



“Stay engaged” Felts advises as Kansas Farm Bureau presidency comes to a close

By Donna Sullivan,
Editor

As Kansas Farm Bureau members gathered in Manhattan December 3-5, one item on the agenda was to bid farewell to president Rich Felts. The Montgomery County farmer was elected president in 2014, having first served as vice president from 2011. He's quick to point out that he's not retiring, just not running for re-election. Because while he may no longer hold an office, there are still plenty of things he plans to do.

After graduating from Kansas State University, Felts worked on a livestock operation for a couple of years before returning home to the family farm. “We formed a partnership, continued to farm with livestock, then started a cropping operation,” he recalled. He became involved with Farm Bureau on the county level, serving in several capacities over the years and also worked with Extension. Along the way he faced challenges that would prepare him for one day leading the state organization, although that was the furthest thing from his mind at the time.

The first was the topic of use value appraisals for farm ground. Then in the late 1990s an environmental group was pushing for all streams in Kansas to be fenced off, and Felts said they were gaining considerable traction. “We rallied the troops in the ag sector. Through the organization we were able



Rich Felts has served as president of Kansas Farm Bureau since 2014. He did not seek re-election in 2022 and will return to his Montgomery County farm. He and his wife, Shirley, have four grown children: Cynthia Detar, Darren, Ryan and Kimberly Spillman.

to do some things like that,” Felts said. Another area they were involved was preventing stricter child labor laws for agriculture families. Then there was the Farm Bureau Healthcare program that Felts worked on as president. He pointed out that in those four areas, two of them – use value appraisal and health care

– were working for legislation to gain something. The other two – the fencing of streams and child labor laws – were to stop actions that would have a negative impact on agriculture.

Once at the helm of Kansas Farm Bureau, Felts said saw the full impact of the organization's efforts. “As a member, you have no idea of all the ac-

tivity that takes place on your behalf,” he said. “I had no idea of all the activities we are engaged in or the depth that our policy people look into issues.”

Another Kansas Farm Bureau initiative Felts is proud of is the leadership programs they're establishing and continuing to build. “Our programs give people training to address

some of the issues and gives them the opportunity to see beyond their own borders,” he said. “If we're going to be a general farm organization and connect Kansas with Washington D.C., we have to be cognizant of the needs of everybody and connect everybody.” He himself is a graduate of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) program and sees great value in that kind of opportunity. “I didn't know a whole lot about what goes on in agriculture outside of Montgomery County before that,” he said. “The magnitude of agriculture across the country is overwhelming.”

Felts also feels strongly about the value of Shop Kansas Farms, which Kansas Farm Bureau purchased in September. “It allows us to give producers the opportunity to sell their commodities,” he said. “It has a lot of potential. We aren't taking it on to be a big profit center, but to sell agriculture in a different light and give members better access to consumers.”

During his eight years as president of Kansas Farm Bureau, Felts said his proudest achievement is the cohesiveness of the organization and the relationships that have been strengthened. “We've got great relationships with the commodity groups and elected officials,” he said. “Just good relationships with our partners in agriculture. We tried to be positive in dealing with

folks. Point out the positive in what we did and not just the negative. Yes, you have to address the negative, but you've got to be positive initially.”

A willingness to work together is also a hallmark of his time in office, as well as the concept of servant leadership. “We're all on the same team,” he pointed out. “We have different positions, but are all on the same team and it's how we make the team better by using all the different players.”

If he were to offer a piece of advice to his successor, it would be this: Keep positive relationships. “Having respect and open communication is all-important,” Felts said.

As he moves into this next phase of life, Felts says he plans to get back home on the farm and get involved in some things that haven't gotten done these past several years. But he still plans to stay engaged, and that is something he would like to see more people commit to.

“People need to be engaged in something,” he emphasized. “Whatever you're involved in, be engaged in what's going on.” Advising resistance to the slow creep of apathy, he referred to a sticky note on his desk that says, “The world is led by those who show up.”

Rich Felts showed up for agriculture as president of Kansas Farm Bureau, and no doubt will continue to show up with each new opportunity that presents itself.

Seed-based technology offers peace of mind from sorghum forage risk

Sorghum has served as a food and feed crop for thousands of years, yet it can become poisonous under drought or freezing conditions. The problem is dhurrin, which breaks down to form prussic acid, also known as hydrogen cyanide.

But Purdue University's Mitch Tuinstra, professor of plant breeding and genetics and scientific director of the Institute for Plant Sciences in the College of Agriculture, has developed a dhurrin-free sorghum technology that will set farmers' minds at ease. The S&W Seed Co. of Longmont, Colorado has licensed the technology, which will be widely available to growers in 2023.

“Cyanide poisoning is something that people who graze cattle on sorghum always have to be concerned about. It doesn't happen all that often. But when it does happen, it's a serious thing. This technology eliminates that risk,” said Brent Bean, director of agronomy at the United Sorghum Checkoff Program in Lubbock, Texas. USCP is a producer-funded organization dedicated to improving the sorghum industry through research, promotion and education.

At \$1,300 or more per steer, cattle are a big investment.

“You lose even one, that is a big downside to the bottom line,” Bean said.

Making cyanide helps sorghum fend off chewing insects and grazing animals. But farmers still use sorghum as a forage crop because it works well in high temperatures, it tolerates drought and it produces a lot of feed with fairly minimal input.

“Sorghum is grown



Purdue's Mitch Tuinstra (center) discusses the progress of prussic-acid free sorghum tests in west Texas with forage breeder Mauricio Barbosa (left) and molecular lab director Wayne Shen, both of S and W Seed Co.

where it's too hot and dry to grow other crops,” said Tuinstra, who also is Purdue's Wickersham Chair of Excellence in Agriculture Research. “It's grown where you don't have other options. You can't grow corn in these environments because it won't survive.”

Farmers who grow sorghum in such environments have to manage it carefully to minimize the risk.

“Every farmer I talk to has stories about animals having problems, either small problems or major problems,” said Tuinstra. “This is a technology that can help alleviate that concern.”

Tuinstra began thinking about removing dhurrin from sorghum in late 2008.

“I thought that would

be interesting because we know the genes, the enzymes, the biochemistry, but many questions about dhurrin metabolism remain unanswered,” he said. “So, the next summer, we started producing the genetic materials for this study.”

Sorghum is used worldwide, including in Africa, Australia, North and South America, and South Asia.

“Sorghum is an important crop in any place you have a hot, dry climate. And with climate change, that's potentially very important,” said Jay Hulbert, president and CEO of Ag Alumni Seed in Romney, Indiana. “There are areas in the U.S. and globally where people grow other crops, especially corn, where they'd probably be better off growing sorghum.”

Scott Staggenborg, S&W's sorghum product marketing manager for the Americas, expressed excitement for the technology because it solves a problem in a widely used product. Growers are also enthused.

“I have people saying, ‘I'll buy every bag you

have,” Staggenborg said. He noted that the technology can work in any type of sorghum, including sor-

ghum-sudangrass, a summer annual with a robust yield that is hard to match.

“Lots of cattle are grown in semi-arid and arid environments. Sorghum-sudangrass is important globally because of its drought tolerance and heat tolerance,” Staggenborg said.

Tuinstra partnered with Hulbert to develop prototype varieties, a patent and a business plan for the technology. They had considered launching a seed company in Indiana, but they learned that sorghum seed production works better in dry climates.

“Indiana is great for a lot of things, but not necessarily for making sorghum seed on a large scale,” Hulbert said. This led them to the S&W Seed Co., which is running trials this year in west Texas on Tuinstra's most promising hybrids.

“This is a classic example of how universi-

ty research is supposed to work,” Hulbert said. “Mitch had an idea and started working on something successful that none of the sorghum seed companies were working on. Then we find a way to take it to farmers through commercial channels to the private sector.”

Another key aspect of the technology was working with the Indiana Crop Improvement Association, an agency that certifies seed quality. The ICIA patented a new seed-quality assay using dhurrin-free sorghum as the prototype. The assay makes it possible to test large lots of seed with a high-tech, DNA sequencing-based approach to quality assurance.

“At Purdue University, we're interested in developing transformative technologies that solve farmer challenges, and we're trying to do that very broadly within Indiana, the U.S. and internationally,” Tuinstra said.

