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Kansas reindeer farm cultivates the Christmas spirit

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On Sparkle, on Itsy Bitsy, on Prancer, on Vixen! That's how it usually goes, right?

At Fulton Valley Farms in Towanda, you can find live reindeer in the heart of Kansas. The family-owned event venue has been passed down from generation to generation since 1869. Its holiday event, A Country Christmas, features two reindeer named Itsy Bitsy and Sparkle.

"The first time we did our Christmas event, we knew we needed something special; something to elevate the next time," Richard Corbin, head reindeer wrangler and son of owner-operators Betty and David Corbin, says. "We ended up buying three reindeer, and just went from there."

Reindeer Games

The Corbins established their Dash Away Reindeer program in 2014. They now have five reindeer and are one of only two registered reindeer breeders in Kansas.

"It's been an education for us," Betty says. "We had zero experience with reindeer. And hardly anybody this far south has any experience with reindeer. We have been paying our educational dues, and we may be halfway to our bachelor's degrees at this point. It's been an expensive experience."

In addition to being regular attendees at A Country Christmas, the reindeer are available for birthdays, parades, corporate parties and other events. Due to government regulations, two reindeer, Itsy Bitsy and Sparkle, do the most traveling, and they've even been in a movie.

"We have two different sets of reindeer," Betty says. "They cannot be mixed together because one set is certified chronic wasting disease-free, and the others are work-



David, Betty and Richard Corbin, along with reindeer Sparkle and Itsy Bitsy, are ready to welcome visitors to Fulton Valley Farms in Towanda to celebrate the Christmas season.

Courtesy photos



Even the buildings on Fulton Valley Farms are festively decorated and lit.

ing their way through that process. It takes six years to be able to move them around like we move Itsy Bitsy and Sparkle around. It's not an easy thing."

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a contagious neurologic disease affecting elk, deer, moose, sika deer and reindeer. It can take years for an animal with CWD to develop symptoms, like weight loss and listlessness. CWD affects deer of all ages, is deadly and has no treatment. Protecting reindeer from this disease is a high priority for the Corbins.

"They're delicate animals," Betty says. "They're like big dogs with antlers;

they're gentle and sweet, but they are delicate. And when you put them in 100-degree temperatures during Kansas summers, you must be careful with them."

The reindeer must have health certificates and movement papers from the United States Department of Agriculture and Kansas Department of Agriculture before they travel. On average, the reindeer have approximately 45 jobs each year.

Due to CWD, reindeer are kept in separate pens, and they don't share things like feed pans. Taking care of reindeer is like taking care of other livestock,

such as cattle. Pens must be kept clean and reindeer should always have adequate water and food.

Change of Pace

David's great-great-grandparents, the Fultons, settled the land in the 1860s. It's been in the family for eight generations, and they've only made slight adjustments to the farmstead to host weddings, conferences, retreats and Christmas events.

"We didn't do much with the venue," Betty says. "Our barn is a hay barn. Our Santa Station was a dairy barn. We're the fourth generation to live in the house here. We've just

refurbished a lot. Fulton Valley Farms is on a secluded piece of land, with wooded areas, ponds, walking paths, streams and open spaces. It is also a working farm, and guests can see acres of crops growing around the venue.

"When people get here, they go, 'Oh my gosh, I didn't know this was the kind of land we had in Kansas,'" Betty says. "Everyone loves it. It's quiet, they can walk the wooded paths along a spring-filled creek, relax and talk to each other. When that's happening, we know that everybody's having a good time."

Christmas Spirit

Fulton Valley Farms becomes a special place after dark, especially during

Christmastime. Thousands of lights adorn their silo, surrounding trees and buildings. Guests can have dinner, view a live nativity scene, buy hot chocolate and enjoy time with their families.

"It's a great place to enjoy Christmastime," Betty says. "We have close to one million lights. When you walk the paths, we play music, and the lights in the trees jump to the music. It's beautiful."

The Corbin family is passionate about sharing the Christmas spirit.

"It just laid on my heart that we needed to be doing something for Christmas," Betty says. "People need to know why we have Christmas. It's a birthday party, not a giving party. One day I woke up and said, 'Okay, God, I get it. Finally, I get it.' It's the reason for the season."

For Betty, her favorite part about A Country Christmas is the live nativity.

"We don't have to make Christmas complicated," Betty says. "We've got giant crosses and trees, Santa and elves everywhere, we have all that stuff. But it's the live nativity vignette that drives what we do here."

The Fulton Valley Farms' 2021 A Country Christmas will be held through Dec. 19, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. General admission is \$10, and Santa, along with Itsy Bitsy and Sparkle, will be there.

Lock and dam renovation funding key to global competitiveness of U.S. soy

To ensure continued and reliable delivery of U.S. soybean exports to customers around the world, the soybean checkoff plans to fund pre-engineering and design work to enhance and maintain Lock and Dam #25 on the Upper Mississippi River — a U.S. infrastructure asset critical for efficient barge traffic.

"The river system in the United States is our life-line and one of U.S. soy's biggest advantages over our competitors," said Meagan Kaiser, USB farmer-leader and soybean farmer from Missouri.

"It's vital that our supply chain remain strong and reliable so we can continue to market our products and provide the most sustainable, reliable nutrient source for our customers. Soybean farmers understand this, which is why the checkoff is working to modernize U.S. infrastructure and return value back to the farm."

United Soybean Board (USB), the Soy Transportation Coalition, Illinois Soybean Association, Iowa Soybean Association, Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council and Iowa Corn Promotion Board are proposing a \$1 million investment to offset pre-engineering and design work expenses required to move the project forward. A new video from USB explains the cooperative effort.

If approved for federal funding, the project would be the first under the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP). NESP is a long-term program, authorized by Congress, to improve and restore the Upper Mississippi River System. Primary opportunities of improvement include reducing commercial traffic delays while restoring, protecting and enhancing the environment.

Lock and Dam #25 is one of seven existing locks specified by NESP for improvements. These

existing locks, constructed in the 1930s, experience significant delays due to the single 600-foot lock chambers that raise and lower vessels moving from one water level to another. The 600-foot chambers require 1,200-foot barges to be disconnected and double-locked, significantly slowing delivery of U.S. grain commodities.

According to a report prepared for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service, Lock and Dam #25 accommodates 200 million bushels of soybeans annually. The Waterways Council, Inc. states an outage at this facility would cost nearly \$1.6 billion and increase the number of truck traffic trips by more than 500,000 annually. Additionally, a 2016 economic impact analysis by the USDA demonstrated this lock and dam's importance — predicting that even just a three-month shut down (Sept.-Nov.) would result in aggregate economic activity related to grain barge transportation declining by \$933 million.

"Agricultural products comprise 70% of what we move through this part of the Mississippi River, so it's significant to U.S. farmers and international customers that rely on this infrastructure to have our transportation corridor functioning," said Andy Schimpf, navigation business line manager, U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers. "Barge transport via the lock and dam system provides the most economical, efficient and sustainable method of shipping U.S. soybeans and other goods."

Lock and Dam #25 isn't the first critical infrastructure project taken on by the soy checkoff. In 2019, the checkoff invested in research, analysis and design to initiate dredging of the lower Mississippi River. That initial funding helped open the door to a \$245 million investment from the federal government and the state of Louisiana to dredge the area from 45 to 50 feet. Once complete, the project is estimated to create an additional \$461 million value opportunity for U.S. soybean farmers.

"Investments should never be regarded as a one-time activity," said Mike Steenhoek, executive director, Soy Transportation Coalition. "They must be perpetual. Infrastructure investments that soybean farmers have made in the past have positioned us for future success. We want to continue that level of investment, so U.S. soybean farmers and their consumers continue to benefit."

To learn about key investments made on behalf of U.S. soybean farmers, sign up for the Soy Hopper newsletter at unitedsoybean.org/newsletter.

K-State Department of Agricultural Economics raises \$2M for Barry Flinchbaugh Chair

The Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics announced it has surpassed its \$2 million fundraising goal for the Barry Flinchbaugh Chair in Agricultural Economics.

The chair honors Flinchbaugh's contribution to food and agricultural policy across the state and nation, as well as his contributions as a teacher, mentor and influencer.

"History records Flinchbaugh's legacy as an influencer and educator in agricultural policy and economics. He leaves a lasting impact on the department, university and the agriculture industry," said Allen Featherstone, department head. "Barry's dream was to endow a chair into perpetuity that would provide risk capital to continue to build upon the national and state legacy that he established."

Featherstone said the chair will be used to recruit and retain the highest quality faculty in the Department of Agricultural Economics and provide risk capital to allow innovative activities in agricultural policy.

The goal of the chair, he added, is to continue the choices and consequences model of agricultural policy championed by Flinchbaugh. It is anticipated that a stakeholder advisory board will be established to guide the activities of the chair.

"Reaching the \$2 million level merely opens the door for great things to start happening with the Flinchbaugh Chair," said Rich Porter, owner of Porter Farms, Master of Agribusiness alum, and leading contributor to the Flinchbaugh Chair. "These activities include continued educational activities to keep Kansas State University prominent in the agricultural policy arena."

Porter said K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics would like to raise an additional \$500,000 to fund activities connected with the Barry Flinchbaugh Center. "If you were considering donating toward the chair, we can still make great use of donations," he said.

According to Featherstone, two programs have been established under the Chair:

The Flinchbaugh Food and Agricultural Policy Fellowship Program, to provide a federal and state level agricultural policy experience to grow future policy leaders.

The Flinchbaugh Agricultural Policy Student Scholarship, to provide an undergraduate scholarship to a student studying agricultural policy.

Additional contributions to the chair will help establish a 'Kings and Kingmakers' lecture series to continue Flinchbaugh's legacy of sharing ag policy on a public stage; a Flinchbaugh Legislator Policy Bootcamp to provide new and seasoned legislators with agriculture and food education and capacity building experience on agricultural policy; and additional programs to provide research and education for current stakeholders to bring information to the people through conferences, policy forums and timely reporting of agricultural policy research.

For more information on the Flinchbaugh Chair, contact Featherstone at afeather@ksu.edu.



Waiting for Winter

By Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau

The deer heard my footsteps crunching oak leaves as I crested a hill coming up out of the creek bottom. They didn't make a sound as they darted through the clearing ahead of me. The white of their tails only briefly signaled their retreat before they slipped farther into the tree line.

I was taking advantage of decent temperatures to get one last hike in through the forest. They were fattening up before the real weather arrived. I had intruded on their

afternoon of browsing on acorns scattered across the ground.

The deer weren't the only sign of colder days ahead. Everywhere I looked there were scant few signs of the previous growing season. A few persimmon fruit were still attached to one tree, but the majority of the burnt orange orbs were scattered among the acorns and hickory nuts on the forest floor.

Except for a few maples, whose foliage had turned a deep red warning of what's to come, the rest

of the trees had shed their leaves. The bare branches overlapped like thin fingers against the steel-gray sky.

