON**  
*Greg Akagi, WIBW Radio, master of ceremonies*  
**FEATURED SPEAKER**  
*Gov. Laura Kelly*  
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS  
AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION REPORT  
*Charles Atkinson, Great Bend*  
KSA ANNUAL MEETING
- 1:30 P.M. KANSAS SOYBEAN YIELD AND VALUE CONTEST RESULTS**
- 2:00 P.M. SOYBEAN RESEARCH**  
*Ed Anderson, Ph.D., North Central Soybean Research Program*
- 3:00 P.M. MARKET UPDATE**  
*Darrell Holaday, AMC/Country Futures*
- 4:00 P.M. RECEPTION**

A project of the Kansas Soybean Association with funding from the Kansas Soybean Commission.

**PRE-REGISTER AT [WWW.KANSASSOYBEANS.ORG/EXPO](http://WWW.KANSASSOYBEANS.ORG/EXPO)**



After our first house burned when I was nine years old, the two things my Mama mourned most were her wedding ring and family pictures. Mama was tiny, had tiny hands, and her ring was too big. She kept it in a jewelry box on the top shelf of the linen closet in the bathroom. I remember watching her sift through the ashes trying to find it. She never did.

Those were the days before digital images, before cell phones, when taking photos was generally a special event occurrence. We dressed up once a year and went to Belk's Department Store for a "real" picture and a select number of family members received copies as gifts. Otherwise, family reunions, Christmas, Easter, graduations, and yes, funerals, the cameras came out. Mama still had

a Brownie camera and the film was mailed away to be developed into those square pictures we find in worn photo albums at estate sales and corners of antique stores now.

And all of ours were gone.

As we pored over house plans, cleared land, and strained our collective memories to itemize things for the insurance adjuster, Mama collected pictures. She went through Granny's pictures, my aunts' and uncles' shoeboxes, and got extras when there were any. When we finally moved into our new house, one of the most loved items was a folding, three-section frame with baby pictures of me, my sister, and my brother. It was on my sister's dresser.

I had just turned 17 and we were leaving for a trip to the coast. Daddy was a preacher and he served

two churches that were a five-hour drive from the Blue Ridge Mountains where we lived. So once or twice a month, we were up by four to be at church by ten or eleven for the Saturday meeting. Then we headed home on Sundays after preaching and a feast with one of the members.

Even though the fire that took our first home was due to no one's negligence (the inspector decided a mouse chewed a wire in two and it smoldered in the ceiling of our bedrooms where the blaze started), Mama double and triple checked everything before we left – stoves, irons, anything that could be plugged in was unplugged. I recall that particular morning, turning off the lights in my sister's bedroom and looking at that picture frame – the three black and white images of us as babies. I wanted to fold it up and put it in my purse and then I thought, how ridiculous!

We had arrived at church and were changing clothes for service. I was in the bathroom and I heard Daddy sob. I do not know another word for the sound. I was going through a laundry list in my head.

## Herbicide-resistant weeds? K-State researcher hopes to crush them

By Pat Melgares

A Kansas State University researcher in western Kansas says he may have an innovative way to kill weeds commonly found in farmer's fields: simply put, he wants to crush 'em.

That's right, says Vipin Kumar, a weed scientist at the Agricultural Research Center in Hays: he's studying a method known as Harvest Weed Seed Control (HWSC) in which weed seed is literally pulverized by a rolling cage mill that is fitted to the back of a combine during harvest.

"This system," Kumar said, "is designed to destroy weed seed so that it becomes non-viable for the next year."

HWSC is a method first advanced in western Australia, known as a region where weeds have developed widespread resistance to common herbicides. A version of the rolling cage mill was actually developed by an Australian grower who had be-

come frustrated with other weed control methods.

Current versions are also now being manufactured in Canada. Kumar is cooperating with weed scientists at Iowa State University and the University of Arkansas to find out just how effectively a system that crushes weed seeds will work in Midwest and High Plains crop fields.

"We don't know much yet; not much data exists in the United States," Kumar said. "We conducted a preliminary test this fall in a grower's field, and the seed crusher did a decent job of crushing Palmer amaranth seeds in a milo field that was heavily infested with pigweed.

"I'm hoping that this will be a good fit for wheat and soybean folks, as well, and that they can make good use of it in terms of integrated weed management."

Kansas farmers routinely face such nemesis as Palmer amaranth and other pigweeds, feral ryegrass and kochia, which have developed varying degrees of resistance to

herbicides. Because of that – along with the rising cost of chemicals and other inputs – farmers will need options for managing weeds.