Jones receives 2022 USDA Excellence in College and University Teaching Award

Dr. Cassandra Jones, Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry teaching coordinator and professor, has been named a recipient of the 2022 U.S. Department of Agriculture Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards for Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Jones completed her bachelor's and master's degrees in animal sciences at K-State. She continued her education at Iowa State University, earning her doctorate while studying nutritional sciences with an emphasis on swine nutrition. Since joining the ASI department in 2016, Jones has shared her passion for teaching and working with students. She currently coordinates the ASI undergraduate teaching program, serves as an academic advisor,

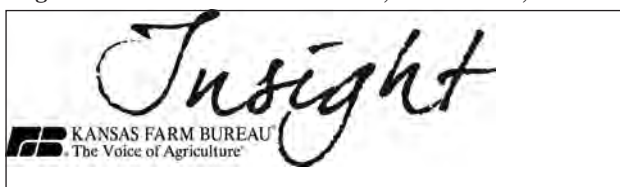


and teaches animal nutrition courses to undergraduate and graduate students. She also has a robust research program.

“Cassie is an exceptional leader of our undergraduate teaching program, teaches a full slate of courses, and oversees a highly productive research emphasis in feed safety,” says Dr. Mike Day, K-State ASI department head. “Dr. Jones built our

undergraduate research program, which effectively and comprehensively provides exposure to the scientific method for many of our students. Her understanding of what ASI students need to be fully prepared to serve as the next generation of animal scientists across the broad spectrum of career paths that they follow is unparalleled.”

This award was presented at the 2022 Annual Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities meeting in Denver, Colorado. In recognition of recipient's dedication to instruction and scholarship, the awards include \$2,000 to improve teaching at the recipient's respective university. Kansas State University currently ranks second nationally for the number of recipients since the awards program's inception in 1992.



A Rich Legacy

By Glenn Brunkow,
Pottawatomie County
farmer and rancher

The annual meeting of Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) in Manhattan is coming the first weekend of December. I truly look forward to this meeting every year, and this one is no different. However, this year's meeting will be a bit bittersweet as KFB's president, Rich Felts, will ride off into the sunset and retirement. Our members will have the tough job of electing his replacement.

President Felts has guided Kansas Farm Bureau for the past eight years with steady hand, a calm demeanor and an artful grace that has led to our organization reaching new heights. I have had the honor and privilege to a front-row seat at the board table. I consider Rich a friend and, more importantly, a mentor. I have watched as he has provided leadership and guidance on issues and made decisions that will affect our organization, our state and all of agriculture for years to come. I believe President Felts has left Kansas Farm Bureau in the best position we have ever been in and laid a foundation to ensure success in the

future.

Personally, I have been able to seek Rich's wisdom and opinion on many things, and he has always been gracious and thoughtful. I have always taken heed of his advice, and I hope I can offer others the same leadership and experience. I am not sure I have ever been around someone as caring, dedicated, gracious or as empathetic as President Felts. He is truly the living example of servant leadership; I wish there were more leaders like him. You will never find anyone who cares more for Kansas Farm Bureau or agriculture.

I wish everyone could know the hours and miles Rich has put into representing Kansas Farm Bureau. He has been the face of the organization; one we were proud to have representing farmers and ranchers. I doubt there is anyone who came in contact with Rich who was not better because of it.

While I understand his decision to step down and spend more time with his wife, Shirley, and the rest of their family, I hope Rich knows how much all of us will miss him, both as the head of Kansas

Farm Bureau and as a person. I also know he will still be around and always just a phone call away, which is reassuring. I will also miss Shirley equally as much. If a greeting from Shirley can't brighten your day, you are in bad shape. Her joy and happiness are always contagious.

President Felts will leave a tremendous legacy in the organization and in its future. Generations will be able to make better decisions and advocate for our way of life because of his leadership and for that we will be forever grateful. I know this is not goodbye and we will still see each other, but not nearly enough. I also know that Rich will probably not be comfortable with all of this attention, and that is part of what makes him a truly amazing individual.

Rich and Shirley, I hope you enjoy your well-deserved rest but please also know how much we all appreciate your dedication and sacrifice in the name of Kansas Farm Bureau and agriculture in general. We are all better for knowing you.

"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.



This year I rented some cornstalks to put the cows out on. Normally I have some of my own but this year it did not work out that way, with a limited supply of hay and the price of hay being sky-high, I decided we needed to try something different. I know this is not a new concept, many of you have been renting stalks for years but no one ever accused me of being a trend-setter out on the cutting edge.

I have to admit that the whole experience, while it has been good, has had some unexpected dilemmas. The first was the fencing. I don't know if any of you have noticed but the price of supplies to build a simple electric fence has gone sky-high. I priced around and quickly concluded that the world has gone bonkers. Metal or plastic, the posts are outrageous, and they might be the most economical part of the equation. The price of wire is almost double from what it was just a couple of years ago. As for the price of insulators, let's just say I make a much greater effort to locate them when they are knocked off the post. Actually, I have always found it to be an interesting challenge to figure out what direction and how far the insulators get flung when a critter goes through them.

I did find it a bit refreshing to build fence on river bottom. Straight lines, no brush and most exciting of all, no rocks. I am not sure I have ever built straight stretches of electric fence that far. I could get used to being able to push the posts in the ground and not hit a rock, too. Flat ground was also an interesting concept; I could get used to no terraces or hills. I do have to admit that it did make it seem like the end was much farther away and at times it felt like I wasn't making much progress. The fence-building was not as challenging as I was used to, but simple is okay, too.

I knew water would be the most difficult part of the whole process. The farmer I am renting them from is letting me use his tank to transport and fill up from his house; that took a lot of the hassle out of it. I thought I had two good tanks; one was a huge poly tank I had bought a few years ago and the other

a galvanized tank that had been patched. I probably should have had someone videoing me when I tried to load the poly tank. A nine-foot tank, gooseneck trailer and a fat guy with little flexibility made loading it a chore. It's nice out in the pasture but a booger to move.

That side of the story turned out good; the galvanized tank, on the other hand... well, not so much. It was a little smaller and much easier to handle but when I tipped it up luckily the bottom was facing the sun. The seams had been patched and they looked good but the hole in the bottom in the shape of an ax blade let plenty of daylight through. I am not sure who did this, but I have a pretty good idea and it was probably me. This tank also has a spot where the edge had been creased so it did not hold the maximum amount of water. A quick trip to Co-op and I was the proud owner of two six-foot tanks. Apparently, I was not the only one in need of new water tanks this fall. I must say the six-footers handled much better than the nine-footers.

We finally got the cows hauled the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. That went good except that it took a little longer than I had planned, and the last load was unloaded in the dark. I was very relieved to see them the next morning. Hauling water has been a new adventure too, I have concluded a watched pot may never boil but a watched tank will never fill. Thanks to my smart phone the watering sessions have allowed me to surf many new corners of the internet. I am caught up on phone calls and emails. The cows and I have settled into a routine and life is good. They are much happier out on the stalks, and I am much happier not feeding them expensive hay. So far this is one of those new things that looks like it may work as well as I had hoped. I know, I probably just jinxed myself to cold weather and snow. I guess if that is what it takes to get moisture, you can all thank me later. I know in time the cows will make me anxious to get them back to home and on automatic waterers but until then I am going to enjoy nap time while the water runs.

Prairie Ponderings

By Donna Sullivan

A few weeks ago in this column I mentioned my traumatic experience in woodworking class while learning to plane a board. Actually, that statement is a bit misleading, because I never actually learned to plane a board. I did, however, create enough wood chips to keep the local 4-H kids well-stocked for their County Fair livestock projects. That point was sorely overlooked by my woodworking teacher though, and my grade did not reflect that great contribution to society, which only bolstered my eighth-grade belief that life really isn't fair on any level. If they'd just left me to write stories and poems in my English class and forgotten about all that math/science/home-ec/woodworking frivolity, I'd have been a perfectly happy middle schooler.

Fortunately, middle school only lasted for two years and I went on with the business of attending high school, where at that time only

one year of math was required and thankfully no home-ec or woodworking. I survived and launched into adulthood, where along with raising children, I was given the opportunity to write for a newspaper.