I pushed on, crossing the clearing, sliding down the other side of the hill back to the creek valley. The wind was blowing hard enough to make 65 feel a bit chilly when out in the open. In the protection of the trees and terrain, however, my sweatshirt proved to be almost too warm.

I worked south as I scouted for an easy crossing, finding a gravel bar after a short hike along the bank. The ripples in the crystal-clear water spanned about four feet and appeared to be only a few inches deep. I carefully placed my foot on a mossy rock, and the water rose to just below my ankle. My treated boots

kept my feet dry, but those and my wool socks couldn't keep the cold from creeping in like an unwelcome guest.

After making it across, I continued my push farther upstream. I stopped at a pool on the far side of a ten-foot bank. The water was perfectly still, which provided a mirror image of the barren and khaki-colored world around it when viewed from an angle. Stepping to the water's edge, I could see minnows still flitting about above the bedrock polished by running water.

The opposing bank was a geological time capsule from the tan topsoil with roots protruding to the first sheet of shale, which stair-stepped into the water below. The sedimentary veneer once layered at the bottom of a shallow sea are now being carved

away by a seasonal stream.

This is where I decided to end my journey on foot. The valley narrowed up ahead and the tree cover lessened, allowing for more undergrowth. While a recent frost had taken care of the ticks and copperheads, there were still plenty of locust trees and other thorny obstacles ahead.

I retreated to the comfort of a four-wheeler and revved it down an old dirt road, crossing a low-water bridge. The road climbed up a hill before disappearing into pasture. I followed the crest of the hill looking over the creek below, watching as the large hardwoods to the north transitioned to a smattering of redbuds and finally brush along the banks.

Just as the brush was giving way to grassland, I spooked another deer, a

single doe, out into the open. I got a better look at her than the others. She appeared to be in good health and looked primed for the season to come. She cleared a fence without any hesitation and, moments later, was gone over the horizon.

I thought it best to end my intrusion here and went to my truck. On the drive home, I couldn't help but think about how fortunate I was to have the time and cooperative weather to wander through a world waiting for winter to arrive. I'm not quite ready, but it will be here soon.

"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.

Moran announces \$1.5 million USDA investment in Kansas small and mid-sized meatpackers

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran recently announced a \$1,594,970 U.S. Department of Agriculture's investment in eight Kansas small and mid-sized meatpackers through the Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG) program. The MPIRG program was created by Moran's legislation, the Requiring Assistance to Meat Processors for Upgrading Plants (RAMP-UP) Act, for small and mid-sized meatpacking plants to make the necessary investments to become federally inspected. Currently, meatpacking facilities can only make sales across state lines if they are federally inspected.

"Small meatpackers in Kansas are a vital component in our supply chain, providing new market opportunities for regional livestock producers and helping meet a growing, nationwide demand for quality meat and poultry," Moran said. "I introduced the RAMP-UP Act to equip small meatpackers with the necessary resources to meet federal standards, and I am pleased to see the resulting investment will help meatpackers across Kansas expand their businesses and reach a wider customer base with the ability to sell their products across state

lines."

The MPIRG's Planning for a Federal Grant of Inspection project supports small and mid-sized meat processing facilities working to meet the standards of the Federal Meat Inspection Act or Poultry Products Inspection Act and the MPIRG's Cooperative Interstate Shipment Compliance project is assisting facilities working to meet the standards to operate under a state's Cooperative Interstate Shipment program.

The RAMP-UP Act was signed into law by President Trump on December 27, 2020 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.

MPIRG Grant Recipients in Kansas:

- Burkhart Meat Processing (Kinsley): Doubles their current slaughter and processing capacity and obtain a Federal Grant of Inspection.

- Alta Vista Locker (Alta Vista): Supports modernization of facilities to improve the safety and speed of the slaughter process.

- Price Ventures (LaCygne): Expands current slaughter and processing capacity to meet demand by local

producers currently served and increase access for new producers.

- Freedom Meats (Caney): Expands and upgrades facility to a retail meat operation and finish obtaining Federal Grant of Inspection.

- Circle P Processing (Waterville): Modernizes equipment, allowing for increased safety standards, to obtain a Federal Grant of Inspection.

- Schenker Family Farms Inc. (McCune): Obtain a Federal Grant of Inspection to expand distribution channels for specialty foods.

- BD Meats Inc (Yoder): Supports modifications necessary for Federal Grant of Inspection, expands facility size and allows renovation of freezer space to accommodate increased processing capacity.

- Dieck's Inc (Clay Center): Increases production of raw and further processed meats and helps obtain Federal Grant of Inspection, allowing local producers to broaden markets.

Waiver from trucking federal rule extended

The National Pork Producers Council thanked the Biden administration, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Meera Joshi, deputy administrator of DOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for ex-

tending to Feb. 28, 2022, a waiver from commercial truckers from the federal Hours of Service regulation.

The HOS rule limits truckers to 11 hours of driving time and 14 consecutive hours of on-duty

time in any 24-hour period and requires prescribed rest periods.

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 and prompted by NPPC's efforts to ensure pork producers could continue transport-

ing hogs, the FMCSA included livestock haulers in an initial emergency

declaration that provided an exemption from the HOS regulation for commercial truckers hauling essential supplies, including livestock. The waiver subsequently was

expanded to cover the delivery of livestock feed.

"We're pleased the FMCSA recognized the challenges COVID still presents and the problems it has created, including supply chain issues, for the livestock industry and acted accordingly," said

NPPC president Jen Sorenson. "Extending the HOS waiver ensures that livestock truckers can get hogs to market safely and efficiently. Likewise, truckers hauling livestock feed can get those essential supplies to farms."

In August, the FMCSA extended the waiver to Nov. 30. In that extension, the agency also requested that livestock haulers who use the waiver report that within five days of the end of each month on their FMCSA portal.

A provision in the infrastructure bill recently signed into law expanded the miles agricultural truckers can drive without the HOS restrictions. Drivers hauling livestock already were exempt from the HOS rule for the first 150 air miles of their runs. Now they also will be exempt from HOS rules for the final 150 air miles from their final destination, providing additional flexibility to ensure drivers can safely complete their deliveries while protecting other drivers and ensuring the welfare of the animals in their care.



Thanksgiving is over and now the Christmas season can begin. Tatum and I have been having this discussion for a few weeks now; she started listening to Christmas music shortly after Halloween and that is completely wrong in my book. I say, one holiday at a time. Of course, the stores all started putting Christmas stuff out shortly after the Fourth of July, especially Hobby Lobby. That is another reason I try never to set foot in that store. Believe me, as soon as the dishes are cleared Thanksgiving, I am ready to start the Christmas season and it is my favorite time of the year.

When I was a little kid, I do not ever remember writing a letter to Santa Claus. That could explain some of the lean Christmases. Actually, my behavior as a child probably has a lot more to do with it, as well as the grain and livestock markets. Looking back, though, I have decided that I should have covered all of my bases and written a letter to Santa. I could really use a good Christmas this year so why not start now. Here is my letter to Santa.

Dear Santa, I have been really good this year. I have kept the amount of grumbling and growling to a minimum when working livestock or working on equipment. I know my family may not agree but I have tried really hard to be good, I hope, and I promise to be better next year. I would just come down to the mall and see you myself, but the security guards keep kicking me out of line.

I do not need much but if you could provide me with timely rains, good markets and take a few of these aches and pains away, we could call that good for this year. I guess you're not the one who controls the rain and even Santa does not have any sway on the markets. Yes, I know what causes the aches and pains and that is probably up to me to take care of but surely as someone who lives on cookies and milk you can understand the struggle.

If rain and the markets are out, how about you bring me a pickup that does not break down, cows that stay in and a dog that listens? See, rain and the markets were not so bad. I guess a new

pickup is a lot to ask for given all the supply chain problems this year and as far as the cows that stay in, how about a new fence charger? I bet you have some good fencing ideas, keeping flying reindeer in should be right up there with goats. As for the dog listening, I do not know why I should expect that when no one and nothing else does. By the way, all Roo the cow dog wants is for the cone of shame to come off before Christmas. To be honest, we would all like that, too.

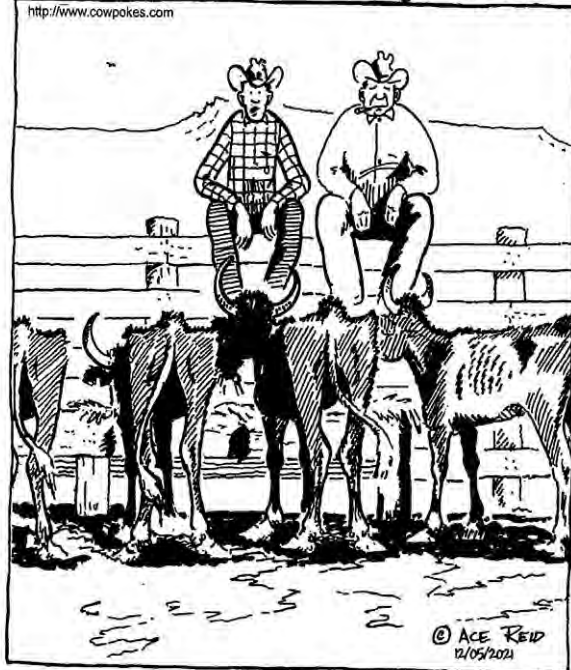
I guess I really do not need much, I have come to the point in my life where socks are exciting gifts. I have learned that possessions are just stuff that wears out and accumulates. Jennifer tells me I do not really need any more stuff and she is right. All I really want for Christmas is for the kids to make it home, good health and a full house. I would really like it if I could get together with all of my friends and family and not worry about what is going on in the world around us.

I would not mind some peanut brittle or sugar cookies, but more than that I just want to be able to get back to the things that make the Christmas season special. I want to sing Christmas carols and attend Christmas Eve service. I want to go to Christmas parties to see old friends, laugh, talk, and enjoy good food. I want to listen to Christmas music, watch the classic Christmas movies and look at lights. Most of all, I want time to just enjoy the season and not be in so much of a rush. That is not too much to ask, is it?

On second thought, I really do not need to send you my list. You need to focus on those kids who are anxiously sending their lists to you and waiting with great anticipation. If you could swing that rain thing and the markets, I would sure appreciate it, but I was going to take my chances anyway, with or without your help.

No, how about we just work together to bring a little of the Christmas spirit to this world, we really need it right now. I know you will do your part and I will try to do mine. All of us jolly, fat guys need to stick together. Good luck out there this year, we are all pulling for you.

COWPOKES® By Ace Reid



"Wilbur, when I said I wanted medium quality cattle I didn't want 'em this medium!"



"A FELLA BACK THERE JUST TOLD ME THAT BEFORE IT BECAME A MAJOR SHOPPING HOLIDAY, CHRISTMAS WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE HAD SOME SORT OF RELIGIOUS MEANING..."

