



Economists study impact of international agricultural research at U.S. universities

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

An economic analysis on the impact of international agriculture research and development conducted at U.S. universities over 40 years indicates that every dollar invested provides a return of \$8.52 in economic impact.

Kansas State University agricultural economist Timothy Dalton is reporting results from a study of projects completed between 1978 and 2018 and funded by the United States Agency for International Development through its Collaborative Research Support Program, and Feed the Future Innovation Labs.

The research looked at USAID projects representing an investment of \$1.24 billion to support agricultural development and improve food security around the world. Those projects returned \$10 billion in economic impact, according to Dalton.

Much of the work is done by agricultural scientists at U.S. land grant universities.

"These university-funded programs positively impact the most vulnerable populations in low- and middle-income countries," Dalton reported. "Those living in poverty on less than \$5.50 per day receive 78% of the research benefits, and nearly 30% of those receiving benefits live in extreme poverty on less than a daily net income of \$1.90."

Dalton and Keith Fuglie – an economist with the USDA's Economic Research Service – have co-authored a paper documenting the high return to investment in agricultural research and development. Their report is now available online from the Cambridge University Press.



A study of the value of international agricultural research through the U.S. Agency on International Development indicates a return of \$8.52 in economic impact for every dollar invested. Photo courtesy of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sorghum and Millet, Kansas State University

"Agricultural productivity is one of the most powerful tools we have for promoting food security and equitable economic growth in low-income countries," Fuglie said. "When you raise agricultural productivity, you are improving the incomes and welfare of some of the most undernourished and poorest people in the world."

The authors found what they termed "high return investments" in such areas as integrated pest management technologies; new varieties of cereals and legumes; and

in alleviating post-harvest losses through improved storage practices.

"University investments in international agricultural research have delivered significant benefits for reducing poverty and improving nutrition for these low income populations," Fuglie said.

Dalton said international research provides benefits to U.S. taxpayers as well.

"We currently face insect pests in U.S. sorghum production that occurred in southern Africa in the 1980s, (and) in Latin America and the Caribbean during the early 2000s," he said. "When these pests appeared in the U.S., we were able to hit them head-on with the knowledge we generated for farmers in those other countries."

He added that agricultural research targets two segments of populations in low-income countries: farmers who are just getting by, and consumers in urban areas who allocate 70-80% of their budget toward food.

"When we combine these two populations, we see that (agricultural research) is lifting broad populations out of poverty," Dalton said. "That is what makes agriculture so much different than many other investment alternatives. Investment in agriculture affects the population broadly through higher incomes or cheaper food. Investment in agricultural research and development takes time, (but) persistence pays."

More information about this USAID funded research and its findings is available online from K-State's Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sorghum and Millet.

After Hours event discusses urban-rural divide

By Lucas Shivers

To share fresh insight on the history of urban and rural collaboration and divisiveness, the Kansas Historical Society hosted an online presentation entitled: "The Urban-Rural Divide in American History Or, Why Can't We Get Along?"

"We focused on the urban-rural divide in American history," said Sarah Parsons, event organizer. "We are a nation of urbanites, and yet we are filled with people who don't like cities very much."

Kansas Historical Society organizes an ongoing series of speakers to share Virtual Museum After Hours on Zoom and Youtube. Parsons, a reference archivist at the Kansas State Archives, welcomed the main presenter for June 2022, Steven Conn, a professor of history at Miami University.

"The rural urban divide is one of the nation's oldest political rifts," said Parson. "The result has been an ever-widening debate over who is urban or rural, and what is a real American. We can explore the deep roots of American hostility towards cities and rural areas to ask questions about our continuing nostalgia for rural life."

Long-standing History

Originally from Philadelphia, Conn was on the faculty in the history department at Ohio State University since he received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1994.

"I want to put forward what I see as a central dilemma on the urban-rural divide in American political and cultural life, rooted in about 200 years of American history," Conn said. "There's an essential American paradox. We

are a nation where 75% of us live in metropolitan regions of 500,000 people or more. We are a heavily urbanized nation."

After 21 years at OSU, Conn became the W. E. Smith Professor of History at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 2015 where he teaches courses in American history. As the author of numerous books, he's currently completing a new one titled *Rethinking Rural*.

"In the first U.S. census, about 5% of us were urbanites," Conn said. "And now nearly 80% of us are trending towards greater and greater urbanization all through the 19th century, all through the 20th century, and it continues into the 21st."

These shifts are a consistent trend line throughout the history of the United States.

"The paradox, however, is that culturally and politically, we are a nation in a real dilemma," Conn said. "It's a real challenge as we think about what the future is going to look like as an urban nation filled with people who think they should be living on the farm."

Multiple Perspectives

As an often anti-urban bias, Conn discussed some of the privileges of rural politics.

"In fact, that's deliberate," Conn said. "That's the way the Constitution is designed because it was framed by a number of people who themselves were deeply suspicious of American cities."

Many founding figures had hostility towards cities.

"They did not want Americans to become urbanites," Conn said. "It was a moral issue. It's not just that somehow it's healthier, you have a bigger yard or anything material. Americans have collectively believed in it for a very long time. Country equals good; and city equals bad and wicked."

Yet despite all of the work associated with rural life, farming, countryside and so forth, Americans continually flocked to cities.

"Jobs in industrial cities were the dynamo, both economically and socially of the nation," Conn said. "Despite the fact that we have had this ethos, there is still a deep suspicion of all things urban."

To many, some of the issues include perceptions of concentration and compaction of cities.

"There were too many people crowded together in these urban spaces that just must be bad," Conn said. "Not only are there just too many people, but

too many of the wrong kind of people; too many people who are different from us. There is no question that at the turn of the 20th century, this anti-urban reaction is deeply xenophobic."

Urban Growth

Cities in the U.S. grew for several reasons.

"For decades in the 1900s, Americans left the farm and moved into cities," Conn said. "Immigrants also increasingly came from southern and eastern Europe, flocking to places like New York, Boston and Chicago."

Cities in the early 20th century were faced with problems of how to make life livable, growing as fast as they were in a chaotic way as they assimilated and absorbed people from all over the world with religious and language differences.

"People realized that the only way that cities are going to work is if the government steps in to make it possible," Conn said. "As Americans, we're supposed to believe in a kind of private world where we do things for ourselves."

For some, city life was too close to concepts like communism.

"I'm not exaggerating," Conn said. "I'm pulling from the language that people use, especially in the first half of the 20th century in essays and articles."

American culture in the 1920s was driven by the technologies of mass media increasingly informed by urban ideals, particularly the radio and eventually TV.

"We became increasingly urbanized starting in the 1920s," Conn said. "Yet, Roosevelt's New Deal was really about rural places and agricultural places,

particularly, it's really a new deal for rural America. Roosevelt didn't have much use for American cities."

With focus like the Agricultural Adjustment Act and Civilian Conservation Corps, rural areas saw expansion of agricultural Extension offices, soil conservation efforts and additional evidence across Kansas.

"It's not a mystery why rural farmers loved Franklin Roosevelt," Conn said. "He brought all kinds of federal help to agricultural regions that were staggering under the Great Depression."

Next Era

In one noteworthy event, the World's Fair in New York City, which opened in May 1939, offered Americans an opportunity called "World of Tomorrow." One popular exhibit was the Futurama display, sponsored by General Motors. It presents what an American city could look like in 1960, around 20 years into the future.

"People saw a city of high-speed roads and sky-

scrapers, cleared out of all of those messy, congested, dense urban neighborhoods," Conn said.

In the post-war period, there was a focus on urban renewal, he shared.

"There was a rebuilding of American cities and in essence, clearing them out," Conn said. "As housing programs came into play, President Truman promised a decent home in a decent environment for Americans, creating an enormous housing crisis after the Second World War."

Happening simultaneously, the building of 42,000 miles of interstate highways in the late 1950s when Congress passed the interstate highway system.

"This is how cities were torn apart and centralized under the programs of urban renewal and highway construction," Conn said. "Leading to a period of urban crisis as cities are torn up, people fled to suburbs in large numbers culminating in the 1970s."

At the same time, however, rural areas were in even more precipitous decline to suburbs.

"It's worth remembering that the Farm Aid concert series was inspired by a summertime benefit concert to benefit famine victims in Ethiopia," Conn said. "There would be an analogy here between what was happening in Ethiopia and now what was happening in our farm belt. It was quite remarkable."

Modern Times

Through the Great Recession of 2008, rural America suffered more from the shifts in the American economy.

"In many ways, the problems we used to associate with urban areas have become the problems of rural areas," Conn said. "For example, there are drug addictions, opioids in particular, but a mess as well."

For modern trends like COVID population patterns, Conn said it's probably too early yet to know the lasting effects.

"I think the dust is going to take longer to settle on COVID," he said. "But as people go, so goes the economy."



Summits of Summer

Glenn Brunkow,
Pottawatomie County
farmer and rancher

We have turned the calendar to July, and that means different things to different people. For students and teachers July means summer is at the halfway point, and the first day of school is near. For those of us in agriculture it means haying season and watching fall crops grow. In the Farm Bureau

world, July is the start of county Farm Bureau annual meetings.

