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Philip Weltmer, left was selected as the new president-elect for KLA at their annual membership meeting on December 2. Shawn Tiffany, right, will serve as the new president.

Feeder, rancher elected to lead Kansas Livestock Association

Cattle feeder Shawn Tiffany of Herington is the new president of the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA). He began his one-year term in the volunteer position during the group's annual membership meeting December 2 in Wichita. Members chose Smith County rancher Philip Weltmer as the new KLA president-elect. Tiffany and Weltmer will lead the 5,700-member organization during the next year.

Tiffany co-owns and operates Tiffany Cattle Company, Inc. with his brother, Shane. The two grew up in the cattle feeding business and when the opportunity arose in 2007 to purchase the feedyard their father managed for several years, Black Diamond Custom Feeders near Herington, they saw it as a chance to establish something of their own. Since that time, the joint venture has grown to include a second finishing yard near Marquette and a grow yard at Allen. Tiffany also is a partner in Elevate Ag, a company that produces biological inputs for farming and grazing systems. Prior to starting the family business, he served as ranch manager for Chair Rock Angus near Greeley.

Tiffany believes in being actively engaged in the organizations in which he is involved. He joined KLA because of the important role the association plays within the industry, especially as it relates to navigating regulatory issues. Over the years, he has held several positions within the organization. He currently serves on the KLA executive committee and KLA board of directors. He served as

chairman of the KLA Natural Resources Committee and was the Morris County KLA chairman from 2012 to 2017. Tiffany held an at-large position on the KLA board of directors from 2019 to 2020. He participated in the 2018-19 Feedyard Leadership Program and the 2009 KLA Leadership Conference. Tiffany serves on both the KLA Environmental Services, Inc. board of directors and KLA Risk Management Services, Inc. board of directors. He also represents Kansas on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) board of directors and International Trade Committee. Additionally, he is active in his church and on various local committees, including serving as president of the board for TCT, a rural telecommunications company.

Tiffany received his bachelor's degree in animal sciences and industry from Kansas State University in 2000. He and his wife, Nicky, have five children: Ransom, Taylor Jo, Ainsley, Whitney and Stockton.

Weltmer represents the third generation of his family in the ranching business. His grandparents founded what is now W & S Ranch near Smith Center in the 1950s. Weltmer and his wife, Jessica, joined his granddad, dad and uncle on the ranch full time almost 20 years ago. Over the years, the family operation has grown to encompass a commercial cow-calf herd, small registered Angus herd, feedyard and farming business. All females are bred through artificial insemination (AI) using Angus

or SimAngus genetics and are followed with Angus bulls either raised by the Weltmers or purchased. AI and a tight calving window allow calves to be finished in the family's feedyard as a more uniform cohort and processed at 13 and a half months of age.

Weltmer has been extensively involved in leadership in both KLA and NCBA. He currently serves as vice chair of the KLA Animal Health and ID Committee and is a member of the Kansas Beef Council (KBC) executive committee. Weltmer also currently serves on the Federation of State Beef Councils board of directors and is co-chair of the Checkoff Nutrition & Health Committee. He is a past chair of KBC and served on the KLA board of directors from 2016 to 2018. Weltmer was a member of the 2008 KLA Young Stockmen's Academy, serving as class chair, and participated in the NCBA Young Cattlemen's Conference in 2013. He also is a graduate of the King Ranch Leadership Studies Program and serves as president of the Smith County Fair Board.

Weltmer graduated from K-State in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in animal sciences and industry. He and Jessica have three children, Kaden, Corey and Kaylee.

KLA is a 5,700-member trade organization representing the state's livestock business on legislative, regulatory and industry issues at both the state and federal levels. The association's work is funded through voluntary dues dollars paid by its members.

Senators introduce bill to protect farmers and ranchers from SEC climate rules

U.S. Senators John Boozman (R-AR), ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and Mike Braun (R-IN) introduced legislation to protect family farmers and ranchers from burdensome greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting rules proposed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

In March 2021, the SEC announced a climate disclosure proposal that would require all public companies to disclose GHG emissions from operations a company owns or controls; from the generation of purchased electric-

ity, steam, heat or cooling consumed by company operations; and, if material, indirect GHG emissions that occur in the upstream and downstream activities of a registrant's value chain.

The value chain reporting component of this proposal would place an undue burden on the farmers and ranchers who provide raw products to the value chain, inundating small, family-owned farms with costly compliance requirements.

The Protect Farmers from the SEC Act will exempt family farmers and ranchers from these reporting requirements,

ensuring they are not required to track and disclose granular on-farm data regarding individual operations and day-to-day activities in order to stay compliant with the companies that purchase their products.

National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) announced support for the Senate version of the Protect Farmers from the SEC Act.

"The Securities and Exchange Commission's overly broad rulemaking has the potential to increase burdens on cattle producers by requiring data that is impossible to provide," said NCBA chief counsel Mary-Thomas Hart. "NCBA is proud to support the Protect Farmers from the SEC Act because it ensures that federal regulators do not overstep their jurisdiction and it protects cattle producers from additional government red tape. We thank Senators Boozman and Braun for their focus on this issue."

Farmers and ranchers elect president, complete business at 104th annual meeting



Kansas Farm Bureau president Rich Felts presided over his final annual meeting December 3-5 in Manhattan. Photos by Donna Sullivan

Nearly 400 Farm Bureau members of Kansas wrapped up business for their farm organization during Kansas Farm Bureau's (KFB) 104th annual meeting.

The policies adopted will now become the organization's road map for the 2023 legislative session. Topics of discussion included water, medical marijuana and energy production.

Wilson County farmer Joe Newland was elected president. Others elected to the board of directors include:

- George Pretz, Miami County
- Steve McCloud, Harvey County
- Doug Zillinger, Phillips County
- Joe Jury, Gray County
- Craig Cooper, Sheridan County

Outgoing KFB president Rich Felts was honored at Sunday's banquet, including remarks from Sen. Jerry Moran. Other activities included a host of agriculture-related workshops and speakers, including a keynote from Gregg Doud, former chief agricultural negotiator with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

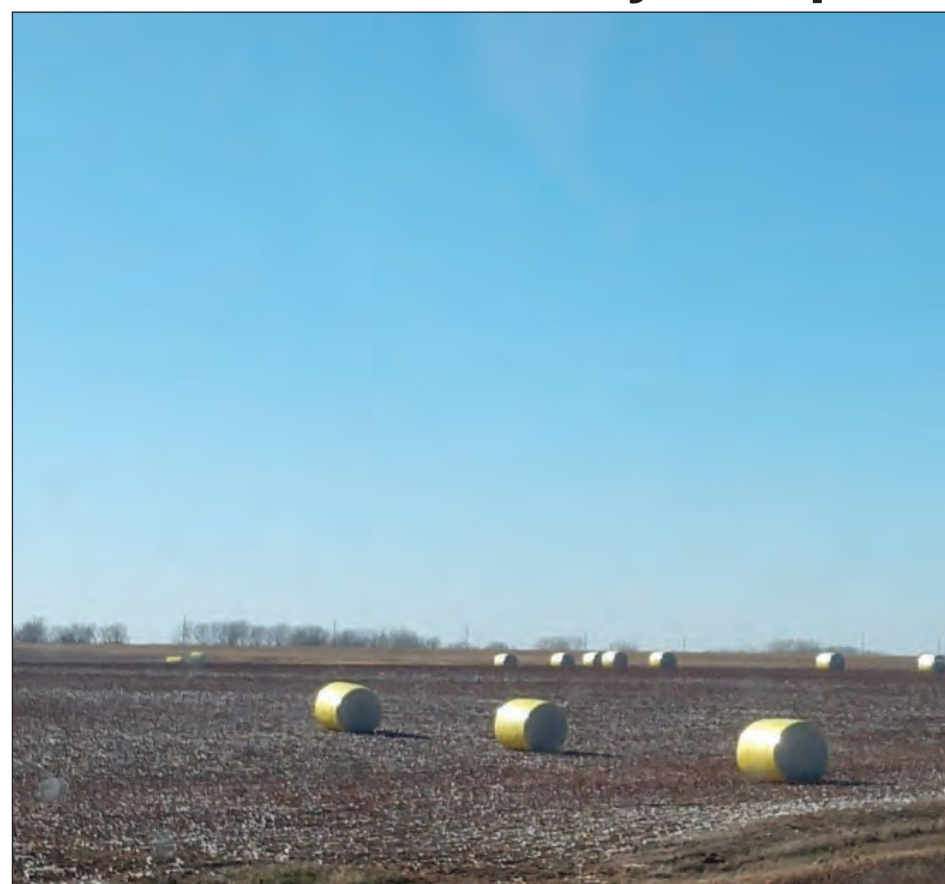
Sen. Roger Marshall and Rep. Tracey Mann spoke during a policy update, which also includ-



ed briefings from Kansas Farm Bureau staff on issues important to agriculture. County Farm Bureaus and volunteers were recognized for their 2022 achievements. Nearly \$5,600 was raised through a silent

auction sponsored by the Women's Leadership Committee for the End Hunger campaign. KFB Foundations' Fundraiser "Let the Good Times Roll" raised more than \$25,000, which also benefits the End Hunger campaign.

Cotton harvest nearly complete



According to the weekly Kansas Crop Progress and Condition Report from National Agriculture Statistics Service published December 5, cotton harvested in Kansas was 95%, ahead of 85% last year, and well ahead of 69% average. A November report forecast cotton production at 175,000 bales, down 6% from last year. Acreage for harvest, at 152,000 acres, is up 50,000 acres from 2021. Yield is forecast at 553 pounds per acre, down 327 pounds per acre from a year ago. The field above is south of Little River.

The report also indicated winter wheat condition rated 18% very poor, 24% poor, 36% fair, 20% good, and 2% excellent. Winter wheat emerged was 89%, behind 98% last year and 94% for the five-year average.



The Spirit of the Season

By Kim Baldwin,
McPherson County farmer
and rancher

The rush is on as the hustle and bustle of the holiday season ramps up! It seems like there's never enough hours in the days, or days in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

As a parent, small-business owner, community member and farmer, there's just a lot to accomplish immediately after washing the dishes from our Thanksgiving meal.

As a parent, keeping

track of the Christmas parties and holiday-themed school days for my two young children requires organization and focus.

Throughout the year, I keep track of the "normal" school things needed to be done like the minutes we read nightly, the weekly spelling words needing attention at home, and making sure the kids have their library books read and ready to return on their assigned library days.

But this month I'm hy-

per-alert to knowing when "Ugly Christmas Sweater Day" is compared to when "Santa's Ho-Ho-Hoedown Day" is to insure my kids participate in at least some of their school's countdown to Christmas Break spirit days - 15 themed spirit days in all.