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Publisher - Tom Carlin
Managing Editor - Donna Sullivan
gandgeditor@agpress.com

— Advertising Staff —
Shelby Mall, Josie Bulk, Madison Rogers
shelby@agpress.com, josie@agpress.com,
madison@agpress.com

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K-State researchers seeking best ways to grow cotton in Kansas

Is there room for cotton in Kansas... the Wheat State?

There certainly is, said Kansas State University water resources engineer Jonathan Aguilar, who is currently studying the best ways to grow a crop that is traditionally grown in warmer climates.

"One of the reasons we are looking at cotton is because it is drought resistant, or at least doesn't need a lot of water compared to other crops grown

in (southwest Kansas)," said Aguilar, who is located in K-State's Southwest Research-Extension Center in Garden City.

"The other reason we are doing research on growing cotton is because we are at the northern edge of cotton production in this region. We've been growing cotton for three years; our first question was whether it will grow here, and if it will, can it produce a decent yield?"

So far, he says, the an-

swers are "yes" and "yes."

"We are still getting samples for this year's crop," Aguilar said, "but it looks like we will have a nice yield."

Much of K-State's research is focused on irrigated cotton, as part of a rotation with other crops. Even though researchers are using available water, Aguilar said the crop requires less of it than other crops.

"Surprisingly in our region - and I think our

colleagues in Oklahoma say the same thing - if we put more water on cotton, it actually diminishes the yield compared to when you are putting just the right amount, or even limiting the amount of water that the crop receives."

In other words, growing cotton in Kansas may require applying water at the proper time, rather than the actual volume applied.

"We are finding that if we put water just at the

critical stage of growth, it will out-perform fully irrigated cotton," Aguilar said.

Aguilar noted that K-State's research will continue for two more years to fully understand the proper management to grow profitable cotton in the state. Compared to such states as Texas and Oklahoma, Kansas has fewer warm days and the populations are not the same as are grown farther south.

"There's an art and a science to cotton," he said. "We are learning more about that. There are instances when we can apply water at the right time when it will produce more compared to not applying water in a strategic way."

More information on water management in southwest Kansas is available online from K-State Southwest Research-Extension Center.

NCBA 75% plan Q3 Analysis shows major trigger tripped for second time this year

Based on recent analysis of the third quarter of the NCBA voluntary framework to increase negotiated trade and price discovery, which was implemented January 1, packer participation in weekly negotiated trade in some regions during the third quarter was insufficient to satisfy the 75% plan, tripping a major trigger for the second time this year.

As a result, policy states that "NCBA will pursue a legislative or regulatory solution determined by the membership." This does not mean that NCBA must au-

tomatically support any legislation pending in Congress. Instead, NCBA members will develop policy during the 2022 annual convention in Houston next February.

"We should not dismiss the successes we achieved along the way. Negotiated trade volumes are up considerably this year compared to years past, particularly in the southern plains," NCBA president Jerry Bohn wrote in a letter to NCBA members announcing the third quarter analysis. "Your efforts are not in vain. They are making an impact, and it is sincerely valued."

Free training for Kansas produce growers set for early 2022

A series of online and in-person workshops scheduled for early 2022 will help Kansas growers sell safer produce while also opening new opportunities to sell their goods, said a Kansas State University food safety specialist.

Londa Nwadike, who holds a joint Extension appointment with K-State and the University of Missouri, said some larger Kansas fruit, vegetable and herb growers have a regulatory requirement to attend training under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

"However, any Kansas grower who is selling produce will benefit from attending these training sessions because they will be able to sell safer produce,

which is in the best interest of the produce grower," Nwadike said. "Growers will also have a chance to meet other growers and learn from each other."

The workshops, she added, cover practical, risk-based assessments for growing safer produce.

The schedule of FSMA Produce Safety Grower Training sessions in Kansas include:

Jan. 25 and 27 (1 p.m. to 5 p.m.) - online only. Registration is available online.

Feb. 9 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) - Olathe. More information is available online.

Feb. 18 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) - Wichita. More information is available online.

K-State and the University of Missouri also are offering FSMA Produce Safety annual supervisor

training at the following times and locations:

Jan. 18 (2 p.m. to 4 p.m.) - Olathe. Registration is available online.

Jan. 21 (2 p.m. to 4 p.m.) - Online only. More information is available online.

Feb. 17 (2 p.m. to 4 p.m.) - Wichita. More information is available online.

"Some produce buyers - grocery stores, distributors, schools and others - may require that the produce they purchase is certified according to Good Agricultural Practices (known as GAPs)," Nwadike said. "Therefore, if a grower wants to sell to those markets, which are usually more lucrative and stable, they will need to be GAP certified."

K-State is offering on-

line training to assist growers in getting GAP certified and to develop a food safety plan on Feb. 14 from 2-4 p.m. More information and registration is available online. This training costs \$5.

All other training sessions are free. More information is available online at <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/foodsafety/produce>

K-State Research and Extension has been providing produce safety training in Kansas since 2017. "These trainings," Nwadike said, "have enabled produce growers to comply with federal produce safety regulations. They have also enabled Kansas growers to sell safer produce, hopefully reducing the number of foodborne illnesses caused by Kansas-grown produce."

Coyote populations continue to grow throughout U.S.; K-State expert says trapping is best way to resolve interactions with livestock

If it seems like there are a lot more coyotes mingling in human spaces these days, it's because... well, there are.

"When we look at abundance trends, the population of coyotes has increased three-fold since the fur market crashed in the late 1980s," said Drew Ricketts, a wildlife management specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

Depending on time of year, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks estimates between 150,000 and 300,000 coyotes live in Kansas alone. Coyotes are found in every U.S. state, except Hawaii.

They are also being seen increasingly in more heavily populated areas. Ricketts notes that wildlife cameras have eyed coyotes in such cities as Chicago, Portland and Denver. Researchers in Chicago found that coyotes even learned how to use traffic control signals: "They were waiting until lights turned green before crossing the street," Ricketts said. "They have learned to navigate an urban landscape."

"One of the things that has allowed coyotes to be so successful is that

they are so adaptable," Ricketts said. "We typically think of coyotes as predators, whereas they are really omnivores (an animal that eats plant and animal food). They eat a lot of insect matter, fruits and vegetables; they eat a lot of animal matter, too, but they are also good at capitalizing on human by-products, like trash. So in cities they are able to make a living."

Ranchers have long viewed coyotes as a threat to small livestock, especially goats, sheep and newborn calves. Ricketts said of the dozens of calls he takes yearly from farmers and ranchers on wildlife intrusions, nearly half of those relate to coyotes, even though coyotes aren't always to blame for suspicious livestock deaths.

It is legal to hunt coyotes in Kansas, but Ricketts said "population control is not effective. We have been trying to eradicate coyotes for a couple hundred years, and we still haven't been able to do it."

Most landowners - in rural and urban settings - resolve themselves to trapping animals once they become a problem

in their area. The K-State Research and Extension publication, *How to Trap a Coyote* (originally published in 1975), is still one of the organization's most popular downloads each year, with a high of 10,217 views in 2014.

Ricketts said K-State Research and Extension also has published a series of videos on setting traps and picking a location. The five video series is available online.

"Trapping is more likely to take care of those problem animals," Ricketts said. "Traps are working 24 hours a day. They are a bit more effective at dealing with problem animals than hunting."

Snares and foothold traps are the most common ways to catch a coyote that is preying on farm livestock, according to Ricketts. While snares are effective, they are also more dangerous to sheep, goats and guardian dogs.

Foothold traps, he said, rarely do much damage or cause injuries, but their placement is critical to success. Ricketts said foothold traps should be placed in areas where there are coyote tracks or scat; near pond dams or a trail; or in a specific area

where the problem is occurring. More information on wildlife management is available online from K-State Research and Extension, or visit your local Extension office.

safety outreach, according to Nwadike, enabling the state's Extension service to hire a full time produce safety associate who provides technical assistance and on-farm visits.

The Kansas Farmers Union also provides scholarships to cover the remaining costs of training. Those interested in cost-share funding for GAP certification may contact Nwadike at lnwadike@ksu.edu for more information.

EARLY GRASS & GRAIN ADVERTISING DEADLINE FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

DECEMBER 28th EDITION:

1st Section: **WEDNESDAY, December 22nd**; ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN 11:00 A.M.

2nd Section: **THURSDAY, December 23rd**; ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON

JANUARY 4th EDITION

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

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

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2021 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

This Week's Holiday Recipe Contest Winner Is Beth Scripser, Abilene

Beth Scripser, Abilene:
PECAN BARK

13 graham crackers
1 cup butter
1 cup brown sugar
2 cups chopped pecans
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla

Grease a large cookie sheet and line it with foil sprayed with oil also. Combine butter, brown sugar, pecans and salt in a large saucepan and bring to a boil. Boil for 2 minutes. Take it off the burner and add vanilla. Line the cookie sheet with graham crackers and pour the pecan mixture over the top. Bake for 10 minutes in a 350-degree oven. Take out and let it COOL before you break it into pieces.

Susann Mullet, Wakefield: "This is good with fruit and milk for breakfast."

BAKED OATMEAL

Mix:
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 cup sugar
2 eggs

Then add:
3 cups oatmeal
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup milk

Bake in an 8-by-8-inch greased pan at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Sheila Lewis, Marysville: "Delicious!"

HONEY BUN COFFEE CAKE

Cake:
1 package yellow cake mix
1 cup sour cream
3/4 cup vegetable oil
4 large eggs, well-beaten

Topping:
1/3 cup honey

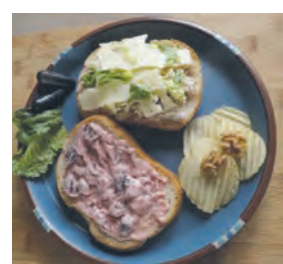
1/3 cup brown sugar
1 tablespoon cinnamon
1/2 cup chopped pecans, optional

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Blend all cake ingredients in a large mixing bowl on low speed for 1 minute then on medium for 2 minutes. Pour batter into a greased 9-by-13-inch pan. Drizzle the honey over the cake batter then sprinkle with brown sugar then cinnamon and last the nuts (if using). With a knife swirl the topping through the batter to blend. Bake at 350 degrees for 38 to 40 minutes.

Glaze:
2 cups powdered sugar
1/3 cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine glaze ingredients and pour over the top of the cake while warm.

Kathy Hogue of Topeka/Alma, "thinks this recipe is tradition worthy. Get out that leftover turkey you froze, toast thick bread slices and try this simple spread. Add Havarti cheese and a lettuce leaf for color. Yum! It's really good on most sandwich combinations."