County Farm Bureau meetings in Kansas are as unique as the counties themselves. They are held anytime from July until October; the only stipulation is that they have to be done in time to get the voting delegates for that county registered for the Kansas Farm Bureau annual meeting in Decem-

ber. The meetings vary in the type of meal served – anything from catered affairs to hot dog and ham-burger feeds or even ice cream socials. Some have entertainment, others feature educational speakers while some are bare bones, business-only gatherings. Recently some counties have gone with more family friendly activities with their annual meeting tagged on at the end.

Yes, there is no cookie-cutter county Farm Bureau Annual meeting template. That is the beauty of Kansas Farm Bureau, each county organization is its own unique entity. That is what makes me

proud to be a member of Kansas Farm Bureau and the Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau specifically. I have never been involved with an organization that was so grassroots-driven and responsive to its members.

Every annual meeting reflects the unique personality of an individual county and the members on the board. I have seen traditions developed over many years in some counties and other counties like to mix it up with something new each year. The COVID-19 years saw a lot of change in our county annual meeting with many being held virtual; thank goodness that

isn't the case any more. One thing that all county annual meetings share is great fellowship among the members.

That is where I want to make the plea to you. If you are a member and you have not been to one of your annual meetings, please change that this year. You should receive notice of the meeting from your respective county. Some will be a simple postcard while others will be a newsletter touting what your county has done during the year. If you have not received your notice yet or think you might have missed it, just call your local office and they will be happy to give you

the details.

I hope you will consider attending. This is a good way to get your toes wet and see what your organization has to offer. I don't know of a single county that isn't looking for members who want to be active and this is a good way to find out what it is all about. Who knows you might at least have a great meal or some other experience?

"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.

Fighter pilot connects farm policy and national security

An Op-Ed from Farm Policy Facts

When August Pfluger decided to join the Air Force, he drew upon a deeply ingrained desire to put service before self. Now, as the congressman representing Texas' 11th district, Pfluger recognizes that same motivation in the small number of hardworking men and women who farm and ranch to provide all Americans with food, fuel, and fiber.

"It's very difficult what that one percent of the population does to farm and ranch and provide food for every single American, because every American eats," he recently said on the Groundwork podcast.

Pfluger joined Farm Policy Facts to discuss how farming contributes to the security of our nation, and the critical role that farm policy plays in ensuring that this security remains uncompromised.

Long before his district, centered around San Angelo, Texas, became known for its oil and gas industry or as the home of the Goodfellow Air Force Base, there was agriculture. As a member of Congress and a leader of

the Texas Ag Task Force, Pfluger is committed to supporting these farm producers by maintaining a strong farm safety net.

The farm safety net is especially important as farmers grapple with rising input costs and weather challenges. Pfluger relayed that many farmers in his district dealing with drought haven't been able to plant this year or have had to sell off livestock. With farming's already thin margins, it doesn't take a lot to put a farmer out of business, and Pfluger warned that farmers going out of business is a national security issue.

That's because "a country that can feed itself is so much more strong than one that cannot."

Pfluger said that as Congress writes the next Farm Bill, its members should draw from the lessons learned from recent challenges affected farmers. "The unpredictability of agriculture is the reason we have a Farm Bill," he said.

"The federal government, I believe, needs to play a role (in farm policy) and 2022 highlights exactly how im-

portant that role is to have a strong safety net, to make sure that when the volatility happens, whether that volatility comes from weather, or whether that volatility comes from conflict across the ocean in a place like Ukraine."

Russia's unjust war against Ukraine, a country often referred to as the "breadbasket of Europe," has contributed to a global food crisis while providing a warning sign to farm policy critics that dismantling the federal policies that support our own domestic agricultural producers will harm our national security.

"We in the United States have to be extremely vigilant to... make sure that we can still produce our own food and not be reliant on actors in the international community who want to take us down or who want to reduce our power, or in some cases, who could withhold certain products from us that would eventually weaken us to a point that was unacceptable," Pfluger explained.

It's clear: strong farm policies keep us fed, clothed, and secure.

Federal judge vacates three ESA rules

A federal judge in the northern district of California remanded and vacated three Endangered Species Act (ESA) rules recently that had been finalized during the Trump administration. The 2019 rules all were challenged in court by environmental activists. The changes that will take effect immediately include going

back to the blanket 4(d) rule that existed during the Obama administration, returning to a listing process that does not consider economic impact and reverting to the prior process for interagency consultation. According to NCBA, this regulatory whiplash increases uncertainty, expands government overreach under

ESA and will worsen the delays and backlog of the consultation process.

The Trump-era rule had repealed the blanket 4(d) rule and prohibited the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) from automatically extending the protections against take that apply to endangered species to cover threatened species as

well. Vacating the Trump rule now returns FWS to a blanket 4(d) rule, where threatened species automatically have the same protections against take as endangered species. The original intent of section 4(d) of ESA was for the secretary of inter-

ior to examine the need for take protections on an individual basis based on need. The now-vacated Trump rule also had directed FWS to consider the possible economic impact a listing might have on rural communities before making a deci-

sion. Vacating the rule returns the agency to a state where they no longer are required to make this consideration. Additionally, Section 7 of ESA requires federal agencies to consult with FWS or the National Marine Fisheries Service before engaging in any action that potentially could affect a listed species. To improve the efficiency of that process, the Trump administration had codified alternative consultation mechanisms and established a deadline for informal consultations, providing greater certainty to regulators and impacted producers, landowners and communities. Vacating the rule now removes those revisions from the books.

NCBA is actively involved in defending the ESA rules put in place by the previous administration. Staff are evaluating next steps and will continue advocating for a regulatory approach to ESA that is science-based, rooted in current conditions on the ground and cognizant of the economic impact these decisions have on rural communities.



Haying is coming along well. I have to admit that it is hard to watch from the sidelines. I had my second hip replaced a week ago and the recovery is too slow for me. I know it is right where it should be, but I would rather be on the interstate instead of this winding country road I seem to be on. One would think that being forced to spend the afternoons inside instead of out in the hundred-degree heat would be a good thing. It is not.

Being on the injured list is tough, but it is also humbling at the same time. I don't know what I would do without my family and the way they have stepped up. I know Jennifer is exhausted from doing chores, going to work, coming home and haying. I know our vows were for better and for worse, in sickness and in health but that kind of glossed over the sickness part. More specifically it did not say "in sickness during hay season." I am not sure what I am going to do to make this all up, but I do know she mentioned a nice, full, hot meal in town would be a good start.

My kids have really stepped up and helped even though they are really busy with their studies. This has been a great way for me to take a step back and realize that my kids are grown, capable adults. While it has been tough, I have been able to find many silver linings in my downtime. Things more important than watching every *Gunsmoke* or rodeo on TV. Of course, it is also startling to realize that I can be replaced and maybe even upgraded.

The most humbling part of all of this is the help and concern I have gotten from all of my neighbors and friends. I don't know why it is so hard to accept help, but it is. In agriculture we often are hurt by this pride that we can do everything on our own and that it is a sign of weakness to let others help. I know they have their own things to do, and I don't want to be a burden. The bottom line is that they would not have offered if they did not want to help and I can only hope that what goes around, comes around and someday I can help them too.

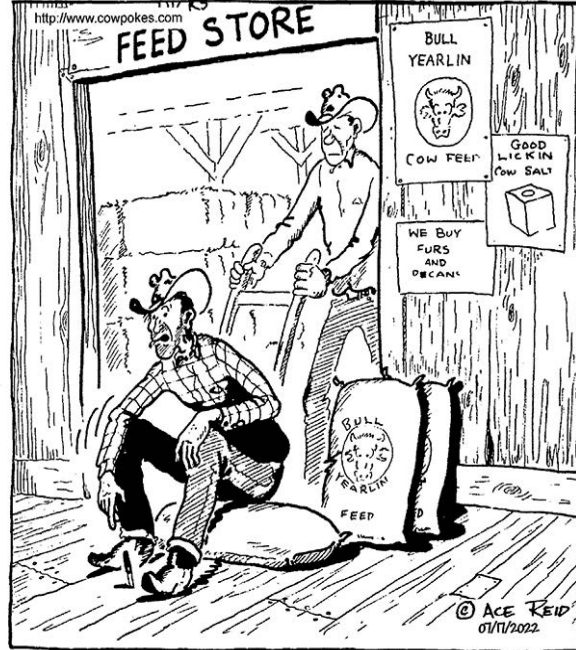
I have come to this realization. I am healing up just fine, the timing of this stunk but I didn't really have a choice. It was truly a blessing to find the doctor I did and to be able to heal as fast as I am; this all could have been much worse and taken much longer. I am also blessed that this is something that can be fixed, and I will be good as new in a couple of weeks. There are others that are not that fortunate, and I realize how lucky I am. I have been asked if I am bionic now. I don't know about that, but I am rapidly approaching being the six-million-dollar man.

