



Bethlehem Revisited



The Swihart farm north of Keats is the scene of the annual Bethlehem Revisited production. Between December 2-4 this year, approximately 2,500 guests walked the hills and trails to experience the living nativity that included a cast of nearly 100 actors in full costume, as well as several live animals. Guests learned about Moses, David, and Isaiah, who foretold the birth of the King. Bethlehem Revisited is an annual free Christmas event put on as a ministry to the community.

Photo by Mary Pauli

K-State crops team wins American Royal national contest

The Kansas State University crops team completed the 2022 fall season by placing first at the Kansas City American Royal Collegiate Crops Contest and second at the Chicago Collegiate Crops Contest in November.

The results earned the team a split with Iowa State for the national championship. Third place went to the University of Minnesota-Crookston at Kansas City and the University of Wisconsin-Platteville at Chicago.

In the past 24 years, K-State teams have won or shared the crops judging national championship 19 times. K-State also placed first over Iowa State in the central regional contest held in Manhattan earlier this fall.

"This team worked diligently to return K-State to a share of the national crops judging championship in a very competitive year," said Kevin Donnelly, emeritus professor of agronomy who served as an assistant coach following his retirement in June.

"The team dominated the Kansas City contest and fell just a few points short in Chicago," Donnelly added.

Members of the K-State team include Ellie Braun, Belvue; Ashley Chandler, Neodesha; and Jarek Meyer, Smith Center. Alternate team members were Leah Hudson, Rossville; Landon Trout, Scott City; and Renae Sinclair, Mosca, Colo.

Meyer is an agricultural economics major and the others are all agronomy majors.



Members of K-State's 2022 Collegiate Crops judging team include, from left: assistant coach Kevin Donnelly, coach Sarah Frye, Landon Trout, Ashley Chandler, Jarek Meyer, Ellie Braun, assistant coach Luke Ryan, Leah Hudson and Renae Sinclair.

"Our alternates were also very competitive, which is critical to the future success of the program," said team coach Sarah Frye, a past team member and current agronomy graduate student from Abilene.

At Kansas City, the team swept first place in all three components of the contest: grain grading, seed analysis and plant and seed identification. At Chicago, they were first in seed analysis and identification, and second in grain grading.

Individually, Braun placed first in Kansas City and fourth in Chicago. Chandler placed third in Kansas City and Chicago, and Meyer placed fourth in Kansas City and fifth in Chicago.

In the individual components at Kansas City:

- Braun was first in identification, second in grading, and third in analysis.

- Chandler finished second in identification and tied for second in grading.

- Meyer was first in grading and third in identification.

At Chicago:

- Chandler was first in identification and second in analysis.

- Braun placed second in identification and fourth in grading.

- Meyer was third in identification and fourth in analysis.

Frye was assisted by K-State graduate student Luke Ryan (from Solomon) and Donnelly.

Crop judging requires participants to identify 200 plant or seed samples of crops and weeds; grade eight samples of grain according to Federal Grain Inspection Service standards; and analyze ten seed samples to determine what contaminants they contain.

The American Royal

coordinated the Kansas City contest, with Corteva Agriscience as the primary sponsor. Additional sponsors were CHS, American Society of Agronomy, Association of Official Seed Analysts, and South Dakota Crop Improvement Association.

The primary sponsor of the Chicago contest was the CME Group. Additional donors for Chicago included the Crop Science Society of America, Growmark Cooperative, the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists, and Syngenta.

Locally, sponsors for the K-State crops team include the Kansas Crop Improvement Association, the K-State Department of Agronomy and College of Agriculture, and the K-State Student Government Association.

For its performance, K-State received a team scholarship award from contest sponsors at Kansas City, and CME Group provided individual scholarships to the top five contestants at Chicago.



In a flour milling lab at Kansas State University, USW's Mark Fowler and Kansas farmer Martin Kerschen discuss the variety of flour products resulting from the milling process.

Taking a 'brief but deep' dive into flour milling at KSU

Some have a basic understanding of the flour milling process. Some have absolutely no idea how wheat from a farm ends up as flour destined for a baker's oven.

Regardless of their experience, farmers and State Wheat Commission staffers who gathered in Manhattan recently share a common destiny.

"Everybody is going to learn something," said Shawn Thiele, who led the three-day flour milling course presented by the IGP Institute and Kansas State University. "From those who have experience with wheat and flour to those who've never stepped foot in a flour mill, the course is designed as a thorough look at the action of turning wheat into flour – step-by-step and step-by-step."

Conducted at IGP and on the KSU campus, the Dec. 13 to 15 training – considered a "deep dive" into flour milling – is a condensed short course specifically built for producers who sit on the boards of state wheat organizations, as well as people who work for those organizations. Representatives from Idaho, Kansas, Oklahoma and Oregon were involved in the course. U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) staffers Peter Laudeman and Ralph Loos also took part.

"It is kind of amazing when you come to know what you didn't know," Martin Kerschen, a wheat farmer, a Kansas Wheat Commissioner and one of the students in the IGP-KSU flour milling class, said. "It's clear how important details are when taking our wheat and turning it into something bakeries and consumers on the other side of the world really want and appreciate."

Hands-On Learning

The course included classroom trainings on wheat quality, global competition facing U.S. farmers, wheat cleaning and conditioning, and an overview of the mechanics of wheat milling. Participants also milled wheat during a hands-on laboratory workshop and later toured the KSU Hal Ross Flour Mill.

USW vice president of global technical services Mark Fowler, an experienced flour milling instructor, also gave a presentation on the role quality plays in the global wheat market.

"USW finds a lot of value in these IGP-KSU courses because it provides producers and others we work with in the wheat industry insight into the relationship between wheat quality and flour performance," Fowler said. "It gives growers a new perspective on what international customers look for in quality flour."

Kansas Corn calls on Biden to set quick, firm timeline while pressing case on biotech corn with Mexico

Kansas Corn Growers Association (KCGA) president Brent Rogers, Hoxie, is one of 23 state corn grower presidents to sign a letter to President Biden, calling for him to take additional steps to address the pending decree by the president of Mexico that would block imports of biotech corn.

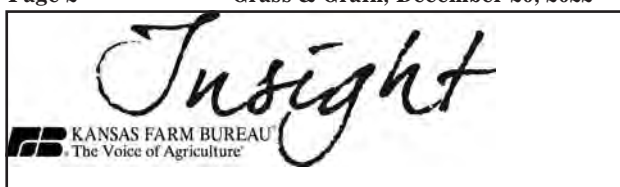
"This is a big issue for corn farmers in Kansas and across the U.S.," Rogers said. "Most of the corn U.S. farmers grow is biotech. It helps us produce corn more efficiently and more sustainably. Mexico is the #1 export buyer of U.S. corn, and we have built good relationships with Mexican buyers. We can't afford to lose those relationships, and neither can the people of Mexico

who rely on our corn for feed and food."

The National Corn Growers Association, KCGA and other state corn associations have brought national attention to this important trade issue. NCGA and the state corn associations are asking that the president empower Ambassador Katherine Tai to work with Secretary Vilsack to set a firm, quick timeline with Mexico to withdraw the decree or initiate a case under the biotechnology provisions of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA). If the decree is not completely withdrawn, the letter asks the Biden administration to initiate a case under USMCA.

Decades of science

• Cont. on page 3



The Greatest Gifts

By Jackie Mundt, Pratt County farmer and rancher

The Christmas season is a time of joy and anticipation. For weeks the Christmas spirit grows with every decoration hung, carol sung and sweet treat consumed. The ultimate height of anticipation, especially for children, is drafting a wish list for Santa.

I vividly remember the anticipation that came each year of my childhood with the arrival of the J.C. Penney "Wish Book." My brother and I spent hours examining every page and letting our imaginations run wild with just how cool

and glamorous our lives would be with each toy. By the time we were done that poor book was marked and highlighted with so many circles even Santa couldn't figure out what we wanted.

There is a sad nostalgia for me in knowing "Wish Books" have faded away. Children today really don't understand what they are missing.

That is one of the beautiful things about children; they can manifest anticipation, imagination and joy just about everywhere they look. It rarely matters the cost or quality of the gift, in their mind the cheapest items can be

great treasures and expensive gifts may not be any better at holding attention any longer. Children are quick to joy, imagination and seeing the possibility in all things.

At some point, though, our ideas about gifts change. Teenage desires are fueled by the coolest brands and newest electronics, but as most of the world can't really understand them you are almost better giving them a gift card. In our early adult years, our desires move to more practical things motivated by the gaps in our lives left by the new world of adulthood. I remember when I was first out of college asking for exciting things like new tires for my car, a vacuum cleaner and a whole list of kitchen appliances.

At some point in the last decade, I reached the point where I have everything I need to be happy. Gifts stopped being a source of anticipation, and a wish list became more a chore than a dream. My anticipation at the holidays has shifted from dreaming about what I want to give.

Giving has become a source of great joy for me. My anticipation builds each year while I search and puzzle over gifts that will make my loved ones light up with joy. It isn't always easy, we all have that one person who wants

things that are completely unrealistic like a time-travel machine, world peace or a new sports car.

The best gifts are rarely expensive or trendy, they are usually practical and may seem a bit strange to anyone but the recipient. However, they show your loved ones how much you listen to them and want them to be happy. Great gifts feel so good because it is like being told, "I like you exactly as you are."

None of the items on my Christmas list will make or break my holiday season. I make my list so my loved ones can have the joy of getting me something that shows their love, even though I really only care about spending time together.

As you finish your holiday shopping this year don't stress over the perfect gift, remember it really doesn't matter if you buy them a smart phone, muck boots or a nice dinner together. The true joy of the season will come from participating in traditions, making memories and knowing how blessed we are to be together with people we love.

"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.

Local Meat Marketing Workshops to be offered in February and March

The Kansas Local Meat Marketing Workshops will help small scale meat, poultry, and egg producers capitalize on the growing demand for local food. Attend to learn key marketing strategies and best

practices from the experts, including fellow producers. Lunch, prepared with local ingredients, will be provided. KDA's Weights and Measures program will also offer free scale certification with paid registration.

- Featured sessions will be on the following: Licensing and Regulations: What You Need to Know by the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

- Marketing Strategies and Best Practices by David Bisek, FoodRise Marketing

- Panel Discussion by local producers and processors.

Cost is \$20 per attendee. Each workshop will cover the same content and will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Workshops will be held on February 3, at Wichita; February 24 at Olathe and March 3 at Parsons. Register at tinyurl.com/LocalMeatKSU. This is being hosted by the Local Foods Transdisciplinary Team at Kansas State University. If you have questions, please email elblair@k-state.edu.



A while back I told you the story of the sister I discovered a couple of years ago. In that column I told you there were more layers to the story that I would share some day. Because she was born on December 15, now seems like a good time to share one of those layers.

Like all children, my brother, two sisters and I loved Christmas; everything about it – the lights, the cookies, the gifts... the excitement. While they didn't have a lot of money, our parents went to great lengths to make Christmas special for us. From trudging through pastures to find the perfect tree with Dad and later decorating it, to baking cookies with Mom; from being given \$5 each to Christmas shop for the family, and the joy we took in finding treasures for each other, to all four of us sleeping in one bed on Christmas Eve and convincing our youngest sister that the light atop the radio tower visible from my bedroom window was actually Rudolph's nose. So many warm, wonderful memories.