CRANBERRY MAYO

1 cup real mayonnaise
14-ounce can whole berry cranberry sauce

Combine both ingredients in a mixing bowl and chill in a covered glass container. How simple is that?! This makes a large batch but keeps well.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh: TOFFEE CHEX MIX

12.8-ounce box Rice or Corn Chex cereal
3 cups assorted nuts (pecans, almonds)
3 cups pretzel thins or knots
1 cup butter
2 cups brown sugar
3/4 cup light corn syrup
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 teaspoon baking soda

Place 2 oven racks close to the middle of the oven. Preheat to 250 degrees. Line 2 large baking sheets with foil and spray generously. In a huge bowl add cereal, nuts and pretzels. In a large saucepan melt butter then add brown sugar, syrup and salt. Bring to a boil stirring often. Boil 2 minutes then remove from heat and carefully stir in vanilla and baking soda. Pour over cereal mixture (will be very hot). Stir from bottom up and mix well. Divide into 2 pans and bake 30 minutes, stirring every 10 minutes. Remove and stir to separate clumps. Transfer to air-tight container.

Olive McReynolds, Hays: "Great for a potluck meal."

HOT BEAN DISH

1 pound bacon, chopped
1 pound hamburger
2 large onions, diced
1 large can green beans, drained
1 large can butter beans, drained

1 large can red kidney beans, not drained
1 large can of pork and beans
Salt to taste
Garlic powder to taste
1/4 cup molasses
1/4 cup vinegar
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
3/4 cup brown sugar

Brown bacon; drain and add hamburger and onions. Brown and drain. Put in crock-pot and add beans, salt and garlic powder. Mix in a pan and simmer for 15 minutes the molasses, dry mustard, vinegar and brown sugar. Add to crock-pot (I add 1/2 to 1 cup ketchup and water until juicy). Cook 4 hours on low.

Katrina Morgan, Americus: VEGETABLE CASSEROLE

1 can French-cut green beans, drained
1 can shoepeg white corn, drained
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 can water chestnuts, chopped

Layer ingredients into a 9-by-13-inch casserole dish. 1 can celery soup
16 ounces sour cream
1 cup grated Cheddar cheese
1 package (sleeve) Ritz Crackers, crushed

Mix celery soup and sour cream and pour over vegetables. Top with cheese. Sprinkle Ritz Cracker crumbs on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes.

Lucille Wohler, Clay Center:

CHEESY RANCH POTATO CASSEROLE

2 pounds frozen hash-browns
1/2 cup butter, softened
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 can cream of celery soup
1 pint sour cream
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
1 envelope Ranch dressing mix
Corn Flakes

Combine hashbrowns, butter, salt, pepper and cheese. Mix dry Ranch dressing with soup and sour cream. If too dry, add a little milk. Then mix with hashbrown mixture. Put into sprayed 9-by-13-inch pan and top with crushed Corn Flakes. Bake in 350-degree oven for 45 minutes.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

CRANBERRY CHICKEN
PECAN SALAD ROLLUPS
3 1/2 cups shredded chicken, cooked
3/4 cup dried cranberries
3/4 cup chopped celery
1/2 cup chopped pecans
3/4 cup mayonnaise
1 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
Tortillas, room temperature

Combine chicken, pecans, cranberries and celery. Mix mayonnaise, garlic powder and salt. Add to chicken mixture. Spread salad mixture onto tortillas evenly. Roll up. Refrigerate then take out and slice. Great appetizer or snack.

Marcile Shippy, Woodbine: "These are a pretty addition to a holiday cookie plate. Tasty also."

STRAWBERRY CREAM COOKIES

NOTE: Have all ingredients at room temperature.

2 sticks butter
1 cup sugar
3-ounce package cream cheese
1 tablespoon vanilla
1 egg yolk
2 1/2 cups flour
Strawberry jam

Mix in order as they are listed (except jam). Make into small balls; use a thumb and press a hole in the middle and fill with strawberry jam. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.

NOTE: Have found using "original" cream cheese (not fat-free) and using a good brand of jam works best.

Jackie Doud, Topeka: RICOTTA DIP

1 cup ricotta cheese
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon lemon juice
Salt & pepper to taste
1/2 cup mozzarella cheese
1/4 cup Parmesan cheese
Baguette bread slices
Crackers

Set oven to 400 degrees. Combine ricotta cheese, garlic, oil and lemon juice. Stir and add salt and pepper. Spread mixture evenly into a 6-inch pan. Sprinkle with Parmesan and mozzarella cheese on top. Bake 15 minutes at 400 degrees then turn on broiler and cook 5 minutes until golden brown. Serve with Baguette bread slices or crackers.

Joann E. Rossetto, Topeka: "This isn't just for Christmas. It has become a favorite of my family and I just made it for Thanksgiving. I also made one for a friend for her Thanksgiving dinner."

MERRY CHRISTMAS CRANBERRY FREEZE

3 cups cranberries (12-ounce bag), ground or finely chopped
1 1/2 cups sugar
8-ounce can crushed pineapple, drained
1/2 cup chopped walnuts
8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
1/2 pint whipping cream, whipped

Combine cranberries and sugar. Add pineapple and nuts; mix well. Gradually add to softened cream cheese until well-blended. Fold in whipped cream. Pour into serving dish or mold. Freeze. Place in refrigerator 30 minutes before unmolding or serving.

Kellee George, Shawnee: CROCK-POT CEREAL MIX

4 cups Rice Chex
3 cups Corn Chex
2 cups Wheat Chex
2 cups pretzels
2 cups bagel chips
1 cup Bugles
1 cup peanuts
10 tablespoons melted butter
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

Place all dry ingredients in crock-pot. Gently mix. Combine melted butter and Worcestershire together. In small amounts pour a little at a time on cereal mixture. Mix gently using 2 spoons to lift. When mixed cook on low 3 hours. For the first 2 hours stir every 25 minutes. Last hour stir every 15 minutes to keep from burning. Place a paper towel under lid to absorb moisture. Spread in large baking sheets to cool. Store in air-tight container.

Susan Schrick, Hiawatha:

2-INGREDIENT SUGAR COOKIES
1 box vanilla cake mix
2 cups plain non-fat Greek yogurt

Combine and drop by tablespoonfuls onto cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Top with vanilla frosting and sprinkles.

Penne Rowland, Williamsburg: "This recipe came from my mother. She always made it for the holidays. I am 73 now so I guess that makes it an old recipe!"

PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE
2 cups sugar
3/4 cup milk
1 cup peanut butter
11 marshmallows
1 teaspoon vanilla

Heat the sugar and milk to a soft boil. After sugar comes to a boil (about 8 or 9 minutes to soft ball stage), stir constantly. Add peanut butter, marshmallows and vanilla. Stir until mixture is getting stiff. Pour out onto waxed paper. Cool and cut.

Linda Kepka, Dorrance: FROSTED SUGAR COOKIES

1 cup butter
1 1/2 cups sugar
5 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 teaspoons baking powder
4 1/2 cups flour

For frosting:
3 cups powdered sugar
8 teaspoons milk
1/8 teaspoon vanilla

Melt butter in microwave until softened. Add sugar and beat. Add eggs one at a time, beating after each egg. Stir in vanilla, then add flour and baking powder, 1 cup at a time. Refrigerate dough for about 4 hours before rolling. Roll and cut cookies with cookie cutters and bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees. Let cookies cool; mix frosting ingredients and frost cookies.

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

CHRISTMAS PUNCH
12 cups cranberry juice
6 cups orange juice
4 cups lemon lime soda
2 oranges, sliced
2 tablespoons vanilla
1 cup frozen cranberries
Ice

Add cranberry juice, orange juice, soda and vanilla in a large punch bowl. Stir and then add ice cubes. Top punch with orange slices and frozen cranberries. Chill prior to use.

NOTE: You can make smaller amounts of punch.

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Tick Tock - Shopping Days are Numbered: DEC. 18

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Nov. 23 through Dec. 21

In observance of the holiday season, Grass & Grain will award the weekly winners \$40 in addition to the gift. Recipes received NOW through DECEMBER 13 will be entered in the holiday contest. Enter as often as you like during this period.

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Second chance to win! The names of all contestants will be entered in a drawing from which four names will be chosen. Each of these four contestants will receive \$40. Winners will be announced Dec. 21.

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Baking With Sugarbuns

By Michele Carlyon

December

This year has been a mixture of "Time please slow down," and "Hurry up, we cannot take any more." Now I find myself in December and slightly unsure of how we got here. Life has been pure chaos, in both the best ways and the absolute worst ways possible, but through it all we have somehow managed to arrive at December.

I have so many mixed emotions when it comes to December. There is nothing I like about the cold and snow crunching under my feet is equivalent to nails on a chalkboard to most. December also brings so many great celebrations. We start the month out by celebrating the two people who have given me my all-time favorite job, being an aunt.

Mike and Marissa both turn thirty-two; Mike on the eighth, Marissa on the second. Marissa was blessed with a little early celebration from her girls in the form of a unicorn pinata filled with her favorite candy and some of theirs. The girls also got to do their favorite thing of shopping for someone's birthday (their mom), on their own. Their dad takes them to the store, lets them look through the aisles and

buy whatever they think the person will love. To say that there are some unique choices would always be an understatement, but it makes them so happy and that always makes it worth it.

Shortly after Mike and Marissa celebrate their birthday, we will be celebrating Mika's big fifth birthday. I am flat-out not ready for her to turn five. Clearly, I have known since her birth that this was coming, but the realization that school is around the corner and that she gets more independent every day is all exciting yet terrifying for me. I want her to stay a sweet little girl that runs into my arms forever, but I am also so eager to see how she will change the world someday, because she will, no doubt that she will; with a heart like hers, you make changes, and you make an impact, and I cannot wait to see what that is.

After Mika's birthday comes Aunt Tiny's birthday, she is a Christmas baby. She will be here for Mika's birthday and then has plans to go explore some place new for her birthday. She is thinking Savannah might be a fun little getaway but has not landed on a destination

for certain. I will forever admire her sense of adventure and her desire to just go.

After the birthday celebrations comes all the different Christmas get-togethers. Christmas with our immediate family, Christmas with my mom's side and then Christmas with my dad's side. There will be lots of laughter, more food than necessary and quite possibly tears as we navigate the big holiday without some important people.

December will also bring opportunities to get back to baking and to do what I love as I spoil those around me with baked goods and treats. It will also hopefully bring one of my favorite holiday traditions of decorating Christmas cookies with the little ones, something we did with my grandma when we were little. December might have gotten here before I was fully ready for it, but I am thankful we are here, thankful for the smiles and the celebrations that it is sure to bring and more importantly thankful that it will bring us all together.

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: boobbrainsandbaking.

If you would like to contact Michele with comments please email mcarlyon88@gmail.com



Give A Little Heart

By Lou Ann Thomas

I'm not a shopper. I'm more of a buyer. I'll research prices and brands, and read hundreds of consumer ratings, then, when I have made my decision, I buy it.

