



KARTA promotes emerging ag technology

By Lucas Shivers

Making practical farming technology tools accessible and providing cost effectiveness, the Kansas Ag Research and Technology Association (KARTA) promotes innovation in production agriculture.

"We are a grassroots association for producers, researchers and industry leaders who share a common desire to keep up with trends in production agriculture," said Darren Hofmann who serves as current KARTA president.

Terry Griffin, cropping systems economist with K-State Research and Extension, who along with two other faculty in different departments with Extension appointments, serves as an advisor to share ideas, help with on-farm research projects and present at workshops.

"It's a service to the ag community," Griffin said. "KARTA is farmer-led and the biggest benefit is for farmers to conduct their own experiments on their own farms under their own management practices. They get the first-hand view of how the products perform locally and make decisions on the ground."

Started in 2000, KARTA supports hundreds of members from across the state.

"It's been around a long time for ag tech; sort of an eternity for technology," Griffin said. "As an economist, when we look at ag tech, the research experiments are one of the greatest return on investment from a collective bundle. Farmers often would rather listen to other farmers as well as subject matter experts."

Family Lineage

Farming northwest of Leonardville, Hofmann and his family have been involved and benefited from KARTA in several ways.

His parents, Galen and Nancy, have family lines



Terry Griffin, cropping systems economist with K-State Research and Extension, serves as an advisor to KARTA as well as helping with on-farm research projects and workshops.

running back generations and started farming in the 1970s with crops and livestock. His two older sisters now live with their families in Andover and Topeka, while Hofmann lives back on the farm with his family.

His wife Bethany works as a pharmacist. They have two boys Henry, 6, and Levi, 3, and a baby girl on the way. The kids love to help feed cows and ride on the tractor to help grandpa.

"My dad, Galen, has been part of the KARTA organization since it started in 2000, and I got involved around 2011 after coming back to the farm," Hofmann said. "Just recently, I was voted on the board as president in January 2020."

Thanks to KARTA, the Hofmanns learned about GPS, auto steer and section control.

"KARTA is on the leading edge of technol-

ogy and farming innovations. We have kept up with every change in technology and farming practice," Hofmann said. "It's where my dad got started with yield monitoring and GPS guided steering. We learned how to use all of the data and bring it together for decision making."

People come from all over the U.S. and other state universities to share research with KARTA on what they've discovered in their own research.

"For me, it's all about what's coming next," Hofmann said. "We network with farmers from across the state and region to see how others operate."

Organization Goals

The common desire of KARTA is to learn more about production agriculture.

"Our goal is to keep our members and the agricultural industry on the

forefront of new technology and farming practices," Hofmann said.

As an organization of innovative leaders who share a common desire to learn more about production agriculture, KARTA provides instructional workshops on the hardware and software necessary to conduct research trials with good data to make decisions.

Originally more focused on research efforts, a formal name change from Kansas Ag Research Association to KARTA helped balance its mission. The name and logo change, adopted in 2012, more closely reflects the focus on technology and uniquely identifies the organization in Kansas.

"A couple years into it, the technology became crucial and such a big part of ag that they added the T for technology to the name," he said.

KARTA is the go-to re-

source for providing information about agricultural technologies and on-farm research. KARTA also sponsors an annual conference every January in Junction City and maintains a website to facilitate information sharing.

"We have an annual conference in January each year and do workshops each year," Hofmann said. "The board ranges from farmers to those working in the ag industry. It's all volunteer and I didn't mind helping with leadership. This summer we hope to do a sprayer clinic on new ways to treat weeds. We're always working on new ideas."

"When I go and see stuff, it's usually too expensive at first, but we keep an eye on it," Hofmann said. "We have a vision for the future to know what's coming to know improvements and efficiencies to try. That's the great part of KARTA. They bring peo-

ple in who have tested the new technology and share if their investment has any return."

Several K-State professors and research leaders contribute to KARTA.

"K-State has been heavily involved with KARTA," Hofmann said. "They help us find speakers and even do some research themselves or with grad students. They always have things to present to the members."

On-Farm Research Projects

KARTA facilitates on-farm research by providing grants and educational workshops to teach techniques and analysis methods.

"The research projects are helpful to look at various options across the state. For example, projects include seeding rates or row spacing," Hofmann said.

Past projects have focused on irrigation innovation, plant growth regulator on wheat, phosphorus on soybeans, red clover inter-seeding in wheat, soil fertility system testing, soybean population, strip planting, wheat streak mosaic impacts and wheat population.

"We open up applications for members to submit research ideas and then we provide resources to take the data and make it into presentation formats," Hofmann said.

To see and learn from creative ideas, producers seek to share with others to help make these areas contagious and spread. It often makes producers want to take these ideas back to their operations with various levels or come at it from a different level.

For more, join KARTA at their next conference on Jan. 19 and 20, 2023 in Junction City, go to www.karta-online.org or find KARTA on Facebook.

K-State lands \$12M grant to lead agricultural growth in Haiti

Kansas State University's Feed the Future Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab has been awarded a five-year \$12 million grant from United States Agency for International Development to establish a Center of Excellence that will enhance capacity of six universities to support agriculture-led growth in Haiti.

Vara Prasad, director of the innovation lab (also known as SIIL), said the grant will help to create the Center of Excellence on Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience to Climate-Change - or CEMARCH - to foster agricultural education, training, research and extension through improved collaboration, communication and knowledge sharing.

The effort will address agricultural problems, and food and nutritional security in the Caribbean country.

According to Prasad, CEMARCH will focus on building institutional and human capacity so that Haiti is able to identify and seek solutions to its agricultural problems in partnership with U.S. universities.

"The SIIL is perfectly positioned with its international recognition and extensive experience to engage in a co-creation process with the six Haitian university partners and USAID-Haiti to successfully establish the CEMARCH," said Ernie Minton, dean of K-State's College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension.

SIIL will work closely with a consortium of six universities, including:

- Quisqueya University in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
- Faculté d'Agronomie et de Médecine Vétérinaire in Port-au-Prince.
- Campus Henry Christophe de Limonade in Limonade, Haiti.
- North Christian University, Cap-Haïtien.
- American University of the Caribbean in Sint Maarten.
- University Notre Dame, Les Cayes, Haiti.

Together, those universities will help identify areas of research, curriculum development, and opportunities to engage the farming community and other local partners to re-design agri-food systems.

"Engaging with schol-



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ars, educators, policy makers, smallholder farmers, and building social capital and human resources is a hallmark of SIIL's portfolio, and we have successfully done this in multiple countries around the world," said Prasad, who is also a University Distinguished Professor and the R.O. Kruse endowed professor at K-State.

"We are fortunate that USAID values our work and is willing to support and invest in our research, education, outreach and

capacity building approaches (so that we can) replicate these proven models in Haiti."

According to Prasad, SIIL has built capacity around the world by training 160 students and establishing seven agricultural technology parks in Cambodia; and one in Senegal. The lab has plans to establish more in West Africa (including Burkina Faso, Niger, Ghana and Mali).

"This latest significant award to the Sustainable Intensification Innovation

Lab is the perfect example of how K-State is focused on promoting collaborative, high-quality research programs around the world," said David Rosowsky, vice president for research at K-State. "We are pleased to have worked with Prasad and (SIIL associate director Jan) Middendorf on this large grant and significant accomplishment."

Prasad said work at CEMARCH focuses on three objectives:

- Increasing institutional and human capacity and social capital to better meet the demands of the agricultural economy and workforce needs.
- Developing revenue-generating services to provide to the region.
- Establishing technology parks to showcase high-potential Climate Smart Agriculture technologies and strategies to sustainably intensify

smallholder production systems.

He said SIIL will work directly with the universities to provide support for management, reporting, communications and outreach, and organizing events. The SIIL at K-State will work with the Haitian institutions to develop a five-year plan based on the needs, priorities, opportunities and commitments of Haiti.