"Longer term from a weed science standpoint, HWSC is one type of technique farmers need to bring into their management system if they want to mitigate the resistant weeds on the farm," Kumar said. "There is no silver bullet; you won't resolve all your problems with this method, but it can play a critical role in integrated weed management if you combine it with other methods of weed control, and you are making weed management plans for the next four to five years rather than an annual basis."

To date, the roller cage system is likely cost-prohibitive for farmers – manufacturers currently are producing the system for about \$75,000 – and using the system will require a combine to pull at 80-100 horsepower. But Kumar anticipates the price for the system will come down

over time as the technology is perfected and use becomes more widespread.

"As a researcher, we can show growers if it's going to work or not," Kumar said. "Over the next couple of years, we will create data from Kansas fields; we already have data from Iowa where we found that this system destroys more than 90% of waterhemp seed, using the same unit from the same manufacturer that we are using."

He anticipates that K-State's research also will dig deeper into the economics, factoring in the cost of equipment, potential yield increases and decreased use of herbicides.

Kumar, who is part of a national core of scientists that go by the acronym GROW (Getting Rid Of Weeds), has also studied the benefits of another HWSC known as chaff lining, in which crop chaff and weeds are funneled into narrow rows behind a combine. The residue is left to over-winter, causing the weed seed to decay, or the thin row can be destroyed with fire.

He has teamed with weed scientists from Colorado, Oklahoma, Iowa and Arkansas on two, multi-state grants funded by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The researchers will explore the effectiveness and relevance of chaff lining and the seed crusher as part of integrated weed management in the High Plains' no-till dryland crop production systems.

More information on weed management is available from the Western Kansas Agricultural Research Center in Hays.

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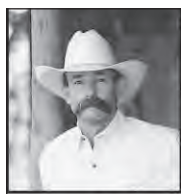
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ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

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Helicopters can spot and scare, if that's what you need, but it's helpless when you have to doctor a calf. It is a great feel-

ing to be pushing a cow out of a mesquite thicket, packing a dude down the Grand Canyon or tracking a mountain lion on a high ridge, knowing you're on the perfect tool for the job. You look at a horse different when he's on the payroll.

I like being a person to whom a horse matters.

It puts me in such good company, Robert E. Lee, Teddy Roosevelt, Rudyard Kipling, Ray Hunt, Queen Elizabeth, Jerry Diaz,

Casey Tibbs, cowboys, Mongols, Gauchos, teamsters, Lipizzaners and vaqueros of all kinds. Granted being a horse person doesn't make me easier to get along with, better at spelling, or richer, it simply gives me a direct connection to one of the most ancient, mutually beneficial interspecies relationships on the planet.

Winston Churchill said, "There is something about the outside of a horse, that is good for the inside of a man."

I like being there when a horse matters.

When you can't do the job alone; a cow in the bog, a race against time, a boulder to move, a detour to take, a mountain to cross, a crevice to leap, a war to win, a sweetheart to impress, or... when you've gone too far to walk back.

Shakespeare's King Richard III said when fate

hung in the balance, "A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!"

I've also come to believe that you either are a horse person or you aren't. Many who are never know it because they never have the chance. It's a primitive acceptance, often mutual. A lack of fear. You see it in some children when they are first introduced to the horse. It always gives me a sense of wonder to be there and help them make their acquaintance. I believe the horse can sense the child's innate trust. It is the beginning of a natural bond.

I count myself very lucky that I get to be a part of the wonderful world of horse sweat, soft noses, close calls and twilight on the trail.

I like living a life where a horse matters.

www.baxterblack.com

## FDA releases 2020 antimicrobial report

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine has published the 2020 *Summary Report on Antimicrobials Sold or Distributed for Use in Food-Producing Animals*.

The report shows that domestic sales and distribution of medically important antimicrobial drugs approved for use in food-producing animals decreased by 3% between 2019 and 2020. That is a 38% decrease since 2015, which was the peak year of sales. This suggests that continued efforts to support the judicious use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals are having an impact, the agency said.

## K-State Swine Profitability Conference set for February 8

Kansas State University's 2022 Swine Profitability Conference is planned for Tuesday, Feb. 8. This year's event will be hosted at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan.

Each year the Swine Profitability Conference focuses on the business side of pork production. "Important swine business topics such as the global pork outlook, positioning your system for the future and employee sourcing will be discussed this year, along with highlighting two growing swine businesses in our state," says Mike Tokach, K-State Department of Animal Sciences & Industry distinguished professor and swine Extension specialist. "This conference is designed for producers to increase their competitiveness in today's swine industry."