And this year, with dire warnings of supply chain snafus and high demand leaving many shelves barren for holiday shoppers, I've decided to buy from local businesses, artists, craftspeople and performers. These are the people among us who had to put their lives, and in the case of performers, their livelihood on hold. Most are still struggling to return to some semblance of their former careers and incomes. A little extra holiday cheer sent and spent their way will go far to help them recover.

So first stop on my Holiday Shopping Spree is the websites of some of my favorite musicians. If there's a performer you enjoy and you think someone on your list might also, I can guarantee a CD with a note, in my case, saying, "I love Kelley Hunt and her song, 'Love Never Dies' on this CD always reminds me of you." You have not only given a beautiful CD, but you also gave a story and a memory. No better way to gift objects that are more than things than to invest in local creatives and artisans.

Keeping Foods Warm While Other Foods Get Done

By Cindy Williams, Food, Nutrition, Health & Safety, Meadowlark Extension

If you're preparing several foods that get "done" at different times, you often can successfully hold most hot foods for about 15 to 20 minutes in a preheated oven set to 200 to 250 degrees F. For longer than this, check frequently with a food thermometer, to assure the food is remaining at a temperature of 140 degrees or above. If necessary, adjust the oven temperature to a higher setting. Keeping foods

hot for extended periods (more than a couple of hours) may reduce the quality of the food.

Examples of ways to keep foods warm include:

- * Place pancakes or waffles in a single layer on a baking sheet as they're made if you want to serve them all at the same time.

- * Keep hot takeout food - such as barbecued meat or Chinese food - warm by transferring it to an oven-safe baking dish while you prepare another dish to serve with it.

- * If you mash potatoes in an oven-safe saucepan, place them in the oven to stay warm while you finish preparing the other foods.

- * When stir-frying foods in several batches, transfer heated foods to the oven until all foods have been stir-fried.

- * Chafing dishes, preheated warming trays, multi-cookers, slow cookers or toaster ovens may also be used to keep food warm.

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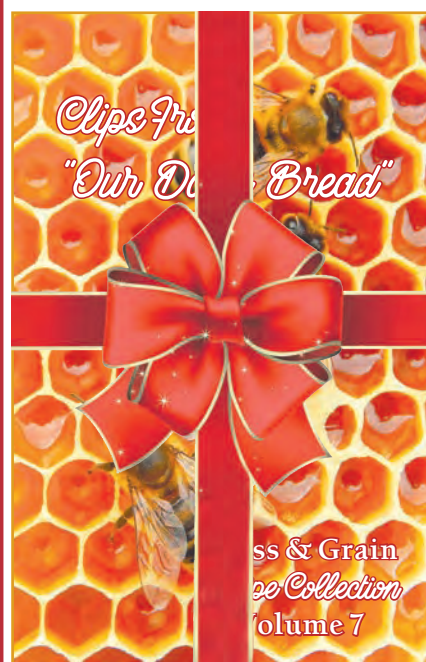
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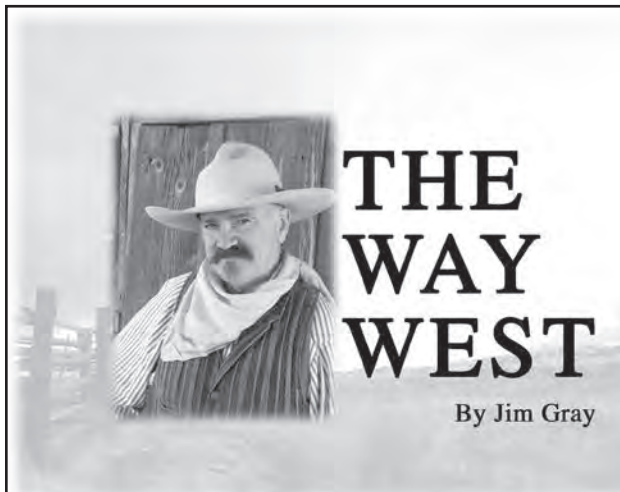
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THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

Dreams of Family Joys

The Fort Scott Daily Monitor published some interesting statistics related to the cattle business in their November 21, 1869 edition. The information illustrates why the demand for beef in the eastern United States drew so many Texas cattle up the long trail to the cattle depots along Kansas railroads.

Across the country

there were approximately eighty head of cattle per one hundred people. That number had remained steady for decades, having been documented from 1840 to the present year of 1869. When broken down to regions there were thirty head of cattle to one hundred people in the more heavily populated "Eastern States." The "Middle States" reported

a ratio of fifty to one hundred; "Western States" proved to have an equal number of cattle to people, while in the Southwestern States, including Kansas and Texas, four to five hundred head of cattle per one hundred people showed a great surplus of cattle.

The evident deficiency of cattle in the east revealed the motivation of Texas cattlemen to move their surplus cattle over hundreds of miles to reach emerging urban markets in eastern states. The editor of the Daily Monitor, George A. Crawford, saw an opportunity in the numbers for "young men - young men without means or experience, but overflowing with energy; young men, looking with an eager, hungry longing. For independence and family joys; young men, the sinners of our nations, and our hopes for the future."

Crawford quoted a Kansas letter published in the New York Tribune. "For several years young men in the East with no means... have been trying to ascertain in what way they could go West and do well; but the answer has been discouraging..." The Tribune piece explained that in so many cases those young men were not in a position to take advantage of the Homestead Act. In exchange for one hundred sixty acres of land the government required "improvements," the cost of

which was all too often beyond reach. The required dwelling would cost several hundred dollars, "and to fence forty acres, stock proof, will alone cost \$400."

One answer to the homesteading dilemma was to instead rent the land. Renting required a certain amount of investigation to find land to rent while patiently building wealth. Returning to the profitability of cattle generated by eastern demand the writer noted that an enterprising young man could find success in the stock business even if he began with one cow. With patience and perseverance a few years increase could give him quite a herd.

Crawford noted that he had the pleasure of knowing several young men who had come to Fort Scott "in much the same way" as was mentioned in the Tribune letter. To reinforce his case for building wealth from humble beginnings Crawford offered a letter from Mr. George D. Lockwood, a successful young stockman in the county.

Just how long Lockwood had been in Kansas was not stated although his words indicated that he had few assets when he arrived. "The truth is, that

humble as our home is, it is very much better than I expected to have when I left Ohio." Lockwood produced approximately twenty tons of hay during the summer to feed cattle in the winter. Another twenty-five tons had been purchased. He expected to buy seventy-five head of cattle before winter and, "if everything is favorable, (will) get hold of more in the winter... I am satisfied that investments here, either in land or cattle, will bring large returns."

As anyone who makes his living from the land knows, nothing stays the same. Some will prosper and some will fail. Drought, flood, hail, unstable market prices or any number of disasters await. Farming or in this case, stock raising, can be rewarding, but many a good manager has fallen victim to circumstances beyond his control.

Editor Crawford failed to mention the threat of Texas fever that had plagued Missouri and southeast Kansas since drovers began bringing longhorn cattle up the Shawnee Trail to lucrative markets beyond the Texas border. Interesting to note; Texas fever was not always brought in by the great Texas trail herds. Only weeks before

in the August 30, 1870, Fort Scott Monitor Crawford had reported that William Hoptonstall had lost two cows, his entire herd, to Texas fever. His loss meant starting over if that was at all possible. The source of the fever was possibly from ox teams made up of longhorns pulling freight wagons through the country, and not from a passing trail herd. The Monitor tendered, "We would advise all teamsters and others who employ Texas cattle, to avoid the border counties during the next two or three months..."

In spite of potential pitfalls, excitement ran high as the Missouri River, Fort Scott, and Gulf Railroad reached Fort Scott on December 7, 1869. Soon Texas cattle would be loaded on waiting cattle cars returning east. At the same time expectant young men would be arriving, overflowing with energy, seeking independence, and dreams of family joys waiting to be found 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.

Kansas-based KE Feeds launches RACK ELITE® Superior Deer Nutrition

KE Feeds recently launched RACK ELITE, a high-protein, and highly digestible deer nutrition product line perfect for deer hunters, outfitters, farmers, and growers. RACK ELITE, derived from dried distillers' grains, is available in pellets or convenient tubs. The highly digestible, molasses-free, high-protein product improves rumen efficiency, promotes rack growth and overall herd health.

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DT104, has the added benefit of vasodilator compounds that facilitate efficient nutrient absorption and relief from stress resulting from excessive heat. Studies indicate vasodilator compounds may increase antler development from 13% to 20%, and antler shedding occurs, on average, 30 days sooner. DT104 Plus is available in tubs or pellets.

DT105 is a super-sweet blend of corn and distillers' grains. The DT105 block is formulated with 20% protein and additional carbohydrates to increase herd attraction. Supplementary vitamins and minerals deliver sustained deer nutrition and it is ideal for extended feeding cycles.

DT105 Plus, with the same formulation as DT105, has the added benefit of vasodilator compounds that facilitate efficient nutrient absorption and heat stress relief. The convenience of DT105 and DT105 Plus tubs make extended feeding cycles feasible, resulting in overall improved deer herd health and maximum genetic expression for hunters seeking big bucks.

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A good man has left us. Doug Whitson was a former sheriff in Sherman County and "passionate about law enforcement," as one of his former employees said. I knew him because of history. He and his wife Pam volunteered often at the Fort Wallace Museum. They took part in our education weekends by guiding the students. They supported nearly every event we had. Their presence brightened the room. Their curiosity fueled our studies. Their insights were always meaningful.

Cattle Conversations online series - round 3

Kansas State Research and Extension is bringing you a series of short online cattle programs. These programs will be held every Thursday until January 6 (excluding December 30th) at 10:00 a.m. These programs will cover a different topic every week. Topics and dates for these programs are:

- December 9th - Cow grazing - Dr. Alison Crane, KSU Sheep and Goat Specialist
- December 16th - Early Cow Calf Health - Dr. Gregg Hanzlicek
- December 23rd - Utilizing Cover Crop for Grazing and its Impacts on Soil Health - Augustine Obour, KSU soil scientist

• January 6th - Reproductive Performance of Heifers after Development in a Drylot or Grazing Triticale - Sandy Johnson, Extension beef specialist

To register, go to https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6F5F440S3Rvk-wSi and provide us with your name and email. A link will then be sent to the email that you provide to join the meetings. If you have any questions or need help signing up, please call Justine Henderson, District Livestock Agent, at 785-392-2147.

Doug was an amazing historian. Using forensic methodology, he mapped the Kidder Massacre site near Edson. He collected dozens if not hundreds of artifacts and interpreted the site in a way that had never been done. It sent chills up your spine to walk the ground with him. I was in the museum one day when a lovely couple from New Zealand came in. Tony and Myra Blackbeard were checking off sites on his bucket list. (He paints models of western figures, setting up his own diorama of the Little Bighorn. Yes, we were all nerds of a feather.)