"This initiative gives us a great opportunity to emulate the land-grant model by working with local Haitian universities to foster agricultural education, training, research and Extension," Middendorf said. "We will also work toward improving collaboration, coordination, and knowledge sharing to concentrate on Haiti's food and nutritional security challenges, especially during these very challenging times."

Fuel and fire behavior advisory issued for Central Kansas and Nebraska

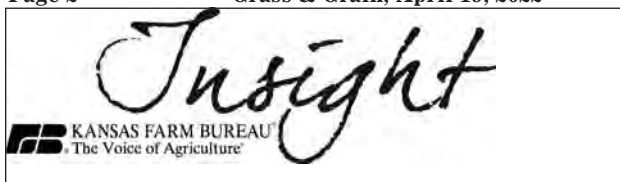
The Kansas Forest Service and the Nebraska Forest Service have declared a fuel and fire behavior advisory for Central Kansas and Nebraska. The severity of this situation has been coordinated via collaboration among the federal and state wildland fire agencies that represent the Rocky Mountain area and Southern Area Geographic Coordination Centers.

Critically dry conditions and delayed green up of vegetation have cre-

ated a volatile landscape for extreme fire behavior in portions of Central Kansas and Nebraska (including northeast Kansas and southwest Nebraska). Oklahoma and Texas are experiencing the same conditions.

This advisory was issued April 11 and will remain active for 14 days.

Above normal temperatures during the past winter combined with below normal precipitation has created drought condi-



Wading Into Water

By Glenn Brunkow,
Pottawatomie County
farmer and rancher

Water: it is the most important resource we have, not just in agriculture but humanity as a whole. It is an extraordinarily complex and difficult issue. This year the legislature proposed a massive water bill and while I will not get into the details of it, it did emphasize that water is an issue we will have to deal with in short order.

Water issues in Kansas are many and varied. In general, if you are from western Kansas, it is about quantity and aquifers. If you reside in eastern Kansas you are dealing with sedimentation, harmful algae blooms and flooding. There are many more is-

sues, but you get the idea; water issues are diversified, complex and they are critical to all of us. Will we have enough water? Where will it come from? Will it be safe? These are all questions we need to wrestle with.

Kansas Farm Bureau has extensive policy when it comes to water and water rights. We have developed those policies through the years, and they have come from our grass roots. Just like all policy we need to make sure that our water policy reflects our current situation and accurately gives us direction. In short, we need to take a deep look at our policy.

It's no secret that other organizations are getting involved in the debate

about water at the state and national levels. Some of these groups have different viewpoints and objectives than we do at Kansas Farm Bureau. We need to have a presence and be at the table when water is discussed. That means we need to have clear, concise and solid water policy. That is where you, Kansas Farm Bureau members, come in.

We will be taking a deeper dive into our water policy in the near future to make sure it is relevant and fits your needs. Please watch for announcements of what the process will look like and be ready to do some hard work. This process will require us all to do our homework and learn more about water in Kansas. We need to understand the complexity of the issues and how they affect agriculture and society in general. This is not going to be an easy process, and it will require all of us to come together to help provide possible solutions.

Register today for Kansas Stockmanship and Stewardship event

Registration is now open for the Kansas Stockmanship and Stewardship event, June 16-18 in Leavenworth. Stockmanship & Stewardship is a unique educational experience for cattle producers featuring low-stress cattle handling demonstrations, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) educational sessions, facility design sessions and industry updates that you won't find anywhere else.

"In today's world, no matter the beef production system you are involved with, stockmanship and stewardship are more important than ever," said Curt Pate, Stockmanship and Stewardship clinician and cattle handling

expert. "This quality program combines age-old skills with modern practices to improve your bottom line and quality of life."

The three-day event includes tours, classroom sessions and live cattle demonstrations with hands-on opportunities for attendees. The first day features a half-day tour including visits to Kauffman Stadium, Bichelmeyer Meats and J&N Ranch. The evening concludes with dinner at the Schwinn Farm Barn and a keynote presentation by Ron Wilson, rancher and cowboy poet.

Classroom sessions on day two include topics such as economics, grazing management, importance

of mental health, entrepreneurship, marketing concepts as well as a meat-cutting demonstration, concluding with dinner and a live band. The final day at Due West Ranch Equestrian Center features stockmanship principles, safety considerations, chuteside demonstrations and a BQA training. The program is sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a contractor to the beef checkoff, Merck Animal Health, Kansas State University and the Kansas Beef Council.

"Merck Animal Health is proud to have a long-standing partnership with NCBA in ensuring education and animal welfare training with our

This is an issue that affects all of us, and it is the biggest problem we have ever tackled; that is why we need everyone. If you are not a Kansas Farm Bureau member, I encourage you to go to your county office and join. We all need to be at the table for this one. We might look at our policy and decide it is just fine, but my guess is that we will see things that need to be changed.

The one thing I do know is that our grassroots' developed policy is some of the strongest out there and if we all put our heads together, we can produce a good solution. There will be more information to come in the near future, please be ready to join in and add your ideas to this important issue.

"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.

sponsorship of Stockmanship and Stewardship," said Kevin Mobley, executive director of sales and marketing for Merck Animal Health. "With products and technology designed to enhance animal health, productivity and traceability, combined with the expertise of our people, Merck Animal Health is in a unique position to provide leadership and innovation in the area of sustainability."

For more information, complete agenda, fees and to register, visit www.StockmanshipAndStewardship.org. Full registration includes all events and meals, and student pricing and one-day registration options are available.

Cattle producers attending Stockmanship and Stewardship are eligible for reimbursement through the Rancher Resilience Grant. To apply for a grant to cover registration costs and two nights hotel, visit www.ncba.org/producers/rancher-resilience-grant.



Prairie Ponderings

By Donna Sullivan

I'm going to tell you a story that is nearly two years in the making. Actually, it's over sixty years in the making, but I've only been aware of it for about the last 18 months. I've started to write it several different times – once when it all came to light and a time or two in the months since. Somehow the time just didn't seem quite right. I struggled to get the words on paper in a way that made sense and honored all the people involved. It's a story so filled with raw emotion that, even though I'm pretty much an open book when it comes to writing about my life, I felt a need to take tremendous care. To be honest, I'm still not entirely sure I'll be able to complete this – it could end up discarded like previous attempts. But here goes.

Two years ago in July, on a Friday afternoon as I sat in my office putting the second section of *Grass & Grain* together, I started receiving texts from my youngest sister, asking all kinds of questions about our mom. Questions I really didn't have answers to because they happened before she was... well, our mom. She finally got to the point of why she was asking. Several months prior she had taken the 23 and Me DNA test just for the fun of it. On that July day, a new set of initials had popped up on our mom's side of the family tree that was listed as a close relative. The program identified her as our aunt, but we knew that couldn't be right, because she was just a couple of years older than me. Plus, our grandma had twelve children, and there was no way she just randomly put a thirteenth one up

for adoption. But this girl had been adopted out of Shreveport, and my sister remembered our mom saying she had lived in Shreveport for a while before marrying our dad. My sister called our aunt – my mom's sister – and a couple of hours later we received the shock of our lives. Our mom had given birth to a baby girl in Shreveport and put her up for adoption. My aunt said the only people who knew were her and her husband, who she actually met in Shreveport while staying there with my mom waiting for the baby to be born. My dad learned of her birth later, and the four of them never told another soul.

Just like that, we went from the four of us siblings, who have always been tremendously close, to five. We communicated with her via text at first, then started having phone calls, and then planned a weekend for us to meet in person. I think we were all a little nervous, but she was so warm and kind in our communications with her, plus it was a new connection with our mom, who we lost several years ago.

As I've aged, I'll confess that I've turned into kind of a crusty old bat – I rarely cry or let other emotions get the best of me. But when I stepped through the door of the house we'd rented for the weekend and she pulled me into a hug for the first time, I completely lost it, sobbing in the arms of a total stranger who was now my sister. We spent the weekend getting to know each other better, looking through the picture box and giving her a glimpse into the mother we shared. There was no strange awkwardness as we laughed and joked. Her husband also immediately fit in and in a matter of hours, we all became family.