The conference will feature speakers from an array of swine-related businesses and organizations, including:

Joe Kerns, CEO/founder of Partners for Production Agriculture at New Horizon Farms, will address the U.S. Global Meat and Pork Outlook.

Tim Schwartz and Dr. Annie Lerner, Schwartz Farms Inc., will discuss entering the pork industry and their family's business.

Dr. Daryl Olsen, Audubon-Manning Veterinary Clinic, will talk about

growth and success within the swine industry.

Dr. Cassie Jones and Dr. Jason Woodworth, Kansas State University, will discuss student success in swine industry careers.

The Leon and Janice Dunn Family, Dunn Swine LLC., will share their story and how they are continuing their family's legacy.

"We feel the speakers for the 32nd Annual Profitability Conference are industry leaders with diverse backgrounds and understanding of the swine industry," says Joel DeRouchey, K-State Extension swine specialist. "They will provide take-home information for swine producers and allied industry partners alike."

The conference will take place at the Stanley Stout Center, 2200 Denison Avenue. The day begins with coffee and donuts at 9:15 a.m. and the program starting at 9:30 a.m. Lunch is included in the conference, which will end at 3 p.m.

Pre-registration is \$25 per participant and due by Jan. 28. Attendees can register at the door for \$50 per participant. More information, including online registration, is available at [www.asi.k-state.edu/events/swine-profitability-conference/index.html](http://www.asi.k-state.edu/events/swine-profitability-conference/index.html), [KSUSwine.org](http://KSUSwine.org) or contact Lois Schreiner at 785-532-1267 or <mailto:lschrein@ksu.edu>.

**Due to health reasons, Baxter Black is retiring.**

**This will be his final column.**

## Farmers & Ranchers

**AUCTIONS EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY**

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

**TOTAL FOR THE WEEK: CATTLE 3,134**

**BULLS: \$91-\$103.50**

**COWS: \$65.00-\$73.00**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021**

### CALVES

1 bwf	New Cambria	310@510.00
4 blk	Menlo	286@510.00
1 blk	Minneapolis	240@400.00
6 blk	Menlo	213@400.00
1 blk	Longford	95@350.00
1 blk	Solomon	190@325.00

### COWS

1 blk	Lindsborg	1560@73.00
1 blk	Minneapolis	1600@73.00
1 Red	Solomon	1530@70.00
2 blk	Newton	1685@69.50
1 blk	Alma	1750@69.50
1 blk	Durham	1578@69.00
1 blk	Minneapolis	1590@68.00
1 bwf	Marion	1880@68.00
1 bwf	Lindsborg	1610@68.00
1 Red	Gypsum	1560@67.50
1 blk	Atlanta	1565@67.00
1 bwf	Newton	1470@66.00
1 bwf	New Cambria	1515@65.00

### BULLS

1 bwf	Salina	2460@103.50
1 blk	Salina	2165@103.00
1 blk	Abilene	1990@100.50
1 blk	Abilene	1900@98.50
1 blk	Longford	1740@96.00
1 Char	Burns	2065@96.00
1 Char	Salina	1840@94.50
1 blk	Durham	1670@91.00

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021**

### BRED COWS

49 blk	Mdcne Ldge young	@1,775.00
10 blk	Mdcne Ldge young	@1,685.00

12 blk	Mdcne Ldge young	@1,660.00
10 Red	Canton young	@1,650.00
19 blk	Canton young	@1,650.00
14 blk	Mdcne Ldge young	@1,628.00
4 blk	Lindsborg young	@1,625.00
41 blk	Nebraska young	@1,610.00
22 blk	Canton young	@1,610.00
18 Red	Canton young	@1,610.00
11 blk	Nebraska young	@1,600.00
11 blk	Atlanta young	@1,600.00
8 Red	Wilsey young	@1,560.00
43 blk	Mdcne Ldge young	@1,560.00
15 blk	Wakeeney young	@1,500.00
10 blk	Canton solid	@1,325.00
17 Red	ScoS City broke	@910.00

### BRED HEIFERS

12 bwf	Wakefield	@1,775.00
24 blk	Hillsboro	@1,700.00
13 bwf	Minneapolis	@1,700.00
36 blk	Gypsum	@1,700.00
45 blk	Hillsboro	@1,685.00
37 Red	Hays	@1,680.00
10 blk	Hillsboro	@1,675.00
21 blk	Minneapolis	@1,650.00
47 blk	Hillsboro	@1,650.00