After giving them a tour of our museum, I asked where they were headed next. "The Kidder Massacre Site."

Well, hold on, I told them. I need to call someone.

Doug answered the phone. "Hey Doug," this is Deb at the museum (To his credit, he did not hang up). "Are you busy?"

"Well, I'm headed to... (I can't really recall; anyhow, he was busy.)"

"So, I have a couple from New Zealand who want to see the Kidder site."

A brief pause. "Send them up!"

Doug spent hours with Tony and Myra, and they had an experience to write home about instead of just reading the historical marker and hitting the road.

Doug was like that; he was generous with his time and ability. Most recently, he had been helping Brenda Tropp at the Wallace County High School as her students developed a film on the Kidder Massacre.

As Jayne Pearce, who is president of the Fort Wallace Memorial Association, said, his loss is immeasurable.

We can all hope to lead such a life, a life that leaves people mourning us and celebrating the fact that we lived. Doug's life will be mourned and celebrated by so many, so far and wide. Please keep his family and community in your prayers, and follow his example of selfless service.

That is what I will endeavor to do.

I will be working at the Fort Wallace Museum on December 17 and 18, so y'all come on by!!

Deb Goodrich is the co-host (with Michelle Martin) of the Around Kansas TV show and the Garvey Texas Historian in Residence at the Fort Wallace Museum. She chairs the Santa Fe Trail 200, being marked through 2025. Contact Deb at author.

Gatz crowned 2022 National Hereford Queen



raising and showing Hereford cattle since she was seven years old. She is an 11-year member of the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) and a junior board member of the Kansas Junior Hereford Association (KJHA). As National Hereford Queen, Lauren will attend national Hereford shows and sales, including the Junior National Hereford Expo to present awards and assist with ring presentations throughout the coming year. The National Hereford Women support this program and in conjunction with the Hereford Youth Foundation of America, the queen will receive a \$10,000 scholarship at the conclusion of her reign to support her future education.

Kansas Hereford Queen Lauren Gatz of Fairview was recently crowned the 2022 National Hereford Queen at the National Hereford Show at the 2021 American Royal hosted in Kansas City, Mo. She is the 18-year-old daughter of Taylor and Jennifer Gatz. Lauren is a freshman at Kansas State University majoring in Agricultural Communications. She is active in Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, Collegiate Cattlewomen, Block and Bridle and the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. She has been an active 4-H member, involved extensively with FFA during high school and served as the Northeast Kansas District FFA treasurer. She has been

Lauren stated, "Being selected as the National Hereford Queen has always been a goal of mine and hearing my name called is a feeling impossible to put into words. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue the legacy of this historic program and represent the breed that has shaped me into the person I am today."

PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020 — 10:00 AM
 AT 2323 N JACKSON STREET - JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS
 Camper and trailers will sell at 1 p.m.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS: Fishing Equipment; KU Items; Collectibles; Misc Tools; 2 Sets of Golf Clubs; Misc Camping Gear; Pictures; Books; Guitar; Bowling Ball; Racquetball Equipment; Misc. Kitchen Items; Misc Fenton Glass.

FURNITURE & MISC.: Kitchen Table w/6 Chairs; Mini Fridge; Bedroom Set; Patio Chairs; Elliptical; BBQ Grill; Mountain Bike; Lamps; Small Wooden Furniture (Shelves, Chair, Shadow Box); Dresser; End Tables; Several TVs.

TOOLS: Schumacher 6&12 Volt Battery Charger; Several Aluminum Extension Ladders; Torch Cart; Welding Table w/Vise/Car Ramps; Several Totes of Misc Tools.

TRAILERS: 1981 WW 2 Horse Trailer w/Tack Compartment; Champion 2 Horse Trailer; 1985 Shelby 2 Horse Trailer; 1976 16' Stock Trailer; Two 6' x 8' Single Axle Trailer, 1 with a Drop Tailgate; 1997 WILD 22' Bumper Pull Camping Trailer.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: These things have been in storage. There are many more things to be unboxed. Subject to 5% Buyers Premium.

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Soil test should be used in making phosphorous decisions

By David G. Hallauer, Meadowlark District Extension agent, crops and soils/horticulture

Nitrogen gets most of the attention – with good reason – but all nutrients play a role in how well a crop will respond to our fertility management. As fertilizer input prices reach heights we haven't seen in a while, it might be time to take a look at exactly what your crop needs – or doesn't – as decisions are made for the 2022 cropping year. Phosphorous (P) is one example.

In plants, P is involved in respiration and energy transfer as well as cell division and function. In short, without an adequate supply of P, plant growth is diminished, maturity delayed, and yield reduced – none of which are posi-

tive for production. On the other hand, over-application of P can cause problems from a water quality standpoint. This environmental consideration, not to mention the economic implications associated with over-application, should give us pause to reflect on whether we need to continue to apply phosphorous fertilizer or not.

The decision on applying fertilizer is best guided by a soil test. Only when you have a solid number can you start to make solid decisions. If your soil test comes back below five parts per million (not uncommon in forage stands), the probability of a response to fertilizer will likely be high (greater than 85 percent for corn) and the magnitude of that response will be high as

well. On the other end of the spectrum, soil tests approaching 20 parts per million will have a lower response probability (only 10 percent in corn) with the level of response lower as well.

From an economics

Cattle Chat: Vaccine handling tips

By Lisa Moser

One of the many lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic is the importance of handling vaccines properly. That is true not only for this vaccine, but for all biologic products in both human and animal medicine, said the experts at Kansas State University's Beef Cattle Institute on a recent Cattle Chat podcast.

Many factors can interfere with a vaccine's efficacy, according to veterinarian Brian Lubbers. One of those, he said, is

temperature.

"Read the label to know how the vaccine should be properly handled," Lubbers said. "The easiest way to maintain vaccines at the proper temperature is to keep them in a cooler when processing cattle."

Ice packs can be added to a cooler on hot days, he said, and heat packs might be an option on cold days.

"The cooler acts as an insulator, keeping the medicine protected from the environment," Lubbers said.

ing a year off might make some short term economic gains, but can lead to larger issues down the road (broomsedge bluestem infestations in pasture are a prime example).

Don't have a recent soil test? Now is a great time

to get one. Just be sure you are doing so to get an accurate number (don't pick the best areas of the field, make sure you get at least 15 cores per sample, etc...). Need assistance? Give us a shout and we'll discuss a program for you.

he said.

He also advised that producers make a plan for how much vaccine they will need, to avoid wasting products.

"There is a limited shelf-life of a product once the bottle's lid has been punctured, so with some pre-planning producers can reduce the amount of product that will be discarded," he said.

To hear more of this discussion, listen to the Cattle Chat podcast online.

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Grass & Grain Area Auctions and Sales

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

Hundreds of auctions, online and in-person. www.kansasauctions.net/gg/

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Online Auction (open now, bidding begins closing December 7, 2PM) — 400+ lots of Antiques, glassware, pottery, Christmas, toys & more held at www.GriffinRealEstateAuction.com. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction.

Online Auction (open now, bidding begins closing

December 7, 6 PM) — Selling items for the farm/home work shop, automotive items, farm equipment & miscellaneous held at rjsauctionservice.hibid.com/auctions/current. Auctioneers: RJ's Auction Service, Richard Garvin.

Online Only Auction (opens November 30; starts to close December 7) — Family Estate & Downsizing John Deere Equity & more held at www.dlwebb.com. Auctioneers: Webb & Associates Auctions & Appraisals, Dave Webb.

December 6 — Land auction consisting of 155.4 acres m/l of McPherson County land including a 3 bedroom home, 1 bath (needs work), outbuildings, 132 tillable acres, balance in grassland & farmstead held at Windom for Stanley & Judy Nikkel Estate. Auctioneers: Van Schmidt, Farmers Nation-

al Company.

December 7 — Tuesday evening land auction consisting of 80 acres m/l with 72 acres m/l tillable, balance creek and heavy timber. Outstanding soil types plus deer heaven located 1 mile West of Osage City held at Osage City for Bergquist Properties. Auctioneers: Miller & Midyett Real Estate & Wischropp Auctions.

December 11 — Household items including fishing equip., KU items, collectibles, misc. tools, kitchenwares, Fenton, furniture, tools, 1981 WW 2-horse trailer, Champion 2-horse trailer, 1985 Shelby 2-horse trailer, 16' stock trailer & other trailers held at Junction City for Bob King & Cornell Estelle. Auctioneers: Brown Real Estate & Auction Service, LLC.

December 11 — Farm equipment auction con-

sisting of tractors, sprayers, harvesting, trucks, farm equipment, farm items, shop items, motor home, mowers, 4-wheeler & more held near Healy with some items selling online at www.equipmentfacts.com for VonSchriltz Farm, Inc. Auctioneers: Berning Auction, Inc.

December 11 — Collectible & vintage items including toys (Barbies, cars, trucks, etc.), games, guitars, unusual musical instruments, Indonesia items, Russian & other foreign items including coins, old books, magazines & paper items & much more held at New Strawn for Jim Fairbrother. Auctioneers: Kurtz Auction & Realty Service.

December 11 — Real Estate auction consisting of a 3-bedroom, 1.5 baths, ranch-style house with a shop on 5 acres held at St. George. Auctioneers: Crossroads Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

December 11 — Special Stock Cow sale expecting 1,000 head, held at Windsor Livestock Auction, Windsor, Missouri.

December 12 — Farm

auction consisting of 1979 IHC 986 tractor, 1959 Case Terratractor crawler, rotary brush cutter, MF 850 combine, grain header, stock trailer, propane tanks, car trailer, bale elevator & more held near Wymore, Nebraska for The Estate of Robert Rownd. Auctioneers: Bott Realty & Auction.

December 12 — Coins, jewelry, collectibles & more held at Lawrence. Auctioneers: Elston Auction.

December 14 — Farm equipment & fertilizer equipment auction consisting of harvesting equipment, trucks, sprayers & tanks, trailers, tractors, skid steer & forklifts, livestock equipment, pickups, farm & other items held near Leoti with internet bidding on most major equipment at equipmentfacts.com for Wendy Christopher Estate. Auctioneers: Berning Auction, Inc.

December 16 — Real Estate Auction consisting of 165.36 acres of Mitchell County farmland held at Beloit for Phyllis File Estate. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auc-

tion, LLC.

December 16 — Land auction consisting of 155.1 acres m/l of Dickinson County land including 142 ac. m/l productive tillable land, 14 ac. m/l waterways, mineral rights transfer, close to grain markets held at Gypsum for Helen Smith Trust. Auctioneers: Horizon Farm & Ranch Realty, LLC., Ray Swearingen, broker.

December 16 — Special Bred Cow/Heifer sale held at Beatrice 77 Livestock, Beatrice, Nebraska.