But intertwined in those memories for each of us is another one – a memory we all share, although none of us understood its significance at the time. Each December as preparations for Christmas went into full swing, a sadness would come over our mom. Oh, she would try to hide it from us as she threw herself into all the activities of the season, but it was there. And we all could see it.

One day when I was about thirteen and pretty convinced that I knew everything there was to know about life and the world, I asked my Dad why she always got so sad at Christmas time. "Oh, she's just homesick," was his reply. My Mom was from Arkansas, and even though we

went there for a week every summer, she hadn't been back there to spend Christmas with her family since she left.

I replied with a question that I have regretted ever since the moment it left my mouth. In my infinite, thirteen-year-old wisdom I asked, "Well, what does she think this is, a hotel?"

Now, decades and a life-changing discovery later, we understand her sadness. Because, as she was making Christmas wonderful for her four children, our mother was thinking about a daughter born on December 15, 1960. One she never held, never nurtured, never saw grow up.

Our sister has told us that every year on her birthday, she prayed for her birth mother. I'm quite sure our mother was praying for her, as well, and wondering what Christmas looked like for the little girl she never had a chance to know.

In some ways, it helps to now understand her December sadness. In others, it just hurts my heart; to think of the secret she so carefully guarded for so long, and the pain she endured for so many years. It makes every single Christmas-time tradition she created that much sweeter, knowing the strength and determination it took for her to overcome her own sadness to bring joy to her family – the four children she did hold, nurture and watch grow up.

For her many gifts of love throughout my whole life, I am grateful to my mother. And I'm thankful that her December sadness is no more, as she spends the Christmas season in the presence of her Savior, with full knowledge of the good life enjoyed by the baby girl she loved but never knew.

Merry Christmas to you and yours.



It's Christmas week already. Once again, I let the season fly past me at record speed and I don't feel like I have had time to enjoy it and more importantly, I don't feel like I have had time to accurately reflect on the reason we celebrate Christmas. The kids are coming home this week and my schedule has opened up dramatically, so I am hopeful that the last few days of Advent can be spent soaking it all in.

One part of Christmas that I cannot get enough of is the story of Christmas and the nativity. My nativity set is one of my most treasured possessions. I remember as a kid that our nativity set was the centerpiece of Christmas, even more so than the tree. Mom would put it in a place where it was the first thing you saw when you entered the living room. She also made putting it up a special occasion, each figure was unwrapped slowly, and we discussed their meaning. The last and most important piece was the baby Jesus, and he was carefully placed in a manger made from old barn boards with just a few pieces of straw.

I don't know what the actual manger looked like, but I do know what it looks like in my mind. Crude, rough and meager, not the place you would expect the King of the World to be born into. Somehow that lowly entry into this world makes it more real to me. Having spent a good portion of my life around livestock and barns, I can see, smell, and feel what it might have been like. Every time I look at the nativity scene, it draws me in and wraps me up in the moment.

My nativity set has even more meaning to me because my mother made it. Mom was an artist who made clay sculptures, and nativity sets were her specialty. Oh, she made lots of other sculptures, some created from old pictures customers gave her. Her special knack was being able to form a sculpture that took on the personality of its model. She did two kinds of nativity; one was painted with all the different colors. The other kind she made was simply glazed white. That was how the original set was done and when it came time for her to make my set, is what I requested. I don't know why, maybe it was tradition but maybe it was also because the glazed white

allowed me to see the scene in my own head and color it accordingly.

My nativity is also a one of a kind. In among all of the other barnyard animals is a blue heeler dog. I know, you are all wondering about a blue heeler dog and the nativity. That dog is Cisco, the first dog Jennifer and I ever had as a married couple, our test kid. It might be kind of silly, but Mom made the addition without telling us. It fits, at least in my little world, it fits. We place Cisco next to the manger so she can watch over baby Jesus like she watched over Isaac and Tatum. If you don't think it is appropriate, I don't want to hear it. It is perfectly appropriate in my little world and that is all that matters.

The shepherds in my set have come to have more meaning to me over the past few years. I take a great amount of pride in the part of the story where shepherds are the first to be told of the newborn King. I guess I relate with them. Rough and probably kind of smelly, they were not the typical people that would be the first to greet a king. Of course, I don't know of any other kings born in a barn either; it all makes perfect sense. Jesus came to save even the least of us and we shepherds are definitely the least of all mankind.

The final pieces of my nativity are the alleged wise men. I say alleged because they came late and had to ask for directions. If they were so smart, they would have beaten the shepherds there and went straight to the manger. I guess it was the thought that counts and just like me, they eventually got there after pit stops and detours. We leave the nativity up until the time in January when we celebrate the wise men's arrival.

I have a sense of sadness every January when we take the nativity down and carefully pack it up. I admit to feeling a great deal of anxiety each time we carry it up and down the stairs or put it up on the shelf. I know it is just a material possession but what it represents means so much to me, both as a memory of my mother and for what it symbolizes. I will wish each of you a Merry Christmas and I hope you will be able to take yourself back to that first Christmas and the manger during this Advent season.



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K-State plans four-part series on leasing farmland

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

Kansas State University will host a four-part series on land leasing strategies at 34 locations in Kansas beginning Jan. 18. The series is titled, The Power of Negotiation and Communication: Land Leasing Strategies for Midwestern Agriculture Women, though K-State Research and Extension farm economist Robin Reid says the sessions are open to all participants.

"In Kansas, agricultural land covers more than 49 million acres," Reid

said. "Of that land, 55% is farmed or grazed with a lease agreement. Many farms and ranches rely on leased ground to have an adequate amount of land to maintain a viable farming operation."

Reid said the program - held each week through Feb. 8 on Wednesday evenings - will teach principles of managing land leases as a tenant and landlord. "The goal is for participants to acquire skills they can apply directly their own agricultural lease situation," she said.

Topics that will be covered include:

- An overview of the agricultural economy, and how it affects land values and lease rates.
 - Advantages and disadvantages of various types of leases.
 - Kansas lease law and fence law.
 - Why a lease agreement should be in writing and what it should include.
 - Best practices of negotiating and communicating about a lease.
 - Conservation programs and practices.
- Reid said women are encouraged to attend be-

cause they have routinely become lease managers due to family circumstances.

"Women often become landowners through inheritance of a family estate or because they outlive their spouse," she said. "Suddenly becoming a landowner and working with a farm tenant can be particularly challenging if you do not have knowledge of current farming practices, lease laws and going market rates."

Reid said the program also will be helpful to farmers and ranchers who sometimes find

themselves working with multiple landowners that, she notes, "are becoming more geographically and generationally removed from agriculture."

More information about the series is available online at www.agmanager.info/events (look for the link to The Power of Negotiation and Communication.) An online option is available for those not able to make it to one of the 34 sites in Kansas. The program will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Central time) on four consecutive Wednesdays.

Information also is

available at local Extension offices in Kansas.

The program is made possible by a grant from the North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Kansas Corn calls on Biden

• **Cont. from page 1** show that biotech corn is safe for use. These corn varieties are reviewed by the FDA and other regulatory agencies around the world. Growers plant biotech corn, which is reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and regulatory agencies around the world, because it saves money, reduces the use of insecticides, and lowers carbon emissions. This technology also allows farmers to grow corn that is more resistant to severe weather conditions.

Study: rural veterinary shortages create risks for U.S. food system

The U.S. is facing an alarming shortfall of veterinarians to treat livestock and poultry in rural areas, threatening public health, food safety and economic growth in communities that depend on agriculture, according to a new study commissioned by Farm Journal Foundation.

More than 500 counties across the U.S. have shortages of food animal veterinarians, according to the report, authored by Cornell University's Dr. Clinton Neill. Today, only about three to four

percent of new veterinary school graduates pursue livestock or other food-animal practice areas, a stark decline from 40 years ago when about 40 percent of graduates specialized in this area. Shortages stem from several factors, including high levels of education debt that have outpaced potential earnings, especially in the rural U.S. This is encouraging more veterinarians to pursue companion animal practices and work in urban and suburban areas where incomes are often higher.

As this study addresses the lack of food animal veterinary care in the U.S., great progress is being made right here in the Texas panhandle on this front.

"Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences-VERO and Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine are addressing these rural and food animal veterinarian shortages as both campuses continue to grow here in the Amarillo area," said Texas Cattle Feeders As-

sociation president & CEO Ben Weinheimer. "We are pleased to have both successful programs up and

running with their second class of students now enrolled."

USDA transitions from voluntary Cattle Contract Library pilot program to mandatory final rule

Recently USDA published a final rule to obtain additional information they believe is necessary to populate a Cattle Contract Library (CCL). The final rule will require packers that slaughtered an average of not less than five percent of the number of fed cattle slaughtered nationally during the immediately preceding five calendar years to submit contractual information for the purchase of cattle, meaning the rule will apply to Cargill, National, JBS and Tyson.

"Earlier this year, we clarified our policy to support and engage with USDA in the development of the CCL Pilot Program, with the understanding that it would be a voluntary trial to determine if such program would provide meaningful informa-

tion to cattle feeders and not result in the unintended consequence of giving packers more data and insights into their competitors' marketing arrangements, potentially extending packers' and retailers' leverage over cattle feeders," said TCFA chairman Michael Bezner. "While it appears USDA considered and incorporated much of the input we provided, it is unfortunate that USDA opted for a mandated regulatory approach which makes it difficult to revise and improve the CCL based on initial learnings from the pilot, especially if it is determined that the CCL is more advantageous for packers and retailers than cattle feeders."

In March, the Con-

solidated Appropriations Act of 2022 directed USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to create a CCL Pilot Program. The final rule, which goes into effect on Jan. 6, 2023, will require complete reporting of contractual information and volumes purchased against the contracts, including supplemental information on cattle requirements; associated schedules of premiums and discounts; delivery and transportation terms and payments; appendices and agreements of financing, risk-sharing or profit sharing; or other financial arrangements associated with such contracts, whenever new contracts are offered, or existing contracts are updated.

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2nd Section: **THURSDAY, December 22nd;**
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We will be CLOSED: FRIDAY, Dec. 23rd;
MONDAY, Dec. 26th; MONDAY, Jan. 2nd

Thank you for your cooperation, and have a safe and merry Christmas and New Year's!!



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2022 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Bernadetta McCollum, Clay Center Wins This Week's Holiday Contest

Bernadetta McCollum, Clay Center: "During the holidays I put a fancy bow on the jar and give as a gift."

PICKLED PEACHES

(2) No. 2 1/2 cans peach halves in syrup

Whole cloves
3/4 cup white sugar
Cinnamon sticks
1/2 cup white vinegar

Drain peach syrup into a pan and save. Put 2 whole cloves in each peach half. Add vinegar and sugar and 2 or 3 cinnamon sticks to the peach juice. Bring to a boil and boil 10 minutes. Place peaches in a jar and pour juice over peaches. Seal jar and store in refrigerator when cool. Enjoy!

Dorothy Holt, Topeka:
SWEET POTATO BALLS
2 cups mashed sweet potatoes
12 large marshmallows
3/4 cup finely crushed Corn Flakes
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
2 tablespoons milk
1/4 cup butter or margarine

Mold a spoonful of the sweet potatoes around each marshmallow. Roll in Corn Flake crumbs. Place in a shallow 1 1/2-quart baking dish. In a saucepan bring to boil the brown sugar, milk and butter. Pour over the balls. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Yield: 1 dozen.