The two most important things I have learned during this is one: how important my family is. They have carried on the farm while juggling a full-time job and school responsibilities and we have hardly missed a beat. I have also learned that everyone in my family is capable of doing anything on this farm. It is a lesson my father never learned, and I wonder just how much he missed because of it. I have to admit that there is a bit of satisfaction knowing that things can get done without you. I am surprised because I would not have guessed that revelation.

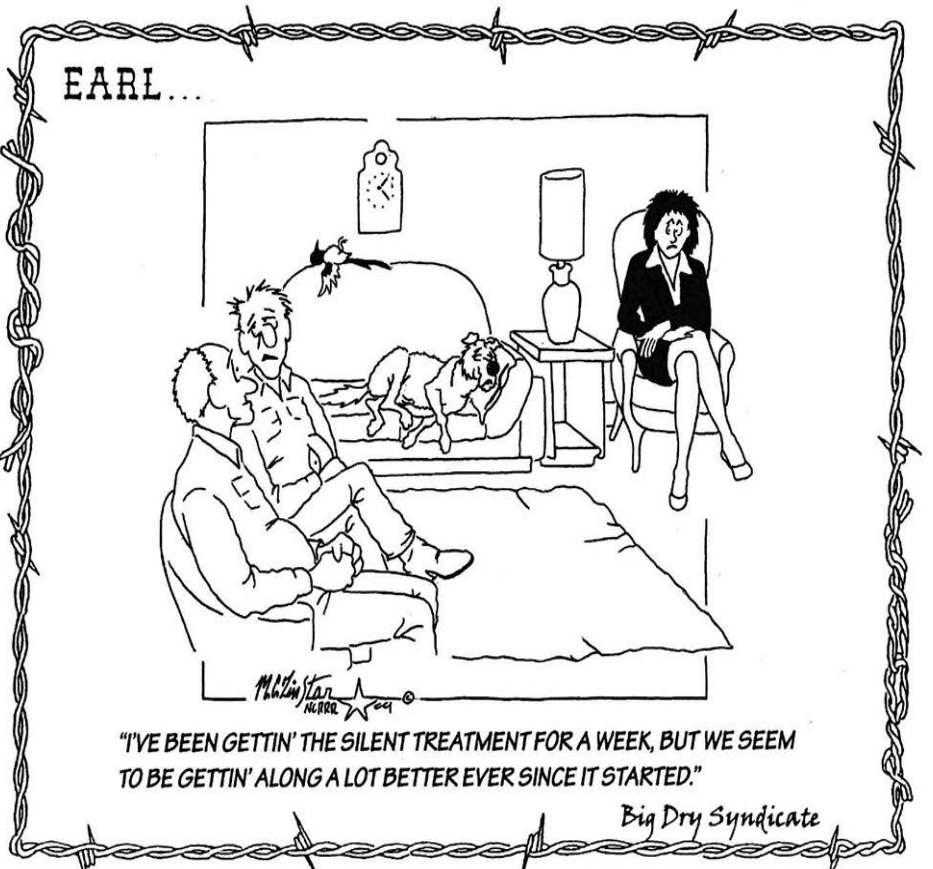
Secondly, I have learned that I have the greatest friends and neighbors. The people around me will take time out of their schedules when I need them. Even those who just checked in to see if I was okay were greatly appreciated. It is both humbling and heartwarming to know that people really care. I will never forget how important neighbors and friends are again. I only hope that I can have an opportunity to help them as much as they have helped me. Even people I do business with have gone the extra mile to make sure we had what we needed.

Hopefully, I am on the downhill part of this recovery and soon things will be back to whatever it is that I call normal. I do hope that when that happens that I will remember these lessons I learned. Some say it takes a village to raise a child. I don't know about that, but I do know it takes a village to heal a farmer.

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K-State researchers successfully test first vaccine to prevent bovine anaplasmosis

A new study involving the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University is paving the way forward in controlling a devastating and costly cattle disease: bovine anaplasmosis.

The research, "Targeted mutagenesis in Anaplasma marginale to define virulence and vaccine development against bovine anaplasmosis," was published in May by scientists from K-State's diagnostic medicine and pathobiology department in PLOS Pathogens, a high-impact scientific journal. Co-authors include a group of scientists from St. George's University in the West In-

dies, Animal Diseases Research Unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Pullman, Washington, and veterinary researchers from the anatomy and physiology, and clinical sciences departments at K-State.

"Our publication is unique and is the first in addressing the urgent need to develop a vaccine against an important tick-borne disease," said Roman Ganta, the study's senior/corresponding author and the principal investigator of the project. "Currently, there is no effective vaccine in the market, so this effort required innovative approaches in

developing a vaccine." Ganta, a university distinguished professor and director of the Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases in the College of Veterinary Medicine, said bovine anaplasmosis is a disease with major economic concerns not only in the United States, but around the world.

"Economic impact of the disease is in the billions of dollars of losses annually throughout the world," Ganta said. "The disease can spread rapidly by mechanical transmission routes, besides being transmitted by over 20 different tick species."

Ganta said anaplasmosis is the primary reason many producers feed cattle with the antibiotic supplement chlortetracycline, which has been proven not to be effective.

"We started a major research project in defining the disease throughout California and parts of Missouri and Kansas," Ganta said. "Independent of animals fed with antibiotic supplement, about 50-60% of all animals are positive for the disease. Farm practices, however, may make some difference in controlling the disease, but having a good vaccine is the best option for controlling the disease. We

are the only research team working on it and developed the first protective vaccine."

"This is a truly outstanding paper that represents what I believe to be the greatest advance in anaplasmosis vaccine development in 50 years," said Hans Coetzee, study co-author, university distinguished professor and head of the K-State's anatomy and physiology department. "We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Ganta's group on such an impactful project."

"Our work has been identified as 'very significant,' so we were able to

receive support from an endowed fund managed by the California Cattlemen's Association," Ganta said. "In particular, this funding is by the Russell L. Rustici Rangeland and Cattle Research Endowment, which primarily supports faculty at the University of California, Davis. Due to our research's impact, the majority of the funding — 92% — came to us through a collaboration with a colleague at that university."

Ganta has been invited to share his research at the National Cattlemen's and Beef Association meeting in Reno later this month.

9-8-8 Mental Health Lifeline launches in Kansas

Recently Governor Laura Kelly ceremonially signed Senate Bill 19, bipartisan legislation that launches 9-8-8 as the official 24/7 three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Beginning Saturday, July 16, Kansans and all Americans can call 9-8-8 during mental health and substance abuse emergencies. Kelly joined Sedgwick County Commissioners, legislators, and local advocates for the celebration at the Sedgwick County Courthouse.

"With 9-8-8, we are on the path to reversing our

Bill protects U.S. ag from foreign adversaries

Legislation introduced by Rep. Rick Crawford, R-Ark., and Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., the Promoting Agriculture Safeguards and Security Act, prevents foreign adversaries from taking any ownership or control of the United States' agriculture industry.

As a response to re-

country's mental health crisis and getting Kansans the help they need," Kelly said. "Just as every American knows to call 9-1-1 in times of emergency, every American — and every Kansan — will soon know to call 9-8-8 when they or a loved one is facing a mental health or substance abuse crisis."

Governor Kelly announced in January of this year that the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) received the Lifeline's 9-8-8 State Planning Grant through the nonprofit Vibrant

Emotional Health to develop plans to build the infrastructure for and grow access to the Lifeline's new three-digit 9-8-8 number. Governor Kelly signed SB 19 in June so that going forward, each July 1 \$10 million in state general funds will be appropriated to fund 9-8-8 with no access fee for Kansans.

The new "9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline" will connect callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and offer a broader range of services for people experiencing a mental health crisis or substance use crisis. Callers will be connected to resources in their local community and to in-person crisis services where available. Kansans who dial 9-8-8 will be routed to a local crisis specialist trained to address unique concerns and needs, which may include assessment, stabilization, referral, and follow-up.

"Kansas is the 14th state to fund 9-8-8 through legislation and we are excited for the national launch of 9-8-8," KDADS Behavioral Health Services commissioner Andrew Brown

said. "KDADS has been working throughout the Kelly administration to increase the infrastructure in Kansas for suicide prevention and crisis intervention in preparation for 9-8-8. This will be the first of several milestones that will help Kansans experiencing a crisis get improved access to the help they need during a crisis."

KDADS partnered with the Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ, Johnson County Mental Health, COMCARE of Sedgwick County, HealthSource Information Solutions, and TBD Solutions LLC, to develop clear road maps to address coordination, capacity, funding, and communications surrounding the launch of 9-8-8 and collaborated with state leadership, suicide prevention experts, people with lived experience, and others to create a 9-8-8 implementation plan and support the Lifeline's operational, clinical, and performance standards that allow access to care.

Individuals will still be able to access the ten-digit National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) after the July 16 implementation of 9-8-8. The current Lifeline and

9-8-8 will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week via call, text, or chat. All phone service providers are required to connect callers who dial 9-8-8 to the Lifeline.