One day the editor informed me she wanted me to do a story on a gentleman who collected antique wood planes. That was all she said before giving me the address of his home. My brain processed the information as the man collected model wooden airplanes, even though she later swore she said nothing of the kind. So, I formulated a list of pertinent questions and headed to his house.

He proudly led me into the room that housed his collection. I expected to see wooden airplanes dangling from the ceiling and sitting atop display stands, but there was nothing of the kind. Instead there were several rows of industrial-looking cabinets with drawers. "That's odd," I thought, following him

over to the largest one. He pulled open a drawer with a flourish and beamed up at me, eagerly anticipating how excited I would be to behold his treasures.

I can't even imagine the look on my face. Shock, horror, dismay...

Because gazing down into the drawer I saw, not wooden airplanes, but the bane of my middle school woodworking class, my arch-nemesis... a collection of antique wood planes, the grain of their little knobs seeming to contain mocking smiles; the creak of the drawers as each one was opened sounding like cruel snickers at the one person in all of Chapman Middle School's rich history who had never mastered their use.

A three-ring circus of competing emotions was suddenly performing in my brain, a cacophony of confusion if you will. None of the questions I had formulated would now pertain to the story. Plus, I was looking at a drawer representing the single biggest failure in my school career – and considering my Home-Ec debacle and loathing of math, that's saying something.

Fortunately, a class I did fairly well in was drama. So, I pulled myself together and managed to act like a professional writer and not the insecurity-added middle schooler I had suddenly been reduced to.

I asked questions and took notes, then ran out of there like my hair was on fire, went home and wrote the story.

In the process, I faced down my demons and came out alive.

Take that, wood planes. Your reign of terror over this girl was now officially over.

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KDA participates in beef genetics trade mission to Mexico

The Kansas Department of Agriculture partnered with the U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc. (USLGE) along with the Idaho, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Tennessee departments of agriculture to participate in a trade mission to Mexico on October 25-28, 2022. Participants of the trade mission were Kansas cattlemen Dirk Hoagland of J&N Ranch, Leavenworth, and Daniel Mushrush of Mushrush Red Angus, Strong City. The focus of the mission was to build relationships and expand international marketing opportunities for purebred beef cattle genetics in Mexico.

During the trade mission, the team traveled outside of Chihuahua where they visited Complejo Ganadero Las Palomas and participated in a networking event with the Angus Association. The team also attended the Expo Ganadera Chihuahua where they watched the judging



Representatives from the Kansas Department of Agriculture, along with other state departments of agriculture, traveled to Rancho el Palomino, one of several ranch visits that were part of a beef genetics trade mission to Mexico in October.

and selection of the champion Charolais, Charbray, and Hereford bulls and females. Additional ranch visits were made to Rancho el Palomino (Hereford and Angus), Rancho Luis Enrique Terrazas (Red Angus), and Rancho Victor

Cruz (Quarter Horses).

In 2021, Kansas agriculture exports to Mexico totaled \$1.91 billion. Mexico is Kansas' number one trade partner, accounting for nearly 44% of total agricultural exports. "Mexico is an important trade

partner with Kansas, and I think there are some real opportunities to expand that relationship on both sides. I'm looking forward to working with the cattlemen we met in Chihuahua,

to see how we can both benefit from this introduction," said Hoagland.

"In the summer, cattle of Mexican origin are a common sight in Kansas Flint Hills pastures. Many

of these cattle originate in Chihuahua, Mexico, so to be able to see the opportunities to improve the cattle all the way through the supply chain, and right back to my backyard was very exciting," added Mushrush. "I'm looking forward to continued conversations about these opportunities."

The trade mission to Mexico was possible through KDA's membership in USLGE, with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Market Access Program. It is the mission of KDA to support all facets of agriculture, including lending support to those who wish to market and sell beef genetics domestically and internationally. For more information, including upcoming trade mission opportunities, contact KDA international trade director Suzanne Ryan-Numrich at Suzanne.Numrich@ks.gov or 785-564-6704.

Congress votes to block rail strike

Last week Congress voted to block a national rail strike that would have dire consequences for the nation's economy. The vote comes as the country continues to struggle with supply-side issues and problems with key transportation hubs, including low-water levels along the Mississippi River.

The National Corn Growers Association said the vote was a welcome development.

"Rail is crucially important to America's corn growers, who rely on it to ship grains and fertilizer," said National Corn Growers Association president Tom Haag. "We are pleased to see that Congress is taking the necessary action to ensure that rail service continues to operate."

"The U.S. railway sys-

tem is vital to movement of grains and co-products to export markets, and the U.S. Grains Council believes the federal government, the railroads and the private sector should work together to assure no shutdown occurs," said Ryan LeGrand, U.S. Grains Council president and CEO. "Ratifying the tentative agreements already in place is a step in the right direction to coming to a solution agreeable to all parties."

A deal to avert a strike appeared imminent in recent months, but a disagreement over paid sick days put the country back on the pathway to a strike, which could have begun as

early as Dec. 9. Left with no other options, Pres. Biden urged Congress to act.

"This labor dispute is an issue that should have been resolved between railroad companies and employees, not by Congress," Sen. Jerry Moran said. "However, the uncertainty and supply problems created by a shutdown would be damaging to Kansans, especially now with high inflation and ongoing supply chain issues. The country needs certainty, and the possibility of a shutdown made it necessary for Congress to take action to keep railways operating."

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Home and Away

Age Of Celebration

By Lou Ann Thomas

All of us are getting older. You may not consider that a good thing, but it is the reality of living. If we're lucky, we get older. That's the way it's meant to be. Even the young Whippersnappers among us are aging.

We're given these amazing body machines for a fairly short time. It doesn't take long to notice that they are continually changing, evolving and growing. We crawl, then walk, eventually we're running and begin our sprint through life. But as we grow there's no escaping we're also growing older. We're like wine in that way. Also, like wine, if we put some work into it, we get better with age. Imagine that - a human with some years on them being revered like a finely aged wine. I'm all for that. In fact, I believe it would make this world better for us

all if we could celebrate aging.

And why shouldn't we? It took us our entire lifetime to get to now. We've worked hard to get here, and we've learned so much from our journey. We walk, talk, play, drive, love, work, hug and soak up the world around us through a grid of experience to help us better understand the bigger picture. What if we were seen as the wise vessels of information that we truly are? What if our wrinkles were seen as signs of a life well lived and our sags as kisses from gravity?

But all change begins within. We must start seeing our own aging as having positive and valuable aspects. Okay, I don't care much for the aches and pains that go with a body well used, and I don't need any more titanium parts, but there are some things about get-

ting older that I can sink in to. I move more slowly, but that allows me to be more present and to observe and appreciate all that surrounds me. When I was still able to sprint, I brushed by a lot of beauty and wonder without much acknowledgment.

I don't plan on sprinting ever again and I've noticed I now frequently walk with an ever-increasing forward hunch. The upside of this is it puts me in perfect position to find loose change that has been dropped or abandoned along the path. However, I admit there are times when I could use one of those afore mentioned Whippersnappers to help me pick it up.

Every stage or chapter of life has its mile markers. These last chapters are when our bodies and our hard shells soften. We feel the tenderness of living and the sweetness of recognizing we have more behind us than ahead. But we can also better understand that is what makes this moment, and this one and this one, so much more valuable. We may not be getting any younger but today we're the youngest we will be for the rest of this lifetime.

You might say, today we're the spring chickens of our tomorrows, and that's something to celebrate!

Check out Lou Ann's blog at: <https://louannthomas.blog>



By Kelsey Pagel

You Do You I'll Do Me

Matt and I are hermits. We see very few people. So after a week solid of seeing all the family and friends at Thanksgiving and other events, we will be hanging out with the cows as much as possible for the next week to recharge and recuperate. I used to be an outgoing introvert, but Matt has morphed me into being a complete introvert. Very slowly and surely he has accomplished this. And he's thrilled about it.

The holiday season is when my social media message box starts filling up with messages from health and fitness people to change in the new year. Lose the weight, find the body you've always wanted, become happy in your own skin. The motivational/life coaches start pushing new goals. Planning for the future, making small goals to accomplish the big things. A new year is coming, how and what are you going to do to make your life better.

The message is the same: do more, be more, reach for higher things.