Amy Feigley, Enterprise:
HAMBURGER HASH BROWN CASSEROLE

2 pounds hamburger
1 1/2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 cup milk
1/2 cup butter, melted
20-ounce package hash browns
Salt & pepper to taste

In a skillet brown hamburger. In a large bowl mix cheese, soup, milk, melted butter, salt

and pepper together then add in the hash browns. Once you have all of this mixed, layer the cooked hamburger in a 9-by-13-inch pan and then spread the mixture on top of the hamburger. Top with more cheese if you desire. Cook at 350 degrees for approximately one hour.

Barbara Miller, Wakefield:

SNICKERDOODLE PUPPY CHOW

6 cups Chex
1 3/4 cups white chocolate chips
3/4 cup powdered sugar
1/4 cup granulated sugar
2 teaspoons cinnamon

Measure out Chex and place in a large bowl. Combine powdered sugar, granulated sugar and cinnamon in a gallon-size bag. Melt white chocolate chips. Pour over Chex. Stir until coated. Dump the Chex in bag and shake until Chex are fully coated.

Linda Kepka, Dorance:

BUTTERMILK PANCAKES

1 cup oatmeal, quick or regular
2 cups buttermilk
2 eggs, beaten
2 tablespoons shortening or cooking oil

1 cup flour
2 tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt

Mix oatmeal and buttermilk and let stand 5 minutes. Add eggs and shortening or oil. Mix well. Combine dry ingredients and then add to oatmeal and buttermilk mixture. Stir until smooth. For each pancake, pour 1/4 cup batter onto hot lightly greased griddle. Brown on underside and then turn and brown other side. Yields about 16 pancakes.

Claire Martin, Salina:
KAHLUA FUDGE

14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
1/4 cup Kahlua
2 tablespoons coffee granules
12-ounce package semi-sweet chocolate morsels
1 cup chopped, toasted pecans
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Line an 8-by-8-inch pan with foil. In a large saucepan combine milk, Kahlua and coffee over medium heat. Bring to a simmer; cook for 2 minutes stirring constantly until mix thickens slightly. Remove from heat and stir in chocolate morsels until melted and smooth. Stir in nuts and vanilla. Spread into pan and chill 2 hours. Remove from pan using foil as handles. Cut into squares. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

Loretta Shepard, Helena, Oklahoma:

CHERRY CHEESE PIE
9-inch graham cracker crumb crust (recipe below)

8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
14-ounce can Eagle Brand sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated)
1/3 cup ReaLemon® lemon juice
1 can cherry pie filling

In a medium bowl beat cream cheese until light and fluffy. Add sweetened

condensed milk and blend thoroughly. Stir in lemon juice. Pour into crust and chill. Top with pie filling.

Graham Cracker Crust:
1 1/2 cups graham crackers, crushed
3 tablespoons sugar
6 tablespoons butter, melted

Mix together in a 9-inch pie plate. Bake at 375 degrees for 8 minutes.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
GLAZED CORNISH HENS

4 Cornish hens (about 1 1/4 pounds each)
1 tablespoon olive oil
Salt & pepper
1/2 cup orange marmalade
3 tablespoons orange juice
2 tablespoons maple syrup
2 tablespoons whole grain Dijon mustard
2 cups chicken broth

Set oven at 425 degrees. Arrange hens on rack in large roasting pan. Rub with oil. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Roast 15 minutes. In a pot mix marmalade, orange juice, maple syrup and mustard over medium heat; cook stirring until marmalade is melted, 3-4 minutes. Reduce oven to 350 degrees. Brush hens with half of the marmalade mixture and roast 15 minutes. Brush hens with remaining marmalade; pour broth into roasting pan. Roast until meat thermometer registers 170 degrees, 30-35 minutes. Transfer to a platter and cover to keep warm. Pour drippings into glass cup and let stand about 1 minute. Skim and discard fat. Serve pan drippings with hens.

Cassidy Eck, Rossville:
BAKED MAC & CHEESE W/CORN FLAKES

8 ounces pasta
1/4 stick butter
1/8 cup flour
1 1/2 cups milk
1/2 block cream cheese
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 1/2 cups shredded cheese

Topping:

1 cup Corn Flakes
Butter, melted

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cook pasta. Meanwhile in a large saucepan melt butter over medium heat. When the butter is melted whisk in the flour and cook until it's bubbly and thick, about 2 minutes. When the mixture is thickened whisk in the milk and bring the mixture to a simmer. Cook about 5 minutes until mixture is thick, stirring often. When the mixture is thickened stir in cream cheese until mixture is smooth then add desired amount of salt and pepper. To the cream cheese mixture add cheese and stir until melted. Combine cooked pasta and cheese mixture. Transfer pasta to a square pan. Combine topping ingredients and sprinkle on top. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 35 minutes or until bubbly.

Anna Kusmaul, Allen:
CHIPPED BEEF DIP

(2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese, room temperature
2.25-ounce jar dried beef
4.25-ounce can chopped black olives
Green onions
1 tablespoon Accent, optional

Cut dried beef into small pieces. Chop up 5 or 6 green onions and add to meat along with olives and Accent. Mix well. Blend in cream cheese with a fork. Refrigerate 4 to 5 hours to blend flavors.

TIP: To make it less salty, rinse the beef and pat it dry before cutting it up.

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

APPLE DIP

8 ounces cream cheese
3/4 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup salted peanuts, chopped

Blend all ingredients. Use with crackers, apples, etc. Keep unused dip in refrigerator.

Kellee George, Shawnee:
3 INGREDIENT BANANA BREAD

3 ripe bananas
2 eggs
1 yellow cake mix
Nuts, optional

Mash up bananas and mix in eggs (and nuts if using). Mix in dry cake mix. Bake in 2 small loaf pans at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.

Dorothy Wulfkuhle, Carbondale: "My husband wants these every year."

LEBKUCHEN
(German Cookie)

4 eggs
2 cups brown sugar
1 cup sliced almonds
1 cup candied fruit
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon cloves
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 1/2 cups flour

Mix together and then let stand in a cool place for 3 days covered*. Spread in cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for about 15 minutes until toothpick comes out clean. When cool, cut into squares.

NOTE: I do sprinkle some sugar over them when I take them out of the oven.

*Editor's Note: Please use caution when using recipes with raw eggs that remain unrefrigerated for a period of time.

Jackie Doud, Topeka:
APPLE CRANBERRY CRISP

3 cups chopped apples, unpeeled
2 cups cranberries
3/4 to 1 cup sugar, depending on tartness

Topping:
1 1/2 cups quick oats
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/3 cup flour
1/3 cup chopped pecans
1/2 cup melted butter

Combine apples, cranberries and sugar in an 8-inch pan. Mix to blend. Combine topping ingredients until crumbly and spread evenly over fruit. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until fruit is tender. Serve with ice cream.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

MARSHMALLOW MINT BARK

2 cups white chocolate chips
2 tablespoons coconut oil, divided
2 cups dark chocolate chips

3/4 cup mini marshmallows
8 Starlight Mints, crushed into pieces

Line a baking sheet with foil. In microwave melt white chips. Stir in 1 tablespoon of oil. Spread evenly in pan. Chill until set, about 30 minutes. In the microwave melt dark chips; stir in 1 tablespoon oil. Spread evenly over white chips. Top with marshmallows and mints. Chill 1-2 hours. Break up bark and store in air-tight container.

Bernadetta McCollum, Clay Center: "A friend of mine told me she uses mixed nuts instead of peanuts. She chops the nuts a little so as to not have big nuts in the clusters."

PEANUT CLUSTERS

14 ounces (white chocolate) almond bark
12-ounce package milk chocolate chips
1 pound salted peanuts

Melt bark and chocolate chips together then add nuts. Drop by teaspoon onto parchment paper and cool.

Dorothy Wulfkuhle, Carbondale:

CHOCOLATE COVERED CHERRIES

4 cups powdered sugar
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1/4 cup white syrup

1 jar maraschino cherries
1 package chocolate bark

Cream together sugar, butter and syrup. Make into walnut-sized portions. Make a thumb-size hole in each then place a cherry in the hole and work into a ball and chill. In a double boiler, melt chocolate. Dip chilled balls into chocolate. Place onto waxed paper or into tiny fluted candy cups and refrigerate.

NOTE: Can make smaller balls. Press in palm of my hand and wrap around cherry. I think this works better for me. You may need more than 1 jar of cherries.

Thank You to Everyone for sharing your recipes during the holiday contest.

Please continue to share your favorites throughout the year!

"Our Daily Bread"

Holiday Bonus Drawing Winners

All G&G Area Cooks who sent recipes for the holiday contests were entered in a special drawing. The four cooks whose names were drawn will each receive \$40. They are:

Dorothy Holt
Topeka, KS

Cassidy Eck
Rossville, KS

Loretta Shepard
Helena, OK

Janice Chaput
Abilene, KS

A big THANK YOU to all who shared their favorite recipes with G&G Cooks during this holiday season!

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In observance of the holiday season, Grass & Grain will award the weekly winners \$40 in addition to the gift. **CONTEST IS NOW CLOSED!**

BONUS DRAWING

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

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The winner each week is selected from the recipes printed. Send us your favorite recipe. It may be a main dish, leftover, salad, side dish, dessert, or what-have-you. 1. Check your recipe carefully to make certain all ingredients are accurate and instructions are clear. 2. Be sure your name, address and phone number are on the entry. Please include a street address with your recipe entries. A post office box number is not sufficient for prize delivery. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. 3. Send it to: Woman's Page Editor, Grass & Grain, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505.

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Baking With Sugarbuns

By Michele Drees
Cooking For Two
Fiesta Chicken

Something I never considered before getting married was that I would no longer be cooking or shopping for one. While that may seem silly, it just is not something I had put much thought into. I also never realized how much I enjoy going down every aisle in the grocery store; prior to weekly shopping trips with Kyle, who is very pointed and does not tend to dawdle while shopping.

As someone who struggles to get through a half-gallon of milk before it expires, it blows my mind to know that Kyle can easily go through at least a gallon of milk a week and usually more. The concept of instant breakfast was foreign to me as were things like cabbage in soup and homemade spaghetti sauce. While I grew up helping cook for our family of five, we all generally liked the same things; marriage brings out a whole new element of opinions that I had never really considered.

As we have continued to grow our revolving door of recipes that we both enjoy, there have been some definite trials and tribulations during the process. Last night's Fiesta Chicken happened to be one of those recipes that I clearly did not put a lot of thought in prior to making it. Everything in it sounded good to me so I went for it, not realizing it made enough for eight servings and not paying close enough attention to the details of what was in it.

Kyle and I can both be relatively picky, but I tend to think I am more willing to eat things regardless of if I like them or not. I am not a fan of onions, but if they are cooked into things, I will eat them and not say a word. Kyle, on the other hand, if he can see them, he will pick them out. Same for green peppers and tomatoes.

While Kyle was a trooper and more than willing to try out the new recipe I had found, it was clear it would not be making the cut for our usual rotation when I noticed him picking out all the things he did not like. The real sign though? Kyle did not go back for seconds. If there is an option for seconds, Kyle almost always goes back for seconds, which happens to be one of the things I adore about him, his unapologetic love for food makes me smile.

He was sweet and kind and offered suggestions on how we could make this into something we both liked; by dicing the onions and pepper in-

stead of chopping them it makes them less noticeable. While helpful suggestions, for me, knowing he did not love it, put it into the no pile, leaving the quest for the next best recipe to continue.