I've always said that my siblings are one of the greatest gifts God ever gave me, and for whatever reason, He chose that moment in time to reveal to us another.

There are many other layers to this story that we'll save for another day. But I do want to say how thankful I am that, as a frightened young woman in an unplanned pregnancy, my mom chose to have that baby. I can only imagine how difficult it was to give her up, but she blessed another woman with the gift of motherhood. And she blessed me with a big sister – it just took me 58 years to find her.



Yesterday it was a bit breezy. Breezy, if you consider breezy fifty mile an hour gusts a breeze. Of course, the cows were out of hay, and I needed to fill all the hay feeders. Or I thought I needed too because of all the rain that was predicted. We got about a tenth of an inch. You would have thought with all of that wind we would have at least had a decent thunderstorm.

There I was out trying to take net wrap off in gale force winds. I admit that I am not particularly smart but by the second or third bale I have usually learned which side is the best for not blowing hay into your face. Yesterday I did not find that "happy" spot. I still feel like I am covered in hay dust and pieces. My ears and eyes will never be the same. Trying to figure out the best way to park the tractor to get out of the door was the other conundrum. If you parked into the wind, it would blow the door shut on your leg and that was not good. If you parked with the wind, you better have a good grip on the door or you will be buying a new one. Parking sideways into the wind was the worst because as soon as I would open the door the wind would move a winters worth of dust, hay, and other things around the cab. It was bad enough to brave dust and junk outside, let alone be trapped with it in the cab.

I guess the fact that the temperature was in the upper eighties was a blessing because if it had been cold, it would have been far more miserable. However, I did find out my air conditioner did not work, and I was not about to open the windows (not that the wing windows help a lot anyway). Once you got the bale to the cows and managed to get out, the fun really started.

I did notice that, in general, the cows were much smarter than I was and watched from spots protected by the wind. After the first two bales I did learn to leave my ball cap in the tractor rather than try to chase it down. Between cutting the net wrap and braving the dirt blowing in the wind I did feel like I had breathed in about ten pounds of "stuff." This morning when I woke up, I had to pry my eyes apart.

The whole time I was feeding I could smell smoke in the air, and I knew that

some of the fires from the previous couple of days had rekindled. I do feel the need to shout out to our local volunteer fire departments, they managed to contain and put out all the fires. I am not sure how they did it, but they are real heroes and saved a lot of people, animals, and property. I probably should not be whining about my working conditions compared to what they were dealing with.

Then when I finally did get the net wrap cut, pulling it off of the bale was another challenge. That brought a whole new wave of hay bits and particles, but the worst part was if there was a small part of the net wrap that separated from the bigger whole, fat boy was trying to chase down this wispy bit of net wrap. I was really glad no one was watching. My last bales went to the calves in the corral. Thankfully, the outside gate opened so that the wind kept it open. The inner gate was the opposite and opening it, getting back in the tractor, and getting through before the wind gusted and blew it shut was a real challenge. The last straw happened in the calf pen and just put the icing on the cake.

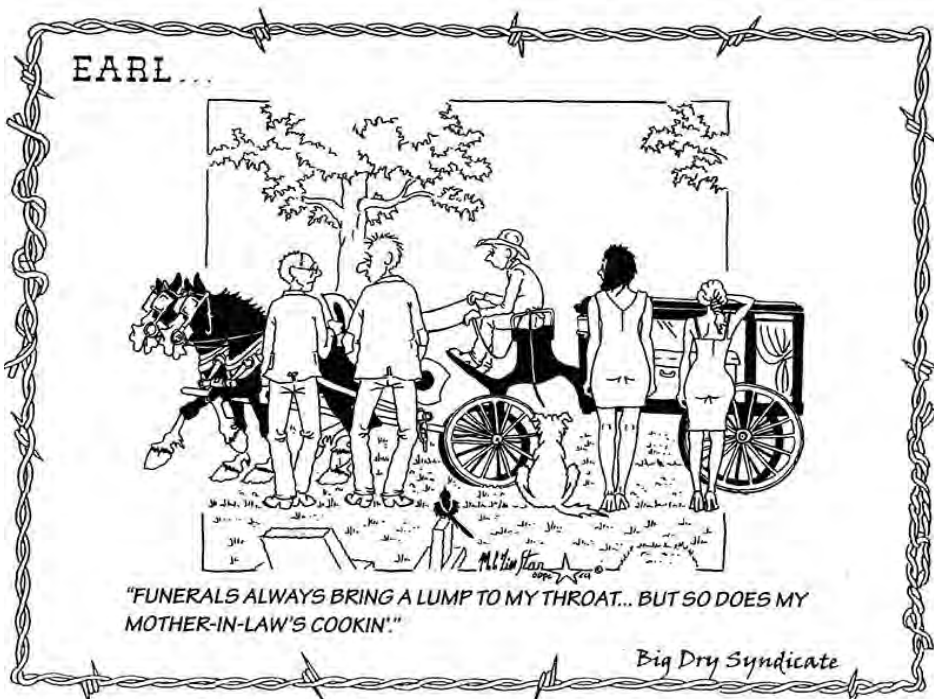
I was removing the last net wrap off of the last bale with my eyes closed. I had learned to do this to minimize the amount of hay particles and dirt in my eyes. Just as the new wrap came loose and I was wrapping it up the drops hit my cheeks. Funny, I thought, the rain isn't supposed to start for a couple of hours and the clouds didn't look that dark. Then I opened my eyes and standing just upwind was one of the heifer calves who had just finished relieving herself. It wasn't rain but it did a good job of mixing with the dirt and hay to make mud.

That was it, I quit. Actually, I was done and after finishing chores around the barnyard, the first thing I did was take a shower. I realize that it could have been worse, I could have been driving a semi down the road or I could have been one of the volunteer firefighters protecting us, so I am not complaining. I also realized that gale force winds or not, this still was better than being behind a desk in an office and life really wasn't too bad, high winds be darned.

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Pioneer Bluffs presents the Music of Patsy Cline

"I have always been fascinated with Patsy Cline," said Kim Coslett, singer and performer. "Patsy never simply sang a song, she put herself into the music. Each song held a real connection to her personally."

The audience will feel Patsy come to life in a performance by Kim Coslett and her four-piece band at Pioneer Bluffs, a historic Flint Hills ranch near Matfield Green. Cos-

lett will include biographical information, history, and the stories behind the songs as she performs all of Patsy's hits.

The doors open at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 30, for drinks and appetizers. *The Music of Patsy Cline* begins at 3:00 p.m. The concert will be held in the loft of the historic barn at Pioneer Bluffs.

"Patsy stayed true to herself when she sang," continued Coslett. "She



Kim Coslett will present the *Music of Patsy Cline* at Pioneer Bluffs on Saturday, April 30.

did it with feeling. To me that's what's singing is about – putting everything you have into every lyric. I get a real connection with my audience; they become part of the song's story."

Coslett and her band have performed with the Prairie Rose Rangers of Benton.

The Music of Patsy Cline is a fundraising event to support future music programs at Pio-

neer Bluffs. Cost is \$50 per person, half of which is a tax-deductible contribution. Reservations are strongly encouraged and can be made online at pioneerbluffs.org or by mailing a check to Pioneer Bluffs, 695 KS Hwy 177, Matfield Green, KS 66862. For more information, contact executive director Lynn Smith at Lynn@pioneerbluffs.org or (620) 753-3484.

Farm income losses vary year to year according to study

By Pat Melgares

Even when times are good, some Kansas farmers are losing money. It's the nature of a business that is often at the mercy of weather, disease, fluctuating markets and more.

But a ten-year analysis by Kansas State University farm management economist Greg Ibendahl indicates that it is not the same set of farms that are losing money regularly.

"Things like weather and pricing and marketing decisions have an influence on what happens to net farm income," Ibendahl said, "and those are the things that change

a farmers' ability to earn a profit in any given year."