One of my greatest fears this month has become the thought of sending the kids to school wearing their pajamas for "Dream a Little Dream Day" when they should be wearing a scarf for "Deck Your Neck Day" or forgetting to dig out Hawaiian shirts for "Christmas Vacation Day".

I've concluded that if there are prizes for most spirited this month at school, the Baldwin kids probably won't make the cut. I'll consider it a win if I remember to send lunch

money on the day the school serves their Christmas ham meal later this month!

On the farm, there's a list of things we try to get done every December. Currently, that list has us trying to get fields fertilized before any potential snow falls. This responsibility mainly falls on my husband as I dedicate my days fulfilling holiday orders and making multiple trips to the post office for our small business.

There are parties and practices and community events and performances and games and top-secret shopping trips also on my December calendar.

My December started out with an incredibly busy day, which transitioned into an equally busy evening consisting of

shuttling kids from school to basketball practice and then home for showers and food, only to drive them back to town to practice their church Christmas program. I was able to briefly catch my breath after handing the kids off to my husband before making my way to choir practice.

Getting home shortly before 9 that night, I collapsed on the couch ready to unwind from a busy, busy day. However, I got a phone call from my father-in-law instead.

It turned out my day was not done just yet. Instead, I put on my coveralls and headed out to the barn to watch over a ewe who had just lambed.

Peeking into the lambing pen that was now occupied by the ewe with her

tiny, wet lamb with wobbly legs brought me a calm I had not experienced that day.

Under a clear, dark December sky with stars shining bright above us, a new mother with her newborn lying in a bed of straw reminded me of the true spirit of this season. And all was calm.

May you have at least one moment this month which causes you to pause amongst the holiday hustle and bustle in order to experience the true spirit of the season.

"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.

Kansas Farmers Union members adopt policy, elect board members, honor awardees at Salina convention

By Nick Levendofsky, KFU
Executive Director

Grassroots policy development took center stage at the annual Kansas Farmers Union (KFU) state convention in Salina November 30-December 1 when members from across the state gathered to debate and adopt policy for the 2023 state legislative session.

Led by Policy Chair Tom Giessel, Larned, delegates renewed past policy such as support for Medicaid expansion, the legalization of medical marijuana, and sustainable agriculture water use. Delegates also debated new issues including mitigating/regulating Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), regenerative sustainable

agriculture research funding, revitalization of the nation's passenger and freight railroad systems, human health and social impacts linked to climate change; and protecting and strengthening voting rights and democracy.

"Policy is the keystone of our convention," Giessel said. "Once again, our farmers and rancher members assembled to meld their collective consciousness into a document which reinforces our longstanding commitment to community. The broad-based document reflects our proud heritage and vision for the future. We recognize the power of energetic debate and diverse opinions in a setting that allows everyone to con-

tribute on equal footing. It serves as an annual pilgrimage for the common good, as well as the good of the 'Commons.'"

Delegates also passed four Special Orders of Business which are key priorities for the organization in the coming year: Debt Relief for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Fairness for Farmers and Rebuilding Regional Economies and Communities, Pandemics and the Need for Robust Public Health Policy, and the Protecting & Preserving the United States Postal Service.

Pottawatomie County farmer Donn Teske was re-elected to his 20th term as president of the organization. "Our state conven-

tion is functional, bringing our members' grassroots policy to be worked, but it really is wonderful when it can offer a conduit of networking that helps our members experience a wider world and to share with others what's so truly special about rural Kansas," Teske stated. "The networking at convention was wonderful, both between members and between ally organizations. It's special that Farm Aid's program director deemed it worthwhile to come and learn about rural Kansas at the ground level from our members. We had representation networking with us from the Kansas Rural Center, the American Agriculture Movement, The Land Institute, Farm Credit, and so many others," Teske added.

Jill Elmers, Lawrence, and Donna Pearson McClish, Wichita, were both re-elected to three-year terms to the KFU Board

of Directors. Jack Geiger, Robinson, was appointed state treasurer and long-time state treasurer Herb Bartel, Hillsboro, was appointed to an at-large position by the KFU Board of Directors during their reorganization meeting. Members also elected delegates to the 121st National Farmers Union Convention, which takes place March 5-7 in San Francisco, Cal.

Each year, KFU honors the legacy of Ruth Hirsh through an award in her name which is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to agriculture and the efforts of the Farmers Union. This year the award was given to Sarah Gideon, MBA, executive director of the Health Innovations Network of Kansas, Inc. (HINK) for her outstanding advocacy for family farmer mental health. Tom Giessel, Larned, was awarded the Linda Hessman Life-

time Achievement Award to Rural Kansas; Rosanna Bauman, Garnett, was awarded the Emerging Leader Award; and Jeff Kindel, Concordia, was awarded the Farmers Union Insurance Agent of the Year Award.

KFU members and guests raised over \$1,500 during a live auction to benefit the Kansas Farmers Union Foundation. Convention sponsors included Farmers Union Midwest Agency, Farmers Union Insurance, Kansas State University's Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops, Kansas Rural Center, and Humanities Kansas.

Japan gives final approval for beef trade provisions

Japan's parliament gave final approval to a deal amending a beef safeguard mechanism under the U.S.-Japan trade agreement, which was signed by U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai recently.

The change will reduce the probability that U.S. beef could be hit with higher Japanese tariffs, according to USTR. Japan was the second largest U.S. beef market in 2021, totaling \$2.4 billion.

The updated safeguard "will ensure our farmers and ranchers continue to have access to one of the world's most dynamic markets," said Tai. "The protocol represents a foundational pillar of our bilateral trade relationship, and I am grateful to our producers and stakeholders who helped make it possible."



I knew I was going to be gone for four days so I spent all day making sure everything was taken care of. I hauled hay out to every feeder and filled every water tank. I even planned ahead to the point I had taken a fresh battery out to all the fencers, went around the fence and made sure everything was in tip-top shape. I thought I had checked every detail and I left Friday night feeling pretty smug. I guess that was my downfall.

Saturday morning, I got a call from my neighbor Bryan, telling me I had a couple of cows out. Tatum was home doing chores, so I texted her and she went out to put them in. They went back in without much hassle, and she quickly found the hole they got out of. A quick fix and a couple of insulators, the fence was back up, working and hot. I was a little bit worried, but I was sure the crisis was averted because my cows never try an electric fence twice if it is working.

I went about my meeting and really didn't give the cows a second thought until later that evening. That is when my neighbor called again to tell me they were out again. Now I was getting concerned, Tatum went back, this time with reinforcements. She had called the guy I was having do chores when she went back to college. Armed with two sets of eyes they went over the fence with a fine-toothed comb. Finally, they decided the battery was bad and put a new one on. They were confident the problem was solved.

It remained solved until the next morning. The same bunch of cows were once again out. By now they were trained to go back into the pasture when they heard the side-by-side. Tatum and Clayton made a few more tweaks on the fence, tested it, and it was hot. All of us were much more concerned and a lot surer that the problem would pop back up. That night Clayton checked the cattle and lo and behold, nothing was out. We all breathed a sigh of relief thinking that finally the crisis had been brought to an end.

Not so fast. About dark, I got a call, cow in the road. Clayton went back up, ran the cow back in. At least this time she was by herself and did not corrupt any friends. Well, not that night anyway. The next morning the whole gang was on the wrong side of the fence. A quick

check of the fence and Clayton found a couple of insulators off. An easy fix but it didn't leave either of us with any confidence.

We were right. Now out of ideas, I talked to Bryan, my neighbor, and we decided they either did not like what they had to eat or there was less to eat than I had thought. He unrolled hay and that seemed to fix the problem for the rest of the day. Of course, it might have been that all of my help was tired of chasing cows and didn't check. That pacified the cows for the rest of the day and led to a false sense of hope. Later that evening, sure enough, not only were they out but they were farther down the road.

Clayton, once again, went out in the dusk and this time the cows found him and went back in. An early morning check revealed two pairs out. Now we were down to minor victories and just two pairs being out sure seemed like one. The fence was gone around once more and deemed hot once more. The biggest redeeming factor was that I was headed home that afternoon and I was going to go around the fence and fix anything that might even resemble a problem.

I didn't make it home before Bryan called me to tell me they were out. I decided that Roo, the cow dog, needed to let off a little steam from being kenneled all weekend. I also was going to take great joy in watching her bite the cows. Bryan came by while I was getting them in and helped me go over the fence. We stretched the wire up as tight as we could, checked every insulator and corner and straightened posts up. The final check revealed a fence that was really hot, even at the end.

We were admiring our work as the cows came up to inspect it. The lead cow stuck her nose out and, bam, she got nailed. We both took a great amount of enjoyment from watching her jump back. Well, until she jumped forward and over the fence. Not quite clearing it and getting shocked the whole time. She bolted off, taking the fence off the insulators with the rest of the herd in tow. Another mystery solved and another dilemma mystery. Proof once again that the only thing dumber than cows is the person that owns them.



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2023 Expo to feature comedy, economic panel

Comedian C. Willi Myles is the headlining speaker at the 2023 Kansas Soybean Expo scheduled for January 11, 2023. Myles' bio describes him as "America's Everyday Comedian" who uses quick wit and a great sense of humor to deliver high energy, side-splitting shows for all ages. "Keep 'em laughing" has

been C. Willi's goal on the stage over the last 18 years and he isn't about to stop" the bio continues. Myles has shared the stage with Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, The Beach Boys, Toby Keith and other household names.

The afternoon features an informative 90-minute economic

panel with Mac Marshall, United Soybean Board vice president of Market Intelligence; Scott Gerlt, American Soybean Association Chief economist; and Matt Herman, Iowa Soybean Association senior director of renewable product Marketing. The panel will include an opportunity to ask the experts questions.

Other staples of Expo, including the Commission Partner Updates, luncheon and Yield and Value Contests results announcement, are slated on the agenda as well. Kansas Soybean Expo is an annual event that brings together soybean producers in Kansas for a day of learning, industry updates and networking.

The Kansas Soybean Association organizes the event with checkoff funding from the Commission. Expo is a free event that takes place at Maner Conference Center adjacent to the Topeka Farm Show. Registration and exhibits open at 8:30 a.m. with

the program scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

Visit kansassoybeans.org/expo to register for Expo and reserve your seat. Online pre-registration is not required but is recommended to expedite the registration process on the day of Expo.

K-State, Kansas Corn set schedule for annual Kansas Corn School

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

A popular educational series that provides training and updated information for corn producers in the Midwest is scheduled to kick off in January.

K-State Research and Extension agronomist Ignacio Ciampitti said registration is now open for the 2023 Kansas Corn School, which will be held in four locations beginning Jan. 12. An online session is also scheduled for early February.