Fiesta Chicken

-Michele approved,
Kyle tolerated-

Taste of Home Recipe

*Edits notated with *

- 1 can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1 can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 2 small tomatoes, chopped
- 1/3 cup Picante sauce (*I used 3/4 cup*)
- 1 medium green pepper, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2-3 teaspoons chili powder (*I used 1 teaspoon because we cannot handle heat, but added 2 teaspoons of taco seasoning*)
- 12 corn tortillas (cut into 1-inch strips) (*I used flour & only need about 6 of them*)
- 3 cups cubed cooked chicken
- 1 cup shredded Colby cheese (*We are cheese people, so I used 2 cups*)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-13-inch pan.

In a large bowl, mix the soups, tomatoes, Picante sauce, green peppers, onions, chili powder (and taco seasoning).

In the bottom of the greased pan, layer half of the tortilla strips, chicken, soup mixture and cheese. Repeat layers.

Cover and bake at 350 degrees until bubbly, about 40-50 minutes.

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

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



By
Kelsey
Pagel

Just Not Good At It

I'm not good with gifts. I'm not good at giving them, thinking of ideas, implementing said ideas, wrapping gifts, etc. I'm just not good at it. So this time of year gives me serious anxiety. I hate it. I'm just not good at it.

We decided when we got married, we would give the nieces/nephews money for birthdays and Christmas and take a solid last place as the cool aunt and uncle at said functions. Every year my two sisters, their husbands and Matt and I do a gift exchange between the six of us. Matt's siblings sometime do the same thing, depending on the year. Then we buy for both sets of parents and only have his grandma left for grandparents.

Parents and grandparents are hard. They mention they want something, you discreetly make a note of said object, go buy object, wrap it, present it to them all to be told, "Oh, I already bought that."

Matt actually came up with an idea for his dad! So before it went off sale, I decided to run and get it. Then while it was still raining, I mentioned that I should go to town and get all the shopping done so I could have it checked off the list to do and quit worrying about it. He asked if he needed to go. I said no. He asked if he had to give ideas. I said no. He said Godspeed, can I gas the car for you? (I'm not the only one bad at shopping and gift giving!)

I went to three stores buying something for myself or Matt at each place, but striking out for buying for the others. Seriously, I had a list. I did not think it was going to be that difficult to find said items. I was wrong. It was exasperating finding the gifts.

BUT, I did it. In four and a half hours, I have completed the gift list, minus one item that is only available online and Matt having to buy for his mom. Now I can just dread wrapping said gifts.

I wish you all the best this holiday season. Happy gift-giving and gift-buying. Happy family and friend times. Stress less about the wrapping and more about the people surrounding you. May we remember the reason for the season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Chat with you in 2023!!
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.



Decisions, Decisions

By Lou Ann Thomas

Life is little more than a series of decisions. From our first breath we begin our journey through the jungle of decision-making. Some decisions turn out good and to our benefit, others not so much. It is hoped we learn something from those that fall short.

But the decisions continue, regardless of whether we are aware of the lessons they offer or not. I tried to keep track of how many decisions I make in a day, but after making over 100 in less than two hours, my head hurt, so I decided to lay down until it passed. However, when I decided to get back up the decision-making began again.

There is a belief by some that we can't really make decisions that will throw us completely off course. The idea is that, although we may make a decision that alters our course, we will eventually be given other options that will bring us back into alignment with where we were headed. I like that idea and there are certainly instances in my own life that I've seen things unfold to validate it.

map that make up our life journey.

But what if we make the wrong choice? What if we make a bad decision? Believe me, I've made some doozies! Fortunately, none involved getting a face tattoo or me waiting for someone to bail me out of jail. However, I've taken some strange twists and turns along my path. I've made some questionable choices that, like the navigation devices on my car, have required "recalculating route" alerts.

Should we regret the choices that may have taken us on a longer path? Or should we simply view them as our having chosen a more scenic route? With a longer perspective I can see how each one of my errant decisions, as well as all the ones that could be deemed good, led me here - right here. Would I have ended up here anyway, regardless of the decisions I made along the way? There's no way of really knowing, so I'm simply grateful for being here now.

Because this is not such a bad place to be.

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

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Demand for premium quality beef high, supply showing improvement

Cattle feeders capitalized on a tighter supply of market-ready recently, confidently passing on early bids of \$152/cwt. Packers came back with sharply higher bids as they competed to own inventory needed to fulfill boxed

beef sales commitments, Drovers reports. The slaughter pace during the holiday-shortened week was impressive with a 579,000 weekly total, the largest Thanksgiving week total since 2006. Packers backfilled the hol-

iday void, harvesting 76,000 head of fed cattle on Saturday — 50,000 more than the previous Saturday.

Fourth quarter demand for premium quality grade beef carcasses is predictably high with end users placing orders several weeks in advance. Grading has been much more seasonal with incremental weekly increases bringing the Prime grade to 9 percent of the total, up from the summer low of 7.5 percent. This is still one-half of a percentage point lower than the same week last year, leaving the industry around 3,000 head fewer Prime carcasses on a full week's production in that comparison.


As a result, quality premium spreads remain robust at the current time. Although the Prime cutout premium has given up \$10/cwt. in the past two weeks, all the quality premiums remain in record territory for this time of year. Further grade improvement in December, coupled with cooling middle meat demand, will tighten the premium price spreads in the coming weeks.



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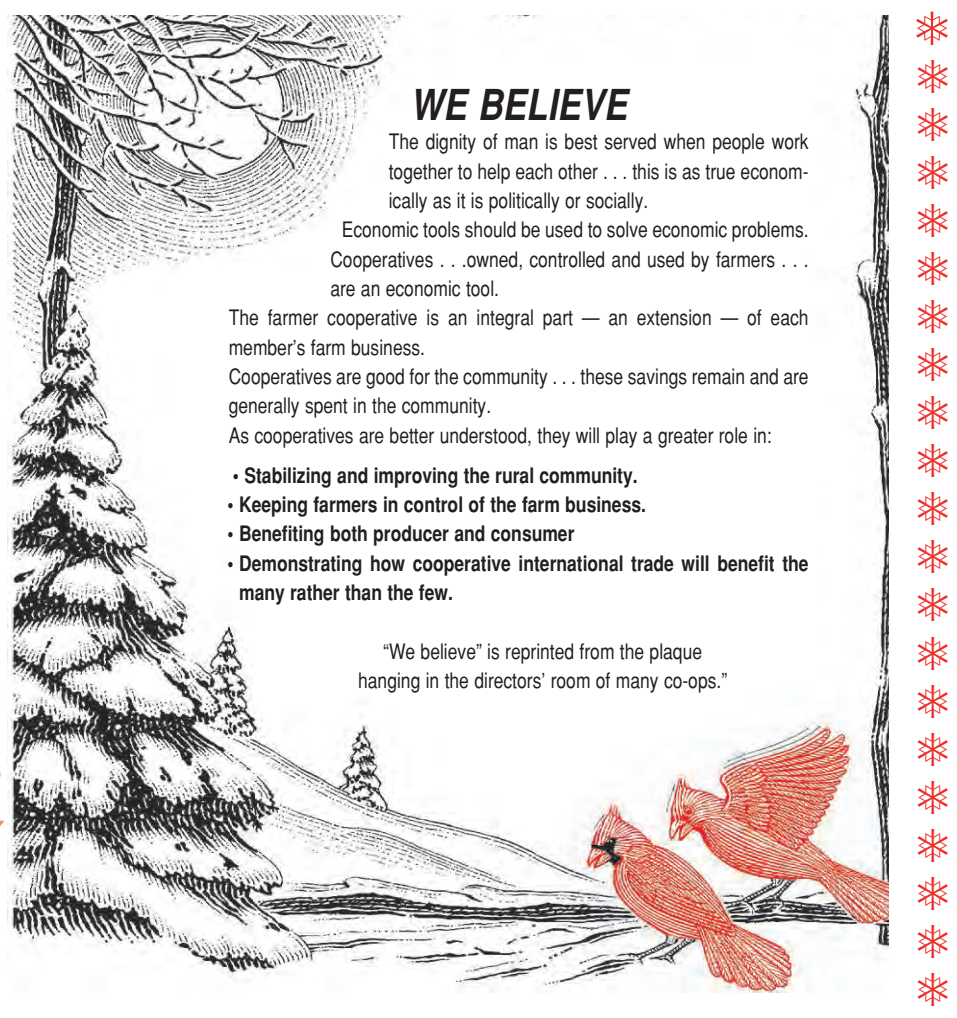
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Favorite Christmas

We all have them; that favorite memory of a Christmas past. Maybe one from childhood, maybe more recent. Somebody will even remember 2022 Christmas as their very favorite.

I have some fond memories as a child; one particular Christmas Eve candlelight service at St. John's Lutheran Church at Mount Williams, Virginia. It was a rare time in those days when both my parents and grandparents on my father's side went to church together. All the ladies in their Sunday hats and the gents removing their fedoras as we entered the church. The place was packed out; the candelabras and sconces all glowing softly on my Grandma Alice's face as I watched her sing *Silent Night* with the congrega-

tion. I must've been about five. It was the only time I recall hearing her sing.

But my all-time favorite Christmas memory is from almost 30 years ago. My mom's folks had always celebrated on Christmas Eve, with an oyster stew and chili feed, which then graduated on to my grandparents' living room for the gift exchange with the kids always designated as the gift hostlers while my Uncle Lewis was the tree rat, reading names, making silly noises and jokes, not relenting until he had all us kids, and everyone else for that matter, laughing and in a boisterous holiday state of mind. Once the paper was all collected, the cards came out, and like almost every other family gathering we had, a pitch tournament ensued! I learned to play

pitch like a boss from my Uncle Lewis who had no fear of "shooting the moon" on an ace and a deuce!

Now that my own family is grown and raising their own, we still try to make that Christmas Eve tradition happen when possible, but our own immediate family, my wife and children, always had our own little Christmas celebration early on Christmas morning before ranch chores, and then dinner at my wife's folks. Evening would find us back at home, enjoying the last hours of a blessed day.

But there is one Christmas night which stands out in my memory, and I get misty every time I replay it in my mind, even all these years later.

My children ranged

in age from about ten to three years. We didn't use the fireplace often, but we always had a fire Christmas night when the kids were young. We sought to make it a special memory for them, as well as for ourselves, and they were excited to have a fire going so it was much easier to get them to cooperate, running off to their rooms and getting PJs on for bed, and coming back into the living room to watch the fire! It was one of those rare Kansas white Christmases, snow-covered, and quite cold.

I had started the fire but there wasn't much wood on the porch, so I put on my chore coat and went outside to fetch more wood from the shed. I hauled several armfuls to the porch, and as I worked it

Grass & Grain, December 20, 2022

had begun snowing again.

On my trek to and from the shed I noticed the light from the living room streaming through the window into the snowy night. The dog barked at something out in the pasture, so I walked out into the yard toward the pasture fence to help her investigate, when she quit barking, turned and went back to the porch. I turned back toward the house myself and beheld the most blessed sight I had ever seen.

Page 7

Standing there in the night, big heavy snowflakes softly thumping my hat brim, I saw my three children were all cuddled up around their mother on the couch, facing the big window which framed them like a Norman Rockwell portrait, as she read them a story from one of their new books.

I stood there and lost all track of time, forgetting the cold, watching their little faces while the warm glow of the soft lamp and

• Cont. on page 8

Merry Christmas!

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Passing assets through a trust: what to know

You invest for years to accumulate assets, and you'll certainly need some of them to support your retirement. But what about the rest? What's the best way to pass them on to your loved ones?