"Farmers are sometimes good at marketing, and sometimes they're not. Sometimes it depends on when they pull the trigger (on selling their crops or livestock)."

Ibendahl studied data available through the Kansas Farm Management Association, an organization that has provided individual service to the state's farmers for more than 80 years.

For this particular analysis, he used KFMA data from 2011 to 2020 to look at the average net farm income in Kansas,

including the number of farms that experienced losses.

"Even in the very best years, we always have a group of farms with negative net income," Ibendahl said. "For example, 2020 was a really good year for farm profitability in Kansas. But we still had 9% of farms that had negative net farm income."

The losses, however, are more pronounced in down years. In 2015, Ibendahl said 40% of Kansas farms studied had negative net income.

"So my question was when I looked at our

data... is this the same set of farms, because if it is, I don't think they're going to stay in business," Ibendahl said.

Turns out, it was not the same farms losing money year after year. "We found out that if you take the ten-year average of all farms (studied in the KFMA database), only 5.5% of those farms had a ten-year average below zero," Ibendahl said.

During the 10 years studied, roughly two-thirds of Kansas farms lost money two or fewer years. "There's really only a handful of farms during

that time that had negative net farm income for five years or more. And there could be more factors at play," Ibendahl said.

The analysis did not take into account an increase in land values over the same period, so Ibendahl says farmers' losses may not be exactly as the statistics indicate.

Ibendahl's full analysis, *A Ten-Year Analysis of Net Farm Income*, is available online on the K-State Department of Agricultural Economics website (AgManager.info).

More information on the Kansas Farm Management Association and services available through that organization also is available online.

K-State ag economist offers steps to consider for cow or pasture leases

By Lisa Moser

Leasing or buying is often the debate that people have when deciding on their next vehicle to drive. Many in the agricultural community also enter arrangements to lease pastures, farm ground and – sometimes – even cows, according to the experts at the Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute.

Fuel and fire behavior advisory issued for Central Kansas and Nebraska

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tions in these regions. The dry conditions have persisted into April and have intensified over the last few weeks. As a result, the spring green up has been slow to develop and vegetation moisture is low.

Concerns to firefighters and the public:

- Fires will grow exponentially if not suppressed quickly.
- Any increase in wind will result in extreme fire behavior.
- Typical barriers to spread of fire – including crop stubble, timber and leaf litter – instead are carrying and intensifying fire.

For more information: Fuel and Fire Behavior Advisory, https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/fuels_fire-danger/fuels_fire-danger.htm

"Whether it is leasing cows or pasture, it is important that the arrangement is fair and equitable for all parties involved," said K-State agricultural economist Dustin Pendell on a recent Cattle Chat podcast.

Pendell said there are three steps that cow-calf producers and land owners need to work through from a cost-standpoint prior to setting up an arrangement.

1. Identify the expenses and know who is going to be responsible for paying the expenses.
2. Understand the opportunity costs, and don't forget hidden costs, such as unpaid family labor.
3. Know how these costs are going to be allocated to the respective parties.

Regarding revenue,

Pendell said those dollars also need to be shared on an agreed percentage basis. He pointed to the agmanager.info website from K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics as a resource for how to set up these agreements.

In addition to a temporary leasing arrangement, veterinarian Bob Larson said that he has observed many successful lease-to-own arrangements in operations where there is a generational shift.

"If there is an older cattle producer who still has the land but wants to reduce the labor involved with cattle production, there are options to involve a younger cattle person who can provide the labor in exchange for an increasing ownership percentage of the cows over time," Larson said.

WELCOME

Spencer Crowther

Land Agent

To Midwest Land & Home

Spencer grew up & resides in rural McPherson County and is a 5th generation cattle rancher and 1st generation seedstock producer. He and his family own and operate Double C Ranch. He is a published writer, writing for the Washington Co. News and Grass & Grain. He is married with three sons.

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Regardless of the arrangement, Pendell stressed the importance of putting the contract in writing.

"Spend the time upfront thinking through all the costs and incomes, including cull cow incomes, and then get everything documented," he said. "If something happens down the line and you need to terminate the arrangement, you have it in writing and it is much easier than if it was a verbal agreement."

To hear the full discussion, listen to the Cattle Chat podcast online.

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GRASS & GRAIN Our Daily Bread

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

Donna Geritz, Atchison, Wins This Week's Grass & Grain Recipe Contest And Prize

Winner Donna Geritz, Atchison:
ZUCCHINI PATTIES

2 cups grated zucchini, dry on towels
2 beaten eggs
1/4 cup fine diced onions
1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
1/2 cup mozzarella shreds
Salt & pepper
Oil (to fry in)

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Drop big large tablespoons into oil. Fry and slightly press, a few at a time; 2 minutes on each side until brown. Drain on paper towels.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:

CHERRY DELIGHT

1 large package cherry gelatin
1 1/2 cups boiling water

1 large can crushed pineapple, undrained

1 can cherry pie filling

1 carton Cool Whip, optional (for serving)
Dissolve gelatin in boil-

ing water. Add crushed pineapple. Stir in pie filling. Pour into a 9-by-13-inch glass dish. Refrigerate until set. Serve plain or with a dollop of Cool Whip.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

ASPARAGUS & MUSHROOMS

1 pound asparagus
1 tablespoon oil
8 ounces fresh mushrooms, sliced
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
Salt
Pepper

Trim stem ends from asparagus. Cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces. Heat oil in a skillet then add mushrooms and cook until just tender, 8-10 minutes. Stir in asparagus and cook until bright green and tender, about 5 minutes. Add garlic last minute of cooking. Season with salt and pepper. Serve.

Kellee George, Shawnee:

TUNA CASSEROLE

5-ounce can white tuna
1 can cream celery soup
1/4 cup frozen peas
4-ounce jar sliced pimentos
2 cups cooked egg noodles
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
Slivered almonds

Mix all ingredients together. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Makes 4 servings.

Jackie Doud, Topeka:
"Good on celery crackers, bagels, etc."

SPRING DIP

8 ounces cream cheese
1 green onion, white & green part, chopped
2 ribs celery, chopped small
1/3 cup red pepper or any other color, chopped
3 baby carrots, grated

Mix all ingredients together. Stir enough to combine.

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

SHELLS, PEA & BACON SALAD

1 pound pasta shells
6 strips bacon
2 cups frozen peas, thawed
8 ounces cream cheese
1 1/2 cups grated Cheddar cheese

Pepper to taste

4 ounces snow peas
Cook shell pasta and reserve 1 cup water. Cook ba-

con and crumble or chop and set aside. Pour off all but 2 tablespoons bacon grease from skillet. Add thawed frozen peas to skillet and cook for 1 minute. Add pasta shells and toss to coat. Add cream cheese and grated Cheddar cheese and 1/2 cup reserved water; toss to coat. Stir to make saucy consistency. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in bacon and snow peas.



If you were to have me sit down and list the sports I enjoy watching, my list would not be very vast. If I cannot see people's faces, I lose interest quickly. Things like football with a lot of people on the field; do not ask me the score or what is happening, I will not know, but I will be able to tell you what the person has been doing three sections over for the past few minutes.

Unless it is Ted Lasso, soccer seems utterly exhausting to me. I grew up watching wrestling with my dad, but once I carved "I love Shawn Michaels," into the side of my moms' van with a stick, which clearly I could not deny, my interest in wrestling started to vanish. My youngest brother swam in high school; if I am going to be near water, I want to be in it, not watching other people swim. The middle brother played a lot of baseball, I hated it, such a boring sport to watch.

Last year, my brother and sister-in-law signed my youngest niece up for t-ball. I would be lying to you if I did not admit that I was slightly dreading going to that first game. Figured it would be just as boring as watching my brother play baseball growing up. I was wrong! Watching a bunch of little kids play t-ball is quite possibly one of the most entertaining things ever.