The schedule includes:

- Jan. 12 - Oakley. Buffalo Bill Cultural Center (3083 US Highway 83). 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Local sponsor: Western Plains Energy.
- Jan. 13 - Salina. Great Plains Manufacturing, Inc. (1525 E. North Street). 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Local sponsors: The Andersons and Ag Risk Solutions.
- Jan. 19 - Mayetta. Prairie Band Casino (12305 150h Road). 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Local sponsors: The Andersons and Ag Risk Solutions.
- Jan. 20 - Parsons. Southeast Research-Extension Center (25092 Ness Road). 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Local sponsors: Ag Risk Solutions and Heritage Tractor.
- Feb. 2 - Virtual Corn

School. 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Register at <https://kscorn.com/cornscool> to receive a Zoom link. Local sponsor: Ag Risk Solutions.

"Our main purpose," Ciampitti said, "is to provide in-depth training targeted for corn producers in the region."

He added that the issues of most concern to Kansas corn growers now include markets and cost-return; weed control; disease management; production practices; and farm policy.

"The past growing sea-

son provides us a reminder of the challenges of growing corn in our state, focusing on increasing profits and yield stability over time," Ciampitti said. "Thus, we want to emphasize and promote practices that can help farmers manage future production challenges and pursue effective avenues to increase profits."

Each school is free to attend and lunch will be provided for the in-person events. Ciampitti said continuing education credits may be available.

DOT denies hours of service exemption for livestock haulers

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) rejected a 2018 petition from agricultural groups to allow truckers hauling livestock to drive for longer stints.

Current regulations allow an exception for livestock haulers from the maximum daily work period for truckers within 150 air-miles of the origin and the destination. Outside of the exempt zones, they must comply with regular trucking hours — 11 hours of driving time.

The groups, including the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), American Farm Bureau Federation and American Beekeeping Federation, argued that requiring animals to sit in a stationary trailer for the mandatory ten-hour driver rest period would be detrimental to their welfare, especially in hotter weather.

NCBA's executive director of government affairs Kent Bacus says the association will look at any possible legal or Congressional recourse and continue to petition the agency.

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We will be **CLOSED: FRIDAY, Dec. 23rd; MONDAY, Dec. 26th; MONDAY, Jan. 2nd**

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2022 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Pat Adams, Beloit, Wins This Week's Holiday Recipe Contest & Prize

Pat Adams, Beloit: "Vernon and I have just retired from 58 years of farming. I have always looked forward all those years for the recipe section in the Grass & Grain. This would make a delicious meal on Christmas Eve!"

WHITE CHICKEN CHILI

1 pound chicken, sliced
2 cans white beans, drained & rinsed
1 can corn, drained
16-ounce jar salsa verde
1 can green chiles
2 cans chicken broth (8 ounces each)
8-ounce block of cream cheese
1 tablespoon chili powder
1/2 teaspoon cumin
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon paprika

Combine all ingredients (except cream cheese) together in a slow-cooker and cook on low for 4 hours (if the chicken is cooked) and longer if you are using raw chicken. Add the cream cheese during the last hour. Enjoy!

Barbara Miller, Wakefield:
S'MORE SNACK
1 1/2 cups mini pretzels
3 cups Golden Graham cereal
2 cups miniature marshmallows
1/2 cup Holiday Mini M&Ms
1/2 cup chocolate chips

Mix pretzels, Golden Grammars, marshmallows and M&Ms. Melt chocolate chips and drizzle over the mixture.

Michelle Brokes, Wilson:
2-MINUTE FUDGE
1 pound (4 cups) powdered sugar
1/2 cup baking cocoa
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon vanilla
1/4 cup milk
1/2 cup butter
1 cup chopped nuts

In a medium mixing bowl stir together sugar, cocoa, salt, vanilla and milk until partially blended. Put butter on top and microwave on high 2 minutes. Stir vigorously until smooth. Blend in nuts. Spread into a greased 9-inch baking pan. Chill 1 hour then cut into squares.

Anna Marie Eck, Maple Hill: "This cake is delicious served warm or leftover."

CINNAMON FLOP

Cake:
4 cups flour
1 1/2 cups sugar
5 teaspoons baking powder

1/2 cup canola oil or melted butter
2 eggs
2 cups milk
Topping:
1 1/2 cups brown sugar
2 teaspoons cinnamon
Icing:
4 tablespoons butter, melted
2-3 cups powdered sugar
Milk (enough to bring it to a good spreading consistency)

Mix all cake ingredients together well. Put into a 11-by-17-inch pan. Mix brown sugar and cinnamon together. Sprinkle on cake batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until done. While cake is baking melt 4 tablespoons butter. Use a whisk to mix the melted butter with the powdered sugar. Drizzle over the cake after it has cooled.

Loretta Shepard, Helena, Oklahoma:
CRANBERRY SALAD
2 cups sugar
1 package cranberries, ground
1 cup nuts (I use pecans)
1 apple, ground
1 orange, peeled & ground
2 packages raspberry gelatin (or any flavor you wish)
1 cup boiling water, cooled

Grind cranberries. Add sugar and let stand. While you wait, grind orange and apple. Add all ingredients to gelatin and refrigerate.

Bernadetta McCollum, Clay Center:
CHRISTMAS CASSEROLE COOKIES

2 eggs
1 cup sugar
1 cup English walnuts, chopped
1 cup dates, cut up
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup coconut
1/4 teaspoon almond extract

Beat eggs then gradually add sugar. Add walnuts, dates, vanilla, coconut and almond extract. Place in an ungreased 2-quart casserole dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Remove from oven and stir while hot then let cool. Now make into balls and roll in sugar.

Janice Chaput, Abilene:
"This is so good!"

RHUBARB CRISP
1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 cup rolled oats
1 cup all-purpose flour
4 cups chopped rhubarb (fresh or frozen)
1 cup cold water
1 cup granulated sugar
1 tablespoon cornstarch

In a large bowl mix together the melted butter, brown sugar, rolled oats and flour. Remove about 1/2 cup (125 ml) of this mixture and set it aside. Pat the rest into the bottom of a greased 9-inch (22 cm) pie pan or any baking pan of a similar size. Cover with the chopped rhubarb. In a medium saucepan stir together the water, white sugar and cornstarch. Bring to a simmer and stir until the mixture thickens and begins to bubble. Pour over the rhubarb in the pan. Sprinkle the top with the reserved crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees (180C) for 50 minutes to 1 hour.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:
CROCK-POT CANDY

16-ounce jar lightly salted dry roasted peanuts
22 ounces white chocolate chips
5 ounces dark chocolate chips
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
1/3 cup toffee bits

Place peanuts on bottom of crock-pot. Pour all remaining ingredients on top. Cook on low for 1 hour then stir (stir so chocolate completely cover peanuts). Cook 30 minutes longer. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper. Drop by spoonfuls onto paper-lined sheets. Let cool 30 minutes until set.

Claire Martin, Salina:
CHRISTMAS FUDGE
1 tablespoon butter
3 1/3 cups sugar
1 cup dark brown sugar
12-ounce can evaporated milk

1 cup butter, cubed
32 large marshmallows
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups (12 ounces) semi-sweet chocolate chips
14 ounces milk chocolate chips
2 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped
2 cups chopped, toasted pecans

Line a 15-by-10-by-1-inch pan with foil. Grease foil with 1 tablespoon butter. In a large heavy saucepan combine sugars, milk and butter. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly; continue cooking and stirring 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in marshmallows and vanilla. Gradually stir in chocolates until melted. Stir in pecans. Spread into prepared pan. Refrigerate 1 hour. Remove with the foil. Cut into 1-inch squares. Store between waxed paper layers in an air-tight container. Makes 150 pieces.

Donna Geritz, Atchison:
JALAPENO POPPER DIP
(2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese, softened
1 cup mayonnaise
1 cup Mexi-blend shredded cheese
1/2 cup Parmesan shreds
1 small can green chiles, chopped
1 small can jalapenos, chopped

Mix all above ingredients well and spread into a 8-by-8-inch baking dish. In a small bowl combine: 1 cup Panko bread crumbs 1/2 cup Parmesan shreds 1/4 cup melted butter

Spread on top of cheese mixture. Bake at 375 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes. Serve with favorite chips.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
CANDY CANE PIE

1 cup heavy cream
(2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
10 drops red food coloring
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 teaspoon peppermint extract
1 cup crushed candy canes, divided
1 Oreo pie crust
8 ounces Cool Whip

Crush candy canes. Beat cream until stiff peaks form. Set aside. Beat cream cheese and powdered sugar. To the cream cheese mixture add in the food coloring, vanilla and peppermint extract; mix until uniform coloring. Mix in 1/2 cup candy canes. Add cream cheese mixture to heavy cream. Mix until combined. Pour into crust. Top with Cool Whip and remaining 1/2 cup of crushed candy canes. Place in refrigerator at least 2 hours before serving.

Mary Hedberg, Clifton:
"These are very rich so just a small bite is the perfect size."

BROWNED BUTTER WHITE CHOCOLATE BLONDIES

Cooking spray
1 cup (2 sticks) butter
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups packed brown sugar
3 eggs
2 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
3/4 cup chopped Macadamia nuts
8 ounces chopped white chocolate
1 cup dried cranberries

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with cooking spray and line with foil. Melt butter over low heat; cook until brown (about 10 minutes). Watch closely so it doesn't burn. Remove from the heat and let cool. Whisk together flour, baking powder and salt. Combine cooled butter and sugar in a mixing bowl. Add eggs, one at a time, beat with a mixer until light and fluffy. Add vanilla. Add flour mixture, nuts, white chocolate and cranberries. Mix until well-blended. Spread mixture into pan. Bake 25 to 30 minutes. Cool completely before cutting into 24 squares.

Susan Schrick, Hiawatha:
SLOW-COOKER SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

3/4 cup packed brown sugar
2 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon water
1 tablespoon vanilla
3 1/2 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled & diced into 1/2-inch cubes
2 cups miniature marshmallows

Spray an oval 5-quart slow-cooker with cooking spray. In a large microwavable bowl mix brown sugar, butter, pumpkin pie spice, salt and water. Microwave uncovered on High for 1 1/2 minutes, stirring once. Stir in vanilla. Add sweet potatoes and stir to coat thoroughly. Pour mixture into slow-cooker. Cover and cook on High heat setting for 3 1/2 to 4 hours or until fork tender. Reduce to Warm heat setting until ready to serve. Stir mixture; top with marshmallows and cover 1 to 2 minutes or until marshmallows melt slightly.

Carol Nelson, Topeka:
"This is a creative and colorful vegetable for holiday tables. Best of all it is easy and yummy!"