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ZUCCHINI JELLY
3 cups shredded zucchini
3 cups sugar
3 tablespoons lemon juice
3-ounce package any flavor gelatin
Mix zucchini, sugar and lemon juice in saucepan. Bring to a boil over low heat. Stir in gelatin. Ladle into hot sterilized 8-ounce jars, leaving 1/2 inch head space. Seal with 2-piece lids. Yield: 3 to 4 8-ounce jars.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:
MOZZARELLA PASTA SALAD
2 cups corkscrew pasta, cooked & drained
10 ounces fresh spinach, torn into bite-size pieces
2 cups chopped, cooked ham or bacon
1 can diced green chiles, drained
2 cups cubed Mozzarella cheese
3/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
1 can black olives, sliced or whole, drained
Dressing:
1 cup oil
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
1/4 cup white vinegar
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1-2 garlic cloves, minced
Toss together pasta, spinach, ham, green chiles, Mozzarella cheese, Cheddar cheese and olives. Cover and chill. To prepare dressing place all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth. Pour over salad and toss to coat. Serve immediately. Chill leftovers.

Jackie Doud, Topeka:
"Good served as a side dish with meat."
CHEESY ONION CASSEROLE
2 tablespoons butter
3 large sweet white onions, sliced
2 cups shredded Swiss cheese, divided
Pepper to taste
1 can cream chicken soup
2/3 cup milk
1 teaspoon soy sauce
8 slices French bread, buttered on both sides
In a skillet melt the butter; add onions and saute until slightly brown. Layer onions, two-thirds of the cheese and pepper in a 2-quart casserole. In a saucepan heat soup, milk and soy sauce. Stir to blend. Pour soup mixture over layer in casserole and stir gently. Top with bread slices. Bake for 15 minutes at 350 degrees. Push bread slices down under sauce and sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake 15 minutes longer.

Carol Nelson, Topeka:
"This is a delicious vegetable casserole and wonderful use for zucchini."
YUMMY ZUCCHINI CASSEROLE

7-8 medium zucchini, cut into 1/4-inch slices
1 cup water
8 slices bacon, diced
1 large onion, chopped (about 1 cup)
1 large garlic clove, minced
4 slices white bread, diced
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
15-ounce can tomato sauce
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
Cook zucchini in boiling salted water until tender, about 5 minutes. Drain. In skillet cook bacon until crisp. Remove from pan. Add onion and garlic to skillet and saute until onion is tender. Drain. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Stir onion mixture and bacon into drained zucchini. Add remaining ingredients except Parmesan cheese and toss until well-coated. Sprinkle zucchini mixture into a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Bake 20 minutes or until bubbly. Serves 10 to 12.

Kellee George, Shawnee:
MEAT & POTATO CASSEROLE
4 cups thinly sliced & peeled potatoes
2 tablespoons butter, melted
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 pound ground beef
10-ounce package frozen corn, thawed
1 can cream of celery soup
1/3 cup milk
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1 tablespoon chopped onion
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese, divided
Toss potatoes with butter and salt. Arrange on bottom and up sides of a 12-by-8-inch pan. Bake at 400 degrees for 25 minutes or until almost tender. In a skillet brown beef; drain. Sprinkle beef and corn over potatoes. Combine soup, milk, garlic powder, pepper, onion and 1/2 cup cheese. Pour over beef mixture. Bake uncovered at 400 degrees for 20 minutes. Top with remaining cheese and bake 2-3 min-

utes longer to melt cheese.

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:
SURPRISE POTATOES
6 medium white potatoes, peeled
1 cup whipping cream
Salt & pepper to taste
Shred the potatoes and

rinse in cold water. Drain thoroughly. Place in a greased 9-inch pan. Pour cream over all and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cover with foil and bake at 325 degrees for 1 1/2 hours. Uncover and bake 30 minutes longer until lightly brown on top.



Baking With Sugarbuns
By Michele Carlyon
Meshing Two Worlds Eggs, Bacon And Corn

There are so many things that I love about Kyle, but one of my favorite things is exploring new recipes together or introducing each other to the recipes we grew up with and the stories behind them. I love seeing how different recipes made an impact on his life and the ones that he has carried with him into adulthood. His family has a cookbook that they have passed down and some of his favorite recipes from childhood are tucked away amongst the pages. There is the homemade spaghetti sauce that has been altered ever so slightly from person to person until they have each found a version that they love, Kyle included. One of my favorite recipes that is tucked into that book would have to be his family's chicken vegetable soup; I absolutely love it. The cookbook is stacked with everything from a delightful spinach dip to entrees, to the perfect fruit dip and everything else in between.

My family has recipes that were passed down, but most of those are taught to people rather than being written down. Kyle has gotten introduced to quite a few of our delicacies, even finding some that he likes. My mom has made an orange salad for as long as I can remember and Kyle could literally eat the whole bowl of it, he loves it. He also has become quite smitten with one of my favorite childhood recipes, hamburger casserole. The other night I talked him into trying a version of another one of my childhood favorites ... eggs, bacon and corn. It was a recipe that Mike learned

in Boy Scouts that we have continued to make throughout the years. Kyle and bacon do not get along, so we switched out the bacon with sausage and enjoyed it all the same.

As we continue building a life together, meshing our two worlds, I look forward to continuing to get to learn about each other through the foods we make together and the stories that come along the way.

Eggs, Bacon & Corn
1 dozen eggs
1 pound bacon (can use sausage if bacon does not agree with you)
1 can whole kernel corn

In a bowl, whisk together the dozen eggs and set aside. Drain can of corn and set aside.

Cut bacon into about half-inch pieces and put them all in a skillet over medium heat. Cook until desired consistency is reached and then drain all excess grease from the skillet. Return the bacon to the skillet and back to the medium heat and pour the corn in. Stir the corn and bacon together and then pour the whisked eggs into the skillet. Stir consistently until the eggs are done and the corn is hot. Serve while hot and enjoy!

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

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

Bargain Bites: Eating Right When Money's Tight

By Katherine Pinto, EFNEP & SNAP-Ed Agent, Wildcat Extension District
I think it is safe to say, we have all seen the rise in food costs happen over the past several months. Although this increase in cost can seem overwhelming,

there are ways to stretch your food dollars. The tips below will help you know the right steps to take in planning your meals ahead of time, how to budget for smart food choices, and how to prepare low-cost recipes!

Plan your weekly menu - Preparing in advance will help you know what you need to purchase and will also let you know what your need to use before it goes bad.

Use store coupons, sales, or discount cards - If you have a coupon for an item that you normally don't eat, don't just purchase it because you have a coupon.

During Shopping
Never go to the store hungry - Everything looks good when you are hungry! Your shopping list might grow by a few items if you do not eat before you go shopping.

Compare products for the best deals - Use unit pricing and also the Nutri-

tion Facts Label to get the best product for your money. Don't be afraid to try the store brand version!

After Shopping
Store your groceries right away - Putting your groceries up as soon as you reach your destination is key to avoiding any food safety concerns.

Separate and store - if you purchase a large amount of fresh food, like meat, poultry, or fish, divide them into meal-size packages, label them, and freeze them for later use.

Visit snaped.fns.usda.gov for more information on this topic. Katherine Pinto, EFNEP and SNAP-Ed Agent, kd Pinto@ksu.edu or 620-232-1930.

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By
Kelsey
Pagel

The Snake

We hardly ever get to do anything for Fourth of July because we're busy with brome seed and haying. This year it rained. So I decided to invite some people over to relax and socialize a little bit. We barbecued some hot dogs and hamburgers, had the sides and desserts and had a nice supper; an anomaly all its own this time of year. We live on sandwiches so a hot meal was a nice change-up.

We were playing pitch, one table inside, one outside. I was playing outside and went out; it was getting dark. So I hurry to go lock the chickens in and get the eggs. We accidentally have four baby chicks that a hen is raising. Moral of that story, pick up your eggs no matter how many extra you have. Anyway, we

built them their own pen so they can come outside but she can keep them together a little bit. Then we carry them back and forth in a dog crate. I went and got her, carried her to the trailer and am collecting the eggs. We have one hen that is trying to be broody. Don't worry, I learned my lesson enough to get her eggs. So I lift her up, grab her eggs and go to the last box.

Mind you, I'm just putting the eggs in my shirt. I didn't take the time to grab a carton or bowl or anything. It's just dark enough in the trailer in the laying boxes that shadows are happening. I go to reach in the last box, but don't quite get my hand in before I see enough to know that it is not, in fact, a shadow like I thought it was. That's right, there is a snake in the last box. Keep in mind, I am a normal warm-blooded human being and absolutely hate snakes. I'm married to a man that hates them almost more than me, if possible.

I calmly, yes calmly, I'm very proud of myself, exit the trailer and get a bit away before absolutely freaking out and begging anybody

to go kill my snake for me. I make a pass through the house on the way to grab the shovel begging on the way through for somebody to kill it for me.