For the most part, none of them have any concrete skills, nor a real understanding of what is going on. They are there for the snacks and to play in the dirt. I spent last spring watching Mika play, with Chloe sitting on the sidelines waiting for it to be her year to join and feeding her fruit snacks to keep her entertained as she cheered on her sister.

This year, both girls got signed up to play, both on the green team. They got

back from a quick little vacation Monday evening and had their first game Tuesday night. Chloe was excited to be playing with Mika and they asked me to come watch them. I showed up a few minutes late but was instantly amused by the sights that were happening in front of us.

The green team was fielding the ball. Mika was all about it this year; going after every ball that was hit and quick to display it to her adoring fans once she got it. Chloe, on the other hand, her mom asked her at one point where the ball was as it went rolling past her. She looked at her mom, shrugged her shoulders and made it quite clear she did not know or care.

When the girls made their way back to the dug-out to put on helmets and get ready to bat, Chloe snuck up to the fence and asked me the most perfect Chloe question, "Got any fruit snacks?" Sadly, I had failed her and did not have any with me, but she rallied and went out to hit the ball anyway.

I cannot say that my overall dislike of sports will change, but I can confidently say that any sport these two little girls decide to play, I will continue to show up whenever I can and be one of their biggest fans.

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

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

Save Easter Lilies And Plant Outdoors: Tips To Help Sometimes-Fickle Lilies Thrive

By Taylor Jamison, K-State Research and Extension news service MANHATTAN

Wondering what to do with Easter lilies after the holiday? K-State Research and Extension horticulture expert Ward Upham suggests planting them outside.

"Though lilies are not reliably hardy in Kansas, many gardeners have success if they follow a few simple rules," Upham said.

Upham's tips for success include:

* Remove the flower stalk. The lily will use energy to produce seed from the stalk. To keep the lily flourishing, remove its stalk after the flowers have faded.

* Take care of the lily

inside until frost has passed. Take care of it as usual. "Keep soil moist but never waterlogged," Upham said. "Don't allow water to sit in the tray. Continue to fertilize."

* Move the pot outside when the weather is warmer. Upham said to sink the pot into the soil until up to its brim. Placing it in dappled shade will reduce the amount of watering required. Continue to water and fertilize the lily. After the top growth has died down, the lily is ready to be fully planted in the ground soil.

* Transplant the lily to a well-dug hole in a sunny location. After choosing a spot that receives enough sunlight,



the key to a healthy lily is good drainage. "Till or dig the soil six inches deep and add three inches of peat moss," Upham said. "Mix the soil and peat moss together. This will form a berm that should drain very well."

* Plant deep enough. Upham recommends planting the lily bulbs six inches deep and 12-18 inches apart. Water well and add mulch to conserve moisture. New growth may not appear until later in the summer, or the plant may stay dormant until the following spring, so remain patient.

* In the fall, cover the plant for winter. Straw, pine needles, wood chips, or other types of mulch can be spread over the lilies in order to protect it in the cold winter. "Use four inches of straw or three inches of any of the other mate-

rials," Upham said.

* Once spring comes again, uncover the lily and begin care. Once the mulch has been uncovered from the lilies, new growth can emerge. Upham recommends performing a soil test in order to best fertilize your plants.

Upham and his colleagues in K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources produce a weekly Horticulture Newsletter with tips for maintaining home landscapes. The newsletter is available to view online or can be delivered by email each week.

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

Links used in this story: K-State Research and Extension statewide offices, <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/statewide-locations.html>

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

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Back To The Basics? Rising Costs May Require Simpler Living

By Pat Melgares, K-State Research and Extension news service

MANHATTAN – The recent increase in prices for many of Americans' everyday expenses may motivate a return to simpler living, said Kansas State University family resource management specialist Elizabeth Kiss.

"We need to think about all of our (current) expenses," Kiss said, "and decide whether this is a good opportunity to get back to basics and identify our foundation. What is it that we absolutely have to spend our money on right now?"

Kiss said all of us have fixed monthly costs, such as housing; and variable costs, such as food and fuel.

"The variable costs are the ones in the short run that we can modify," she said. "You can decrease your expenses, or you can increase your income – or a combination of both."

For those who choose to increase their income to make ends meet, Kiss said there are jobs available in the current labor market, "so if it's to the point where you are thinking of taking on a part-time job – even for a short time – you have the opportunity to do that. But you still need to be working toward longer-term goals."

Kiss shared some ideas for decreasing costs:

Groceries

With spring and summer approaching, there are greater opportunities to buy from farmer's markets. "You can get what you want in the quantities

you want so that you may have less food waste," Kiss said. "If you have any wasted food, that's just money in the garbage can."

Other opportunities to save include:

* Buy products in bulk, especially non-perishable items.

* Use only as much laundry detergent as required for a load.

* Seek lower-cost substitutes for products you already are buying.

Do it yourself

Save costs by taking on some home projects yourself. Some jobs may not be feasible – plumbing can be beyond a simple fix – "but there are some things you can do," Kiss said. "Cook more from scratch, for example. This time of year, people turn to gardening, which can be an opportunity to increase your access to fresh vegetables, herbs and fruits."

Avoid impulse buying

"Having a list is a very good way to avoid impulse buying at the grocery store," Kiss said. "With prices being what they are right now, many of us may not have much flexibility for impulse purchases. You really do have to focus on what your needs are. That's not to say we can't have some things we want, but plan for those."

Do the research on larger purchases

Kiss said anticipating a larger purchase may work in your favor. "If you're anticipating you're going to have to replace an appliance within the next 3-6 months, now's a good time to start doing the shopping

part of it," she said. "Research the prices, brands and models as they are today, so that if I have to do it in a hurry, you know how much you're likely to spend."

Prices may increase or decrease in the time you're doing the research, Kiss said, "but the longer you have to plan for that expenses, the better off you may be."

Kiss said some homeowners may also be able to save money by asking their insurance agent for a review of coverage.

Combine errands

Kiss suggests saving on gas by planning ahead to run several errands on the same trip. She also suggests driving the speed limit, using cruise control and reducing the use of air conditioning and other vehicle accessories. Keep the vehicle well-maintained, including keeping tires inflated appropriately.

"We have so much abundance in our country, so maybe this is a time that we can think about what abundance means to each of us and what satisfies you versus going over the top," Kiss said.

More information on managing family finances is available online. Several publications also are available for free from the K-State Research and Extension bookstore.

Links used in this story: Family Finances (website), www.k-state.edu/family-finances

K-State Research and Extension bookstore, https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu



Branching Out

By Ashleigh Krispense

In just the last few days, the landscape has started transitioning from brown to green almost overnight. We've been cold so long that it seems that spring was held off for a little while and now it's bursting forth with energy like never before.

My garden is beginning to take shape finally! Plans that had been drawn out weeks before are finally coming to fruition. The potatoes are starting to poke their dark green leaves up through the dirt and the onions (or at least some of them) are standing proud and tall as they soak up last night's rain.

I'm excited because I'm switching things up this year and taking a different approach to my garden. Instead of focusing on mainly veggies throughout, we're sprinkling in cut flower patches and borders to add some interest and honesty, move my flowers closer to the water hydrant! The typical marigolds and zinnias will still have a place among the tomatoes, but so will the other varieties such as stocks, scabiosa, and dahlias. I'm sure it'll be far from perfect, but it's exciting to play around with new flowers and see what does well for me.



Just like I'm branching out and trying new ways of setting up my garden, I wanted to share some ideas that might make you want to till up a new patch or switch up your current ways of planting. Here are some different garden ideas that will encourage you to "branch out!"

Salsa Garden

Skip the store and grab your ingredients just outside the back door when you plant a salsa garden. From your favorite tomato and pepper varieties to cilantro, onions and garlic – your salsa garden should reflect your recipe. If you only need a small amount of ingredients, be careful not to over-plant, especially the tomatoes!