PROSCIUTTO ASPARAGUS
24 fresh asparagus spears, trimmed
4 ounces provolone cheese, cut into 8 thin equal pieces

4 paper thin slices prosciutto, halved lengthwise (4-8 servings)
Blanch asparagus in boiling water about 1 minute. Drain. Immerse in ice water to stop cooking process. Dry spears on paper towels. Place 1 piece of cheese in the middle of 3 spears. Wrap 1 slice of the prosciutto around asparagus and cheese bundle. Repeat process with rest of ingredients. Place bundles in microwave-safe dish and cover with plastic wrap.

NOTE: This can all be prepared up to 4 hours in advance and chilled.

Just before mealtime, place covered dish in microwave. Cook 3 minutes (heated through and cheese slightly melted). Remove from microwave and carefully remove plastic wrap. Serve immediately.

Linda Kepka, Dorrance:
CRISPY CANDY
4 squares white almond bark
1 cup milk chocolate chips
1 1/2 cups marshmallows
1/2 cup Rice Krispies cereal
1/2 cup peanuts

Melt almond bark and chocolate chips. Add remaining ingredients and mix until well-coated. Spoon onto baking sheet lined with waxed paper and refrigerate until set.

Kellee George, Shawnee:
OREO PEPPERMINT BARK

12 ounces good quality white chocolate baking bar
6 full-size candy canes
1/2 cup crushed Oreo cookies

Melt chocolate in microwave. Place waxed paper on cookie sheet. Pour white chocolate onto pan. Use rubber spatula and roughly spread to 8-by-10 1/4-inch thick. Sprinkle with Oreo and candy canes. Use piece of waxed paper to spread down. Put pan in refrigerator for 30 minutes then break into pieces.

Marcile Shipley, Woodbine: "Name aptly fits; you eat one, you'll go for another one!"

GOPHERS

3 ounces cream cheese, very soft
1/2 cup pimento-stuffed Spanish olives, chopped fine
1 green onion, chopped fine
1/4 teaspoon pepper
80 large pecan halves

Stir together all ingredients, except pecan halves. Spread on 40 large pecan halves and top with 40 pecan halves to form a "sandwich." Chill.

Dorothy Wulfkuhle, Carbondale:

MICROWAVE QUICK FUDGE

1 pound powdered sugar
1/2 cup cocoa
1/4 cup milk
1 stick oleo or butter
1 tablespoon vanilla
1/2 cup chopped nuts

Mix sugar and cocoa. Add milk and butter but do not stir. Microwave 2 minutes on high. Stir. Add nuts and vanilla. Stir and pour into greased 8-by-8-inch dish. Chill 20 to 30 minutes.

Ireta Schwant, Blaine:
"This is a great salad to make ahead for your holiday guests."

CUCUMBERS & ONIONS
4 cups sliced cucumbers
1 cup sliced onions
1/2 cup Half & Half
1 cup Miracle Whip
1/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon prepared mustard
Sprinkle of salt, to taste
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/3 cup cider vinegar

Combine Half & Half, Miracle Whip, sugar, vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper. Pour over cucumbers and onions. Chill for several hours before serving.

Anna Kusmaul, Allen:
"It's like caramel popcorn, only better!"

PEANUT BUTTER POPCORN

8 cups popped corn
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup light corn syrup
1/2 cup peanut butter
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/4 teaspoon butter flavoring
Dash of salt

Cook and stir sugar and corn syrup until it comes to a full rolling boil. Remove from heat. Stir in peanut butter, flavorings and salt. Pour over popcorn and stir well. Cool on cookie sheet lined with waxed paper.

Recipes Continued on Page 5

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Baking With Sugarbuns

By Michele Drees
December Traditions

If you have been with me for long, you understand the importance of traditions in relation to my mom. If there is a way to create a tradition, she does and she does it so passionately. If we are being honest, that is one of my favorite things about her and something I hope to help her with until she decides to pass the torch.

While growing up there were so many different traditions that I would look forward to throughout the year. There were the birthday dinners, where we each got to pick whatever we wanted to eat for our birthday, and she would prepare it. To make it even more exciting, she would also bring as much of the family together to help celebrate each person, doing everything in her power to ensure that we each felt loved and celebrated.

For Valentine's Day, she hated flowers, but would always smile and admire the flowers that I was thrilled to be receiving from my dad. For Easter we originally all went to my Aunt Patsy's house, but eventually the torch got passed to my mom and I honestly think it has become one of her favorite traditions. She loves to buy gifts, spoiling all the little ones and treating all of us bigger kids to our favorite Easter treat, Jell-O eggs.

The Fourth of July was another favorite, bringing all our friends and their families together with ours to eat, laugh and shoot off excessive amounts of fireworks. My favorite Halloween tradition is probably silly, but I love our after-Halloween hunt for clearance candy. Thanksgiving tends to bring celebration with my dad's side of the family, where my mom will task you with what you are allowed to bring if it happens to be at her house that year.

All the traditions throughout the year are amazing, but they just do not even touch some of my favorites that December brings. We have the obvious one of Christmas, which for us was always spent the same way. We started the morning at home and then met up with my dad's side for lunch and gifts that afternoon. We would celebrate with my mom's side on another weekend, sharing another delicious meal.

Growing up there was also the December tradition of baking cookies, so many cookies! My mom would allow us to each have one friend over and we would take over her kitchen for the day. We had so many failed cookies, but we had the best time, and all loved the aftermath of getting to hand them out and share our hard work.

After Mika and Chloe came along, traditions have shifted but new ones were born, including my now all-time favorite, something my mom said her mom used to

take us three kids to do. My mom will arrange with Mike and Marissa a time to take the girls shopping for the family. They have no budget, no rules, and the gifts are always something to make you smile.

The past couple of years, I have been lucky enough to get to join on these shopping adventures, and it is quite possibly my favorite part of watching my mom be a grandma. She lets Mika and Chloe be themselves and gives them the opportunity to really think about giving to other people. The gifts are outlandish and sometime comical, but seeing the girls' faces light up as we unwrap the magic they are anxiously awaiting us to see, it is the best part of December.

December traditions are quite possibly always going to be my favorite, but that is because of the hard work my parents, especially my mom, put into making December magical. I love the fact that at thirty-four, Christmas and December are still just as magical for me as they were when I was a little girl. I know not everyone is blessed with such fond memories and fun traditions, but I hope each and everyone of you find a way to find the magic for yourself and your loved ones this December.

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

If you would like to contact Michele with comments please email mearlyon88@gmail.com

2022 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma: CANDY CANE DIP
8 ounces cream cheese
3/4 cup vanilla yogurt
1/3 cup powdered sugar
1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
1/4 cup crushed candy canes

Use mixer to beat cream cheese until smooth. Add all except candy canes. Beat one minute. Stir in candy canes. Place in refrigerator. Use within 48 hours. Use for crackers, candy, etc.

Lois Kusmaul, Allen: CHEWY DATE NUT BARS
18.25-ounce package yellow cake mix
3/4 cup packed brown sugar
3/4 cup butter, melted

2 eggs
2 cups chopped dates
2 cups chopped pecans
In a mixing bowl combine cake mix and brown sugar. Add butter and eggs; beat on medium speed for 2 minutes. Combine dates and pecans; stir into batter (the batter will be stiff). Spread into a greased 9-by-13-by-2-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-45 minutes or until edges are golden brown. Cool on cooling rack for 10 minutes. Run a knife around sides of pan to loosen. Cool completely before cutting.

Jackie Doud, Topeka: HOT CINNAMON COCOA
1/4 cup cocoa
1/4 cup sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
1 cup boiling water

3 cups scalded milk
2 cinnamon sticks, about 3 inches long
1 teaspoon vanilla
In top of a double boiler stir together cocoa, sugar and salt. Gradually add boiling water. Place over direct heat and boil for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Add milk and cinnamon sticks and place over boiling water. Stir and heat 10 minutes. Remove sticks and stir in vanilla. Beat with a wire whisk to froth milk. Serve immediately.

Tammy Myers, Topeka: ROAST GOOSE WITH SWEDISH STUFFING
1 goose, cleaned & ready to cook
Salt
2 stalks celery, sliced
2 carrots, sliced

Half of a large onion, chopped
Swedish Stuffing:
3 cups cooked, salted rice
1/2 cup raisins
1 raw apple, chopped
1 teaspoon orange peel, grated
Sliced mushrooms (as desired)

Boil goose in salted water with celery, carrots and onion for 25 to 45 minutes (depending on the size of goose). Prepare Swedish Stuffing by combining all ingredients together. Stuff into goose and roast, covered, until done according to a meat thermometer.

Editor's Note: For an 8- to 10-pound goose, roast at 350 degrees uncovered for approximately 3 to 3 1/2 hours or to a temperature of 180-185 degrees F.

Prairie Gal Cookin'

Recipes and Ramblings from the Farm

By Ashleigh Krispense

Smoking has become a new favorite way of cooking for me recently. We've sampled burgers, chicken, barbecued beans, macaroni and cheese, jalapeño popper dip, and most recently, BBQ meatballs and potato casserole.

These meatballs originated from a lady at church and was a favorite of mine growing up. We've changed it up some and now are enjoying them off the smoker! They tend to take on a bit of a sausage flavor as the smoke permeates the meat. The sweet BBQ sauce gives a wonderful flavor and they go great with potato casserole.

This recipe makes enough large meatballs to fill a jelly roll pan, so feel free to cut in half if you would prefer a smaller amount. The smoker that I am using is a pellet smoker, so the smoking instructions will of course vary depending on what smoker you use.

Smoked BBQ Meatballs
Meatballs:

4 pounds ground beef, thawed
1 1/2 cups quick-cooking oats
1 1/2 cups milk
2 eggs
1 large onion, chopped finely
1 teaspoon garlic powder
2 1/2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
Sauce:
3 cups ketchup
2 cups brown sugar
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2-2 teaspoons liquid smoke

Start your smoker and turn it to the smoke setting. Let preheat while you mix the meatballs up.

Spray a jelly roll pan with nonstick cooking spray and set aside.

In a large bowl, mix together all meatball ingredients except the ground beef. Once combined thoroughly, use your hands to mix in the beef.



Form fist-sized meatballs (about 2 inches wide or so) and place onto the greased pan. (In my pan, the entire batch fit almost perfectly when they were scooted close enough some were just touching on the sides).

Place the pan of meatballs on the smoker and leave it on the smoke setting for 1 hour.



While the meatballs smoke, mix together in a medium saucepan all of the ingredients for the BBQ sauce.



Once the meatballs have finished smoking for an hour (or even a little before they're done), pour the sauce generously over each meatball.

Change from the smoke setting to grill at 350 degrees and allow the meatballs to cook for approximately 45 minutes or until the meat is no longer pink in the center when cut open.

These can be served alongside scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole, or even smoked macaroni and cheese. Enjoy!