December 17 — Tractors & equipment, livestock equipment, misc. farm & ranch items, farm primitives & collectibles held at Valley Center for Kechi Consignment Auction. Auctioneers: Morris Yoder Auctions.

January 13, 2022 — Special Bred Cow/Heifer sale held at Beatrice 77 Livestock, Beatrice, Nebraska.

March 5, 2022 — Judd Ranch 44th Gelbvieh, Balancer & Red Angus Bull Sale held at Pomona.

March 7, 2022 — Lyons Ranch 34th Annual Superior Genetics Angus Bull Sale held at Manhattan.

Outstanding in their field: tractor efficiency increased, thanks to Purdue hydraulics research

Modern agricultural tractors contain so much cutting-edge technology, they rival even the latest spacecraft. But the back end is still old-school, relying largely on fossil fuels. So any optimization in tractor efficiency is a huge win for the environment.

With this in mind, Purdue University researchers have undertaken a \$3.2 million Department of Energy project to optimize the hydraulic systems that connect tractors and implements.

"Fluid power is everywhere," said Andrea Vacca, Purdue's Maha Fluid Power faculty chair, professor of mechanical engineering and agricultural and biological engineering, and director of the Maha Fluid Power Research Center, the largest academic hydraulics lab in the country. "It's used in airplanes, in cars, and in all kinds of heavy equipment. A tractor is an example of a vehicle that uses fluid power to actuate everything from the steering and propulsion to powering the implements it pulls behind it."

But powering the implements has proven to be a problem. The hydraulic control system of the tractor has shown only 20% efficiency when connected to the hydraulic systems of certain implements like planters, seeders and bailers.

"There's a conflict in the controls, where the two systems are almost fighting each other," said Patrick Stump, a Ph.D. student in mechanical engineering. "As a result, when it's connected to a planter, the tractor always has to run at extremely high power, which wastes fuel and increases emissions."

In this study, funded through the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Vacca's team focused its attention on a specific combo of tractor and planter, both provided by Case New Holland Industrial, with hydraulic systems provided by Bosch Rexroth.

The planter is 40 feet wide, with 16 planting rows. "Each row has multiple machines working together to plant the seed," said Xiaofan Guo, a Ph.D. student in mechanical engineering. "There's a cleaning wheel in front to remove existing vegetation. A cutting disc cuts a tiny ditch in the ground, a motor actually drives the seeds into the ground, a sprayer feeds water and fertilizer into the hole and then a final disc covers the hole. There are 16 of these planting rows, which need specific amounts of

pressure to successfully plant the seeds. And all of them are powered by a single hydraulic system."

To tackle the problem of optimizing the tractor-planter combo, Vacca's team chose a three-phase approach. First, the researchers needed to characterize the hydraulic system and build a simulation model in the computer.

"These tractors are expensive and complex machines," said Xin Tian, a Ph.D. student who developed the models over a four-year span. "So we started by modeling individual components and testing them in a stationary condition here in the lab. When those are accurate, we combine the component models into a system — and test the system — so we can verify that the entire model is valid. The model is so big and complex, my team calls it 'The Monster!'"

Once they had validated their model, the researchers moved to phase two: developing solutions they could test.

"Different planting conditions require different amounts of pressure and flow rate," Tian said. "If the model shows promising improvements in power and efficiency, then we can begin to implement these changes under real-world conditions."

For the third phase — real-world tests — the team outfitted the tractor-planter combo with a myriad of sensors.

"We need to know how much power the tractor is consuming, what the hydraulic pumps are doing, and what the pressure and flow rates are throughout the planter," said Jake Lengacher, a first-year Ph.D. student. "All of that wiring leads into a new data acquisition box we installed in the cab, so we have a full picture of what's going on during a planting cycle."

Thankfully for the team, Purdue has plenty of places for giant tractors to roam. The College of Agriculture allotted Vacca's team a quarter-mile strip of land at the Animal Sciences Research and Education Center in West Lafayette.

"We are very fortunate at Purdue," Vacca said. "We have a lot of lab space at Maha where we can test these large machines under controlled conditions; and Agriculture also has lots of farm plots where we can conduct field research."

And since none of the team members had ever operated such a large tractor in the field, Case New Holland provided training to teach them how to drive.

Industry professionals educate producers on capturing more value

Commercial and seedstock producers learned ways to earn more for their cattle.

For commercial and seedstock producers, the Capturing Value panel held during the 2021 National Angus Convention and Trade Show in Fort Worth, Texas was a successful addition to the education lineup. The panel included moderator Troy Marshall, director of commercial industry relations, and four industry professionals: Clint Berry, a Superior Livestock Auction representative; Kelli Payne, Oklahoma City National Stockyards president; Doug Slattery, 44 Farms chief executive officer; Bruce Cobb, Certified Angus Beef® (CAB) executive vice president of production. The four panelists shared their different perspectives on ideas and recommendations to capture more value for feeder calves and purebred cattle.

Discussion started with a 30,000-foot view of the cattle market as Berry described the current demand drivers in the market. Berry said the industry sits at an all-time high for beef demand thanks to programs like CAB which aim to differentiate quality.

"I've probably never been as optimistic about the beef business as a fifth-generation farmer who has worked my entire career in the beef industry," Black said.

Even with processing challenges, high demand

for beef puts producers in a good position Berry said. Consumers recognize the eating quality of beef and are paying for it. Looking into the future, Berry said this demand will create a need for producers to differentiate. Implementing DNA technology into sorting and managing cattle will help get more upper two-thirds and prime product for consumers.

As technology helps differentiate the quality of feeder cattle, Marshall asked whether the marketplace can have too much quality product.

"If you look just 15 years ago, grid premium was near two to three dollars, and it continues to escalate because we're doing what consumers want," Cobb said. "We're delivering to them what they want to share with their families. We're delivering to restaurants what chefs expect to deliver to their customers. Retailers continue to grow in their demand level. And again, it goes back to producers selecting the right cattle, cattle being managed ap-

propriately and then being fed correctly across the country."

Slattery emphasized the importance of genetics seedstock producers provide to their customers. Slattery says all producers need to be willing to take steps that will help garner more value. They must start with a health program, a great nutritional program and they need to have a seedstock producer that will help with their genetics.

Receiving carcass data back at the commercial cattlemen level can be helpful, Slattery said. "We talked to all the producers when they were making bull selections to try and help them with what they need. We are working all these angles with producers to help get them more profitable."

Payne agreed. "The ones that are doing it right are going to be the ones who are rewarded." Regardless of herd size, Payne emphasized that as challenges occur, producers must adapt if they want to differentiate their cattle

on sale day. Oklahoma City National Stockyard has seen that contrast during the special AngusLink sale days.

Buyers never forget bad cattle, she said, and in the same way they will remember the best. "You will remember the cattle you buy, put in the feedlot and just grow and grow. In other words, you remember when you lost money and when you made money."

Focusing on demand drivers, differentiating quality, taking the extra steps and adapting with the times were all big takeaways from the four panelists during the Capturing Value panel at the 2021 Angus Convention. For producers looking to capture more value for their customers or their feeder calves, visit www.anguslink.com to learn more.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021 - 9:30 AM

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BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

All Natural Beef

It's true that my steer is all-natural
I've dispensed with all vaccines and drugs
Not one pesticide is poured on his hide
He'd be lonesome without all the bugs!
The lice are his own peanut gallery
The ticks and the heel flies too.
He scratches all day while they nibble away
But it does give him something to do.
I've no use for antibiotics.
For those drenches and potions and pills.
He's had a rough time, but now doin' fine.
Though he's pore as an ol' whippoorwill.
He's had rickets and double pneumonia.
He's a veteran of all that I've learned.
Coccidiosis, Leptospirosis,
And the scours are waiting their turn.
So you see all you slavers of science
Who depend on high-tech for it all.
My steer is alive, weighs three twenty-five
But, he only turned seven last fall!
www.baxterblack.com

NAMI makes climate mitigation pledge

The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) announced that 100% of its members will deliver independently approved, science-based greenhouse gas reduction targets in line with the Paris Climate Agreement goals by 2030, *Feedstuffs* reports.

NAMI's five new targets released along with its sustainability framework are the latest commitments launched through the Protein PACT for People, Animals and Climate of Tomorrow. This effort unites 12 leading U.S. ag organizations committed to taking measurable action to accelerate progress toward global development goals.

Cattle markets back on offense

By Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University

As 2021 winds to a close, cattle markets seem to finally be able to move out from under the specter of the pandemic impacts that began 18 months ago. Indeed, the constant turmoil of a series of Black Swan events have kept the industry on the defensive for over two years.

The recent breakout of fed cattle markets after struggling under the weight of beef packer capacity constraints clears the way for cattle markets to move forward with the optimism that has been building in the industry in recent months.

There continues to be, of course, many challenges facing the cattle industry in 2022. COVID impacts are ongoing with much uncertainty; and U.S. and global economies will continue struggling with pandemic ripple effects for many months. Higher input prices will impact cattle operations and test better profitability prospects in the coming year.

Continuing drought is an ongoing threat and may impact the industry and many producers in affected regions. It is uncertain whether or how and where drought will affect

the cattle industry in 2022. La Niña conditions have redeveloped this winter which may result in some relief in parts of northern regions while southwestern regions, that did see some improvement in 2021, could see redeveloping drought conditions. In drought regions, producers will continue to be on defense.

Despite these challenges, many producers may be able to spend more time looking forward in the coming year. Producers can evaluate and plan their individual objectives and goals while the industry figures out what the trajectory is for the next couple of years at least. The beef cow herd has been declining since 2019 and declined even faster in 2021. It will decline again in 2022 and likely in 2023.

However, strong domestic beef demand bolstered by even stronger demand and potential in international markets suggests that cyclical expansion could resume in the not-to-distant future. Exactly what the future path will be remains to be determined but producers should consider strategic and tactical plans for industry outcomes.

Winter is a good time

to consider both animal and forage production and management plans for the coming year. Once calf marketing is complete and herd culling decisions are implemented, a relative down-time is ideal for a bit of review of the past year and planning for next year with a series of questions.

What are the conditions of pastures and rangeland going into the next growing season; should grazing plans or stocking rates be adjusted? Were production and reproductive rates and weaning weights as expected? What is the current body condition of the cows? What is the herd health status? Are upcom-

ing herd nutritional needs evaluated and matched with feed and supplement resources? Planning now can help manage costs and production next year. Take time to consider these and other questions before the new year.

The industry has waited many months for a bit of relative stability. Are you ready to be on offense rather than defense? There will no doubt be adversity and producers must be prepared for risks and negative outcomes, but you also need to be ready to grab the opportunities that will come. The cattle industry can look forward to 2022.

Not enough signatures for checkoff referendum

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service notified interested parties recently that no additional signatures were received during the extended period requested by the proponents of a beef checkoff referendum. The petitioners thus failed to meet the signature requirements for a referendum and the matter is closed.