Kitchen Herb Garden

I use herbs all the time when cooking, so an herb garden can provide not only fresh herbs to be used now, but if there's enough, herbs can be dried and stored for future use as well. Basil, cilantro, parsley, thyme and oregano are all good ones to start your garden with, but consider adding others like bay and lemon thyme for some more unique options. Awhile back I bought an entire bay plant so I could have endless bay leaves when I go to cook a whole chicken in the crock-pot overnight. I've also read that bay leaves can be very beneficial for the body when made into a tea.



Evening/Moon Garden

A little more unusual of a garden theme, moon gardens are designed around plants that flower in the moonlight or just otherwise reflect the light and can be seen at night. White flowers are generally the color used and these can range from Moonflowers and Casa Blanca Lillies to Four O'Clocks and Mock Orange.

Cut Flower Garden

This is part of what my

big garden has turned into and I couldn't be happier! Not only will the flowers look beautiful, but they'll pull in a variety of natural pollinators that will work among the veggies as well. One of my favorite cut flowers (so far) are the zinnias. I've got a variety of kinds to plant this year including purple prince, California giants, and queen lime. I'm excited to see their colorful flowers burst forth and can't wait to pick a bouquet!



Secret Garden

I love a garden that has an air of whimsy or mystery to it. A secret garden can be a great option when you don't have a ton of space to work with. It can be tucked back in a corner or take up a whole section of yard - make it however big or small you want! You can visit other gardens to get an idea of a theme to follow throughout the garden. Some people like to have the most unusual trees, others might follow a certain color palette. Unique pieces of furniture and decorations can be scattered throughout and if placed in the right location (to reflect back the plants) mirrors are also a fun option to make a garden seem larger than it really is.

I hope you've been inspired to try something new this year! Now is the perfect time to make up your plans and dig in.

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

Is Your Pressure Canner Up To The Task Of Canning?

Home preservation of foods has been a foundation of Cooperative Extension Education. Early history reveals that Extension Agents have been helping local housewives preserve food using recommended practices since the beginning of Extension work in the early 1900s.

Home canning and freezing are the two most popular food preservation practices among families and individuals today. Recently there has been increased interest in gardening which leads to preserving low acid produce using a pressure canner. To ensure pressure canning equipment is safe

and accurate, dial gauge canners should be tested yearly. Now is the perfect time to test your canners to assure they are accurate.

Using inaccurate canners could allow food to be processed at temperatures that do not kill harmful bacteria such as Clostridium Botulinum, the bacteria that causes botulism. Botulism is usually found in low acid foods such as vegetables and meats that are not processed correctly. A safe product can be obtained by using a USDA tested recipe in an accurate canner.

Dial Gauge testing is scheduled on the follow-

ing dates at Wildcat Extension District Offices from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.:

April 19: Fredonia
May 3: Altamont
May 16: Pittsburg
May 24: Independence

Please bring the entire canner, pressure gauge, and rubber seal for a complete canner inspection. Testing takes approximately 15-20 minutes and is free. No appointment is needed. Take a moment now to assure your canner is accurate for the upcoming canning season.

For more information, please contact Holly Miner, Nutrition, Food Safety and Health Agent, hamin-er@ksu.edu, 620-331-2690.

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Biome Makers launches new website focused on the mission for soil health worldwide

Biome Makers has launched a new website to inspire members of the agricultural community to dig deeper into soil biology. As thought leaders in the industry and a team with proven expertise in AgTech, Biome Makers wanted to have a website where people can visit and learn about soil biology in an easy and simple way.

"We wanted to cultivate a space that welcomes farmers, agronomists, retailers, and ag manufacturers to develop a deeper understanding of soil biology," states Adrian Ferrero, co-founder and CEO at Biome Makers. "Our ultimate goal is to share our mission to optimize farming practices and improve soil health and sustainability around the globe."

Biome Maker's objective in producing this new website is to create an avenue for the industry to get the latest news on BeCrop® technology and how it can be utilized to recover and restore soil health. Through the Resource Sections, growers, retailers, and manufacturers can find articles, webinars, and case studies to help them learn about some of the best techniques to regenerate farmland and bring transparency to the agricultural ecosystem. This new website also highlights Biome Makers' Non-Profit Initiatives which include Fields4ever (F4e) and BeCrop Advisors (BCA).

Biome Makers have aligned their brand to emphasize their mission and vision for the future of agriculture, continuously innovating and striving to become a trusted partner for the industry. To learn more about Biome Makers, visit www.biomemakers.com

Agtrinsic and Ceres Imaging announce expansion of disease risk solution

Ceres Imaging, the precision agriculture data analytics company that combines AI with remote sensing technologies to increase farm profits, has announced that its Field Disease Risk product will be made available

to growers as part of Evergreen's Agtrinsic platform.

The expansion announcement is the result of five years of collaboration, and comes after a successful 2021 season limited release where Ceres Imaging and Agtrinsic offered their combined solution on a select 100,000 acres across Illinois.

"We were extremely pleased with the accuracy of the solution from last season's trials and are confident this will be an easy-to-use tool for our customers to save money and make better decisions with their fungicide applications," said Matt Free at Evergreen FS.

The disease risk solution will be available for dryland soybean and corn farmers in the Midwest U.S. For growers in high disease risk regions, the solution helps with fungicide timing and provides flat or variable rate application recommendations.

For growers where fungicide is applied more selectively, the solution provides guidance on spray/no spray decisions, as well as timing and application rates.

Additionally, the tool also offers salespeople a data-driven solution to help them provide better agronomic support with fungicide decision making, backed by years of field trials.

"While other providers show where disease has already impacted a crop, this is the first proactive solution that gets ahead of disease risks before it impacts yield. We are honored that Evergreen FS is putting its trusted name behind this collaborative solution," said Ceres Imaging CEO Ashwin Madgavkar.

How it Works:

- Agtrinsic monitors for regional disease risk through its network.
- When Agtrinsic flags a region as high risk for disease pressure

through AI technology, it triggers a field level analysis by Ceres Imaging.

- Ceres Imaging combines satellite data and its patented algorithms to assess disease risk at a farm and field level as part of its Field Disease Risk solution.

- Farms are then delivered a fungicide recommendation in the Agtrinsic app. The recommendation includes:

- * Which pathogens are of greatest concern.

- * A low, medium or high score based on field level disease risk.

- * A flat or variable rate fungicide application recommendation for the best return on investment.

"Providing timely data that helps growers save money and improve yields is a key element of our Farmer of the Future vision. We believe this solution is a game changer for the fungicide market and we are excited about its expansion," said John Tuttle at Evergreen FS.

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Kansas Corn: Biden's E15 waiver is good news for farmers, consumers

Thanks to an emergency waiver announced by the Biden administration, drivers in Kansas and other states can continue to fill up with E15 (15% ethanol) fuel through the summer months. E15 is a lower cost, high octane fuel, that offers environmental benefits through lower emissions and reduces reliance on foreign oil. The Kansas Corn Growers Association (KCGA) said corn farmers, consumers and the environment would benefit from the waiver.

"We appreciate President Biden's announce-

ment of the waiver to allow continued use of E15 through the summer driving season. Ethanol is a homegrown, affordable, clean air fuel solution that has been making a positive difference in our nation's fuel supply and the environment for years," Kansas Corn CEO Greg Krissek said.

Ethanol is a key market for farmers whose corn is used as livestock feed, ethanol production and exports. Ethanol plants produce a clean fuel, and a third of the grain used for ethanol returns as DDGS,

a valued livestock feed. Kansas Corn has been active in helping build retail infrastructure for E15 and higher ethanol blends and promoting ethanol-blended fuels.

Outdated RVP regulations restrict fuel retailers' ability to market E15 during the peak driving season. The emergency authority is not a permanent fix to allow drivers access to E15 year-round, but it will remove the barriers for this summer. A recent Harvard-Tufts study showed that corn ethanol reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 46 percent, compared to gasoline. Increasing ethanol blending from 10 percent to 15 percent further reduces GHG emissions.