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

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Bobsledding on Booth Creek

We found a couple of old narrow skis or wooden runners of some sort, about six feet long, one day in the old barn. We really didn't have any idea what they'd come off of, but we certainly had an idea of what they would be going on!

Weekends in winter time in the 1970s were pretty boring for a bunch of teenage boys and young men when hunting season was over. I mean, during the day you can't go spin donuts in the main intersection of town, and the saucer sled incident where Kevin was tied onto the back of my car with a 30-foot lariat should not

be repeated. At least in daylight. That one resulted in myself succumbing to temptation and gunning the engine as we came around a corner, swinging my heavily bearded friend wildly up the snow bank and out into the open field where a neighbor's septic tank had been running over, pooling under the pure white, fluffy snow. When Kevin's ride, my Captain America saucer sled, sailed over that snow plow bank and landed on the smooth 12-inch deep layer of snow covering the nasty pool, it disappeared into the muck, and scooped up about five gallons of that sewage, roll-

ing Kevin and the Cap'n up in a slushy brown spray, from which Kevin emerged wading through the muck, with sewer icicles already forming in his beard and hair. He was wet, cold, mad, and well, really stinky! As he grabbed for the car door I gave the orders to "Lock the doors!" so he couldn't bring that stuff in with him! I cracked the window and told him to ride on the trunk and I would take him to the house which was just a couple blocks across town. I made sure to avoid him for a few days!

But the bobsled idea that popped into our heads upon discovering these wooden runners, was gonna be great! Since Marty had access to all kinds of lumber (they ran the sawmill), we set to building ourselves a bobsled, literally from the ground up!

These runners were only about a half-inch thick and about 2 1/2 inches wide with a factory center

groove from end to end. They attached perfectly to a couple of 2x6's that we had cut to length for the project. The decking was pallet lumber, half-inch thick, and we built the sled about 2 1/2 feet wide, enough to accommodate two people. Adding a superstructure for something to hang on to, our sled was ready to ride in about half a day. The problem was weight. We had sanded smooth and waxed the runners good, but the thing was just too heavy to slide down a hill. Not to worry though because I still had that 30' lariat in the trunk of my car!

Booth Creek Road, going past the mill had been traveled enough to work the snow into a pretty good icy pack, so we commandeered Karl to drive my '64 Galaxy. After hooking up, mounting up, and waving Karl ahead at about 10 mph, we discovered that by shifting our weight we could "steer" the sled a bit, controlling

which side of the road it ran down. As we gained confidence, we waved Karl to go faster; he kicked it up to 15 mph.

Man, we were really getting the hang of this now, and I don't know about Marty, but I had visions of the bobsleding event in the Winter Olympics, hurtling down the pipes at 75-80 mph. I waved Karl to crank it up.

We were now about a quarter mile from our starting point, and probably running a good 25 mph, which was quite a thrill on a soapbox derby-looking homemade bobsled! Suddenly, as we crossed over the middle gravel ridge, we veered too far into the left side of the road and got caught in the gravel windrow that had been left by the road grader. We both tried leaning to the right, putting more weight on the right runner to pull it back out of the gravel row.

At this point, I think Karl may have pulled toward the right trying to

help us correct it to no avail. The left runner hit a frozen clump of gravel under the snow and that sled flipped us both off and as we rolled, bounced and slid into the weedy, snow-filled ditch, I looked ahead to see our handiwork literally flying to pieces, as it flipped, rolled and tumbled along behind that car.

Karl stopped, and we all started gathering up our shattered and splintered sled. It was much easier to move around now that it was in so many pieces. The runners were ruined and with them, the hope of rebuilding quickly evaporated. Her maiden voyage was her last, and we hauled her home to the kindling pile in the trunk!

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.

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KFB honors members and friends at 104th annual meeting

Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) recognized members and supporters at its 104th annual meeting, Dec. 4-5 in Manhattan.

KFB presented two Kansans with Distinguished Service awards for their exemplary contributions to agriculture in the state.

Eric Atkinson, Wabaunsee County, was honored for his almost 40 years of service sharing news and information with Kansas farmers and ranchers across the airwaves as host of *Agriculture Today*,

Kansas State University Research and Extension's daily radio program. Eric recently unplugged his microphone to spend more time on his farm. Atkinson joined K-State's KSAC radio station in 1983. Once there he brought agricultural experts directly to the folks who needed the pertinent information through more than 9,000 shows and never missed an opportunity to bring useful topics and news to Kansas farmers and ranchers.

Gregg Doud, a Jewell County native, has given a lifetime of service to the agriculture industry. Starting with being raised on a dryland wheat, grain sorghum, soybean, swine and cow-calf operation, to representing farmers and ranchers in the office of the U.S. Trade Representative as chief agricultural negotiator with the rank of U.S. Ambassador. He was one of the primary architects of the U.S.-China "Phase One" trade agreement. He previously served as president of the Commodity Markets Council, senior staff member for the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee where he helped craft the 2012 Senate Farm Bill and chief economist for the National Cattleman's Beef Association. Doud is now a vice president and chief economist at Aimpoint Research. He lives with his family on their horse farm in Maryland.

The organization also presented four Friends of Agriculture awards. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions for Kansas Farm Bureau and

agriculture. They are:

Kenneth Allen Campbell Jr., Franklin County, has worked tirelessly to advocate for agriculture as a board member and president of Franklin County Farm Bureau. Campbell has worked with the local food policy council to raise money to help those in need while also connecting with local farmers' markets to provide education to area consumers.

Margaret Goering, Harvey County, began serving the agriculture industry 54 years ago. She's impacted the future of agriculture by mentoring 4-H members, hosting farm tours and was Harvey County Farm Bureau's first female president in 2014. Goering has also provided livestock to small farmers in Mexico and educated them on care practices.

Marieta Hauser, Grant County, has served farmers, her local community and the state of Kansas for 30 years. With a passion to advocate for the agricultural industry, Hauser has contributed to Kansas Farm Bureau on county, state and national levels holding various positions including as a member of the Grant County Farm Bureau, nine years as the Women's Leadership chair and time on American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee. She's also served on the Resolutions Committee, was the Outstanding Young Farm Woman in 1988 and was honored as a Farm Family winner in 1995.

Robert Keener, Ellis County, was a strong advocate for agriculture for 23 years. Before passing

in the fall of 2021, he was an assistant professor at Fort Hays State University. He felt his greatest achievements were the relationships he built with students. He served as a volunteer for the Ellis County Farm Bureau Kids Ag Days, often bringing college students to the event so they could present to the children attending. Keener's life impacted the future of the agriculture industry through his dedication and service to growing youth leaders.

Jay Young, Greeley County, received the Kansas Farm Bureau Natural Resources Award, which goes to the farm family who exemplifies good land stewardship. Young grows wheat, corn and milo and raises Red Angus cattle on the High Plains. As the fifth generation on the family farm, Young knows he has to strike a balance between caring for the land and making a profit. He's used cover crops to increase water infiltration and biological activity in his soil while reducing the amount of synthetic phosphorus and nitrogen by applying a homemade compost extract.

Jim Waters, Pottawatomie County, received KFB's Partnership Award. This award recognizes someone from Farm Bureau Financial Services who has gone above and beyond for the state's largest farm organization. In his role as an agent, Waters has participated on various committees and he embodies the Farm Bureau brand every day in all aspects of his life.

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U.S. soy exports earn record \$40.42 billion on second-highest volumes

U.S. Soy's combined exports (whole soybeans, meal, and oil) achieved a record value of \$40.42 billion for the marketing year (MY) 2021/22, up 17% year-on-year. Export volumes reached 71.79 million metric tons (MMT), the second-highest on record, according to the USDA Economic Research Service and Foreign Agricultural Service.

While year-on-year exports value grew 17% and volume dipped 4%, long-term growth continued with value growing 50% and volumes up 6.3% on a five-year average. This reaffirms the success of USSEC's strategic plan to differentiate, elevate preference, and attain market access for U.S. Soy to advance nutrition, climate-forward solutions, and progress for people and communities.

Strong performance across U.S. Soy products

Whole soybean export volumes at 58.72 MMT were 7.8% higher than the five-year average, with China, the EU and Mexico being the top three markets. Soybean meal export volumes at 12.69 MMT were 1.6% higher than the five-year average with Philippines, Mexico, and Colombia being the top three markets. Soybean oil export volumes at 804,272 MT were 22.7% lower than the five-year average with India, South Korea, and Mexico being the top three markets.

"Despite the unprecedented impact of COVID, conflict, and climate events, I am proud of the value delivered for all our stakeholders," said Jim Sutter, USSEC CEO and chairman of U.S. Agriculture Export Development Council. "We expect to see these challenges continuing in MY 22/23 including economic contraction and inflation. Yet we are confident that when companies and countries choose sustainable solutions, collaborate, and advance open trade, together we can create positive impact."

Diversification and expansion approach continued to drive export volume growth

MY 21/22 saw double-digit volume growth in emerging and expansion markets including Mexico 11%, Egypt 52%, Ecuador 23%, Venezuela 58%, Turkey 1908% (post-lifting of restrictions), Tunisia 44%, Algeria 204%, Nepal 15%, and India 184%.

U.S. Soy innovation, sustainability, services, and collaboration deliver solutions

A commitment to innovation, sustainability, service, collaboration, consistent investment and long-term impact ensured the soy checkoff continued to create value for all its stakeholders.

For example, in MY 21/22, the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC), an organization ideated and supported

by the American Soybean Association and United Soybean Board, launched the U.S. Soy Delivers Solutions marketing campaign in 14 languages to drive increased customer preference for U.S. Soy's advantages in the animal nutrition, aquaculture, oil and soyfoods sectors. USSEC leveraged soy checkoff funding and scientific research findings that soybean meal derived from U.S. soybeans delivered the optimal nutritional bundle, better animal performance, and superior value versus soy of other origins. USSEC also launched the Soybean Value Calculator -- an innovative tool that calculates the economic advantage of soy from various origins. In aquaculture, the In-Pond Raceway System continued to see uptake. In oil, the High Oleic Soy Sourcing Guide was launched, and the Specialty U.S. Soy Database saw rising usage.

As consumers, companies and countries seek increasing actions on sustainability and transparency, the U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol (SSAP) was enhanced to enable customers to transfer SSAP certificates up to four times while keeping records of sustainable U.S. Soy purchases and report progress on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals.

In MY 21/22, SSAP verified shipments grew 42% year-on-year, touching record volumes of 40.25 MMT and constituting a record 58% of total U.S. Soy exports. Additionally, the "Sustainable U.S. Soy" and "Fed with Sustainable U.S. Soy" labels saw increased adoption on 850+ product packs.