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 3,794

STEERS		HEIFERS	
300-400	\$195.00 - \$220.00	16 blk	Little River 886@162.00
400-500	\$191.00 - \$215.00	12 blk	Salina 898@161.75
500-600	\$170.00 - \$195.00	5 char	Hillsboro 709@161.00
600-700	\$159.00 - \$177.50	13 blk	Abilene 871@161.00
700-800	\$151.00 - \$167.50	15 mix	Canton 763@161.00
800-900	\$148.00 - \$168.50	10 mix	Lincoln 762@160.50
900-1,000	\$150.00 - \$157.50	62 mix	Assaria 840@158.00
		53 mix	Claffin 962@157.50
		11 char	Minneapolis 1137@142.00
		11 blk	Ellsworth 1205@136.00
HEIFERS		HEIFERS	
300-400	\$167.00 - \$182.00	6 blk	Burden 395@182.00
400-500	\$160.00 - \$172.00	4 blk	Abilene 389@180.00
500-600	\$152.00 - \$165.00	1 blk	Lindsborg 435@172.00
600-700	\$148.00 - \$161.00	5 mix	Newton 401@167.00
700-800	\$142.00 - \$155.50	5 blk	Lindsborg 542@165.00
800-900	\$140.00 - \$154.50	12 blk	Concordia 569@165.00
900-1,000	\$130.00 - \$149.50	8 blk	Culver 546@164.00
		5 blk	Aurora 448@163.00
		11 mix	Lincoln 417@163.00
		9 blk	Abilene 618@161.00
		15 blk	Falun 531@161.00
		4 blk	Bushton 473@160.00
		9 mix	Newton 589@160.00
		6 mix	Lorraine 448@160.00
		21 mix	Falun 568@160.00
		10 blk	Canton 662@159.50
		6 blk	Lindsborg 633@157.00
		9 blk	Hays 576@157.00
		39 mix	Riley 560@157.00
		29 blk	Canton 653@156.50
		8 blk	Clay Center 590@156.00
		7 blk	Minneapolis 503@156.00
		13 blk	Minneapolis 555@156.00
		17 mix	Walton 682@156.00
		62 mix	Gypsum 758@155.50
		28 mix	Riley 669@155.00
		14 blk	Newton 600@155.00
		15 blk	Abilene 838@154.50
		60 mix	Whitewater 814@154.25
		9 blk	Aurora 573@154.00
		39 mix	Minneapolis 762@154.00
		65 mix	Hillsboro 829@153.25
		18 mix	McPherson 746@153.00
		4 blk	Abilene 750@152.50
		12 blk	Miltonvale 826@152.00
		21 mix	Salina 728@152.00
		60 mix	McPherson 822@151.50
		6 blk	Little River 668@151.00
		4 blk	Salina 744@149.50
		59 mix	Whitewater 902@149.50
		21 blk	Newton 708@149.00
		11 mix	Minneapolis 919@149.00
		5 blk	Ellsworth 990@143.00

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021

STEERS		CALVES	
3 blk	Minneapolis 268@220.00	2 blk	Ellsworth 270@610.00
3 blk	Windom 388@215.00	1 blk	Bushton 250@500.00
20 blk	Burden 424@215.00	1 blk	Lorraine 250@460.00
23 blk	Burden 480@210.00	1 blk	Bushton 200@460.00
2 blk	Ellsworth 405@208.00	1 blk	Clyde 270@450.00
3 blk	Brookville 455@203.00		
11 blk	Geneseo 490@203.00		
2 blk	McPherson 408@199.00		
7 mix	Lincoln 423@198.00		
3 blk	Aurora 445@197.00		
8 blk	Windom 514@195.00		
5 blk	Ellsworth 496@193.00		
6 blk	Concordia 498@192.00		
8 blk	Aurora 531@190.00		
2 blk	Clay Center 495@187.00		
5 blk	Brookville 514@185.00		
4 mix	Lorraine 516@185.00		
8 blk	Clay Center 574@180.00		
50 blk	Geneseo 577@178.50		
6 blk	Abilene 553@178.00		
12 blk	Newton 575@178.00		
77 blk	Geneseo 648@177.50		
4 blk	Brookville 595@177.00		
11 blk	Aurora 611@176.00		
9 blk	Bushton 599@175.00		
29 blk	Burden 582@175.00		
61 mix	Valley Center 897@168.50		
10 blk	Assaria 631@168.00		
60 blk	Lincoln 860@167.75		
60 blk	Lincoln 850@167.50		
26 blk	Little River 775@167.25		
65 blk	Beloit 873@166.50		
19 blk	Falun 567@165.00		
8 blk	Clay Center 728@165.00		
23 blk	Newton 750@164.50		
4 blk	Holyrood 783@163.00		
5 blk	Nickerson 738@163.00		
6 mix	Lincoln 637@162.50		
68 blk	Beloit 758@162.50		
4 blk	Salina 826@162.00		
8 blk	Clay Center 680@162.00		
11 blk	McPherson 768@162.00		

UPCOMING SPECIAL SALES:

All Sales are on Tuesday at 11 AM

SPECIAL COW SALES: Tuesday, December 21

WEANED/VACC SALES: Tuesday, January 4, 2022

IN STOCK TODAY:

- Heavy Duty Round Bale Feeders
- 42' ROUND BALE DUMP TRAILERS

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.

COWS		BULLS	
1 blk	Lorraine 180@425.00	5 blk	Tampa 1537@69.00
1 blk	Beverly 120@410.00	1 blk	Enterprise 1890@68.00
1 blk	Randall 260@400.00	1 blk	Delphos 1740@66.00
2 blk	Wilson 1725@77.50	1 char	Hillsboro 2000@103.50
1 blk	Durham 1795@77.00	1 blk	Wilson 2355@102.50
2 blk	Hillsboro 1595@76.50	1 red	Abilene 2205@102.00
1 blk	Assaria 1730@75.50	1 blk	Wilson 2290@101.00
1 gray	Tampa 1685@75.50	1 blk	Abilene 2045@97.00
1 blk	Lehigh 1805@75.00	1 blk	Salina 2050@96.00
1 blk	Mayetta 1750@75.00	1 blk	Salina 2045@93.00
1 bwf	Bushton 1600@73.00	1 blk	Salina 1950@93.00
1 blk	Salina 1625@70.50	1 blk	Culver 2025@92.00
1 red	Barnard 1715@69.00		

LAST THURSDAY SALE OF THE YEAR IS DECEMBER 16, 2021

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021

30 str, blk, 700-900, home raised, weaned Sep 1, 2 vacc; 90 s&h, 850-900; 200 str, blk, 750-900, home raised, long weaned, vacc; 70 blk and red s&h, 600-700, home raised; 55 str, mostly blk, 650, fall vacc, 120 days weaned, home raised, bunk broke; 120 s&h, 500-600, spring vacc, home raised; 9 str, 750, long weaned, 2 rounds; 180 s&h, blk, 500-600; 5 sim angus, 500-650, long weaned; 55 s&h, angus, 400-600, home raised, long weaned, 2 vacc; 45 s&h; 3 str, 700-800, home raised, 90 days weaned, vacc; 62 s&h, blk sim/ang, 450-700, home raised, long weaned, vacc; 38 str, blk, 700-750, long weaned, PI neg; 19 str, mostly blk, 700, all vacc, home raised, no imp.; 40 s&h, blk, 550-800, home raised, long weaned, 2 vacc, open; 30 s&h, blk, 550-800, home raised, long weaned, 2 vacc, open; 18 str, 850-1000, off grass; PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME.

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021 SPECIAL COW SALE

BULLS: 1 red angus, 18 mo, semen and trich tested
COWS: 45 red and blk, 3-5yr old, angus; 45 red and blk 3-5yr old, angus; 32 blk, coming 2nd calf, bred Molitor Angus, mid Jan calvers; 40-50 blk, running aged, bred blk, Feb 7 90 days; 50 red and blk, 3-5yr old; 20/20 young pairs; 17 older spring bred cows; 45 blk and bwf, 3-4yr old, bred Kaiser Angus; 45 red angus, 3-4yr old, bred red and blk angus bulls; 30 red, spring cows, 3-4yr old, bred Van Newkirk Hereford bulls, Smoky Y Red Angus; 115 blk and red, spring cows, 7-6yr old; 2 herf cows, solid mouth, spring bred; 180 blk and red, 3-4yr old, bred sim/angus bulls; 25 running aged cows; 10 young bred cows; 150 blk and red, 3-5yr old, bred blk; 10/10 blk and red pairs, 3-5yr old; 70 blk and bwf, 4 to older aged, bred to Dickinson Ranch sim/angus bulls; 354 blk, running aged; 10 blk, 2-8yr old, balancer blk bull; 25/25, 3-8yr old, big fall calvers, exposed back; 20 mix, 4-6yr old, bred blk; 10/10 younger fall pairs; 10 running aged, spring bred; 60 3yr old, coming 2nd calf; 5 fall pairs; 5 bred cows; 45 running aged cows; 25 blk; 14 blk, 7-9yr old, Sept/Oct blk calves, exposed back; 15/15 blk and red, broke mouth, big calves; plus more by sale time.
BRED HEIFERS: 25 blk, off local ranch, start calving Feb 6 90+, bred to Woody Ranch Black Angus, Pioneer 974 back to Final Answer, BWEPD 1.1 CED 14, spring vacc, Cydectin poured Dec 18, Scour Guard Dec 20, very gentle; 100 blk, spring bred, vacc Ochv, 50 days, clean up reg bulls; 60 blk, spring bred; 120 blk, home raised/native AI, bred to Fink Angus, clean up w/ Fink Angus, start Feb 10, 1100#; 35 blk, PB Angus, bred Reuser Angus, Jan 1 60 days; 50 blk and red, bred blk; 30 red, AI to Merlin, Feb 13; 10 red, bred to son of Merlin, March 14 for 45 days; 40 blk, AI to Justified, Feb 13; 15 blk, bred to Rainfall son, March 14 for 45 days; 33 blk/bwf, start Feb 14 for 45 days; 40 blk, home raised, balancer cross, bred angus, low birth weight; 200 blk, spring bred, ochv, AI, clean up reg bull, 50 days; 25 blk, home raised, bred angus; 7 registered angus, home raised, April 10 to August 1, 458 Mojo Homer 721-919, 2.4 bw CED 15; 3 red angus, bred red angus; plus more by sale time.
HEIFER PAIRS: 10/10

For Information or estimates, contact:

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

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

Jim Crowther 785-254-7385 Roxbury, KS	Lisa Long 620-553-2351 Ellsworth, KS	Cody Schaffer 620-381-1050 Durham, KS	Kenny Briscoe 785-658-7386 Lincoln, KS	Kevin Henke H: 785-729-3473, C: 785-565-3525 Agenda, KS	Austin Rathbun 785-531-0042 Ellsworth, KS
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