I've told Matt I'm going to start a man MLM (multi-level marketing) business. I think tools would be a nice one. I'm guessing the ladies on social media can relate

to constantly getting messages from "friends" asking you to join them. That this will change your life. You don't have to sell, simply share. Men just simply don't understand the social media barrage women get from people selling you all the things. The stock messages. The "Hey, we haven't talked in forever, how are you? I'm great. I found this new thing that has completely changed my life and wondered if you'd be interested in trying" messages. They simply do not understand.

Before I go too much further, let me say, I'm not opposed to these women doing their things. Promote your oils, your shakes, your workouts, your kitchen products, your boutique, your small business whatever it is. Do it! Just do it with dignity and class. Don't act like we're besties if we're not. Don't slide into my messages telling me you can help me love the skin I'm in. Don't insult me in order to sell your product. I am happy with the body I have. I don't need you telling me I'm not perfect just the way I am right now.

If you're sharing on social media, I guarantee we know what you're selling. My biggest pet peeve... you are selling! You might be sharing your story and your success, but the ultimate goal is to sell something. Own it sister. Own the fact that you found something that works for you. That's amazing! I'm thrilled for you. Just don't assume that I'm either not happy with how I am now or that it's going to be life-changing for me.

We are so absolutely bless-

ed with SO many options. We have all our basic needs met and more so we have so much more time and money to put to the other things. Just like there is room for organic, grass-fed, non-GMO products on the market with the "traditional" products, there is room for all the things you are selling. I love supporting my friends when I can. Just don't be pushed into or made to think that you need to change.

You are loved, you are worthy and you are enough. You don't have to change anything or push for the bigger goals. Simply being happy where you are is enough. Loving the season of life you are in now is enough. Bigger is not always better. IF you want to lose some weight and want the accountability of an online group to support you go for it; if you want to purchase oils to incorporate into your life, go for it. But also know, there are a million free workouts on YouTube. There are quality oils you can buy from companies that aren't MLMs. As we head in to the holiday season, seeing all the friends and family and starting a new year, you do you and I'll do me. Remember, Eleanor Roosevelt said it best, "What others think of me is none of my business."

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

K-State Food Safety Expert Shares Holiday Meal Reminders Proper Meat Thawing And Preparation Is Important

K-State Research and Extension news service

MANHATTAN - The holiday season can be a great time for family and friends to gather, and Kansas State University food scientist Karen Blakeslee said following proper food safety steps will keep uninvited guests - like foodborne bacteria - from joining the party.

"The basics of cook, chill, clean and separate should guide your meal preparation, serving and clean up," said Blakeslee, who is also coordinator of K-State's Rapid Response Center.

Poultry and other meat should not be rinsed before cooking, Blakeslee said. All meat should be cooked to the proper internal temperatures, which include:

- * Steaks, roasts, chops: 145 degrees Fahrenheit.
- * Ground meat: 160 F.
- * All poultry: 165 F.
- * Fish and seafood: 145 F.

"Use a food thermometer to verify doneness, not color," Blakeslee said.

Thawing the turkey is an important component to add into preparation time. "If buying a frozen turkey, purchase it at least one week beforehand to allow enough time for thawing in the refrigerator," Blakeslee said. "This will depend on the size of turkey you need for your meal."

Allow about 24 hours to thaw 5 pounds of frozen turkey, but always add an extra day to be sure it gets thawed safely. For a 12 pound turkey, plan on at least three days in the refrigerator.

"Never thaw frozen meat or poultry at room temperature because this can allow any bacteria to grow as it warms up," Blakeslee said.

Turkey can be cooked from the frozen state, but it will take at least 50 percent longer to cook.

Another practice that can lead to foodborne illness is rinsing poultry or other whole cuts of meat. This is an unnecessary step which could lead to more foodborne illness problems, such as con-

taminating clean countertops or ready-to-eat foods. Cooking poultry and meat to proper internal temperatures listed above, will make these products safe.

More food safety reminders include:

- * Set oven to minimum of 325 F.
- * Wash your hands often.
- * Use a shallow roasting pan with a rack and add about ½ cup water to the bottom of the pan.
- * Place the turkey on the rack, season as you like and tent with foil.
- * Stuffing should be cooked separately as a casserole.
- * Foil can be removed after 1 to 1 ½ hours of roasting.
- * When using a food ther-

момeter, check the internal temperature at the thickest part of the breast or innermost part of the thigh.

* Refrigerate all leftovers within two hours of serving. Remove turkey meat from the bones and place in shallow containers for faster cooling.

"If hosting holiday

meals, ask others to bring side dishes such as salads or vegetable platters to make the meal easier to handle," Blakeslee said. "Many hands make light work. Just be sure to wash your hands."

Blakeslee publishes a monthly newsletter called You Asked It! that provides numerous tips on be-

ing safe and healthy. More information is also available from local Extension offices in Kansas.

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

K-State Research and Extension local offices, <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/statewide-locations.html>

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by Kirk Sours

Leap of Faith

I am living proof that God has his angels looking out for children and stupid men. As I consider all the "close calls" I've had over my life, those brushes with Death himself smiling in your face, there are more than I care to admit. Some were really beyond my control. But some were simply due to either carelessness or foolish judgement on my part.

One of those foolish judgement calls involved a freight train. A fast-moving freight train.

I was still working for Krouse Cattle up the road from Akins Switch in Pottawatomie County. We had

a Kelly Ryan silage wagon hitched behind a Ford tractor and I was on the Sunday morning feed run. After delivering the ration to the alley bunks for the calves in the background lot, I dropped another bucket of silage in the feed wagon, stopped at the elevator and dropped a little rolled corn in to top-dress the morning serving for the cows, which had all but finished up calving.

It must have been early April, before grass time, but the weather was nice so I was not dressed in heavy clothing or boots. This feeling of 'lightened' freedom from the restrict-

ing winter weight of coveralls and mud-weighted five-buckle boots probably contributed to this near-fatal decision.

I headed the tractor up the long lane from the county road to the calving pasture. At the end of the lane, just before the gate entering the calving pasture, is a double railroad track; one mainline, one siding. The track on the near side to the gate is the mainline, and there wasn't enough room to park the tractor with the feed wagon hitched up, so you park on the opposite side, walk across the tracks, open the gate and walk back across the tracks to your rig.

As I had done many times, I drove on up around the hill to the feedbunks, dropped the morning load and waited for the pairs to make their way up, counting and checking cows for signs of calving in the last few hours. All were present, so I drove back down to the gate, crossed over the tracks and parked

the rig, and walked back across to shut the gate. As I crossed the mainline track I heard the locomotive horn as the train approached the county road crossing nearly half a mile down the track. As I continued walking toward the gate I looked to see the headlight just as it crossed the road. I did a quick mental calculation as I picked up the pace a little, grabbed the open gate, shut it, snapped the chain, and turned back up the right-of-way, knowing I had plenty of time, but jogged up toward the track without looking.

It is impossible to calculate the speed of an oncoming freight train from a half mile away, or even a hundred yards away; throw in a 25-year-old bullet-proof "I can make it" attitude, and I had set myself up for a disaster (I had thought the train was moving 30-40 m.p.h. and I had plenty of time).

As I began to run up the right-of-way the engineer laid on the air horn

and mid-stride I turned my head to the left to see that big headlight glaring in my eye. I was already committed with too much forward momentum to stop, and as my foot hit the ground inside the first rail I jumped across that track with everything I had. Time slowed to nearly a frame-by-frame progression.

A freight train moving at a speed of 60 m.p.h. is traveling a mile per minute. That's a half-mile in 30 seconds. Almost exactly the time I had taken to shut that gate and get to where I now hung, suspended in front of a train!

The horn was blaring non-stop now.

I instantly knew how the bug feels just before hitting the windshield! I was mid-air and calling out the name of my Lord and Savior!

Folks, as I live and breathe today, something hit me from behind, whether it was the wind pushing off the front of that locomotive, or the hand of God, I was propelled complete-

ly across the first track, and the second track; I had cleared both the mainline and the siding! And before I hit the ground that first locomotive had passed! As I hit the ground, I nearly went down, catching myself with one hand on the ground. I stood up and turned to look at the train rushing by, my legs began to shake and realizing just how close I had come to being that bug on the front of that Union Pacific locomotive, I had to sit down!