"As farmers, we have a deep commitment and responsibility to nourish the world sustainability. MY21/22 marks another successful year for the soy checkoff, with record high value and the second-highest ever export volumes. This is largely attributable to the soy checkoff's sustained investment and commitment to delivering solutions that create long-term value for all our stakeholders," said Doug Winter, USSEC chairman, USB director, and Illinois soybean farmer.

Global poultry, pork and aquaculture consumption are forecast to grow 17.8%, 13.1%, and 23%, respectively, by 2030[4]. Global soyfoods per capita consumption grew 24% to 2.67 kg in 2020 from 2.16 kg in 2010[5]. As consumers, food companies and countries increase their focus on value, sustainability and transparency, U.S. Soy is strongly positioned to meet global needs as a key source of sustainable protein. U.S. Soy is the United States' number one food and agricultural export. The U.S. is the world's second largest producer and exporter of soy.



Epic winds swept across the high plains a couple of weeks ago. Here in Oakley, gusts were clocked at 67 mph; in Sharon Springs, winds reached hurricane force at 75 mph. There was a pretty scary fire near Russell Springs, threatening several homes, but the fire departments and neighbors came together to keep everyone safe. Dirt obscured the horizon as the front pushed across the prairies like a wild beast. Temperatures dropped.

Life, here, is not for the faint of heart.

There are a lot of changes coming for Around Kansas in 2023. Michelle Martin, Dr. Michelle now, has book projects and other things to pursue so she will be exiting stage left as a co-host, but will remain involved in other ways. We can't let her go entirely!

We will launch a new YouTube channel, partnering with Ad Astra Eating. It will feature the things we love about Kansas -- the people, places, and events that make it such a special place--but with an added emphasis on food. After all, we are the epicenter of the World's Breadbasket and Beef Capital. With our various ethnic groups settling in the state, there are so many unique recipes and festivals, family traditions with a specific spice. We will be sharing more of those and looking for more contributions from you -- your stories and pictures.

Stay tuned. Life is going to be getting more interesting.

Deb Goodrich is the host of Around Kansas and the Garvey Texas Historian in Residence at the Fort Wallace Museum. She chairs the Santa Fe Trail 200, commemorated through 2025. Contact her at author.debgoodrich@gmail.com.

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American Angus Auxiliary rounds out 70-year celebration

By Briley Richard, Angus Communications

For 70 years, the American Angus Auxiliary has offered Angus enthusiasts the opportunity to work together to provide educational, promotional and social programs and activities. Each year, Auxiliary members gather at Angus Convention to educate members, discuss future efforts and raise funds for Angus generations to come. The Auxiliary held their Annual Meeting, Miss American Angus competition and Auxiliary Breakfast in conjunction with the 2022 Angus Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"Angus Convention is a great way for the Auxiliary directors, committee chairs, past presidents and membership to gather annually to look back at our year of progress," said Deanna Hofing, American Angus Auxiliary 2021-2022 president. "It allows us to connect with our members, establish new friendships and socialize with the Angus industry."



The American Angus Auxiliary national officers and regional directors at the Auxiliary Breakfast held during the 2022 Angus Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. Pictured left to right are: Stacy Erdmann, N.D.; Cindy Worthington, Ca.; Deanna Hofing, Ind.; Tonya Rae Theis, Ks.; Karla Knapp, Ia.; Julie Conover, Mo.; Megan Ahern, Texas; Valerie Trowbridge, Pa.; and Christy Perdue, N.C.

During the Auxiliary Annual Meeting, members elected new directors, officers and voted on changes to by-laws said Hofing.

A complete list of the 2022-2023 officers and directors follows.

President – Julie Conover, Missouri

President Elect – Karla

Knapp, Iowa

Secretary/Treasurer – Tonya Rae Theis, Kansas

Advisor – Deanna Hofing, Indiana

Region 1 – Cindy Worthington, California

Region 2 – Megan Ahern, Texas

Region 3 – Stacy Erdmann, North Dakota

Region 4 – Christy Per-

due, North Carolina

Region 5 – Rebecca Knott, Indiana

Region 6 – Valerie Trowbridge, Pennsylvania

In the Miss American Angus competition, five young ladies underwent a written quiz, an interview and presented a speech to a panel of judges. This year's contestants includ-

ed Allison Davis, Tennessee; Alexis Koelling, Missouri; Lizzie Schafer, Illinois; Kelsey Theis, Kansas; and Hailey Jentz, Wisconsin. The 2022 Miss American Angus, Mary Wood, concluded her reign by crowning Kelsey Theis as her successor.

Through the past year of the 70th anniversary, the Auxiliary honored their work and the dedication of women before them to strengthen their organization and its devotion to Angus youth. In final celebration, this year's Auxiliary highlight was the auctioning of a C.J. Brown painting, which included depictions of 29 notable Angus cow families and all 68 past presidents. The original painting sold for \$8,000, along with five custom artist proofs which totaled \$5,100.

"Our 70th year was a fantastic time to celebrate the Auxiliary's achievements. I am thankful, grateful and humbled by having the opportunity to be the 70th anniversary

president," Hofing said. "This year was the first time we participated in the National Junior Angus Show tailgate party, the first time we were able to provide \$20,000 in scholarships and the first year of the Miss American Angus advocacy program."

Looking forward, the Auxiliary plans to continue providing juniors ample learning and leadership opportunities in the future.

"The Auxiliary has a bright future with the ladies who are now leading and will lead in future years," Hofing said. "As times and culture changes, the Auxiliary will have to change as well to stay relevant and forward thinking for the juniors."

The 2022 Angus Convention was held Nov. 4-7, 2022 in Salt Lake City, Utah. For more news and information about Angus Convention, visit www.angusconvention.com. To learn more about the American Angus Auxiliary, visit www.angusauxiliary.com/.

USGC 2022 Corn Harvest Quality Report: higher average test weight, protein content in this year's harvested crop

According to the U.S. Grains Council's (USGC's) 2022/2023 Corn Harvest Quality Report, the 12th annual corn quality survey published globally, the 2022 U.S. corn crop entering the market channel has a higher average test weight, higher protein concentration and lower total damage relative to each quality factor's average of the previous five crops.

Cool temperatures early in the year caused delays in planting but May's warm weather allowed farmers to catch up and the crop has since matured at a near-average pace. Areas of the western Corn Belt continued to endure higher heat and lower than expected precipitation.

These factors contributed to reduced yields in this year's crop but accelerated maturation and the clear weather ensured a timely harvest, which has maintained crop quality.

The average aggregate quality of the representative samples tested was better than the grade factor requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade. The report also showed that 81.5 percent of the samples met the grade factor requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade and 95.3 percent met the grade factor requirements for U.S. No. 2.

"Through trade, the Council is committed to the furtherance of global food security and mutual economic benefit and offers this report to assist

buyers in making well-informed decisions by providing reliable and timely information about the quality of the current U.S. crop," said Kurt Shultz, USGC senior director of global strategies. "This year's supply allows the United States to remain the world's leading corn exporter and will account for an estimated 29.9 percent of global corn exports during the upcoming marketing year."

The report is based on 600 yellow corn samples taken from defined areas within 12 of the top corn-producing and exporting states. Inbound samples were collected from local grain elevators to measure and analyze quality at the point of or-

igin and provide representative information about the variability of the quality characteristics across the diverse geographic regions.

This year's crop showed higher test weight than 2021; higher average total damage than 2021 but lower than the five-year average and the same average moisture content as 2021 and the five-year average. The crop also showed higher average protein concentration than 2021 and the five-year average.

Nearly all of the samples tested below the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) action level for aflatoxins and 86.1 percent of the samples tested below the 5.0 parts per million FDA advisory level for deoxynivalenol (DON) or vomitoxin. Of the sam-

ples tested for fumonisin, 98.9 percent tested below the FDA's strictest guidance level of 5.0 parts per million, a slightly higher proportion than in 2021.

The 2022 U.S. corn crop checks in at 353.84 million metric tons (13,930 million bushels) and the average yield is 10.81 metric tons/hectare (172.3 bushels per acre), according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimate.

The 2022/2023 Corn Harvest Quality Report provides information about the quality of the current U.S. crop at harvest as it enters international merchandising channels. A second Council report, the 2022/2023 Corn Export Cargo Quality Report, will measure corn quality at

export terminals at the point of loading and will be available in early 2023.

The Council will present its findings to buyers around the world in roll-out events starting in January 2022 with programs scheduled across Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

Presentations will continue through the first quarter of the new year and aim to offer participants clear expectations regarding the quality of corn for this marketing year. During these events, crop quality information is accompanied by presentations on U.S. corn grading and handling, which helps provide a better understanding of how U.S. corn is moved and controlled through export channels.

UPCOMING SPECIAL ISSUES

— 2022 —

Christmas Greetings Special - Dec. 20th

— 2023 —

Topeka Farm Show - January 3rd

Full of Bullz - January 10th

Crop Production & Protection - Feb. 14th

Farm Building - March 7th

DEADLINES:

— 2022 —

Christmas Greetings - Dec. 14th, before Noon

— 2023 —

Topeka Farm Show - Dec. 28th, before Noon

Full of Bullz - Jan. 4th, before Noon

Crop Production & Protection - Feb. 8th, before Noon

Farm Building - March 1st, before Noon

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Kansas Forest Service opens orders for conservation tree and shrub seedlings

By Maddy Rohr, K-State Research and Extension news service

The Kansas Forest Service has opened orders for tree and shrub seedlings and other items for use in conservation plantings.

Officials say orders will be taken through May 1, 2023. Plantings may function as wildlife habitat, windbreaks, wood lots, timber plantations or educational and riparian (streambank) plantings. The seedlings typically vary in species, are low-cost, and range from eight to 18 inches tall.

Kansas State University horticulture expert Ward Upham said consumers ordering seedlings should look for two types: bareroot and containerized. Certain trees may come as one or the other or both.

“Containerized provide a higher survival rate and

quicker establishment,” Upham said, who suggests ordering early “to ensure receiving the items you want.”

Upham said orders start being shipped mid-March. All items are sold in single species units consisting of 25 plants.

“For example, a unit of Eastern Redcedar has 25 trees per unit,” he said. “Though a single species unit is most commonly purchased, four special bundles are also available, including a quail bundle, pheasant bundle, eastern pollinator bundle and western pollinator bundle.”

Tree planting accessories and tools are also available to order including marking flags, root protective slurry, rabbit protective tubes, weed barrier fabric and tree tubes.

“If there have been problems with deer browsing on

young trees, the tree tubes are a must,” Upham said.

Seedlings may not be used for landscape (ornamental) plantings or grown for resale, Upham said.

Additional details and order forms are available through The Kansas Forest Service Conservation Tree Planting Program. Order forms are also available from local K-State Research and Extension offices.

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 and gardens. 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.