You might consider establishing a trust. You'll need to work with an estate-planning attorney to discuss the issues involved, but here are three key questions you'll have to address:

First, who will serve as trustee? You could pick a trusted loved one or a corporate fiduciary, such as a bank or trust company.

Next, when will distributions from the trust be made? As the grantor, or creator, of the trust, you can direct it to pay out assets to beneficiaries when

they reach certain ages.

Finally, for what purpose will the trust's assets be used? You can direct the trust to make distributions to pay for a beneficiary's health, education, maintenance and support, or you can provide incentives, such as having the trust pay beneficiaries when they reach milestones, such as earning a degree or buying a first home.

A trust can be a powerful estate-planning tool. Give it some thought.

This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Scott D. Van Genderen, CFP®, ChFC®, AAMS® your Edward Jones financial advisor at 4009 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604. Phone: 785-273-2277. Member SIPC



Like so many of you, I have been under the weather.

That is such an odd phrase, isn't it?

I mean, we are literally "under the weather" all the time, aren't we? Or maybe "in the weather" is a more accurate term.

We sure have been "in the weather" lately.

As blizzard conditions swept eastern Colorado and western Kansas last week, I felt even more "under the weather." I felt downright oppressed by

the weather, smack dab inside the weather.

But I was fortunate. I could moan and groan about conditions from the comfort of my living room. I did not have to check cattle, break ice on a tank, or tend to any living thing or duty beyond my front door. I am grateful for the days I did those things, but I do not miss being in the weather. I am very grateful for those who are in the weather, under the weather, battered by the weather, and dealing with

High input costs and rising interest rates top concerns as farmer sentiment remains unchanged

Unlike the two most recent presidential elections, the November midterm election outcomes did little to swing farmer sentiment. The Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer came

in at a reading of 102 in November, unchanged from October. There was however a slight movement in both of the barometer's sub-indices. The Current Conditions Index declined three points to a reading of 98, while the Future Expectations Index increased two points to a reading of 104. The Ag Economy Barometer is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers' responses to a telephone survey. This month's survey was conducted after the U.S. midterm elections Nov. 14-18.

"Even though sentiment remained relatively unchanged in November, producers are continuing to look at their bottom line," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture. "Rising interest rates combined with high input and energy costs are creating a lot of uncertainty at the farm level."

The Farm Financial Performance Index improved modestly in November to 91, up 5 points from October, but it remains 14% below this same time period last year. While nearly one-third of producers continue to express concern that their farm's financial performance this year will be worse than the prior year, just over two-thirds of producers expect their farm's 2022 financial per-

formance to be equal to or exceed 2021's. Still, high input costs continue to weigh on producers' minds with 42% of respondents in this month's survey citing that as their top concern in the year ahead.

Just over one-fifth (21%) of respondents chose rising interest rates, while 14% cited input availability and declining commodity prices as a top concern.

The Farm Capital Investment Index dropped back to its record low of 31 in November, erasing gains from the previous month. Nearly 80% of respondents indicated now is a "bad time" to make large investments in farm machinery, and of those, 47% chose "rising prices of farm machinery and new construction" as the primary reason. By comparison, only 10% of respondents felt now is a "good time" to make large investments.

Given the sharp rise in energy prices that's taken place this year, the survey asked producers how they've responded to the cost increase. Just over one-fourth (27%) of this month's respondents indicated they've made changes in their operation because of rising prices for energy. Of those who indicated they made changes, 33% indicated they reduced tillage, 24% reduced nitrogen rates and/or changed application timing, 11% increased their use of no-till, and 8% said

they reduced crop drying. Farmland auction results in the Corn Belt continue to set new record highs, yet producers show signs of becoming less bullish on farmland values. The Short-Term Farmland Value Expectation Index declined four points to a reading of 129, and the Long-Term Farmland Value Expectation Index remained unchanged at 144. Both indices are well below the highs established in fall 2021. When asked to look ahead one year, 12% of respondents this month said they expect values to decline compared to just 4% who felt that way a year ago. Among producers who expect farmland values to rise over the next five years, over half (52%) chose nonfarm investor demand as the primary reason for their optimism.

• **In My Day**
• **Cont. from page 7**
and the firelight danced in their wide eyes as they listened, smiling occasionally, while Mom read to them. Finally the book was finished, and blinking back the mist, I realized where I was, standing in my front yard in the middle of a snowstorm! I knocked off the snow that had accumulated on my coat and hat, and making my way back to the house noticed my tracks had nearly filled in. I had never been so warm!

That is my favorite Christmas memory. I hope you have one too!

Merry Christmas from our ranch to yours!
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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CoBank releases 2023 year ahead report – forces that will shape the U.S. rural economy

The U.S. economy still has considerable momentum and is not currently on the verge of recession. However, economists have never been more pessimistic and there are very legitimate reasons for concern. Over the past half century, inflation above 5% has never been tamed without incurring a recession. That portends a painful yet necessary chain of events will unfold in 2023, according to a comprehensive year-ahead outlook report from CoBank's Knowledge Exchange.

"As financial conditions continue to tighten, we expect the U.S. economy will steadily soften through the first half of 2023, ushering in a brief, modest recession," said Dan Kowalski, vice president of CoBank's Knowledge Exchange. "The unemployment rate could rise as high as 5%, indirectly leading to a decline in consumer spending. Without this softening in the labor market and the associated slowing of wage gains and spending, it will be difficult to stabilize prices."

The CoBank 2023 outlook report examines several key factors that will shape agriculture and market sectors that serve rural communities throughout the U.S.

Global Economy: No Escaping This Slowdown

After two years defined by a strong economic rebound from the pandemic, the global economy will sputter in 2023. A persistent energy crisis in Europe, China's messy exit from zero-COVID and higher interest rates globally will reduce world economic growth to a crawl. Europe, likely already in recession, will muddle through the winter with sufficient energy supplies. China, much less impacted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, will continue to struggle with the impacts of COVID. Greater Asia will be negatively impacted by sliding global demand for goods. Emerging markets will keep the global economy growing in 2023 as advanced economies collectively will be stagnant and could even shrink.

U.S. Economy: Some Pain is Necessary

The labor market remains very tight, consumers are still spending aggressively, and corporate profit margins have hit record levels despite high inflation. If a recession is coming, it will take several months for these factors to reverse course, delaying any potential recession until at least Q2 2023. Even then, it is unclear how readily businesses would lay off workers after experiencing such extreme staffing challenges over the past two years. The structural loss of more than 2 million workers since 2020 is contributing to higher inflation for both goods and services. However, the void that their exit has left could also cushion the economy from the worst of a downturn in 2023.

Monetary Policy: More Tough Decisions Ahead

The Federal Reserve's job will not get any easier in 2023. In nine months, the Fed has raised its federal funds rate from zero to more than 4%. Now, as some economists argue that inflation is falling and the Fed has done enough, Chair Powell and the Federal Open Market Committee will make even tougher decisions about when to halt rate increases. The trickiest aspect of the Fed's inflation fight is that there is no playbook or rule of thumb to tell the Fed when to pause rate hikes. The Fed's preferred inflation measure, the personal consumption expenditures index, has fallen from its peak of

7% to 6%. That's still much too high for the Fed's comfort and Chair Powell has said that there is greater risk in stopping too early than raising rates for too long.

U.S. Government: Unique Midterm Results Muddy Farm Bill's Path

The 118th Congress will convene in January marking the official beginning of the Farm Bill reauthorization effort. With a Sept. 30 sunset for the current Farm Bill, Congress will have just nine months to complete the enormous task of passing the next bill. As the reauthorization gets under way, a number of themes are anticipated; however, they differ significantly by party. Some interest groups are lined up to address consolidation in farming and agribusiness. Other groups will push policies to direct more resources to small and beginning producers. Ultimately, the Senate will have the upper hand in this debate and the policies that arise in the bill will impact agriculture for the next decade to come.

U.S. Agricultural Economy: Farm Margins Will Tighten

Despite the global pandemic and a steady barrage of disruptive challenges, the U.S. agricultural economy has fared quite well for the last three years. However, in 2023 producers and related industries will begin to show financial strains. A relentless series of adversities including skyrocketing production costs, steeply higher interest rates and weakening demand will increasingly pressure farm income and margins. The ongoing drought and increasing political tensions with China — the U.S.'s largest agricultural export market — present additional downside risk. China has made it clear that it would like to minimize its dependence on imports of U.S. agricultural products, adopting a "buy only if we have to" attitude.

Grain, Farm Supply & Biofuels: Momentum Builds for Biofuels

Grain elevators and merchandisers face a mixed picture for the year ahead. The good news for U.S. farmers is that global grain and oilseed supplies are exceedingly tight. Ukrainian grain production and exports are still below average, providing underlying support for grain prices. Ag retailers begin 2023 on strong financial footing but face several challenges. Labor shortages and rising wages will negatively impact margins. Wholesale fertilizer costs will rise during the first half of 2023 as cooperatives absorb higher barge and rail costs and compete with export markets for limited supply. The outlook for biofuels is very strong, supported by positive policy and demand tailwinds from 2022. Ethanol will benefit from greater usage of E15 and growing demand for corn oil.

Animal Protein: Production to Moderate Despite a Tailwind of Enthusiasm

Most U.S. animal protein industry segments have posted phenomenal financial performance over the past three years. However, this era of broad profitability will likely come to an end in 2023. The high costs of feed, labor and construction support the prevailing cautionary attitude toward expanding animal production. Add in climate uncertainties, ESG pressures, and increasing energy costs, and it's likely that 2023 will be a year when major market participants pause, reflect and consolidate. On the demand side, consumers are reeling from

rapidly declining real wages, a trend that's likely to continue well into 2023.

Dairy: Milk Supplies to Gradually Grow as Demand Base Shifts

After a year of stronger profits that allowed producers to pay down debt, dairy producer margins will come under pressure in 2023. Despite record-high milk prices earlier in 2022, herd expansion has been minimal among the major exporting countries and this trend is expected to continue in 2023. Dairy product prices will eventually moderate in response to the gradual growth in global milk supplies. Meanwhile, economic weakness and resurging COVID infections in China, the top dairy-importing country, threaten to destabilize global dairy demand. Domestic demand for U.S. dairy products, particularly higher-priced brands, will face headwinds as consumers trim grocery spending.

Specialty Crops: Drought, Labor Shortages, Strong U.S. Dollar Among Headwinds

Specialty crop growers and processors face a multitude of headwinds in 2023. Costs of water, labor, fertilizer and other inputs are rising while a strong U.S. dollar and weakening global economy drag on the U.S.'s ability to sell products abroad. California in particular faces worsening conditions with the highest diesel prices and farm wages in the U.S. amidst a worsening drought. The drought has lifted the price of water to record highs as La Niña conditions persist into a third straight year. Tight labor availability will require growers to lean harder on H-2A workers or adopt more automation in the field. Despite the headwinds, growers and processors will benefit from falling costs of shipping containers and fewer delays at ocean ports.

Rural Electricity: Time to Look Beyond Yesterday's Energy Crisis Playbook

The global oil shocks of the 1970s had a profound and wide-ranging impact on energy use, and today's energy crisis foreshadows a similar response. The collective response to the 1970s crisis led to innovative policy measures, paving the way for greater energy security. These measures largely included dramatic conservation and fuel diversity but also funded moonshot projects for renewable development. Surging energy prices, caused in large part by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, are yielding similar levels of policy intervention today. And the initial seed investments made a half-century earlier are opening doors to greater opportunities for market substitution.