My false calculation and devil-may-care attitude had very nearly made my wife a widow and my daughter fatherless.

I went back up there the next day and tried to jump across those tracks. I barely cleared one...

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.

Certified Angus Beef welcomes Runft as new director of producer communications

By B.J. Eick, CAB Communications Strategist
Genetics and management are at the forefront of targeting the Certified Angus Beef® brand but communicating beef value propositions to cattlemen guides informed business decisions.

To bring the most relevant production and economic information to cattlemen, Certified Angus Beef (CAB) hired fifth-generation rancher Lindsay Graber Runft as director of producer communications.

Runft oversees communications strategy and leads the brand's producer-facing messaging for seedstock breeders,



commercial cattlemen, cattle feeders and allied industry organizations as CAB continues working to strengthen its relationship with those who supply the brand.

"Providing consumers with the highest quality beef doesn't just happen by chance. It takes initiative and focus by those raising and feeding cattle with an eye toward continual progress and improvement," says Melissa Brewer, CAB vice president of communications. "With Lindsay's years of experience and production background, we're excited to have her credibility on our team leading the engagement efforts producers in these areas."

A native of south-central

Kansas, Runft was raised on a small family farming and ranching operation. She graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture, double-majoring in agricultural communications and animal science. Runft earned a master's degree in agricultural communications from Texas Tech University, with research focuses on media market research and crisis communications.

For more than a decade, Runft has served the

livestock industry's communication needs and elevated the voice of beef producers. Prior to joining the brand, she was executive director of the Livestock Publications Council and a public relations consultant for clients, such as Kansas Beef Council. Her experience also includes leading communications efforts for Livestock Marketing Association and managing creative services for Hereford Publications, Inc.

"Certified Angus Beef is known for its high-cal-

iber work, progressive leadership and excellent culture," Runft says. "I am thrilled to be joining the powerhouse communications team at the brand and look forward to continuing to serve the beef industry through strategic communication efforts."

Runft started with the brand on Sept. 12, 2022, and serves as the point contact for all producer-facing communications for CAB.

She can be contacted by emailing LRunft@certifiedangusbeef.com.

When it comes to genetics, don't forget the cows

By Burt Rutherford

If it's true that it takes two to tango, then it stands to reason that both sides contribute equally to the genetics of the offspring. As that applies to the cattle business, according to Dr. Francis Fluharty, that means don't forget about the cows. Fluharty, head of the Animal and Dairy Science Department at the University of Georgia, reminded Wagyu enthusiasts attending the 2022 Shaping the Future annual conference of the American Wagyu Association (AWA) that on an individual basis, the cow contributes half of the genetic potential her calf possesses. That can be good or bad. Fluharty, a feedyard nutritionist, related a story when he was

on the faculty at Ohio State University. The university would develop rations in its experimental feedlot using calves from a cow herd selected for marbling for ten generations. "If we went out and tried to implement what we found at a small commercial feedlot doing the same diets, the same recommendations, the variation on the cow side was so huge." So, while it's true that the cow contributes half of the genetic potential of her calf, she contributes all of the calf's environment to express that potential, both as a fetus and as a calf at her side. "And in an industry where we forget half of the genetics much of the time, I commend Wagyu breeders for not falling into that trap and paying attention to the female," he said. In the case of Wagyu, marbling is one of the most highly regarded genetic traits. Wagyu beef is world-renowned for its buttery flavor and marbling is the major contributor to that. However, intramuscular fat development starts with the fetus, Fluharty told Wagyu enthusiasts. The factors that impact it are age of dam and for-age quality, as well as a strategic supplementation program and a good mineral program. While all are important, Fluharty emphasized the first limiting nutrients are minerals. "We have to do a good job of keeping our cows in good body

condition and a key part of that is a good mineral program. It's a big deal in the cow herd." Then it's the forage. Fluharty urged Wagyu enthusiasts to not use corn as a supplement for cows, citing research that showed adding corn to the diet increased calf birth weight. "In order to optimize intramuscular fat development, to not mess up the breeding program that has you wanting a lighter weight calf, we need to emphasize forage digestibility," he said.

Putting it in easy-to-remember terms, he said, "Corn is for steers, good for-age is for cows. To me, it's that simple." And he stresses high-quality forage. "We want to increase the energy of that diet so that every drop of milk has a little more energy. And the way we do that is milk fat. And the way we do that is increase forage digestibility. This is why I believe forage and forage digestibility for cows is so critical, because it not only allows that cow to produce more colostrum, but it gives more energy to the milk." Not only that, a good forage-based plane of nutrition means cows can stay on a 365-day breeding and calving schedule. The nutrients a cow consumes go first to maintenance. Once those needs are met, the cow can produce milk for the calf. If cows are underfed, he said, they will lactate, but they won't have enough left in the

tank to rebreed. "So, the reality of it is we really do need to pay attention to nutrition to have these animals breeding on time."

How long does African Swine Fever live in feed?

A new study shows the African swine fever virus (ASFV) can live in feed and feed additives for at least a year, confirming the need for all swine biosecurity plans to include feed biosecurity.

In the published study, the stability of ASFV was monitored in complete feed, soybean meal and ground corn cob particles for 365 days. After ASFV contamination, the feed was stored at three temperatures (cool storage at 40°F, ambient storage at 68°F and hot storage at 95°F). Feed samples were tested throughout the one-year period, and the virus remained stable.

This information will be used to guide holding-time recommendations for high-risk feed ingredients within feed mills and swine farms.

The research was conducted by the Swine Health Information Center, funded in part by Pork Checkoff dollars. This foundational study furthers their goals toward ASFV prevention and protection of the U.S. swine herd.

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Exploring productive ways to give to charities

It's the holiday season, so gifts are probably on your mind – including gifts to charities. You could write a check, but is there a more productive way to give?

One possibility is to donate investments, such as stocks, that you've held for a long time and that have increased in value. If you itemize, you can deduct the full market value of the asset, up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income, and you won't incur the capital gains taxes that you would have, if you eventually sold the stocks.

But here's what's interesting: Those who work with a financial advisor on charitable strategies are more than three times as likely to donate non-cash assets such as stocks than those who contribute to charities but don't work with an advisor, according to an August 2022 survey from Edward Jones and Morning Consult, a global data intelligence company.

These findings suggest that many more people could take advantage of tax-smart charitable giving moves if they had some help or guidance. So, consider getting

some assistance in making charitable gifts. It could be a good move for you and the charitable groups you support.

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K-State students earn CHS Foundation scholarships

Cara DeTar of Coffeyville, a senior in agricultural education; Ashley Hartman of Waterloo, Illinois, a senior in agricultural economics; Kagan Keeten of Glade, a junior in agribusiness; Piper Schlatter of Hutchinson, a junior in agribusiness; Caleb Stout of Cottonwood Falls, a junior in agricultural economics and global food systems leadership; Liberty Thompson of Elkton, South Dakota, a senior in agricultural economics and global food systems leadership; and Baylee Wulfkuhle of Lawrence, a junior in agricultural economics and global food systems leadership; have each been awarded a CHS Foundation Scholarship through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center and the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. Three freshmen were also awarded CHS Foundation Scholarships through the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University: Katie Cummings of Spencer, West Virginia, a freshman in agribusiness; James DeRouchey of Wamego, a freshman in agribusiness; and Gillian Villa of Santa Maria, California, a freshman in agribusiness.

Cara DeTar is an engaged student who is involved in multiple organizations while maintaining high academic standards and working part-time. She has been involved in national FFA, earned an FFA American Degree and traveled the state working with FFA clubs and students. Cara has served as treasurer for Ag Ed Club and is involved with the Teach Ag Students in Kansas (TASK) Force. She completed an internship with Bartlett Co-op as a



Pictured are Dr. Brian Briggeman, ACCC Director and KSU AGECEC Professor, Kagan Keeten, Baylee Wulfkuhle, Liberty Thompson and Ashley Hartman at the K-State Agricultural Economics Awards Banquet, September 30, 2022. Not pictured: Katie Cummings, James DeRouchey, Cara DeTar, Piper Schlatter, Caleb Stout and Gillian Villa.

Feed Mill Intern. Upon graduation in May 2023, she plans to pursue a career as an agricultural education teacher and FFA advisor. The DeTar family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Bartlett Co-op and Frontier Farm Credit.