K-State researchers advancing computer circuitry to measure soil properties

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

Can an electronic circuit — not much larger than a postage stamp — help to speed up U.S. farmers’ goal to feed a hungry world?

It might, says Raj Khosla, if it’s taught to measure soil properties of a farm field so that in a matter of seconds, farmers can adjust water, nitrogen and other inputs to abundantly grow crops.

Think of it as farming in bits and bytes, in real time.

“The United States has constructed an agriculture innovation agenda that in the next 28 crop cycles — which gets us to the year 2050 — we want to grow 40% more food than what is currently grown,” said Khosla, a precision agriculture specialist, professor and head of the Kansas State University agronomy department in the College of Agriculture.

“But here is the caveat: We need to achieve this goal by using 50% less water and 50% less nitrogen applied to the crops, which are the two biggest drivers of crop production

systems,” Khosla added. “This means we have to account for everything that goes into the water and nitrogen budget. We can’t leave room for error.”

For the past ten years, Khosla has been methodically reducing the chance of error in several projects to develop biodegradable sensors that measure soil moisture and nitrogen content.

“Ten years ago, I was hypothesizing that someday we would have soil moisture sensors that we could literally throw out in a field, then ‘ping’ them with a computer to get a measure of that soil’s moisture content,” Khosla said.

Khosla began conducting field experiments in 2012 in collaboration with private partners that provided sensors mounted on a post and connected to cables that measured soil moisture at five depths. In that setup, Khosla determined that to cover a 22-acre field, a farmer would need about 100 sensor nodes — each at a cost of about \$3,000.

“They were expensive,” he said. “Even today, they are cost-prohibitive for a

farmer.

Installing those sensors is labor-intensive and it’s a logistical nightmare to have 12-foot-tall posts sticking out of your 22-acre field at such a high density.”

Those early experiments, though, served a purpose: to fuel the research group’s motivation to provide a low-cost option that could still gather detailed information of the farmer’s entire field.

Now, Khosla is co-leading a collaborative team that is building on those early experiments. In 2018, Khosla and his colleagues at the University of Colorado Boulder and the University of California, Berkeley received a U.S. Department of Energy grant that funds high-risk/high-reward projects through the Advanced Research Project Agency.

The team of researchers includes materials scientists and computer and electrical engineers from the collaborative institutions. Other K-State agronomy researchers involved include Jeff Siegfried and Dipankar Mandal, both postdoctoral research fellows; Wub Yilma, doctoral

student; and Ross Unruh, assistant scientist.

Together, the researchers aim to develop biodegradable sensors capable of measuring soil moisture content at high spatial densities. That would allow researchers to estimate soil moisture at every inch of a field and provide huge volumes of data that are crunched by computer algorithms to build an easily readable guide for the farmer.

“There is no spot in the field where there will be guesswork,” Khosla said.

Farmers already can apply water, nitrogen and other nutrients in very precise ways, using such current technologies as variable rate irrigation that can be adjusted to provide different rates of water in a field, Khosla said. But knowing the field’s needs, foot by foot, is limited to measurements provided by satellite images or unmanned aerial vehicles. Those are good ways to accommodate a field’s needs, but still not entirely precise, diagnostic or immediate.

“One idea is that as a pivot is applying water in a field, you can ping sen-

sors that are lined up in the next 20, 50 or even 100 feet of the pivot arm,” Khosla said. “That information is sent back to the computer to re-create the real-time soil-moisture data surface that the pivot is encountering while it is applying the water, and the farmer or artificial intelligence-based decision tools can change the rate of application if necessary. I think that’s going to be a big deal.”

If farmers were to deploy 100 sensors throughout a field, the sensor cost — at 50 cents to \$1 each — would be \$50 to \$100. Setting them up would be as simple as walking the field and tossing or inserting them about. Because they would be biodegradable, they would never have to be collected.

The eco-friendly biodegradable chips, which Khosla thinks will start to deteriorate in about 200 days, are not yet available. Currently, the research team is using larger, more expensive circuits that are not biodegradable to make sure the huge volumes of data they are collecting can be processed by computers using algorithms

developed by K-State researchers to translate data that enables farmers to make better decisions.

“We can only manage what we can measure,” Khosla said. “If we can’t precisely measure the resources that we’re trying to manage, then we won’t be able to help farmers. I think that’s particularly true for these two major inputs in crop production systems — water and nitrogen — that are environmentally so sensitive and important.”

This work, he said, is the first step toward an exciting agricultural era that involves more sensors and data-driven decisions.

“These types of technologies often are for organizations with a very high demand for information technology. They’re usually the first ones to get their hands on it,” Khosla said. “Well, this time it happens to be agriculture. It’s very exciting to be in that environment.”

Read a longer version of this story in the Fall, 2022 issue of *Seek Magazine*, located at <https://www.k-state.edu/seek/fall-2022>.

Emerging technology allows solar panels and agriculture to coexist

Renewable energy technologies such as wind turbines and solar panels are gaining traction, but are sometimes met with local resistance because they take up valuable space that could otherwise be used for agricultural production. Agrivoltaics provides a way of creating dual land usage, combining solar panels with crops or grazing animals in the same field. But this emerging technology faces regulatory headwind because the land will no longer be classified as agricultural.

A new study from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois presents an overview of zoning and taxation regulations that affect agrivoltaics across the United States, identifying challenges and possible solutions.

“There are many benefits to co-locating solar panels and agriculture on the same plot of land. There is an increased need for renewable energy, while agricultural land continues to decrease. When you’re able to find a technology where you can put these uses together, you may reduce the overall potential that either technology could have on its own, but you still get a better total outcome. It can also be a very good financial diversification for the farmer,” says Tyler Swanson, one of the study’s authors. Swanson is an undergraduate student in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics (ACE) at U of I. He serves as a research assistant in the Bock Agricultural Law and Policy Program under the guidance of ACE professor and program director Bryan Endres.

The study focuses on regulations concerning solar panels and grazing because it is a more established practice. It can be difficult to find crops that thrive under solar panels, but for grazing animals, particularly sheep, the combination works out well. The sheep graze around the solar panels, providing needed vegetation maintenance.

“The sheep don’t really care about hanging wires or

poles; as far as I know there’s never been an issue where the sheep have caused structural damage to the solar panels. They mostly just go around, eat the grass, sleep and lay under the panels during the day when it’s hot outside. They save the solar developer money, because there is no longer a need to hire a mowing company to trim the vegetation,” Swanson says.

Swanson and co-author Jessica Guarino, a postdoctoral research associate in ACE, identified zoning and taxation regulations across the United States. They found agrivoltaics installation typically causes the area to be declassified as agricultural land, resulting in added regulatory burdens, higher taxes, and sometimes fiscal penalties for violating zoning ordinances. To further complicate matters, state and local policies may differ.

“Even if states are promoting policies supportive of the nexus of agriculture and renewable energy, there will often be local pushback,” Guarino says. “Especially in rural areas, there can be a lot of opposition to bringing in new technology on agricultural land, which is highly valued. For the farmers working that land, it’s usually a generational thing, so they are emotionally invested as well. That kind of social tension evolves into legal challenges for agrivoltaics.”

The researchers hope their work will encourage a shift to policies that incentivize agrivoltaics production and provide tax incentives rather than tax penalties for dual land usage.

Swanson and Guarino also identify another legal issue affecting agrivoltaics implementation: the contractual agreements between farmers and solar panel developers.

Typically, a solar developer contracts with a farmer to bring sheep to the solar panel facility. In some cases, the solar panels are installed on existing farmland, and the farmer provides the vegetation management through grazing. Either way, both parties must ensure their property is protected.

“You have a solar developer who has a multimillion-dollar energy generation facility, and they want to make sure the sheep aren’t going to cause any damage to it. But you also have a farmer who has thousands of dollars or more in sheep, and they want to protect those as well,” Swanson explains.

“Generally, insurance costs will be high, as you need to hedge against damage to the solar farm, as well as potential harm to the sheep. There’s also the added cost of driving back and forth from the solar farms for the farmer, depending on how far away it is.”

Swanson and Guarino include a couple of sample contracts in their paper, including one from the American Solar Grazing Association, a trade group that assists sheep farmers in negotiating with a solar development company.

Swanson is currently a senior in ACE with environmental economics and policy concentration. He says working on a research project has been a great way to apply classroom learning to real-world scenarios.

“In my classes, I learn about these different methods for diversification of agriculture and environmental markets, and about research methods and doing literature reviews, but now I finally get to put it into practice,” he says.

“It’s been my goal since I was a freshman to have a paper published by the time I graduate. So I’m accomplishing that goal right on time. It’s been fantastic to work on this paper with Jessica, and we are working on other exciting projects that will be coming out in the near future.”

To learn more about undergraduate student research opportunities, visit the College of ACES website.

The paper, “Emerging agrivoltaic regulatory systems: A review of solar grazing,” is published in the *Chicago-Kent Journal of Environmental and Energy Law*.



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Kansas Corn welcomes EPA's ethanol volume announcement

EPA received positive reactions from the Kansas and National Corn Growers Association when the agency released its proposed ethanol levels for 2023, 2024 and 2025 for the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). The proposed Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) includes an implied 15 billion gallons for conventional ethanol for 2023, which increases to 15.25 billion gallons for both 2024 and 2025. Kansas Corn Growers Association and National Corn Growers Association leaders were pleased with the EPA's forward-looking approach of annual increases in the RVO proposal. Kansas Corn CEO Greg Kressek said the RVO pro-

posal is positive overall, meeting the statutory level in 2023, with higher amounts in 2024 and 2025.

"The statutory level is 15 billion gallons, but ethanol can play a much bigger role in our nation's fuel supply. A simple step is to remove the outdated barrier to year-round sales of E15 fuel, which we are working to pass through Congress," Kressek said. "In the past, EPA was known to delay the RVO proposals and then issue them retroactively. Providing this baseline through 2025 gives us more certainty," Kressek said.

The Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) sets the annual volumes of ethanol and other

renewable fuels to be used in the fuel supply to reduce emissions, expand and diversify the fuel supply, improve energy security and lower costs.

"EPA clearly recognizes that renewable fuels like ethanol play a critical role in cutting greenhouse gas emissions, increasing U.S. energy independence and providing long-term relief to consumers at the pump. With continued pressure on energy security and costs and the need to accelerate carbon emission reductions, however, biofuels can contribute even more, and we will make that case to EPA for the final volumes," said National Corn Growers Association president

Tom Haag.

In addition to proposing the levels through 2025, the agency also followed through on proposing to restore the remaining 250 million gallons from a prior court decision for 2023. EPA did not propose a specific update for lifecycle GHG assessments of biofuels but instead will take further comment and review options for a future update. Such an update is overdue and necessary to accurately reflect the shrinking carbon footprint of today's ethanol, and NCGA will continue urging EPA to adopt the Department of Energy's data-driven assessment.