Rural Communications: Crosscurrents Set the Stage for the Rural Communications Market

The rural communications market is heading into 2023 with numerous crosscurrents. The increasing importance of broadband helps insulate the industry against economic weaknesses. However, new headwinds are emerging from a weakening economy, tightening capital markets and aggressive network build activity across a wide range of market actors. The biggest risk to network builds in 2023 will be the tight labor market and ongoing supply chain issues. This is of particular concern for smaller broadband operators who are competing against the larger national telecommunications companies for resources.

Read the full report, *The Year Ahead: Forces That Will Shape the U.S. Rural Economy in 2023*.

Lynn Peterson receives Administrators Award

Kansas Farm Service Agency is proud to announce Lynn Peterson as a recipient of the Administrators Award for Service to Agriculture. This national level award recognizes employees for their substantial and noteworthy accomplishments to our farmers, ranchers, producers, and agricultural partners. The recipient represents our core values of ethics, customer service, teamwork, fiscal responsibility, and outstanding service to staff and employees across USDA.

District director Lynn Peterson has 35 years with FSA. Lynn has served on numerous state and national task forces and committees throughout his career. Most recently he was part of a national team to re-write the County Committee orientation training. Lynn also serves as a

national district director mentor to new district director's across the Nation.

Lynn is active in his church and makes family a priority in his life. His actions and treatment of employees creates a mutual respect between him and his team.

Lynn is a huge advocate for his team and is their biggest supporter. As one of Lynn's employees said, "Lynn is a true example that if you take care of your people, the people will take care of the mission."


To build and support the team concept Lynn provides training to all employees in his district at all levels. He builds trust in his employees by having them participate as trainers in much of this training. Lynn always encourages his employees to strive to be and do better.

Lynn leads by example, has a positive attitude, has respect for others and others respect him. Lynn and his team do an excellent job carrying out the mission of the agency.

When Kansas FSA faced several district directors vacancies, Lynn assumed

the duties for two districts. He also supervised FSA loan offices in three districts. In addition, Lynn helped employees in one county work through the sudden and tragic death of a county executive director.

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Building resilience in a community

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

When disaster strikes, people who are most directly impacted turn to the helpers to begin the recovery process. Often, recovery takes years.

In terms of disaster, the COVID-19 pandemic created a ripple effect that many people are continuing to process, said Elaine Johannes, the Kansas Health Foundation's Distinguished Professor of Community

Health at Kansas State University.

"This disaster didn't hit everyone the same way," she said, "and the ripple effects are different depending on how well prepared our community was at addressing large scale health issues."

One of the effects is mental health, Johannes said.

"Mental health is fluid and changes over a lifespan, and the trauma from a disaster will be

experienced differently by the families and individuals in a community," Johannes said.

Often when talking about resiliency, Johannes said people think about the individual, but she believes it is important to look at the well-being of the whole community.

"A resilient community isn't necessarily a city, county or township, but it can be a community of friends, a community of workplaces and a com-

munity of faith," she said.

"A healthy community requires the same kinds of characteristics that you or I as individuals need, and that is to be adaptable and be aware of our own mental and physical state."

She said it is important for community members to "check in" with one another, and that local Extension personnel are part of the resources for a community.

"Extension professionals are embedded in

our communities, and we have well-trained experts across the state who can offer mental health first aid," Johannes said.

She believes there are key people in each community that help build resiliency.

"It takes those key informants in the community – such as those who work in Extension, education, public health, faith and local businesses – to notice a friend or colleague in need and reach out and ask, 'How are you

doing?'," Johannes said.

"And be ready for the answer," she adds, "because it may be different than what we think but at least we'll be there and be willing to help."

A longer discussion with Johannes is available on the weekly radio program, Sound Living, produced by K-State Research and Extension. More information on healthy living is also available from local Extension offices in Kansas.

KLA to match member contributions for K-State Ag Innovation Project

The Kansas State University College of Agriculture has launched a campaign to build and renovate research, teaching and innovation centers for grain, food, animal and agronomy sciences. The goal of the campaign is to raise at least \$75 million in private donations. The state of Kansas will put an additional \$25 million toward the project and will match another \$25 million if K-State reaches its goal.

The total funds will be used to build new facilities and renovate current buildings on campus. Proposals include building a new Global Center for Food and Grain

Innovation, agronomy research center and agronomy innovation center. Additionally, Call Hall and Weber Hall will be renovated.

As part of the fundraising effort, KLA has agreed to match member contributions up to \$100,000. The organizational commitment is limited to this amount. However, members are encouraged to support the project beyond \$100,000.

There are two ways to donate. KLA members can make contributions to the Kansas Livestock Foundation (KLF). Checks can be mailed to 6031 SW 37th Street,

Topeka, KS 66614. Please put "K-State campaign" in the memo line. KLF is a 501(c)(3), providing the potential for contributions to be tax-deductible. Contributions to KLF for the campaign are preferred by March 31, 2023.

Alternatively, members can donate directly to the K-State Foundation, which has established a KLA-fund code to enable members to attribute their contribution to the KLA match program. The K-State Foundation also can manage multi-year donations. To contribute in this manner, contact Kerry Wefald at (785) 775-2090 or kerryw@ksufoundation.org.

Wells Fargo grant to fund SHA on-farm school scholarships, regenerative ag docuseries pilot

The non-profit Soil Health Academy (SHA) announced it has received a \$200,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation to further advance the adoption of soil health-focused regenerative agricultural principles and practices throughout the nation in 2023.

Part of the grant will fund approximately 100 scholarships for women, veterans, new and beginning, and historically under-represented farmers and ranchers to attend SHA's upcoming on-farm, regenerative agriculture schools. Featuring instruction from a cadre of world-renowned regenera-

tive farming and ranching experts, these three-day events feature foundational and practical regenerative agriculture education, including access to the on-line Regen Ag 101 course and post-school follow up and support from the instructor cadre.

As part of the grant, SHA will also partner with the Emmy-nominated production team of Joe Dickie, Forrest Fox, Lynn Betts and Ron Nichols to produce a pilot episode for *Destination Regeneration*, a proposed docuseries featuring compelling human-interest stories of producers and their families who are on their

respective journeys of regeneration. Along the way, viewers will be introduced to local communities, restaurateurs, health experts, and others who are interconnected with the soil health and regenerative farming movement.

"Several feature-length, 'one-and-done' documentaries have been made on the subject of soil health and regenerative agriculture, but we believe Destination Regeneration has the potential to explore a

much broader range of important health, nutrition, biodiversity, community and lifestyle issues connected to the way we grow our food," SHA president Dawn Breitreutz said. "Through a non-scripted, documentary-style storytelling approach, Destination Regeneration will attract many viewers who might not otherwise be attracted to the subject of soil health and regenerative agriculture. We're very grateful to Wells

Fargo for recognizing and supporting both of these important SHA endeavors."

According to Robyn Luhnning, chief sustainability officer at Wells Fargo, the latest grant to SHA represents Wells Fargo's on-going efforts to support customers' and communities' transition to a resilient, equitable and sustainable future.

"We are proud to support the Soil Health Academy again this year to bring

the environmental, social and economic promise of regenerative agriculture practices to historically under-represented farmers and ranchers across the country," Luhnning said. "Combined with the video pilot that will reach a broader audience, the SHA initiatives align well with Wells Fargo's commitment to advance community resiliency and adaptation efforts and empower diverse entrepreneurs and small businesses."

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Winter Vitamin A and E for beef cows

By Ross Mosteller, Meadowlark District Extension Agent, livestock and natural resources

Since I've been on a roll with nutrition topics, vitamins are another consideration that can't be overlooked in winter cow herd nutritional discussion. Two of the most important to discuss at this time of year are Vitamins A and E. Unfortunately, I've ran into personal experience with weak calves at birth due to Vitamin A deficiency, so my first-hand knowledge of this topic has been hard-learned! Balanced vitamin consumption is always important.

Both Vitamins A and E are plentiful in green forages, but tend to be scarce commodities in dormant range, crop residues and hay. The further away a cow gets from the last bite of green grass only continues the decline in availability in forage diets and stored reserves within the cow. As fat-soluble vitamins, there is debate on how well Vitamin E is

stored, but Vitamin A is generally stored three to four months, primarily, the liver. Be honest with yourself on when the last time was that your cows grazed lush, green grass, for some cows that might have been last spring!

Vitamin A maintains tissue linings in the respiratory, digestive, and reproductive tracts – keeping them pliable and in good working order. Without these healthy tissues, nutritional absorption in the gut is reduced and immune function declines. Vitamin A deficiency also impacts reproduction in both males and females. Deficiency symptoms include loss of appetite, rough hair coat, and reduced feed efficiency. Swelling of the legs and brisket, especially after working the animals, is also a symptom of vitamin A deficiency.

Vitamin A and E deficiencies in calves can range from vision issues and white muscle disease, to the more commonly noted challenges with calf vigor and immunity. The result of deficiencies in these vitamins can show

up as decreased vigor and an increased susceptibility to illness. It is important to note that these vitamins do not cross the placenta in high enough amounts to directly meet calf requirements. Calves must obtain sufficient Vitamin A and E levels through colostrum directly after birth, which emphasizes the priority focus on the vitamin status of the cow prior to calving to ensure sufficient levels in the colostrum.

Forage vitamin levels are not something cattle producers should take for granted in any situation. Supplying sufficient Vitamin A and Vitamin E to cows in late gestation is important every year, and the price of the supplement should not be a limiting factor, as these are relatively inexpensive inputs. Pregnant cows and heifers should be supplemented with 30,000-100,000 IU/head/day of Vitamin A and 50-100 IU/head/day of Vitamin E when green forage is not available. Even high-quality stored forage should not be assumed to supply sufficient Vitamin A or E. Pay close attention to storage life on sup-

plementation products, as vitamins can degrade relatively quickly. If a mineral-vitamin package is not fed within about a year the minerals are still good but vitamin activity can be reduced.

Injections of Vitamin A can be used to help increase stored levels in the liver. An injection of 1,000,000-1,500,000 IU per head can boost liver levels, but may need to be given monthly if supplementation is not provided by the diet. A single injection a few weeks prior to calving can help the cow overcome a drop in the body reserves of these vitamins prior to calving. Producers should consult their veterinarians regarding specific products and the timing of their use, as there are reported issues with injections given at the wrong time or in conjunction with other injections. Additionally, injections of Vitamin E and A to newborn calves can be given, but this should not be considered a substitute for proper vitamin supplementation in the cow's diet to produce and provide quality colostrum.

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Grass & Grain Area Auctions and Sales

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

Hundreds of auctions, online and in-person. www.kansasauctions.net/gg/ Always great online Equipment auctions — www.purplewave.com

Accepting Consignments for End of Year Online Only Auctions. www.midwestauctionpros.com. Auctioneers: Midwest Auction Pros.

Online Auction (Open NOW, begins closing 2 pm, Dec. 19) — 480 Lots inc.: Hull Pottery, Toys, Christmas Tabletop blow molds, Christmas Village Dept. 56 & accessories, Christmas decorations, Antiques, Collectibles, Wear-Ever cookware & more selling for property of Gloria Hannon held online www.GriffinRealEstateAuction.com. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction.

December 29 — Land auction consisting of 145 acres m/l of Marshall County cropland with 135 ac. m/l of excellent upland tillable with waterways & terraces - Prime Land held live at Marysville for Larry & Maxine Plegge. Auctioneers: Vaughn Roth Land Brokers.