Ashley Hartman is involved in several organizations on campus. She has served in leadership roles in Kansas State Sigma Alpha Professional Ag Sorority and in the K-State Dairy Science Club where she most recently served as president. She is an ambassador for K-State's College of Agriculture and a member of K-State Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness Club and NAMA. She has been involved with FFA and earned an FFA American Degree. She grew up working on her family farm and upon graduation in May 2023, hopes to work in the agriculture industry in an area that allows her to continue to help on the family farm. The Hartman family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Farm Credit Services of Illinois, Gateway FS and Monroe Coun-

ty Electric Cooperative. Kagan Keeten grew up working long hours on the family farm. He has taken that work ethic to school maintaining a high academic standard while being involved in clubs and activities. Kagan is a member of the K-State Cattleman's Club and K-State Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness Club. Upon graduation in May 2024, he hopes to work as a banker or farmer/rancher. The Keeten family is affiliated with Farm Credit Services of America and Trinity Ag, LLC.

Piper Schlatter developed her passion for ag through 4-H and FFA. She is actively involved in several organizations on campus and is currently serving as president for the K-State College of Agriculture's Ag Ambassadors. She is also a member of the K-State Collegiate Farm Bureau, National FFA and K-State Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness Club. Piper works for the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC) as a student assistant while going to school. She completed an internship with

Electric Cooperative.

Piper Schlatter developed her passion for ag through 4-H and FFA. She is actively involved in several organizations on campus and is currently serving as president for the K-State College of Agriculture's Ag Ambassadors. She is also a member of the K-State Collegiate Farm Bureau, National FFA and K-State Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness Club. Piper works for the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC) as a student assistant while going to school. She completed an internship with

American AgCredit during the summer of 2022 and has an upcoming internship with Corteva. Upon graduation in December 2023, Piper is interested in working in ag lending or grain origination. The Schlatter family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: High Plains Farm Credit and Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative.

Caleb Stout serves as a College of Agriculture student senator and is a member of FarmHouse Fraternity where he serves as the new member educator. He also serves on the Student Alumni Board and the Privilege Fee Committee. Caleb had the honor of serving as a United State Senate page and upon graduation in May 2024, he hopes to work in public service either through the military or in Washington D.C. The Stout family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative and Frontier Farm Credit.

Liberty Thompson is actively involved on campus and serves as a K-State College of Ag Ambassador. She is a member of multiple organizations including the Kansas State Mortar Board Senior Honor Society, Agriculture Future of America and K-State Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness Club. Liberty completed an internship with Frontier Farm Credit and hopes to find work in the cooperative system upon graduation in December 2023. The Thompson family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: AgFirst Farmers Cooperative, CHS Elkton, Dakotaland Federal Credit Union, Farm Credit Services of America, GENEX, Hendricks Elevator, ITC, River's Edge

Cooperative, Sinai Co-op Elevator Co., Sioux Valley Electric Cooperative, Tyler Lumber Company and Valley Central Co-op.

Baylee Wulfkuhle is a KSU Food Security Scholar and is a member of the K-State Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness Club. She is also a member of and has held leadership positions for the Kansas Junior Angus Association and National Junior Angus Association. Baylee completed an internship with Landmark National Bank during the summer of 2022. Upon graduation in December 2023, she plans to pursue a career in ag lending. The Wulfkuhle family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Farm Credit Services of America, Free State Electric Cooperative and Frontier Farm Credit.

"The CHS Foundation Scholarships are one way the CHS Foundation is giving back to future agricultural leaders at Kansas State University," states Professor Brian Briggeman, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. The CHS Foundation, funded by gifts from CHS Inc., the nation's leading farmer-owned cooperative, has awarded \$205,300 in scholarships through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State

University since 2006.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the students must be U.S. citizens or legal residents properly enrolled as a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior during the current academic year majoring in an agriculture-focused or ag-related STEM undergraduate program. Recipients must demonstrate academic ability and exhibit leadership qualities through the university, community or ag industry involvement. Priority is given to students demonstrating an interest in agriculture-based cooperatives. Continuing K-State students are encouraged to fill out the K-State scholarship application to be included in the university scholarship process for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The awarding of the CHS Foundation Scholarships is coordinated through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. "Additional contributions by those who want to support the purposes of cooperative scholarships are welcome," Dr. Briggeman said. They should be made payable to "KSU Foundation/ACCC" and sent to the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, Department of Agricultural Economics, 305 Waters Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, 66506.

Managing a post-weaning parasite

By Lisa Moser, K-State Research and Extension news service

Tummy troubles can be miserable and if diarrhea is a symptom, it can lead to a serious illness in people and cattle, say the experts at the Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute on a recent Cattle Chat podcast.

"Newly weaned calves can show signs of coccidiosis, which is caused by a parasite that invades the lining of the small intestine and can result in bloody diarrhea," said Bob Larson, K-State veterinarian.

Another sign that calves may be ill is a rough haircoat, Larson said, adding

that calves sick with coccidiosis will just appear ill and not be thriving.

"Newly weaned calves are going through dietary changes and experiencing stresses that make them more susceptible to disease at this time of life," Larson said.

For producers who have this sickness moving through the calves, Larson advises talking to the local veterinarian to confirm that coccidiosis is the correct diagnosis, and then employ management and treatment options.

"First, make sure that you have good sanitation procedures in place, which means that the lots the calves are in are

scraped well and they are in a clean environment," Larson said. "Also make sure the calves are eating their feed and hay from feeders so that calves are not eating feed that could be contaminated by the ground."

Larson also recommended using additives in the feed and water to help reduce the parasite load.

"We have an additive specifically to prevent or treat coccidiosis that can be delivered in water or feed and we can add ionophores to the feed that can help us control coccidiosis as well as have feed efficiency benefits," he said.

He advises that when producers know they are

going to be caring for newly weaned, stressed calves that it is important to start the medication before there is a problem.

"Because of the life cycle of the parasite, it is important to add the medication to the feed or water for a 28-day period," Larson said. "Start the calves on the medication when they are moved to the dry lot and then keep them on it for a few weeks."

To hear the full discussion, listen to the Cattle Chat podcast online or on your preferred streaming platform.



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Kansas family creates endowment to support international travel for youth

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

The family of the late Eula Mae Goodfellow of Lyons has donated toward an endowment that will support opportunities for Kansas youth to travel internationally, honoring one of Eula Mae's passions during her life.

Emily Page, the vice president for the Kansas International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE), said the Goodfellow family gift will jump-start a partnership between IFYE and the Kansas 4-H Foundation to create a \$25,000 endowed scholarship fund for youth interested in international travel through 4-H pro-

grams.

"Eula Mae was a beloved member of the IFYE family and a shining example of how international travel can be life-changing," said Dana Hinshaw, treasurer of the Kansas IFYE Association.

According to the IFYE Association of the USA, IFYE was founded after World War II as young Americans perceived the need for greater international understanding and cooperation. Youth in the U.S. live and work with host families in another country, while youth from abroad come to the United States to live with host families for an equal amount of time.

The program was originally known as the International Farm Youth Exchange.

"The youth participant and the host family learn about each other's culture by participating in the host family's daily life, promoting 'peace through understanding,'" Page said.

She added that 2023 will mark the 75th year of IFYE exchange trips. "More than 4,000 Americans have lived in 116 countries, while a similar number of young people from those nations have come to the United States," she said.

Eula Mae Goodfellow was one of those, having participated in an ex-

change trip to Belgium in 1955 where she lived with four host families – two that spoke French and two that spoke Flemish.

"One of her host families had milk cows, so she enjoyed bottle-feeding the calves and helping the host mother make butter and cheese," said her husband Don Goodfellow, who remembers letters from Eula Mae in which she described her experience. "She never complained about her harsh living conditions and always had something positive to say."

The couple's story began just prior to Eula Mae's IFYE experience; Don proposed to her two weeks before she left for

Belgium, and prior to his own departure for a one-year commitment with the International Voluntary Service program in Iraq.

"All her life, Eula Mae was a travel enthusiast – planning many family vacations," Don said. The couple attended numerous national and international IFYE conferences as well as mission trips, disaster relief cleanups, group tour vacations and motorcycle excursions.