The 2023-2025 proposal is

EPA's first RFS volume rule based on qualitative environmental, economic and agriculture factors listed in the statute, rather than specific volumes in law, which afforded EPA greater latitude in proposing these annual requirements within certain guardrails. As such, EPA builds on the strong baseline of the 2022 RFS volumes, which included the full statutory 15 billion gallons for ethanol, providing for modest future growth with this proposal.

KCGA and NCGA will submit detailed comments to EPA on the proposal, and EPA has agreed to finalize the RFS volumes by June 2023.

Volunteer trees need to be controlled now

During December, many homeowners are focused on Christmas trees, but Kansas State University horticulture expert Ward Upham said there are other trees to be thinking about.

"Though trees are a vital part of our landscapes, there are situations where volunteer trees need to be controlled," Upham said.

Volunteer trees are saplings that grow from seeds by themselves. Often the issue is the wrong plant in the wrong place, such as home lawns.

"If the tree is still small and a desirable species, you may want to consider transplanting in the spring," Upham said.

Active control measures can be taken if the tree is not desirable. Most trees re-sprout after cut-

ting, but those that don't, can be effectively controlled by cutting. Upham listed a few examples of common species that do re-sprout after being cut:

- Siberian Elm.
- Hackberry.
- Osage Orange.
- Oak.
- Ash.
- Aspen.
- Cottonwood.
- Maple.
- Sycamore.
- Willow.

Tree species that do re-sprout after cutting call for different control methods. "These trees will either need to be dug out or the cut stump treated with herbicide after cutting," Upham said.

Upham said the recommendations he gives to control volunteer trees are only for those that come

from seeds rather than suckers that originate from the roots of an existing tree.

"Using herbicides on suckers will damage and very possibly kill the original tree," Upham said. "Trees that commonly produce suckers include tree of heaven, honey locust, black locust, western soapberry, cottonwood, aspen, poplar, willow and box elder."

According to Upham, the most commonly available herbicides are triclopyr and glyphosate.

Roundup is a common name for an herbicide that contains glyphosate, while triclopyr is found in many brush killers.

"Read the label before purchasing to make sure that a stump treatment is listed," Upham said. "Most

often the undiluted or lightly diluted product is applied to the stump immediately after cutting."

Regardless of the herbicide used, it is important to treat the stump immediately or within five minutes of cutting.

"Trees do not need to be actively growing to be controlled," Upham said.

"Actually this time of year is a very good time to treat as long as applications are made when the temperature is about freezing."

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.

Angus Foundation offers elite genetics in five January sales

By Peyton Schmitt, Angus Communications

The Angus Foundation announced its plans to offer four elite heifer pregnancies, along with the Angus Foundation Heifer Package, in January 2023. The pregnancies will sell in Oklahoma City during Cattlemen's Congress at the Bases Loaded, Denim and Diamonds, and Angus at the Congress sales, and in Denver at the Angus Foundation Female Sale at the National Western Stock Show. Lathrop Livestock Services has also donated complimentary trucking of the females. Funds raised by the pregnancies further the Foundation's mission to support Angus education, youth and research.

"We are thrilled to offer such an exciting set of heifer pregnancies in the month of January," said Jaclyn Boester, Angus Foundation executive director. "We're thankful for the generosity of the breeders who have donated these pregnancies and their commitment to the Foundation's mission."

In addition to the pregnancies, the Angus Foundation Heifer Package will sell at the National Angus Bull Sale, Jan. 6, 2023 in Oklahoma City during Cattlemen's Congress. The 2023 Angus Foundation Heifer Package is being donated by Coleman Angus of Charlo, Montana. The heifer, Coleman Chloe 173 (AAA+*20076459), is the highest \$M valued Coleman Chloe female in the ranch's herd and is backed by a pedigree represented by the operation's most notable cow families. She is due to calve to Coleman Full Deck 118 on January 20, 2023. The heifer package also includes an Advanced Reproductive Technology Package from Trans Ova Genetics, trucking to the buyer donated by Lathrop Livestock Services and 30 days of mortality insurance donated by Liberty Specialty Markets.

For more information about the heifer pregnancies or the Angus Foundation Heifer Package, contact Boester at JBoester@Angus.org.

- Listed below are the heifer pregnancies.
- Donated by: Brinkley Angus — Milan, Missouri and Lazy H Ranch — Hays
Sire: 1955517 — Connealy Clarity
Dam: 18141005 — KCF Miss Fortress B398
Sale: Bases Loaded, Jan. 3 — Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Donated by: Big Timber Cattle Company — Lithia, Florida
Sire: 20060473 — Poss Winchester
Dam: 20049638 — BIG Salvation of T276 B138
Sale: Denim and Diamonds, Jan. 4 — Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Donated by: Williams Angus — Gray, Tennessee
Sire: 19597261 — Poss Deadwood
Dam: 18861105 — Powell Erica 7312
Sale: Angus at the Congress, Jan. 5 — Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Donated by: Poss Angus — Scotia, Nebraska
Sire: 19597261 — Poss Deadwood
Dam: 19738407 — Poss Blueblood 0664
Sale: Angus Foundation Female Sale, Jan. 12 — Denver, Colorado

KFB launching RKAP apprenticeship program focused on rural workforce

Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) has announced the creation of the Rural Kansas Apprenticeship Program (RKAP) developed with a grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce's Office of Registered Apprenticeship to help address workforce needs in rural communities across Kansas.

"We're excited about this partnership opportunity to offer a program where employers and employees grow alongside each other," says Joel Leftwich, KFB chief strategy officer. "RKAP will assist businesses to create individual programs to meet their needs while employees will receive on-the-job

training, mentorship and increased earning potential."

RKAP is Kansas' first registered apprenticeship program focused solely on agriculture and rural communities to provide industry-driven career pathways for farmers, ranchers and small businesses serving agricultural areas. Registered apprenticeships benefit employers by developing a skilled and loyal workforce. Meanwhile, apprentices enjoy a full-time job with a certified credential showing mastery of their craft.

"Apprenticeship programs allow us to expand the skillsets of our workforce to meet the needs of

rural communities," says Shonda Atwater, director of Apprenticeship and Internship for the Kansas Department of Commerce. "Investing in talent — a key pillar in the Kansas Framework for Growth — is critical because it creates opportunities for our young people to thrive."

Registered apprenticeships can be tailored to meet the needs of every business and industry. The model has proven successful amongst other industries including construction, healthcare and manufacturing for many years in Kansas. For more information on RKAP, contact Joel Leftwich at leftwichj@kfb.org.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Rural St. Marys, KS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022 - 10:00 AM

St. Marys Senior Center, 403 W. Lasley St., ST. MARYS, KANSAS

55 Acres: Retired CRP Native Grass to be sold in 2 equal size tracts with 27.5 acres m/l each. Located on B Road, Delia in Southwest Jackson County: Each tract has just under 660 Ft. frontage on B Road & 1,822 Ft deep. Only 6 miles northeast of St. Marys, these home site/mini farms have great potential for your new home with rural water available. Established native grass that could be your small pasture to raise your own livestock or convert to a small farming operation. **Don't miss out on this rare opportunity to own your own mini farm.**

Please go to website address below for other information:

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GUN & CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT LIVE AUCTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022 - 9:30 AM

125 S. Kansas Avenue, TOPEKA, KANSAS MOHAN CONSTRUCTION, INC.

NOTE: Due to the straightening of the I-70 viaduct over downtown Topeka, Mohan Construction and many others are forced to relocate. All buildings in the area to be razed. Everything Sells! This is a 60+ year accumulation of Mohan Construction & Costelow Engineering & Tower Erectors. THIS IS A LIVE AUCTION ONLY!



GUNS: Over 35 firearms to include: Colt, Winchester, H&R, Glock, Browning, High Standard, Mossberg, Mauser, Marlin, Stoeger, Smith & Wesson, Ruger, Beretta, Taurus, EAA and others. All Firearms will be transferred in accordance with Federal ATF requirements. All firearms will be returned to Kull Auction, 201 SE 59th St., Topeka, KS for transfer the day of the auction.

EQUIPMENT & TOOLS: job boxes; ladders; torch sets; nailers; portable air compressors; portable heaters; RR jacks; tampers; concrete vibrators; Rigid pipe threaders & vises; Milwaukee magnet drill press; (6) transits; laser levels; portable band saws; Sawzall's; table saws; hammer drills; chains hoists; scaffolding; many drills; many hand tools; welders; pumps; huge quantity of industrial nuts & bolts; Cadweld weld materials, jigs & dies; tons and tons of scrap metals; dimensional lumber; beacon tower lights; overhead shop heaters; vintage signage; cabinetry, office equipment, desks; chairs; bathroom fixtures, interior oak trim, interior doors and much more.

Impossible to list all.
SEE WWW.KULLAUCTION.COM FOR PHOTOS & GUN DESCRIPTIONS

REMOVAL: Dates & Times:
Friday, December 16 & Saturday, December 17, 9-4 PM.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Payment is due the day of Auction! Cash and credit cards will be accepted. 10% buyer's premium if paid by cash, 13% by credit card. All equipment sells "as is," "where is." **Concessions**

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ESTATE AUCTION

*** TOOLS * FURNITURE * METAL * HOUSEHOLD & MORE!**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022 * 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 105 Third Street, OLSBURG, KANSAS
Directions: Auction is at the corner of Third Street and Highway 16 in Olsburg

SMALL TRAILER will sell at Noon (no title)

FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD: Queen size bedframe w/headboard, corner stand, Sanyo flatscreen TV, DVDs, storage shelving, lawn chairs, fans, space heaters, oil lamps, table top lamps, reclining loveseat, reclining couch, rollout desk, microwave, microwave oven, stainless steel shelving, other small kitchen appliances, kitchenware, bakeware, stainless steel kitchen cart, deepfreeze, pots & pans.

LAWN, GARDEN & MORE: Lawn cart, tomato cages, Briggs & Stratton generator, Stihl MS 170 chainsaw, ammo cans, air tools, hand tools, sockets, screw drivers, wrenches, splitting wedge, saw horses, miter saw w/stand, Ridgid air mover, 63cc generator, extension cords, garden hose, 90 amp flux wire welder, Milton bench vise, angle grinder, locking C pliers, drills, sanders, skil saws, oilers, drill press, new in the box Ryobi router table, lights, screws, nuts, bolts, misc. fasteners, creeper, engine hoist, Craftsman tool chest, tap & die set, Ryobi chainsaw, Ryobi snow shovel, table saw, plywood, floor jack, spot sprayers, mower jack, Salamander heater, shop vac, air bubble, ladders, bench grinders, dolly, bbq grill, shepherds hook.

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