### PAIRS

2 Red	Courtland	hfr @2,050.00
14 bwf	Menlo	young @1,900.00
44 blk	Menlo	young @1,885.00
15 blk	Canton	young @1,875.00
10 blk	Menlo	young @1,875.00
12 blk	Menlo	young @1,860.00
2 Red	Nebraska	young @1,825.00
10 blk	Cheney	young @1,825.00
2 Red	Canton	young @1,800.00
7 blk	Menlo	young @1,800.00
3 blk	Wilsey	young @1,750.00
8 blk	Cheney	young @1,725.00
9 blk	Wilsey	young @1,688.00
7 blk	Cheney	solid @1,375.00
6 blk	Cheney	broke @1,225.00

## 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](http://www.fandrive.com)**

**CATTLE USA.com LIVE CATTLE AUCTIONS**

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

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CUSTOMERS! WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS AND SUPPORT!**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**NEXT SALE WILL BE MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022**

## EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022 WEANED/VACC SALE (est. 4,000+ cattle to be consigned)

32 blk, s&h, 450-600, hay fed; 16 blk, s&h, 500-700, home raised, vacc, 60 days weaned; 80 blk/char, s&h, 600-800; 70 blk/char, s&h, 400-700; 150 blk, s&h, 400-650, running out, long weaned, 2 vacc; 25 s&h, 650-800, home raised; 100 blk/bwf, s&h, 45 days weaned, Cow Camp sired; 30 blk, s&h; 40 s&h, 650-800; 100 blk/bwf, s&h, home raised, 45 days weaned, Cow Camp sired; 30 s&h; 40 blk, s&h, 650-800; 50 s&h; 55 str; 200 blk/bwf, s&h, 50 days weaned, home raised, fall vacc; 200 blk/char, s&h, 500-650, Fink & Nelson & Lyon bulls; 90 blk/char, 550-750, no implant; 47 blk, s&h, 600-800, Don Johnson Angus sired; 30 blk, s&h, 600-750; 26 blk, s&h, 550-700, hot wire broke; 100 s&h (mostly str), 900-950; 60 blk and red, s&h, 700-850, balancer sired; 120 blk, s&h, 600-700; 60 s&h, 800; 270 blk, s&h, 600-800; 300 blk s&h, 600-800; 150 blk, s&h, 600-700, 3 vacc, Green Garden; 100 s&h; 100+ blk, s&h, 500-600; 45 s&h, 600, home raised; 200 blk, s&h, 600-750; 100 blk, s&h, 450-650; 630 blk, s&h, 600-800, 2 vacc; 140 blk/char, s&h, 600-700, PI neg, 2 vacc; 70 blk/bwf, s&h, 600-700, all shots, on rye; 90 s&h; 70 s&h; 25 s&h, 650-800, 2 vacc, long weaned, home raised, knife cut; 90 blk s&h, 650-800, long weaned, vacc; 50 blk/char, s&h, 600-700; 55 blk/red, s&h, 550-700, long weaned, 2 vacc; 65 mostly blk, s&h, 500-700, long weaned, 2 vacc, open; 100 s&h, 450-650, home raised, long weaned; 70 blk, s&h, 550-650, long weaned, vacc; 60 blk, s&h, 700-850, long weaned, 2 vacc; 50 blk/bwf, s&h, 600-700; 70 blk/red, s&h, 30 days weaned, 2 vacc, 500-700; 6 blk/bwf, hfr, 700, 2 vacc, no implant, long weaned, PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL SALES:

*All Sales are on Tuesday at 11 AM*

**SPECIAL COW SALES: Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

**WEANED/VACC SALES: Tuesday, January 4, 2022**

## IN STOCK TODAY:

**• Heavy Duty Round Bale Feeders  
42' ROUND BALE DUMP TRAILERS**

For Information or estimates, contact:

**Mike Samples, Sale Mgr., Cell Phone 785-826-7884**

**Kyle Elwood, Asst. Sale Mgr., Cell Phone 785-493-2901**

Jim Crowther  
785-254-7385  
Roxbury, KS

Lisa Long  
620-553-2351  
Ellsworth, KS

Cody Schafer  
620-381-1050  
Durham, KS

Kenny Briscoe  
785-658-7386  
Lincoln, KS

Kevin Henke  
H: 785-729-3473, C: 785-565-3525  
Agenda, KS

Austin Rathbun  
785-531-0042  
Ellsworth, KS

Check our listings each week on our website at [www.fandrive.com](http://www.fandrive.com)