"Eula Mae was an abundance of energy, never met a stranger, loved to travel and generously practiced hospitality," Don said.

The family gift includes her surviving children: daughters Kristen Hig-

gens of Beatrice, Neb.; and Teresa (Joel) Miller of St. John; as well as eight grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

A fund has been established through the Kansas 4-H Foundation for those who would like to support the endowed scholarship. More information is available online at www.Kansas4HFoundation.org/give (reference 'Kansas IFYE Association Endowment Fund #06-4925).

More information is also available by calling Jennifer Pfortmiller with the Kansas IFYE Association at 620-786-5845, or sending email to sjpfortmiller@hotmail.com.

Land O'Lakes donates 40,000 pounds of macaroni and cheese to Kansas Food Bank in Wichita

Land O'Lakes, Inc. donated nearly 40,000 pounds of Land O'Lakes® macaroni and cheese to Kansas Food Bank through the Land O'Lakes First Run Program. The First Run Program has donated more than 6.5 million

pounds of product since it was established in 2010. The program is committed to providing truckloads of fresh product year-round, made specifically for food banks to help alleviate hunger across the United States. "As a nation-



MKC and Land O'Lakes recently made a large donation to the Kansas Food Bank to assist families in need.

al, farmer-owned cooperative, Land O'Lakes is committed to helping the growing number of people who struggle to put food on their table," said Sheilah Stewart, SVP and general counsel, Land O'Lakes, Inc. "The First

Run program provides a unique opportunity for Land O'Lakes to offer nutritious products to families in need."

"Last year, the Kansas Food Bank provided more than 13.6 million meals to Kansans strug-

gling to put food on the table," said Brian Walker, president and CEO of the Kansas Food Bank. "It is because of donations and partners such as Land O'Lakes that we are able to provide those missing meals for families, children and seniors who turn to us for help. We are truly thankful for this donation and opportunity to be a recipient of the First Run Program."

"This is an opportunity for us to assist the

Kansas Food Bank that provides hunger relief to many people within our footprint," says Brad Stedman, president and CEO of MKC, a member-owner of Land O'Lakes. "We are committed to addressing food insecurity in the communities we operate and proud to support our local food banks." For more information on Land O'Lakes' commitment to the community, visit at www.landolakesinc.com/responsibility.



Wildcat 4-H Quiz Bowl team represented Kansas at the National Contest earning Reserve Champion honors. Pictured from left to right are Trey Newby, Maddix Small, Cecillia Newby, and Maggie Chandler and Coach Nicole Small. Not pictured are alternates Maggie McVey, Silas Good and Taylor Allen.

National reserve champion 4-H Quiz Bowl team from the Wildcat District

The Wildcat 4-H Quiz Bowl Team traveled to the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky on November 15th for the contest. The team returned home as Reserve National Champions. The second-place team consisted of Cecillia Newby, Maggie Chandler, Trey Newby, and Maddix Small. The team was coached by 4-H volunteer Nicole Small. Team alternates that attended and helped the team prepare were Maggie McVey, Silas Good, and Taylor Allen.

Trey Newby, Montgomery County 4-H, was the second-high individual and Cecillia Newby, Labette County 4-H, was

the tenth-high individual in the quiz bowl contest.

The Wildcat District 4-H team earned the opportunity to represent Kansas at the National 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl competition after winning the Kansas contest in August. Livestock Quiz Bowl is a Jeopardy-style competition where participants answer a wide range of livestock related questions by buzzing in.

4-H enrollment is open. If youth have an interest in learning more about a wide variety of 4-H programming or our judging teams please contact your local Extension office or Katie Townsend at 620-331-2690.

Which disinfectants kill African swine fever?

Thanks to Pork Check-off-funded research, USDA recently added two chemicals to the list of approved disinfectants for use against animal disease.

Acetic acid

- approved for hard surfaces, including feed surfaces

Virocid

- approved for livestock pens, quarters, premises, stalls, barns
- also approved for feeding and watering equipment, transportation vehicles, veterinary hospital and slaughterhouse premises

Chemical disinfectants protect animal health by killing viruses on hard surfaces before they cause disease in animals. They're an important part of a biosecurity plan to protect your herd in case of a potential foreign animal disease outbreak.

Cleaning and disinfecting essential vehicles and equipment entering and leaving a farm can reduce the risk of spreading viruses – like African swine fever (ASF).

ASF is a highly contagious, viral pig disease that can spread very quickly

through direct or indirect contact. There is currently no vaccine or treatment available.

AUCTION Reminder

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022 — 10:00 AM

LOCATION: Gage County Fairgrounds, 4-H Inc. Building, 1000 West Scott St., BEATRICE, NEBRASKA
2000 Ford LGT F-150 PICKUP * TOOL CHESTS
POWER TOOLS & SHOP TOOLS (MANY YEARS OF TURNING WRENCHES AT ROEHR'S MACHINERY-BEATRICE!)
MISC.: TroyBilt gas power hoe; Medallion solid state DC power supply; air compressor; Heaters; Stanley 2-wheel tool cart; 16"x30" 2-tier roller mechanics cart; hand planes; fencing pliers; wood chisels; Sweden SS filet knife; wood burning box stove & Much More. COLLECTIBLES: Texaco enamel 6"x24" "No Smoking" sign; 5-Cent beer mirror; Hamms Bear mirror sign; Metal Toys; & More!

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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

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

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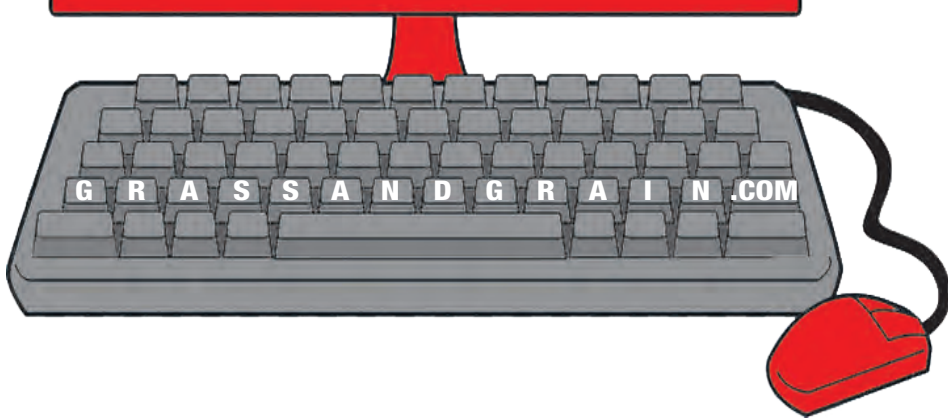
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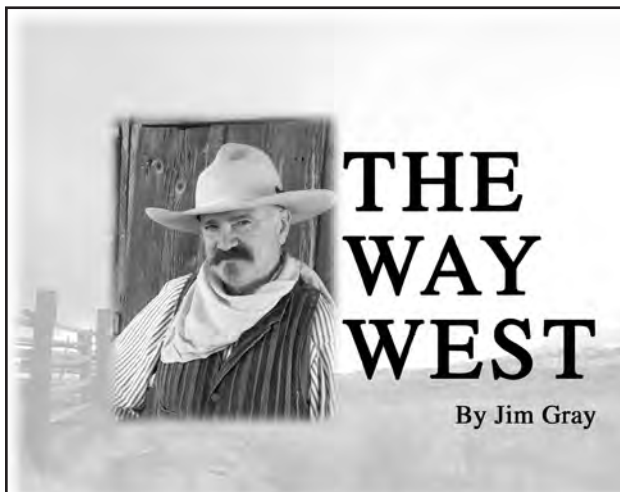
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THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

Frontier Entrepreneur

At Caldwell, Kansas, on the southern border of Kansas, "Curly" Marshall is still remembered for establishing the First Chance/Last Chance saloon in 1869. The notorious dive was located just west of the Chisholm Trail on Bluff Creek. Located just above the state line with Indian Territory, travelers were able to get their first swig of whiskey. Below the state line the federal government ordered Indian Territory "dry." Alternately, anyone entering into "The Territory" from Kansas found the log saloon to be the last chance to down a shot of alcohol. The Last Chance was popular with Texas drovers and a notorious hangout for desperadoes. John E. "Curly"

Marshall was a suspected compatriot of the horse thief set, but a direct connection was never proven.