Long story even longer, Matt made a valiant effort at being brave, but didn't actually kill the snake; somebody else did. Just so I don't completely throw him under the bus, it is true that I only had one sharp shovel available; Matt was trying to use a very dull and rusty spade. And he got more involved than I did in the snake-killing so kudos to him. In the end the snake was killed. Yes, he was just a black or rat snake, but when in my chicken coop, you gotta go. Sorry. In all the years I've had chickens, we have never had a snake in the trailer. Ever.

We haven't had people over to our house in a very long time. We hardly ever get to do anything Fourth of July weekend. Any other day Mr. Snake (I don't know how to sex snakes so I have no idea if this was a boy or girl snake. Is there different terminology for snakes? Heifer or bull? Do they turn into cow snakes after so

long? Do snakes get bigger the older they get? If so this was a grandpa snake! All random thoughts, but this is how my brain works. I wouldn't want to offend the dead snake by calling it the wrong gender. But in this day of age, maybe the snake was confused about its gender too. Who knows.). Back to the thought ... any other day, let's just go with "very large and terrifying snake" instead of trying to assign a gender, would have got off scot-free because there is no way I was going to kill it and Matt probably wouldn't have been home. And even if he was, his solution would have been to pull the chicken trailer to a very far away ditch and say bye-bye, chickens.

How absolutely fortunate I was that I had a house full of people that love me enough to kill a snake for me. Keep in mind, they're probably never coming back; we'll have to get new friends. So if you're in the market for friends, we're available. Must be willing to kill snakes, but I will feed you! How lucky for me this snake decided that day to crawl in our chicken coop.

For those of you that know me personally, you know that sometimes I tend to exaggerate, especially at the length of snakes I see. They are terrifying and sometimes a six-inch snake turns into a six-foot snake. But, and I have witnesses, this was not one of those times. Later in the evening a few of us were still sitting around, including the one that killed the snake and he asked how long we thought it was. He said three feet ten inches. I immediately said five feet. They thought I was crazy. So we measured the stupid thing. 63 inches. 63 inches! That's more than five feet long. Another two inches and the thing would have been bigger than me!

One more side story, we didn't grow up with chickens. But I can remember growing up we always heard the story of my Aunt Jean that did have chickens. One day she saw a snake in her chicken coop. As it was trying to get away, she grabbed it with her hands and pulled it back out of its hole so she could kill it. She wasn't going to let it get away! May there be more strong women in the world like Aunt

Jean because I am not one of them. And if any of those snake-killing people want to come live with me and care for my chickens, you can have your choice of room.

All right, this is long enough. The life lesson here is to have a house full of people every night when you go to check the chickens. Okay, maybe that's not the life lesson. The lesson is to never go in your chicken coop to get eggs. Maybe that isn't it either. I'm not sure what the life lesson is just yet. I just know that I'm incredibly grateful there is one less snake in the world. Though Brooke was googling and said they travel in pairs, so I have not relaxed my guard any. On that note, happy July. Stay safe and always bring a flashlight and sharp shovel if you collect eggs.

Kelsey Pagel is a Kansas farmer. She grew up on a cow/calf and row crop operation and married into another. Kelsey and her Forever (Matt) farm and ranch with his family where they are living their dream and loving most of the moments. She can be found on IG & FB @teampagel.

Happy Golden Anniversary! Wheat Foods Council Celebrates 50 Years

In the early 1970s, wheat foods came under attack for containing a high portion of carbohydrates, which many consumers believed made foods fattening. In May 1972, the wheat commissions from Kansas, Texas, Colorado, South Dakota and Nebraska met to coordinate a response from wheat farmers. The result was the establishment of the Wheat Foods Council (WFC), which celebrated its 50th-anniversary in June.

Today, the WFC uniquely remains an organization whose membership encompasses the entire wheat foods value chain. Kansas Wheat is a member, along with grain producers, millers, baking suppliers, life science companies and cereal manufacturers. Together, the WFC stays true to its original mission — to help increase the awareness of dietary grains as an essential component of a healthful diet.

To do so, the Council develops sound nutritional, educational and promotional programs that reach health and nutrition professionals, opinion leaders, media and consumers. The organization works with a wide swath of key audiences, including health and nutrition professionals, educators, supermarket and retail dietitians, health-conscious consumers, media, chefs and cooks and personal trainers.

WFC members gathered at the organization's summer meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, to celebrate the anniversary, elect new officers and set priorities for the upcoming year. The new officers were seated for WFC's 2022/2023 fiscal year: Kent Juliot, Ardent Mills, Chair; Ron Suppes,

Kansas Wheat Commission, Vice Chair, Mark Hotze, Corbion, Treasurer/Secretary and Darby Campsey, Texas Wheat Producers, Immediate Past Chair.

The board also reviewed the WFC's programs from the prior fiscal year, including:

- * Educating personal trainers, whose advice reaches and influences more than 30 million consumers each week. In April 2020 when COVID-19 shut-down in-person activities and events, the WFC began creating short educational videos and sharing them through social media. By June 2022 the videos had more than 18 million views.

- * Conducting a chef workshop focused on the plant-forward food trend at the Culinary Institute of America in April 2022, giving menu development chefs a hands-on demonstration of how wheat foods fit into this trend.

- * Organizing the Future of Food Forum in conjunction with the chef workshop, which included speakers addressing plant-forward foods, sustainability, managing supply chains and innovation

and collaboration. All of these topics were identified by menu development chefs as critical to the future of their companies.

The WFC plans to continue these efforts and more — as it has for the last five decades. Learn more about the WFC at <https://www.wheatfoods.org/> — a robust website with community forums, webinars and interactive elements that provide a one-stop source for everything about wheat and grain foods nutrition from the latest news and research to interviews with leading experts on in-depth and trending topics, tips, informative links to government agencies and other relevant sites, recipes and more.

And what would a website devoted to wheat foods be without lots of recipes? Find recommendations and recipes for all types of meals ranging from Tomato Basil Pasta to Fruit Dessert Pizza and everything "grain" in between.

*Written by Julia Debes for Kansas Wheat
For audio version, visit ksuwheat.com*

Preserving Your Garden Bounty Classes Offered In August

Home preservation of foods has been a foundation of Extension Education. Learn the science behind the processes and the how and why of canning food that will be safe to eat.

Wildcat Extension District Family and Consumer Science agent, Holly Miner is offering Food Preservation workshops in August. Miner said, "She enjoys helping others learn about food preservation and the classes are a fun way to learn the latest recommendations."

The workshops will be evening sessions and will cover water bath, and pressure canning methods of preservation. Workshops will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end around 8:30 or 9 p.m. Classes are open to adults and older youth. A grant received by the

Wildcat District allows the \$25 fee to be waived for these classes.

Each participant will learn the most up-to-date information on safely preserving food at home, while also preparing and processing the foods themselves and taking home a jar to enjoy. Please pre-register for the August classes by July 28 at 620-331-2690.

Workshops will be held at the Wildcat District Fredonia Extension Office on Aug. 2, the Community Building in Altamont on Aug. 9, and the Girard Extension Office on Aug. 11.

For more information about this or any other topic related to nutrition, food safety or health contact Holly Miner at haminer@ksu.edu or call 620-331-2690 or 308-224-4628.

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Sandhills and Dry Storms – Part 4, The Blizzard Aftermath

I sat there in my feed tractor, which was perched on a snow bank like a tortoise on a post. I wasn't 50 yards outside the barnyard. I walked back to the shop and found myself a grain scoop. I had been digging for about 20 minutes, clearing the back end of the tractor and underneath it, when the boss drove by in the cake truck. I stopped and watched him pass as he shook his head in disgust. I continued to dig.

After about 45 minutes, I had cleared enough snow from under the back end of the tractor and the front duals were touching the ground. I decided to give

it a try. Pay-dirt! I backed that rig up about 30 feet and dropped the blade to the gravel and hit that drift with enough force to open the gate at Fort Knox, and barreled through. My rig was too wide for the auto gate, so I went through the wider "cow gates" at the side of each auto gate (An "auto gate" is what Sandhillers call a cattle guard). As the boss had passed me by while I was busy digging out, he drove through the auto gate, which was blown clear of the snow. But as I came around toward my haystack I saw his truck sitting in a three-foot snow drift in front of the next auto gate. I kind of smirked to myself, but

pulled slowly up to match his flatbed with my dozer blade to offer to push him through. He was digging in front of his truck, and looked over the hood at me with a sour expression and waved me off! I obliged, and chuckled as I headed around through the cow gate toward the hay stack yard.

The eight-ton slide stack is something I had never seen in Kansas. It's a century-old system that uses dump rakes to build large windrows which are swept up with a "sweeper," a large scoop of sorts, usually on the front of a reversed tractor or old truck chassis. The sweeper pushes the hay onto the slide which is then pulled up the guide beams by cable until the hay drops into the cage, a nearly square containment about 20 feet diameter, which can unlatch and be pulled away from the stack when finished. The stackers, usually a couple of strapping young men, then stack the hay with pitchforks, balancing it throughout the stack, and as the cage fills, they will arrange the hay with stems pointing toward the edges of the stack

and mounding the center up, with the whole purpose being to shed water. It's an art, and when I first saw it being done, I was fascinated. This process was still being done by some, such as the Haythorn Ranch, entirely with draft horses, as late as the mid 1980s. What I witnessed was using motorized equipment, but no less interesting.