January 7, 2023 — Collectibles inc.: Antique Parlor Woodstove, hanging B&H #96 oil lamp, 1970s Red Honda Spree moped, vintage double sided lighted Schlitz sign, 25 vintage railroad metal signs & other signs, metal & tin advertising, 75+ cast iron items, 600+ license plates, 50+ steel traps, crocks, 300+ Farm & Vintage Toys inc. Precision Classics, 1:16 w/boxes, Tonka & more, coins & misc. held at Lawrence for private sellers from Tecumseh & western Kansas. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

January 12, 2023 — Land auction consisting of 144.23 acres Marion Coun-

ty cropland & grassland with 92.71 ac. cultivated cropland, grassland is fenced for livestock with spring, great wildlife habitat held at Peabody for Melvin & Marilyn Flaming. Auctioneers: Leppke Realty & Auction.

January 14, 2023 — Guns: 1957 Eagle Cushman & (3) Remington nylon rifles, furniture, antiques, primitives & collectibles inc.: signs, kero lamps, crocks, glassware, dolls, collectible toys, CI seats, books, banks, comic books, steins, Native American items & much more held at Portis for Vincent Brown Estate. Auctioneers: Wolters Auction & Realty.

January 14, 2023 — Signs inc.: Member Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers, Shell, Kent, DeKalb & more, several beer signs, Toys inc. 150 farm tractors & more, 50 dolls, Pedal vehicles, lots of Collectibles & an assortment of tools held at Abilene for Darryl & Debra Blocker. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

January 14, 2023 — Real Estate auction consisting of 154.5 acres m/l of Marshall County Farmland of which 142.15 ac. are terraced crop acres, balance waterways and wooded areas for wildlife habitat held at Frankfort for Paul Seiwald Trust. Auctioneers: Cline Realty & Auction, LLC.

January 15, 2023 — Guns inc. German WWII P38 pistol & more; Collectibles inc.: quilts & quilt blocks, vintage clothing, glassware, Depression glass, Roseville, magazines, gold & silver jewelry, vintage toys & dolls, artwork & much more held at Salina for Markham/Kerley Collection. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

January 16, 2023 — Land Auction consisting of 144 acres with 106 tillable Highway frontage located West of Burlingame held at Osage City for Mary E. Dunn Estate & Heirs. Online bidding at: www.Superiorlandgroup.com. Auctioneers:

Superior Real Estate & Land Group, Wischropp Auctions.

January 17, 2023 — Land Auction consisting of 445.7 Acres of Butler County land inc. pasture, trees, large pond, good access, rural water meter, (selling surface rights only) held live at El Dorado for William C. Paulson, Jr. & Pamela S. Paulson Revocable Trust AND the Martha Paulson Pope Living Trust. Online bidding available: www.Sundgren.com. Auctioneers: Sundgren Realty, Inc., Land Brokers.

January 21, 2023 — New Strawn Consignment auction by S&S Sales LLC selling tractors, trucks, trailers, vehicles, all types of farm & livestock equipment, farm misc. items, hay, lumber & more held at New Strawn. Brett Skillman, Sales Manager; Auctioneers: Darwin W. Kurtz & Paul Hancock.

January 26, 2023 — Woods Brothers Dearborn 1R corn picker, IHC 300 tractor, JD 300 tractor, Minneapolis Moline 1R corn picker, MF 135 tractor, JD M tractor, JD B tractor, JD 630 tractor, IHC M tractor (9 items sell live & online); 50+ plows, other farm equipment & machinery held live West of Jewell (online www.thumrelauction.com) for Calvin Bohnert Estate. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

January 28, 2023 — Antiques & collectibles including pine furniture, oak rocker, cast iron bed, Viceroy sign, folk art wooden horse, Indian pottery, signs, 75+ good tins, crocks, 400 toy trucks, assortment of tools & more held at Salina for Curtis Bunting Estate. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

February 4, 2023 — Axtell Knights of Columbus Consignment Auction held at Axtell.

March 6, 2023 (Monday) — Lyons Ranch 35th Annual Angus Bull Sale held at the Ranch South of Manhattan, 12:30 pm.

April 8, 2023 — Fink Beef Genetics 37th Annual Sale held at Randolph.

Calving school coming to Fredonia

In anticipation of calving season, Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry and K-State Research and Extension are planning a series of calving schools in January.

The program will outline overall calving management that includes stages of the normal calving process as well as tips to handle difficult calving situations. A.J. Tarpoff, K-State Extension beef veterinarian, explains the goals of the event are to increase knowledge, practical skills, and to increase the number of live calves born if they need assistance.

The schools will also share tips on when and how to intervene to assist the cow or heifer. Presenters will demonstrate the proper use of calving equipment on a life-size cow and calf model.

“Our goal is for producers to leave better prepared for calving season,” Tarpoff adds. “We will discuss timelines on when to examine cows for calving problems, and when to call your vet for help if things are not going well. We will also discuss calf care early in life. It’s an excellent program regardless of experience level.” The meeting will also feature a presentation on vaccine handling given by local agents.

This meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at the 4-H Building at the Old Iron Club, Fredonia, Kansas at 6 p.m. RSVP to Wildcat District at 620-378-2167, Southwind District at 620-365-2242, or Greenwood County at 620-583-7455. Dinner will be provided, so an accurate head count is required by January 4th. The meal is sponsored by Merck Animal Health and Salt Creek Vet Clinic.

For more and updated information about the Calving Schools or local flyers, go to KSUBeef.org or contact Wendie Powell, Livestock Production Agent, (620) 784-5337, wendiepowell@ksu.edu.

Alvarez FSA lifetime achievement award

Kansas Farm Service Agency is proud to announce Ellen Alvarez as a recipient of the Farm Service Agency Lifetime Achievement Award. This national level award recognizes individuals who have more than 30 years of service in FSA and have demonstrated and contributed to the improvement of the quality and service of FSA.

Mrs. Alvarez started her career in ASCS/FSA beginning in June of 1964. On her employment application, the lowest salary acceptable was completed at \$1.00 per hour. Ellen’s first job description was considered as a counter clerk. Ellen’s main program duties changed significantly with the beginning of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) starting in 1985. The Farm Service Agency completed general CRP sign up 58 and it is notable that Mrs. Alvarez has worked instrumentally in each sign up from the beginning.

Not only has Ellen assisted many producers throughout her career but has established a trustworthy relationship with farmers and ranchers. Many of our current producers can remember coming into the office with their dads and waiting as programs were explained and applications where completed. Although conservation concepts have changed over the years, the belief in administering a CRP program that improves water quality, reduces erosion, and increases habitat for wildlife remains a passion. Ellen’s efforts over a 58-year-and-still-counting career makes her not only an exceptional recipient of the FSA Lifetime Achievement Award, but also a role model of what truly is considered an FSA program technician and exceptional public servant.

October pork exports largest in 16 months; beef exports already top \$10 billion

October exports of U.S. pork were the largest in more than a year and beef export volume also increased from a year ago, according to data released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). U.S. beef exports are on a record pace in 2022 and have already exceeded \$10 billion.

Variety meat growth buoys October pork exports

Pork exports reached 238,198 metric tons (mt) in October, up 5% from a year ago and the largest since June 2021. Pork export value increased 13% to \$697.3 million, the highest since May 2021. October export highlights included a new value record for Mexico (\$203.1 million) and strong growth to South Korea, the ASEAN and the Dominican Republic. Exports were also higher year-over-year to China/Hong Kong.

For January through October, pork exports were 12% below last year at 2.18 million mt, valued at \$6.26 billion (down 8%). USMEF president and CEO Dan Halstrom noted that the October pork results were bolstered by outstanding growth in variety meat exports, which set a new value record at \$126.2 million. Export volume was the second-largest on record at more than 55,000 mt.

“The recent rebound in pork variety meat exports is tremendous news for the U.S. industry on a few different fronts,” Halstrom said. “While exports to China have regained momentum, our ongoing efforts to diversify destinations for pork variety meats are definitely paying dividends. Larger shipments also reflect an improved labor situation at the plant level, which has helped increase the capture rate for variety meat items.”

Beef exports weather exchange rate storm to remain on record pace in 2022

October beef exports totaled 125,466 mt, up 8% from a year ago. Export value was \$929.8 million, down 3% from the

large total reported in October 2021. China/Hong Kong was the leading destination for U.S. beef in October, with export value topping \$240 million. Export volume to Japan was steady with last year and shipments increased to South Korea, but export value to both markets was negatively impacted by slumping currencies. October beef exports achieved strong growth to the ASEAN, Middle East and Canada.

In the first ten months of 2022, beef export value increased 18% from last year’s record pace to reach \$10.05 billion – topping \$10 billion in a single year for only the second time. January-October export volume was 1.25 million mt, up 4% from a year ago.

“The October results were remarkable considering the headwinds facing U.S. beef, especially in our large Asian markets,” Halstrom said. “Key currencies such as the Japanese yen and Korean won had sunk to their lowest levels in decades versus the U.S. dollar, which obviously affected importers’ buying power. COVID lockdowns in China were also a concerning factor, especially for buyers in the foodservice sector. But despite all that, U.S. beef still performed very well in Asia and achieved solid growth in North America and the Middle East. With some recent improvement in exchange rates, beef exports are well-positioned to surpass last year’s records.”

October exports of lamb muscle cuts trend higher

Exports of U.S. lamb muscle cuts edged higher year-over-year in October to 202 mt, up 18%. Export value totaled \$1.26 million, also up 18%. Through October, lamb muscle cut exports increased 67% to 1,878 mt, valued at \$11.11 million (up 60%). This growth has been driven mainly by the Caribbean, but October exports were bolstered by larger shipments to Canada and Taiwan.

Members approve policy to guide Kansas Livestock Association in 2023

Policy focused on mileage tax on vehicles, water, federal disaster programs, the lesser prairie-chicken and other key issues was approved by members of the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) during the group’s annual business meeting December 2 in Wichita.

With the motor vehicle fuel tax having become an accepted method of assessing taxes to fund road repair in Kansas, the recent growth in electric vehicles has meant fewer people are paying their share. This has led government agencies to begin developing proposals for a mileage tax on all vehicles, which would unfairly penalize those who travel farther distances more frequently, which tend to be those living in rural areas, and result in burdensome record-keeping requirements. Therefore, KLA members approved a new resolution opposing any mileage tax on motor vehicles or implements of husbandry, other than electric or hybrid motor vehicles.

Members also approved a new resolution regarding the governance of groundwater management districts (GMD). The policy supports current Kansas law that requires eligible board members and voters in GMD elections to be persons or entities that use water in an amount of one acre-foot or more, or own 40 contiguous acres or more. The resolution also makes clear KLA opposes legislation that would open GMD board eligibility or voting to any person over the age of 18, or that would prohibit legal entities from voting in a GMD election.

In regard to water policy, members also voted in favor of an amendment to a resolution addressing state water plan funding. The policy supports the Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force for Water Resource Management’s recommendation for funding the state water plan by setting aside a percentage of the existing statewide sales tax revenue.

Existing policy focused on the lesser prairie-chicken was amended by the membership to reflect the recent listing, opposed by KLA, of the lesser prairie-chicken as threatened in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and parts of Texas; and as endangered in New Mexico and other parts of Texas by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Members maintained their support of grazing lands being included in the incidental take protection that was granted to cultivated agricultural practices in the 4(d) rule, but took the step of opposing the USFWS requirement for a third-party-approved grazing plan.