Marshall's early record is not well known. George D. Freeman, in his book *Midnight and Noonday*, said that he was a government scout during the Civil War. We do know that he was in the 2nd Maryland Cavalry, Confederate State of America. Some accounts say that he had been a railroad engineer in an eastern state before coming to Kansas. The December 5, 1872, *Ellsworth Reporter* recalled that he had killed at least one man in Ellsworth's wild end-of-track days of 1867-68. Did he work for the railroad, or could he possibly have been one of the hundreds

of unnamed men who helped build the railroad across the plains?

Some accounts said that he was a scout during the Indian campaigns. It's possible that he served in some capacity with the 19th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry when they supported General Sheridan's "Winter Campaign" into Indian Territory over the winter of 1868-69. The 19th Kansas composed the eastern prong of the campaign, traveling down the Chisholm Trail before turning west across uncharted territory to rendezvous with U.S. troops on the Cheyenne-Arapaho reservation in present-day western Oklahoma.

The connection with the 19th Kansas seems probable as he was the first to recognize the advantages of a border saloon along the Chisholm Trail when the winter campaign came to an end. One account says that he "came down" to Wichita from Hays City and Ellsworth with "the Walker boys." "They were reported as bad men and killers, and all had a record and a private graveyard." Ike Walker notoriously operated a hotel and stable in Delano, the "anything goes" town across the Arkansas River sometimes called West Wichita.

Besides carrying the same nickname, the other

Walker, "Curly Walker" was cut from the same cloth as Curly Marshall. Walker was known as a desperate man who "placed no higher value upon the life of a fellow being than that of a fly."

Marshall and Walker surrounded themselves with recognized desperate characters. It seemed their main goal in life was to get drunk, get in a row, and shoot the lights out of something. Shooting was a favorite pastime. At the Buckhorn Tavern and Hotel, founded and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vigus in 1869, boarders included cattlemen, merchants, gamblers and a few of Marshall's friends. At dinner the boys especially enjoyed throwing dishes in the air and shooting at them with blazing six-shooters, all while never leaving their place at the table.

Marshall may have been a tough hombre, but his entrepreneurial spirit set him apart from his devil-may-care pals. George Freeman described the Last Chance, Marshall's most famous enterprise. "The ranch consisted of a double log house in which were kept whiskies, provisions and feed for horses..."

Marshall hired a manager to operate the Last Chance, splitting his time

between the isolated saloon and Wichita. Not content to operate a single enterprise on the border, Marshall opened a dance hall in Wichita; some say it was across the river in Delano. Times were never dull. He once had to quell a disturbance with his pistols when Texans "full of bug juice" started shooting out the lights. With "pistols out" and covering the hearts of two of their leaders the Texans wilted and were driven out by Marshall, the determined "dance-house keeper."

The rougher element was thoroughly involved in the administration of early Wichita. In July, 1870, Marshall's compadre Isaac Walker was appointed city marshal. Later in the year Marshall was persuaded to fill Walker's position and served as Wichita's city marshal into 1871.

When Deputy U. S. Marshal Jack Bridges entered Wichita on February 28, 1871, supported by twenty-five soldiers from Fort Harker, he was looking for one of Curly Marshall's friends, Jack Ledford. Led-

ford was a known horse thief, one of Wichita's finest citizens. Even though Curly was Wichita's city marshal, he didn't help the invading officers but had two horses saddled in an attempt to get Ledford out of town. He was too late. The officers discovered Ledford in his hiding place and shot him down as he attempted an escape.

Back on the southern border the Last Chance was making money. Marshall made plans to expand the favorite resort of the desperado and horse thief. If a dance hall made money at Wichita, there was plenty of money to be made entertaining lonely border men. All the enterprising frontier entrepreneur needed was a proper dance hall next to the Last Chance, but folks in Caldwell were growing uneasy with Curly Marshall. Trouble was stirring on The Way West. (Next Time - *A Short and Dangerous Life*)

"The Cowboy," Jim Gray can be reached at 220 21st RD Geneseo, KS Phone 785-531-2058 or kansascowboy@kans.com.

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EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8:

70 steers & heifers, 500-600, weaned 30 days, home raised, spring vaccinations; 50 black steers & heifers, 650-800, home raised, weaned October 1; 240 black/red steers, 850-900 Green, South Dakota origin; 52 black heifers, 600-625, long time weaned, off wheat; 54 black heifers, 700-725, long time weaned, open; 30 red heifers, 500-600, home raised, weaned October; 75 black steers & heifers, 600-850, home raised, long time weaned, 2 round vaccinations, open; 58 black/CharX steers, 875-925, no sort; 70 steers & heifers, 500-650, home raised, weaned October 1, vaccinated; 28 mix steers & heifers, 350-750, 60 days weaned, fall vaccinations, open, hot wire broke; 27 blk str 650-700 long weaned, hay fed; 35 blk s&h 500-700 30 days weaned; 18 blk/bwf s&h 550-700 45 days weaned; 100 s&h 600-800 home raised, 45 days weaned, fall vacc. PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME.

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR SPECIAL COW SALE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022 * 11 AM

BULLS: 3 purebred Hereford, 3 years old, EPDs, semen & trich tested; plus more by sale time. HEIFERS: 50 black/bwf heifers, home raised/ Gray Ranch, M Jones Origin, Newberry Origin, OCHV, pelvic exam, bred Angus True North, calving February 25 for 4 days; 45 black Angus, bred Red Angus bulls, start calving February 15; 20 Angus, bred black, home raised; 34 purebred black, home raised, bred Angus, spring calvers; 100 Angus heifers, home raised or Montana Origin, AI bred Barrett Angus, February calvers; 30 Angus, AI bred, ABS breeding; 60 Angus, home raised, calving January 15 for 60 days, bred Hinkel Angus, scour guard, gentle; 20 black & red, home raised, bred McCurry Angus; 50 black, Montana origin, bred Angus, calving January 25 for 55 days; 100 Angus heifers, SD origin, 45 day calving period starting February 1; plus more by sale time. COWS/COW PAIRS: 36 mostly black, 6-8 years old, bred black, raised big calves; 55 black & Red Angus, spring bred cows, 3-5 years old, bred black/SimAngus, sons of Fully Loaded; 30 black, running age, bred Angus, February calvers; 50 black/bwf, 3-5 years old, bred char, February calvers; 10 black & red, young cows; 25+25 cow pairs; 30 bred cows, January/February calvers; 40 red & black, 4-6 years old, spring bred; 20+20 black & red young pairs, exposed to black bulls; 40 red & black, running age, spring bred to Shippy Angus Bulls; 100 black cows, coming 2nd calf, bred Angus, start calving February 25 for 45 days; 300+300 black/bwf cows, 80% 3 & 4 years old, 20% 5 years old, fall calvers, Angus calves, running back with S.D. Char bulls; 5+5 5 year old pairs; 45 cows, mostly 4-6 years old, bred to Hereford or Red Angus bulls, spring calvers; 8 cows, 3-6 years old, March to April calvers, bred Red Angus or Char; 20 running age cows; 14 black cows, 3-5 years old, bred Sim/Angus; 42 black pairs, 3-6 years old; 45 black cows, 3-4 years old, bred Dix Angus, calving February 10; 40 black & red cows, 3-7 years old, bred red & black Angus, home raised, calving late January; 75 black/bwf, 3-8 years old, bred Angus, calving February 20; 15 black/red cows, 3-5 years old, bred black/red Angus, 4-7 months bred; 25+25 blk/red Angus pairs; 200+200 black pairs, 4-6 years old, Angus calves; 88 black cows, 3-5 years old, bred Angus, spring calvers; 13 cows, heavy bred; 3+3 young to solid pairs; 30 Red Angus bred cows, 4 years old and older, bred Red Angus; 30 middle age to older bred cows; 30 young spring bred cows. PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME

** Last THURSDAY sale will be December 15th, 2022. ** Last sale of the year will be Tuesday, December 20th. Hope everyone has a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

For Information or estimates, contact:

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

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

Contact information table for Jim Crowther, Lisa Long, Cody Schaffer, Kenny Briscoe, Kevin Henke, Austin Rathbun.