"With over 75 stations across Kansas offering E15 fuel, often marketed as Unleaded 88, it has been a true American success story, and we need the certainty of year-round E15 sales to continue to expand the number of stations that offer this affordable, clean, domestic fuel, especially in urban markets," Krissek said.

Many Kansas leaders took action including Kansas senators Roger Marshall and Jerry Moran, representatives Tracey

Mann, Jake LaTurner and Ron Estes, as well as Governor Laura Kelly and Attorney General Derek Schmidt who all signed letters urging the administration to grant the waiver.

The President directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use its existing authority to prevent drivers from losing access to lower-cost and lower-emission E15, a higher-ethanol blend often marketed as Unleaded 88. Without action from the Biden administration or Congress, a 2021 court decision was set to end full-market access for E15 beginning this summer.

Ethanol has been priced an average of 80 cents less per gallon than wholesale unblended gasoline through March, and drivers normally save up to 20 cents or more per gallon where E15 is available. Ethanol adds billions of gallons to the U.S. fuel supply every year, lowering demand for high-cost oil while increasing fuel options available to consumers. Corn farmers' increased productivity and efficiency have resulted in higher yields while using fewer resources to meet food, feed and fuel demand while keeping consumer prices down.

The Kansas and National Corn Growers Associations will continue to work with the administration to create a long-term solution to allow year-round E15 sales, and for

passage of the Next Generation Fuels Act which would create a pathway to higher ethanol blends, cleaner fuel and more efficient vehicles for years to come.

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AUCTION
SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022 — 9:00 AM
Offering for sale at Public Auction, located at
512 E. Centennial, GOESSEL, KANSAS
FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, HOUSEHOLD & GARAGE

Becker built 107x44 Oak dining room table, formica top & 6 Oak chairs; Becker built Oak bookcase; Kimball console piano & bench; sofa; swivel rockers; 2 & 3 pc. bedroom sets; kitchen dinette tables & chairs; roll top desk; wooden benches; Solid State stereo; ping-pong table; hide-a-bed loveseat; Fisher-Price game table; old pie safe/cabinet; Waterfall dresser & chest-of-drawers; blonde Cedar chest; school desks; folding tables & chairs; wooden doors; JC Penney microwave; Bernina Nova sewing machine & cabinet; Amana refrigerator; Maytag washer & dryer; Montgomery Ward 23 cu. ft. chest freezer; Eureka upright sweeper; Oreck sweeper; compact sweeper; books; hymnals; tea pots; lamps; church plates; bell collection; salt & pepper collection; figurines; seasonal decoration; silverware; lg. 20 place setting of china; sewing supplies; bedding; luggage; German books; step stool; towels; linens; bullet pencils; pocket knives; advertising items; yard sticks; dolls & cradle; canning jars; coolers; dehumidifier; bread machine; pots & pans; crock; cups & mugs; Moundridge Creamery; glassware; water sets; Tupperware; utensils; baking dishes; globe; elec. skillet; toaster oven; crock pots; spoon collection; ice cream freezer; shop vac; metal shelving; step ladder; shovels; rakes; vise; socket sets; DeWalt cordless drill; lawn bench; birdbath; coaster wagon; hose reel; metal cabinet; LawnBoy mower; sm. grill; old high chair; old radio cabinet; sq. Oak dining table; yellow chrome leg table; DVD player; old sewing machine; apt. size range; heater; & more.

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LAND AUCTION
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022 — 6:00 PM
American Legion, 706 N. Locust St. — FRANKFORT, KANSAS

96.7± ACRES MARSHALL COUNTY, KS LAND

TRACT 1: ACRES 73±. FSA Farmland = 78.83 acres less 4.0± Acre Homesite, with 61.54 DCP Cropland Acres
TRACT 2: ACRES 12.7. FSA Farmland = 17.26 acres with 13.52 DCP Cropland Acres
TRACT 3: ACRES 11. FSA Farmland = 14.58 acres with 9.1 DCP Cropland Acres

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MIDWEST LAND & HOME

Donations being accepted for ranchers impacted by recent wildfires

In late March, wildfires tore through portions of Jewell and Pawnee counties, burning nearly 10,000 and 8,600 acres of pastureland respectively. Hay, fence and some equipment was also lost.

A collection point for donated hay and fencing supplies for those impacted by the fire in Jewell County has been set up across the highway from 2920 Highway 128, Burr Oak, KS 66936. This is seven miles north of Burr Oak or two miles south of the Kansas/Nebraska state line. For unloading assistance, call Jarett Yelken at (402) 746-0569.

The Kansas Livestock Foundation, KLA's charitable arm, is accepting cash donations to assist those impacted by the fires. Those who would like to donate can do so by sending a check, with "wildfire relief" written in the memo line, to 6031 S.W. 37th, Topeka, KS 66614.

Producers can apply for relief funds by visiting www.kla.org/resources/wildfire-relief-resources and filling out the form, which asks about livestock, fence and structures lost, grazing acres burned and veterinary costs to treat sick or injured animals. Applications are due May 15. Applicants do not have to be KLA members. Relief fund checks will be mailed soon to producers who applied earlier this year.

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FARM AUCTION
SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022 — 9:00 AM
Auction held at the farm located from CLAY CENTER, KANSAS 12 miles South to 6th Rd. (Mizpah Church Rd.), then 3 miles East and almost 1 mile South to 531 Quail Road.

TRUCKS, PICKUP, SPRAYER & TRAILERS (sell at 1:00): 1978 Chevy farm truck, 366 engine, 5x2 spd, PS, 2 saddle tanks, 15.5' all steel bed w/hoist, Shurlok rollover tarp, pintle hitch, nearly new 9.00x20 rubber all around; Chevy farm truck, 350 eng, 5x2 spd, all steel 16' bed & hoist; 1995 GMC Sierra SL std. cab 4WD pickup; Fimco pickup bed sprayer, nice, to sell after pickup; 1963 Chevy farm truck; Travelute 6.5x16ft. bumper hitch stock trailer & MORE!

FARM MACHINERY (sells approx. 1:30): Great Plains 21 hole end wheel drill w/dry fert.; John Deere #7000 6x30" planter w/monitor, dry fert. & markers; John Deere #530 BR baler w/monitor, string tie; JD 1209 9' swather w/crimper & cylinders; Winco 18KW PTO generator on 2-whl trailer; nice narrow wooden grain box on 4 whl. running gear & MORE! CHEVY II, RIDING MOWER, PROPANE TANK (sell at 11): 1962 Chevy II 2-dr w/4cyl. eng, needs restored; JD 155LT tractor mower; 300-gal. propane tank. **LIVESTOCK EQUIP.:** 5 BR bale feeders; feed bunks; portable cattle panels; gates; hog panels; 60+ good 16ft. wire hog panels, the good old ones; T-posts; elec. fence posts; & MORE. **TOOLS, SHOP ITEMS & MISC. (sell first):** Lincoln 225A AC/DC welder; old 20th Century arc welder; air compressor; Milwaukee Sawz all; DeWalt & Craftsman cordless tools; Husqvarna & Stihl chainsaws, new chains; new 80,000 BTU shop heater; 12V poly ATV sprayers; pickup fuel tank w/nearly new 12V pump & MUCH MORE! **ANTIQUES & PRIMITIVES**

For information regarding the items contact Ted Luthi: 785-210-5012. Loader tractor available day of sale or by appt.. 30 days for removal. Your inspection invited prior to sale.
CLERK: CAT Clerks, P.O. Box 54, Morganville, KS 67468
LUNCH: Mizpah Church Ladies

See Last Week's Grass & Grain For Complete Listings & Go to globalauctionsguide/kretz or kansasauctions.net/kretz many pictures and any additional information.

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Auction conducted by: **KRETZ AUCTION SERVICE**
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by Kirk Sours

Almost Heaven, Part 3

We moved to Kansas in late July or early August of 1968. I would start the 3rd grade at Olsburg's McCormick Elementary School. Until we moved into our recently purchased home, one of the oldest in the town and built by the Union Pacific railroad, which quit servicing the town sometime before WW2, my family stayed with my grandparents across K-16 from the school. All I had to do was walk across the road and I was on the school grounds.