By the time I had retrieved my second stack and headed back to Headquarters to feed the west pasture, the boss had dug out and was gone.

Thankfully, we weren't calving, and it wasn't cold enough to freeze the windmill tanks over with fresh water flowing freely, so after chores we met at the horse barn for further orders for the day. The boss was saddling up when I got there. He asked me if I had a deer tag. I answered the affirmative and he said, "If you want to go hunting, this afternoon is your best chance." He shoved his scoped rifle into the scabbard hanging off his saddle. "I'm hunting west of Headquarters. You can go anywhere but that direction." He untied his

horse and bridled up. As he led his mount through the big open double doors he tossed a piece of advice over his shoulder, "Let somebody know which direction you're going, and be back by dark." I stood in silence for a full minute pondering my options. There was a nice Muley buck with a perfect two fork rack (each side) as wide as his ears that I'd been watching over in the south valley, about a two-mile ride across the hills. I quickly grabbed a halter and caught my little bay gelding, saddled up and rode over to the house to tell my wife where I was going. I grabbed my binoculars and my Model 70 Winchester, which I slung across my back, and a dry

pair of gloves. I kissed my daughter, then her mother, tied a thermos of coffee to my saddle and stuffed a leftover portion of homemade bread into my coat pocket, and mounted up. "I'll be back by dark. If not, call Andy. I'll be hunting east of them." She said, "I won't hold supper."

I smiled at her and rode off at trot. This was something I had dreamed of for years; hunting mule deer a-horseback!

Kirk Sours is a ranch manager in northeast 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.

Kansas Livestock Association endorses Kellie Warren

The Kansas Livestock Association has announced its endorsement of battle-tested conservative Kellie Warren to be the next attorney general of Kansas.

"KLA believes that Senator Kellie Warren is the right person to be the next Attorney General of the State of Kansas," said KLA president Phil Perry. "As chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, she fought for the private property rights of Kansas landowners, while working closely with stakeholders in the agriculture industry. Her ability to listen to agriculture, while advocating for rural Kansas values sets her apart from the other candidates in the field."

"It's an honor to have the full support of the Kansas Livestock Association. They know me, and they know my record," said Warren. "Our farmers and ranchers need an attorney general who will listen to them, who will fight for them, and who will win for them. That's what I've done as Senate Judiciary Committee chair, and that will continue to be my approach as Attorney General."

The Kansas Livestock Association's endorsement of Senator Warren follows endorsements from Kansas for Life, the Kansas State Rifle Association, the Kansas Chamber, Kansas Family Voice, and Americans for Prosperity-Kansas.

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Preparing sheep and goats for breeding season

By Adaven Scronce, diversified agriculture and natural resource agent, Wildcat Extension District

If you plan on breeding goats or sheep in the fall, now is a good time to start planning for breeding season, and to evaluate your does and ewes to make sure they are in good condition before breeding. Does and ewes that have good body condition are more likely to breed and successfully have lambs or kids in the spring.

The body condition score of does and ewes should be evaluated before breeding season. Body condition refers to the fleshiness of an animal. To know the body condition score of a doe or ewe, owners should feel over the ribs and on either side of the spine by pressing down with their fingers to determine the amount of fat cover a goat or sheep has. After feeling

the amount of fat cover, a body condition score can be given. For sheep and goats, body condition scores are given on a scale of 1-5, one being emaciated and five being obese. Does and ewes should have a body condition score of 2.5 to 3.5 at the beginning of the breeding season. If does and ewes become too thin failure to reproduce, low twinning rates and low weaning weights can result. If they are over-conditioned, it can result in does and ewes developing pregnancy toxemia or having difficulty giving birth.

If does and ewes have a body condition score lower than 2.5, they need to be placed on good quality pasture and/or supplemented with grain to increase their body condition. Grain that has a crude protein level of 10-12 percent should be supplemented at a rate of

half a pound to one pound of grain per head per day for at least two to four weeks before the start of breeding season. Increasing the amount of grain fed before breeding season is also referred to as flushing and can increase the number of lambs/kids born and decrease the number of open does and ewes.

While it can be easy to focus on the does and ewes, it is important to remember the bucks and rams as well. Bucks and rams should also be examined prior to breeding season. Their body condition should be determined the same way it is for does and ewes. Prior to breeding, bucks and rams should have a body condition score of 3 to 3.5. If bucks and rams are too thin during breeding season they will have decreased stamina. However, if rams and bucks

over-conditioned they may lack the vigor needed to breed large numbers of does and ewes. If rams and bucks are over or under conditioned it can result in fewer females being bred and settling during the first heat cycle, which can lead to a longer lambing/kidding season in the spring. If rams and bucks are too thin they should be given supplemental feed starting roughly a month before breeding season to increase their body condition and ensure they are in good physical shape.

In addition to evaluating the body condition of males and females before breeding season, it is also important to check them for internal parasites and check their hooves. When determining the body condition of the animal, it is also a good time to check their FAMACHA score and/or take a fecal sample

to do a fecal egg count to determine if the animal needs to be dewormed. Males and females that have a FAMACHA score higher than three and/or have a high fecal egg count should be dewormed prior to breeding. If you plan on flushing your does or ewes, they should be dewormed prior to flushing. Does and ewes that are wormy will not increase in body condition from flushing and their ovulation rate may not increase. This can increase the likelihood of does and ewes that are wormy to not breed at all or conceive and then later abort.

Before breeding, sheep and goats' hooves should be examined as well. When examining the hooves, you should look for sores, overgrown hooves, or strange odors that can indicate infection or foot rot. Hoof trim-

ming and any treatments needed for foot rot should be done a couple weeks before breeding season to ensure that goats and sheep will be ready for breeding season. Does and ewes that are lame may not let bucks breed them. Bucks and rams will be the most active during this time of year and it is important that their hooves are in good condition, a buck or ram that is lame may not cover does consistently or might give up altogether.

Having goats and sheep in good condition prior to the start of breeding season will lead to a more successful breeding season this fall and a successful lambing/kidding season next spring.

For more information, please contact Adaven Scronce, Diversified Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent, adaven@ksu.edu or (620) 331-2690.

Flushing sheep, goats leads to breeding season success

Nutritional flushing is a key component to sheep and goat breeding season success. The flushing process involves increasing nutrition and energy intake before breeding season starts. This elevated nutrition helps optimize ovulation, conception and embryo implantation rates, which can result in a higher lambing or kidding percentage.

"Implementing a flushing program on your farm can optimize the percentage of lambs or kids on the ground and help put more money in your pocket," says Clay Elliott, a small ruminant nutritionist with Purina Animal Nutrition.

The low-down on flushing

Flushed ewes and does have a higher chance of breeding at first service,

while those fed a lower nutrition level are more likely to miss this first breeding window.

"Breeding ewes and does in their first estrus or heat cycle provides more value when selling weaned lambs and kids," says Elliott. "Breeding earlier means lambing and kidding sooner, which provides an advantage of additional days to gain weight before weaning compared to their younger counterparts - which can ultimately boost the number of pounds sold post-weaning."

As ewes and does age, reproductive tends to decrease. Additionally, terminal breeds typically produce fewer offspring than maternal breeds. Because flushing supports ovulation and embryo

implantation rates, even ewes and does with historically lower reproductive performance can have success.

Don't skimp on key nutrients

While adding extra grain to the diet will ramp up energy levels, don't forget about these key nutrients as you plan your flushing program:

- **Vitamins and minerals:** Every nutrition program should start with vitamins and minerals. Regardless of the production stage, these two components remain crucial to both the mom and her offspring.

- **Fat:** Increasing fat in the diet also increases energy intake. And, fat's influence on reproductive hormones sets ewes and does up for successful con-

ception.

- **Protein:** Maintaining protein levels between 10-16% of the total diet is ideal for reproductive health.

Flushing should begin around 45-60 days before breeding and continue into the first stages of gestation. Adding a complete feed or a high-fat supplement product to the mix will ensure ewes and does meet their energy requirements during this critical time.

"Once ewes and does have confirmed pregnancies, diets can back down to an average nutrition level with pasture and a supplement tub," says Elliott.

Keep body condition score in mind

As a primary indicator of energy reserves, body

condition score (BCS) allows producers to evaluate the nutritional needs of the flock or herd. By meeting your BCS targets, ewes and does can take less time to breed and have heavier lambs or kids at weaning.

As ewes and does enter different production stages, their target BCS changes - and changes to their diet should follow suit. This 1-5 BCS scale is especially useful before breeding as energy requirements and BCS goals increase.

"Flushing aims to bring body condition scores up to 2.5 to 3.0 before breeding and into the first stage of gestation," says Elliott. "Getting ewes and does to this condition can lead to optimal conception and embryo survival rates."

Using a planned-out flushing approach in the lead-up to breeding season will go a long way towards reproductive and performance success. Contact your local Purina nutritionist or visit purinamills.com to learn more.