With a name like "Sours" amongst a bunch of Swedish names like Johnson, Nelson, Olson, and Anderson, and nearly all farm kids, well, I learned pretty quick that the nickname "Scours" wasn't a compliment! New kid, funny name, and being pretty puny wasn't the worst of it. When I left second grade in Virginia, I had already learned how to do long division; the old way. The "real" way! I was a straight A student in 1st and 2nd grade, (no kindergarten) and had even won "Runner-up" for Student of the Year in Frederick County.

Third grade in Mrs. Tyler's class brought me face to face with something called "New Math." I couldn't understand why in the world you had to draw a line down the side and break out all the numbers when I could get the right answer every time doing what I knew how. But that wasn't what was expected, so I became very frustrated. Math was no longer a friend of mine, and I barely squeaked through high school with a

funeral services in 1970, it just didn't feel like home anymore. I took my own family back in 1990, mainly to see my aunt, my dad's only remaining sibling. The old "home place" had been erased from the landscape, and I was barely able to find where it had stood. The little cabin on the mountain was gone.

I drove a 1976 Thunderbird. It was nice, but still it was a 14-year-old car. My cousins all thought I was filthy rich, ha! (They rode mopeds, mainly because they'd lost their drivers licenses to DUIs!) We had been camping out in order to save money and when we hit Winchester, we checked into a motel because I knew Aunt Bea would insist we stay with her, and I wasn't sure she had indoor plumbing yet!

It was Labor Day weekend, and Sunday night found us in the emergency room with our six-month-old son who had developed a UTI, and I sat in the ER waiting room with our five-year-old daughter, who thankfully was asleep for most of the show that came in off the street. Cops dragged people in wearing handcuffs, some with clothing torn off; another guy had fought the cops and was bloodied up and missing a shoe, and one girl in handcuffs ran over and kicked a pregnant woman

in the belly before she was caught and subdued. We waited six hours for tests and prescriptions for the baby, and the side-show I witnessed during those hours was deeply unsettling to me. We had breakfast with Aunt Bea at a nice restaurant, and kissed her goodbye forever. We drove the Skyline Drive along the Blue Ridge where my grandfather had helped to build the road during the WPA days of the Depression. I wanted to show my wife the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, but the fog was heavy during our two-day drive along the mountain, lifting only at night, revealing a starry sky. While we sat at our fire in camp, a skunk came right under our lawn chairs, and we froze, motionless, and barely breathing till he exited our camp.

All the way back to Kansas I was praying thanks to God that my folks had moved away from there, and that I had grown up and put down roots in the limestone hills of the Kansas prairie.

I was going home. Kirk Sours is a ranch manager in NE Kansas, shaped and molded by the Kansas prairie since the age of eight. His major hobby is writing commentary, short biographical stories, and he is active in the community. Email him at: sours.kirk@yahoo.com.

Governor Kelly signs bill designating Sandhill Plum as official state fruit

Governor Laura Kelly signed House Bill 2644, designating Sandhill Plum as the state fruit of Kansas. The efforts to pass this legislation began in 2021 when more than 400 fourth- and fifth-grade students from 24 different schools participated in a process that included writing essays, sending letters to state representatives, and voting to determine what they believed should be the designated state fruit for Kansas.

"I am proud of the efforts put forth by the students from Sabetha Elementary School and beyond," Governor Laura Kelly said. "Hundreds of bills are introduced each legislative session, but not all of them make it to this point. It's a shining example of what hard work and determination can truly accomplish at any age."

Ten students testified virtually in March on behalf of HB2644 in front of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee. The students from Sabetha Elementary School who started this process were in attendance to witness this bill become law.



FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT & TOOL AUCTION for TONY WOLTERS ESTATE

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022 — 9:00 AM

AUCTION LOCATION: 627 Market Street - PORTIS, KANSAS
COMBINES & HEADERS: John Deere 9500 Combine w/5882 eng. hrs & 4164 sep. hrs; 1997 John Deere 9500 Combine w/24.5x32 front tires & 14.9x24 rear, eng. hrs. 3627 & sep. hrs 2607; JD 9600 Combine w/eng. hrs 4854 & sep. hrs 3314, front tires 30.5Lx32 rear 14.9x24; (3) JD 925 Headers SN 651139, F640978 & R685993; JD 930 Header SN 651265; JD 643 6 Row Cornhead. **FARM MACHINERY, ETC.:** 6230 Landoll Disk 21 1/2 front disks, 22 rear; Kent Field Cultivator; 8 row Hinkler Cultivator; Sunflower 20" Disk 21 1/2 front disks, 22 rear; Krause 32" Disk; Big Valley Cattle Chute. **TRAILERS:** 6x12 Trailer; Wylie Tank & Trailer; 2006 7x16 Pipe Trailer; 6 Bale Gooseneck Hay Trailer; 2014 Car Dolly Trailer; 1999 6x16 Dove Trailer; 2005 Eagle 20' Trailer w/Dovetail ramps 7000 lb. tri. axle, new 14 ply tires. **TRACTOR:** IHC H Tractor. **TRUCKS:** 1973 Chevrolet w/18' box; 1979 GMC 7000 w/18' box w/ rollover tarp. **MOWER:** 2013 Yard Machine Riding Lawn Mower. **TOOLS inc:** Power painter; Senco Dura Spin Nailer; Craftsman Contractors Mitre Saw; Sawzall; Tool Sets; B&D Hedge Trimmer; Nailers; Milwaukee Angle Drill; 1/2" Socket; Small Scaffolding; Sheet Rock Sander; Seco Auto Level & Stand; Concrete Saw; NIB 10" Dual-Bevel Sliding Compound Mitre Saw; Hilti Nailer; Wood Clamps; Pipe Benders; Nova Paint Sprayer; Tile Cutter; Milwaukee Sawzall; Porter-Cable Laminate Cable; Milwaukee 18volt 1/2 Impact Wrench; B&D Workmate; Car Ramps; Table Saw; Alum Step Ladder; Kwik Set; 2 wheel Dollies; Quick Click Ladder Stabilizer; Porter-Cable Dry Wall Sander; Skil Saw; Gas Cans; Milwaukee Vacuum; Hand Tools; Sheet Rock Tools; Nail Bars; Hand Plane; Stapler; Pipe Cutters; Sockets; Concrete & Wood Saw Blades; B&D Super Vac & Mulch; Hilti Medium Crown Air Stapler SM200 B; 50" Contractor Gun, Hose & Tip Kit for Paint Sprayer; Hitachi 3 1/2" Stapler; Tin Snips; (2) Paslode Cordless Staplers; Roof Ducting Kit; ATV Ramps; Wheelbarrow; Painting Scrapers; 20' 220 Elec. Cord. **MISC. CONSTRUCTION & OTHER SUPPLIES, ETC.:** Propane Bottles; Tarps; Ammo Boxes; Lights; Pex (1 & 1/2") Rubberoid Cloth; Plastic Sheeting Screws; Paslode Nailgun Nails; Elec. & bolts, etc; Regent High-Pressure Security Light; Coil Roofing Nails; Lots of Dumas Decorative Door Hardware; Tarps; Windows; (11) Boxes of Haymaker Baler Twine; **and MORE!**

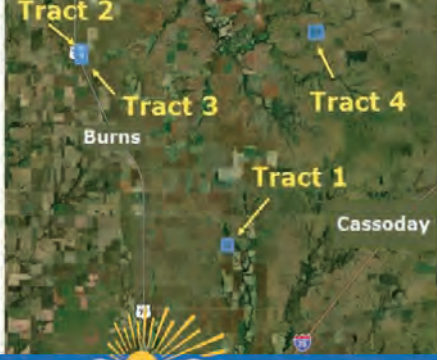
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- Tract 3 - 131.6 ac Marion County Cropland**
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