South Central Ag Lab Field Day set for Aug. 4

Come see what's going on at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's South Central Agricultural Laboratory (SCAL) field trials on Thursday, Aug. 4. The field day includes topics focusing on improved crop production and profitability. The event is designed so guests can customize their day to select the tours they are most interested in. Topics and presenters include:

Nutrient Management - Insights from long-term research trials and digital agriculture technologies in corn and winter wheat

Laila Puntel, Extension soil fertility and precision ag specialist; Guillermo Balboa, research assistant professor; Jose Cesario, graduate student; and Christian Uwineza, graduate student

Soil Health - Using cover crops, biochar, and other practices

Katja Koehler-Cole, Soil Health Management Extension educator; Michael Kaiser, assistant professor in Applied Soil Chemistry; and Britt Fossum, graduate student

Disease Management - Corn and soybean disease updates

Tamra Jackson-Ziems and Dylan Mangel, Nebraska Extension plant pathologists

Insect Management - Corn and soybean insect updates

Robert Wright, Nebraska Extension entomologist and Ron Seymour, Nebraska Extension educator

Irrigation Management - Remote sensing for irrigation scheduling

Steve Melvin, Cropping Systems Extension Educator and Christopher Neale, director, Water for Food Institute

Weed Management - Cover crop for weed suppression in corn and soybean: Planting green and intercropping

Amit Jhala, Nebraska Extension Weed Management Specialist

The event begins with

registration at 8:30 a.m., opening remarks by Charles Stoltenow, Dean of Nebraska Extension at 8:45 a.m. followed by tours of research sites through 3:05 p.m. John Shanahan with Agoro Carbon is the keynote speaker during the lunch break presenting "Carbon market potential for U.S. producers".

SCAL is located at 851 Hwy. 6 near Harvard.

Details, map and registration at <https://go.unl.edu/scalfieldday>. There is no cost to attend the field day, but participants are asked to preregister at the website by Aug. 1 for planning purposes.

For more information, call (402) 762-3536 or

e-mail shachtel1@unl.edu. Continuing Education Units have been applied for and are pending.



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Flint Hills Discovery Center to host National Day of the Cowboy event on July 23

Join the Flint Hills Discovery Center for National Day of the Cowboy, an annual celebration of the national icon and the history and culture of the American West! This year's event is on Saturday, July 23 with festivities at the Discovery Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wrangle up the family for a day filled with activities embracing the Wild West. Meet Rodeo Queens, dress up like a cowboy, and take a western style photo. You can also hitch a carriage ride until 1 p.m.

"National Day of the Cowboy is a fun and educational way to honor the American cowboy and the ranchers today who continue that legacy," says Jonathan Mertz, FHDC event supervisor. "Celebrating and sharing this icon with the community is something we look forward to every year."

You'll have the chance to brush up on your skills of:

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- Bison Chip Tossing
- Roping
- and more!

Regular admission rates apply. Visit www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/cowboy for more information.

Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council inspires youth of all ages

By Annika Wiebers, K-State Research and Extension news service

When most folks think about 4-H, the ideas that typically come to mind are projects and leadership.

Leadership for life is an important value for the Kansas 4-H program, which offers many opportunities for youth to grow in those skills. One of these opportunities is the Kansas State 4-H Youth Leadership Council.

"The first time I heard about 4-H Youth Council was the first time I attended a state event (the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum)," said Chanay Parker, a three-year council member from Manhat-

tan. "I saw (Council members') dedication to 4-H and the difference they were able to make and was inspired. I wanted to be able to give back to the organization that challenged and shaped me into the individual I was then. So, I ran for (election to) Youth Council."

Youth Council members include many of the highest performing 4-H'ers in the state, but they don't reach that level right away.

"I started 4-H as a Cloverbud at five years old," Parker said. "Prior to Council, I was heavily involved in my club and my county. I had served every office in my 4-H club and been an officer for our county 4-H Council. I was a county 4-H Ambassador and had attended state and regional events like Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, the Northeast Leadership Event, and Citizenship in Action. When I decided to run for Council, I spent months refining my application, developing my speech, and practicing interviewing."

Once she was elected, Parker said the real work of being on Council begins.

"Council not only hosts events for Kansas 4-H, but provides opportunities for youth to develop into effective leaders, citizens, and servants in their communities," she said. "This is what 4-H is all about and Council is a key piece in the growth and development of our future leaders."

Parker noted that serving as chair of the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum planning committee "was one of the most challenging and impactful things I've done on Council."

"It took months of planning and taught me a lot about leadership. As a committee, we worked extremely hard to host the best event we could, and I am so proud to say that it was a success. All of the work behind the

scenes was worth it because I know we were able to make a difference for Kansas 4-H'ers and inspire them to make a difference in their clubs and their communities."

Beyond planning events, Council members serve as mentors – inspiring and encouraging the next generation of leaders.

"As a younger 4-H'er, I admired the 4-H Youth Council members for the work that they did," Parker said. "They had already attended the events, they had learned and grown in 4-H and so easily could have decided to step out. But they didn't. Council isn't about growing individually; it's about the impact you are able to make on others because of the meaningful events and work you are able to do."

"The ability to give back to 4-H and shape the organization for others is truly inspiring to me, and the heart of what I do on Council. One of my favorite parts about state events is watching delegates take home what they learned to share with others in their counties."

Parker said being a member of the 4-H Youth Council involves significant responsibilities and hours of hard work, but the members attest to their growth in leadership, communication and organization skills.

She said: "Serving on Youth Council has made me the person I am today. It has instilled in me a passion for giving back and working for others. I'm truly grateful for the challenges and tribulations that I have encountered and how they have enabled me to grow. I cannot wait to see what the next generation of leaders can do for this organization."

More information on opportunities available through Kansas 4-H is available at local Extension offices in Kansas.

We want to see your Kid's Corner pages!

Send us any completed Kid's Corner page and you could **win a prize!**

*Contest will run July 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th — 4 chances to win!!!!

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*No limit on number of submissions, but you may only win once.

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| <p>Week 3 - July 19: CONGRATULATIONS Jason Pralle of Blue Valley, KS (2) Kid Passes to Flint Hills Discovery Center</p> | <p>Week 4 - July 26 - FINAL WEEK! Deadline to win: 9 a.m. Friday, July 22nd* Family Pack (2 Adult, 4 Kid Passes) to the Flint Hills Discovery Center</p> |

*If no submissions are received for a contest week, contest will be pushed back to the next week until all 4 prizes have been won.

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- 8: K W G L I A N
- 9: N S H F I G I

1- GARDENING, 2- SWIMMING, 3- HIKING, 4- BIKING, 5- PICKNICKING, 6- PLAYING, 7- STARGAZING, 8- WALKING, 9- FISHING.



Soybean farmers appreciate backing for bio-based products in new pilot program

USDA has announced available funding for the Bioproduct Pilot Program, which was established through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that was signed into law last November. The pilot program, which was a priority of the American Soybean Association during drafting of the legislation, will provide \$10 million over two years to study the benefits of bio-based products for construction materials and consumer products.

Dave Walton grows soybeans in Iowa and is an ASA director and chair of the association's Biofuels and Infrastructure Committee. Walton said, "The Bioproduct Pilot Program will provide a great opportunity to expand upon what we in the soy family have been doing for years — creating plant-based, sustainable construction materials and consumer goods using U.S.-grown soy. ASA was glad to work with Senator Rounds and others to support the inclusion of this language in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and we welcome this announcement from USDA."

The Bioproduct Pilot Program is administered through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and more information can be found at www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/bioproduct-pilot-program.



Making crop insurance rates more accurate

A new study by agricultural economics experts from Texas A&M AgriLife and Virginia Tech makes a strong case for using historical weather information in crop insurance programs for even more accurate policy pricing.

The study "Incorporating historical weather information in crop insurance rating," authored by Yong Liu, Ph.D., a Texas A&M AgriLife Research agricultural economist and assistant professor in the Texas A&M Department of Agricultural Economics, Bryan-College Station, was recently published online in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics. It was co-authored by Ford Ramsey, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Virginia Tech.

About crop insurance rates

Crop insurance is the most expensive agricultural policy in the U.S., with over \$110 billion in liability in 2020. Agricultural producers and others purchase crop insurance to protect against either the loss of crops due to natural disasters or loss of revenue due to declines in the prices of agricultural commodities.

In the U.S. federal crop insurance program, a key principle in the design of crop insurance policies is that they should be actuarially fair, meaning the

expected indemnity under the policy should be equal to the premium.

"Achieving this objective requires accurate pricing of policies, and accurate pricing depends on accurate modeling of all the variables causing losses," Liu said.

Traditionally, he said, known or fixed historical yield data or historical loss cost data have been used to estimate yields or loss costs.

"For example, soil information is fixed or known at the time the policy is sold," he said. "Incorporating this type of known information is conceptually similar to dealing with time trends and other fixed determinants of yields or loss costs."

Liu said loss probabilities and expected losses are then used to calculate premiums. Many rating procedures exclusively use fixed or deterministic variables in determining expected losses.

"But it is widely recognized that a large part of the observed variation in yields and loss costs is due to changes in weather and other variables," Liu said. "Current loss variables used in determining crop insurance rates can be amended to incorporate other applicable variables like the weather."

Stochastic variables, like the weather, have a random probability dis-

tribution or pattern that may be analyzed statistically but not be precisely predicted. Unlike fixed variables, stochastic variables are unknown when the policy is sold.

"Including these variables, most particularly incorporating long-term weather data, would allow for a more thorough and accurate estimation of the distribution over time," Liu said.

The case for using historical weather information

Liu noted that in the federal crop insurance program historical weather information is already incorporated to a degree through after-the-event rate adjustments. He also noted that reinsurers frequently use weather information when evaluating crop insurance portfolios and risk.

"Yield distribution that is related to weather has been shown to roughly approximate yield distribution based on observed yields," he said. "And several previous studies have discussed the potential benefits of using weather or climate information in crop insurance rating."

He also noted weather data are often available over a greater period than yield data or loss-cost data.

"This is especially the case at the farm level where yield records are

notoriously short, in counties where production is sporadic, or for crops with limited historical production," he said.

Liu said if weather data are useful for making predictive assumptions about yields and loss costs, then incorporating historical weather information in setting crop insurance rates should provide additional accuracy.

"Our approach uses observations where the loss variables are missing," he said. "Including historical weather data necessarily involves observations with missing dependent variables."

About the study

In this study, Liu and Ramsey implemented a Bayesian approach for incorporating historical weather information into crop insurance ratings. The Bayesian paradigm has the advantage of reflecting uncertainty from all unknowns instead of only known information.

"We treated the cases of weather information as a stochastic predictor of both crop yields and loss cost ratios," Liu said. "In the case of yields, we used county-level corn yields from seven states in the Midwest. For loss cost ratios, we used county-level the corn and soybean loss cost ratios in Illinois and Iowa for the federal crop insurance program."

The models were em-

bedded in a Bayesian algorithm that used historical weather information to estimate the required actuarial factors for determining crop insurance premiums, he said.

Liu said that in the case of yields, the study was able to demonstrate that:

— A private insurer incorporating weather information can develop rates that give them a competitive advantage over crop insurance rates set by the government.

— This advantage is strengthened when there is additional historical weather information. Using more informative data that covers a longer period will improve the over-all accuracy.

— This advantage is slightly stronger at lower coverage levels.

He said in the case of loss costs, the study was able to demonstrate that:

— Historical weather-related loss cost distributions differ modestly from those without historical information.

— Weather weighting can be incorporated through a streamlined single-step process.

Liu said the study makes two primary contributions to the discussion of crop insurance. The first was implementing a theoretically consistent Bayesian approach for incorporating historical weather data into estimat-

ing conditional predictive yield distributions.

"In this, we show that incorporating historical weather information results in economic gains for private insurers by demonstrating the efficacy of the proposed approach," Liu said.

He said the second contribution was implementing the same approach for loss cost distributions.

"This involves a single algorithm for bounded loss costs, and we find that the historical weather-conditioned distributions differ modestly from empirical distributions based on observed loss costs," he said.

Liu said the study results have implications for the design of crop insurance programs both in the U.S. and worldwide.

"This study suggests that increasingly large and often disparate data sets can be combined and used to improve agricultural policy," he said. "As measurement and modeling of weather and crop production continue to evolve, so will crop insurance products and actuarial methodologies."

He said by developing rates that reflect heterogeneous risk exposure across locations, the methods developed in the study may encourage increased program participation and minimize adverse selection.

Record ag land values in Nebraska attributed to high commodity prices, low interest rates

The average value of agricultural land in Nebraska for the year ending Feb. 1, 2022, averaged \$3,360 per acre, about a 16% increase (\$465 per acre) over the prior year's value of \$2,895 per acre, according to the final report from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's 2022 Farm Real Estate Market Survey.

This marks the largest increase in the market value of agricultural land in Nebraska since 2014 and is the highest non-inflation-adjusted statewide land value in the history of the survey.

Crop prices, purchases for farm expansion and interest rate levels were identified in the report as the major economic forces that guided the higher market value of land across the state. The financial health of current owners and non-farmer investor interest in land purchases also played a role, according to survey results.

The survey's final report was published June 30 by the university's Center for Agricultural Profitability, based in the Department of Agricultural Economics. It provides current point-in-time estimates of agricultural land values and cash rental rates, broken down regionally across a variety of land types and classes.

Based on 2022 market values, the estimated total value of agricultural land and buildings in Nebraska rose to \$161.2 billion, according to Jim Jansen, an agricultural economist with Nebraska Extension. He co-authored the survey and report with Jeffrey Stokes, a professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics.

"Despite rising input costs that remain a challenge for many operations,

commodity prices for major crops grown across Nebraska rebounded significantly in 2022 with disruptions in supply chains and weather concerns," Jansen said.

He added that producers with livestock face further challenges from drought conditions across major grazing regions, as well as higher feed expenses.

"Farmers may anticipate higher revenues from rising commodity prices but may face similar challenges as ranchers and livestock producers when navigating higher input expenses," he said. "Farm or ranch profitability remains tied to making informed decisions."

Rates of increase were the highest in the northwest, northeast, east, south, and southeast districts as these areas averaged 15% to 21% higher for the all-land average. These districts trended along with the rate of increase of 16% for the state.

Western regions of Nebraska, including the north, central and south-west districts, reported

smaller all-land average value increases ranging between 11% and 13%. The north district reported the smallest increase at 11%.

Statewide, the final report found that estimated values of center pivot irrigated cropland rose by about 17%. Dryland cropland values rose between 15% and 19%. Grazing land and hayland market values range from about 10% to 12% higher than the prior year.

Survey results also revealed that cash rental rates for dryland and irrigated cropland trended higher, averaging about 10% to 20% higher than the prior year. Survey participants indicated crop prices as the major factor contributing to the increase in rental rates.

Grazing land and cow-calf pair rental rates trended steady to higher, with average statewide rates increasing about 6% to 8% over the prior year.

The outlook for future gains in farm real estate values remain strong, according to Jansen, as only three economic forces were noted in the report

as somewhat negatively impacting farm real estate values: property tax levels, farm input costs and future property tax policies.

The Nebraska Farm Real Estate Report is the final product of an annual survey of land professionals, including appraisers, farm and ranch managers and agricultural bankers. Results from the survey are divided by land class and agricultural statistic district. Land values and rental rates presented in the report are averages of survey participants' responses by district. Actual land values and rental rates may vary depending on the quality of the parcel and local market for an area. Preliminary land values and rental rates are subject to change as additional surveys are returned.

Jansen will present the results of the final report during a free webinar at noon on Aug. 4. Registration, as well as the full

report, are available on the Center for Agricultural Profitability's web-site, <https://cap.unl.edu/realestate>.

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1531 Yuma St. Manhattan, KS

AUCTION

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2022 — 9:30 AM

Auction will be held at the corner of Hawley & Spencer in FORMOSO, KANSAS

CAR, MOTORHOME, TRUCKS

2003 Lincoln Town Car, 4 door, V8, 229,000 miles; 1990 Winnebago motorhome, 35' Chieftain, inside good, 55,778 miles, 50 miles on tires, runs & drives good; 1961 GMC 4000 truck V6, 4 sp 2 sp, 15' bed w/roll over tarp w/hoist been setting; (2) 1960s C60 trucks, 15' beds, 6 cy, 4 speed, been setting; Dual loader w/grapple fork.

TOOLS, HOUSEHOLD, OTHER

New Frigidaire 15 cu refrigerator; 1940s wood & electric cook stove; antique organ; 4 swivel kitchen chairs; 70s china cabinet; rocker; flat top trunk; 4-drawer file; end table; Pitney Bowes scale; Domestic sewing machine; new steel security cabinet; new lawn mower engine; new lawn mower in box; propane bottles; records; trash cans; new VCR; new fans; new kitchen appliances; new convection oven; Hepa cleaner; glass; Assortment new hand tools, sockets, squares, screwdrivers, circular saws; reciprocating saw; new 36" exterior door; new windows; new oil; car tires new & used; 4"x8' foam insulation; pallet mover; Werner 17' extension ladder; Mastercraft 22" lawn mower; table saw; wood shelves; wash tub; new hanging lamps; water pump pressure tank; Schwinn mens bike; Yard Machine 42" riding mower; Yard Machine mini tiller; chain saws; dollies; garden hose; Bowflex treadmill; bench grinder; Eureka vacuum; stainless sink; floors; caulk; trailer jacks; new tarp jacks; loading ramps; benches; bicycle; rope; new boots; luggage; gas generator; rear hitch carrier; clear insulation; steel posts; new & used tin; **very large assortment of other items.**

NOTE: Warren has many new items. We will be selling 3 pieces of real estate and the contents of the homes. Check our website for pictures at www.thummelauction.com

WARREN L. HEINEN ESTATE

Auction Conducted By: **THUMMEL REAL ESTATE & AUCTION LLC, 785-738-0067**