In addition, members approved an amendment to a resolution focused on livestock disaster programs. The revision supports federal legislation to improve such programs, including an increase in the payment limitations and adjusted gross income eligibility requirements for all USDA livestock disaster programs.

“KLA policy is developed through broad member input and constructive debate,” said KLA president Shawn Tiffany, a cattle feeder from Herington. “The resulting resolutions will direct officers and staff as we represent the membership on various issues during 2023.”

In all, KLA members approved 68 resolutions for 2023. Other issues addressed in KLA policy range from property rights to animal care to environmental regulations.

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.

LAND AUCTION!

Premium Cropland!
12/29/2022 at 6:30 P.M.

On behalf of Larry and Maxine Plegge, Vaughn-Roth Land Brokers is proud to present this top-shelf Marshall County, Kansas real estate to the public. The live auction will be held at 6:30 P.M. on December 29th, 2022 at the American Legion, 310 Veterans Memorial Drive in Marysville, KS.

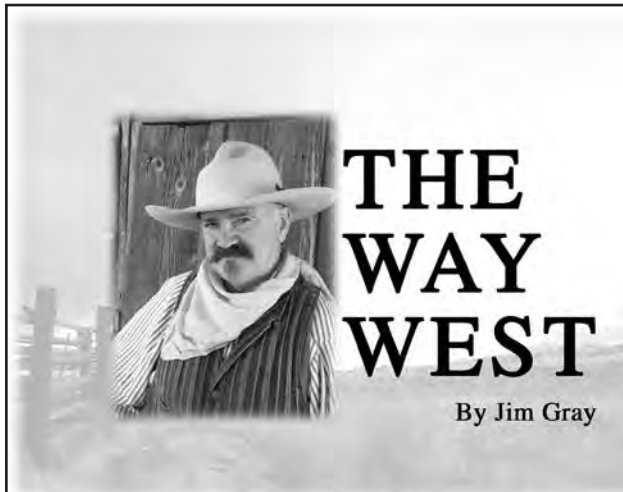
Totaling 145+/- acres, this tract is located in the heart of the Northeastern Kansas corn and soybean country, just 1 mile north of Marysville and 2 miles north of Highway 36 and is comprised of approximately 135+/- acres of excellent upland tillable with well-maintained waterways and terraces. The owners are 3rd generation stewards of this land and have taken great pride in managing and preserving it over the years. With the soil comprised of class 2 Wymore silty clay loam, this prime land is proven to produce excellent crops. Parcels of this quality don’t hit the market often and would make an excellent addition to any ag producer’s operation or investor’s portfolio. Don’t miss what could be a ONCE IN A LIFETIME opportunity to own this remarkable Marshall County land!! Supper will be served courtesy of Vaughn-Roth Land Brokers so come join us!

Contact Terry Anderson at 620-364-6826 for more information.

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THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

Home by Christmas

Jacob William (J. W.) Jackson was nine months old when his parents arrived in Bell County, Texas, in September of 1851. His parents, Jacob and Jane, purchased land along Donohue Creek and built a solid log home. In a memoir written circa 1920 for the book, *Trail Drivers of Texas*, compiled by the Old Time Trail Drivers Association of San Antonio, Texas, Jackson recalled a carefree childhood of chasing rabbits and lizards, trapping birds, and fighting “the old ganders.” He rode the calves penned away from their mothers in “the milk pen,” and went to country school when he couldn’t find an excuse to stay home.

The 1860 census shows nine children in the Jackson home, from B.S. at twenty years of age to one-year-old Ellen. J. W., listed as William, was eleven. He was born December 29, 1859. Having been bestowed with his father’s name he was known by his middle name which was affectionately transformed to “Billy.”

Initials were given instead of names for the boys in the census. Billy was the exception. There was another Jackson in the home. R. H. Jackson, 28, was listed as a laborer. He may have been an older brother from an earlier marriage, but memoirs do not mention him. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, B. S. Jackson was called to fight. No further

mention has been found. Unfortunately, the father died that same year, Christmas Day, 1861. J.W. turned twelve just four days after the death of his father. His sister, Louisa, 14, would help their mother with the rest of the children.

With all of the able-bodied men away in the war, J. W. recalled that “they left their cattle and horses almost at the mercy of the world.” The carefree days were over, and J.W. was expected to do the work of a man in the cattle business.

Leaving the ranch work to his younger brother, G.W., J.W. set out “in early manhood,” to work for Tom Lane on the open range. Lane’s ranch was east of the Jackson ranch in Milam County, Texas. Over the winter of 1871-72 Lane secured a government contract to deliver twenty-one hundred head of cattle to Cheyenne, Wyoming, as part of the government’s program to supply beef to one of the Indian reservations in the north.

But when Lane began to look for a trail boss to take the herd north he unexpectedly discovered that trail bosses were hard to find. Having no one else to turn to, Lane went to J.W., “Billy can you take this herd to Cheyenne?” J. W. looked at Tom Lane and told him straight up that he didn’t know, “but if it was possible for any man

to take (them) he could.” J.W. was twenty-one the spring of 1872 when he started the herd of twenty-two hundred and ninety head up the Chisholm Trail. In his memoir published in *The Trail Drivers of Texas*, J.W. noted, “The old trail drivers who were out that year can tell what heavy and constant rains we had all through the spring and summer.”

J.W. recalled that every river and even creeks were running deep water, “but I think we had the best herd to cross water that was ever driven up the trail.” The herd of twenty-two hundred and ninety head of cattle included three hundred wily, old longhorn steers, “from ten to fifteen years old.” They had been among the cattle that had gone wild in the brambles of Brushy Creek and Little River, northeast of Austin. “When we gathered them they were as wild as deer. There was a big bunch of these old steers that worked in the lead of the herd, and when we came to a river or creek that was swollen these old steers would walk right into the muddy water and pull for the other side, the balance of the herd following.”

When they reached Ellsworth, Kansas, the Smoky Hill River was so swollen that it looked to be a mile wide. They moved

west and held the herd until the water returned to its banks. Even then they hired a boat to carry their supplies and equipment across the river. Once across, they pointed the herd north to Fort Kearny, Nebraska, turning west along the south bank of the Platte River. The wide valley was fertile and green with lush grass. Wild game was in abundance. J. W. even roped a couple of buffalo along the way. For nearly four hundred miles the herd slowly grazed their way west. J. W. thought the Platte River

stretching before them looked, “like a ribbon in the sunshine.”

The cattle were turned over to the government at Cheyenne, Wyoming. The outfit returned to Texas over the same trail with the saddle horses and chuck wagon and reached home in Bell County, Texas, just before Christmas, ending J.W. Jackson’s first long cattle drive on *The Way West*.

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

Protein demand awaits in Africa

A recent USDA trade mission to Kenya determined that e-commerce in the area, post-COVID, has huge growth potential and signs of demand for U.S. red meat products.

Matt Copeland, U.S. Meat Export Federation Africa Representative, explains how a business in Kenya is delivering to rural constituencies several miles away from the commercial center once every three days. This saves time it would normally take for a villager to travel to the commercial hub to get food for their family and return home.

“Fundamentally, COVID was a really tragic time, but it forced commerce to make a big shift. I can see the commerce shifting quicker, so just be ready for these problems being solved. This is in East Africa, currently in Kenya. But we’re going to solve these food issues all over West Africa and southern Africa as well. It’s an exciting time, and it’s exciting time to participate,” Copeland adds.

In these areas, the population totals allude to immense opportunity for U.S. beef and pork according to USMEF.

Farmers & Ranchers

AUCTIONS EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY

Selling Cattle every Monday
Hog Sales on 2nd & 4th Monday of the month only!

TOTAL FOR THE WEEK: CATTLE 4,360. HOGS 99.

BULLS: \$100.00-\$109.00		18 blk Salina 711@185.00	
COWS: \$67.00-\$77.00		35 mix Beloit 757@182.75	
STEERS			
400-500	\$225.00 - \$236.00	37 blk Lehigh 851@182.25	
500-600	\$216.00 - \$226.00	25 mix Assaria 783@181.00	
600-700	\$190.00 - \$204.50	58 mix Hope 873@180.75	
700-800	\$180.00 - \$189.50	65 mix Salina 796@180.00	
800-900	\$173.00 - \$182.50	58 mix Hope 899@178.00	
900-1,000	\$166.00 - \$174.50	7 blk McPherson 872@177.00	
HEIFERS			
400-500	\$200.00 - \$214.00	58 mix Benton 887@176.50	
500-600	\$185.00 - \$194.00	5 blk Falun 927@174.50	
600-700	\$165.00 - \$174.50	17 red Columbus 947@174.50	
700-800	\$160.00 - \$172.50	7 blk McPherson 919@174.00	
800-900	\$160.00 - \$172.00	60 bwf Tampa 957@172.50	
900-1,000	\$155.00 - \$165.50	56 blk Tampa 1006@168.00	
		6 blk Lincoln 1114@154.00	
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022			
STEERS			
7 blk Lindsborg	453@236.00	2 blk Salina	405@214.00
10 blk Sylvan Grove	423@235.00	6 blk Wichita	343@212.00
23 blk Sylvan Grove	494@232.50	34 mix Peabody	437@210.00
3 blk Culver	475@229.00	5 blk Longford	379@204.00
5 blk Tescott	435@229.00	5 blk Lindsborg	405@204.00
9 blk Peabody	489@228.00	4 blk Valley Center	436@197.00
3 blk Salina	492@227.00	7 blk Wichita	477@196.00
2 blk Manhattan	518@226.00	11 blk Lindsborg	466@196.00
10 blk Lindsborg	502@225.00	5 blk Inman	415@196.00
4 blk Lehigh	525@223.00	5 blk McPherson	470@195.00
10 mix Peabody	408@218.00	6 blk Longford	458@195.00
9 blk Longford	528@215.00	19 blk Inman	523@194.00
5 char Moundridge	521@211.00	2 blk Newton	528@192.00
70 blk Sylvan Grove	573@210.50	5 blk Wichita	454@192.00
7 char Sylvan Grove	510@210.00	3 blk Newton	548@189.00
8 blk Salina	566@208.00	7 blk Salina	543@188.00
9 blk Culver	577@208.00	30 blk Longford	555@186.00
5 blk Tescott	544@207.00	5 mix Tescott	516@185.00
10 blk Valley Center	569@206.00	20 mix Gypsum	507@185.00
3 char Little River	570@206.00	5 red Barnard	562@184.00
11 blk Alma	577@205.00	21 blk Inman	586@183.00
60 blk Sylvan Grove	640@204.50	3 blk Salina	540@182.00
2 blk Beverly	535@203.00	36 mix Peabody	565@177.00
9 mix Manhattan	591@202.00	6 blk Inman	649@174.50
11 blk Wichita	553@201.00	13 mix Alma	630@174.00
7 blk Abilene	603@196.50	19 mix Little River	652@173.00
8 blk Newton	623@196.00	5 blk Walton	712@172.50
24 mix Lincoln	640@196.00	9 blk Newton	616@172.00
30 blk Longford	593@195.00	6 blk Newton	709@172.00
17 blk Galva	650@194.00	65 mix Gypsum	725@172.00
59 mix Beverly	660@190.00	32 blk Lindsborg	683@172.00
46 blk Gypsum	769@189.50	61 mix Assaria	733@172.00
27 blk Gypsum	683@189.00	65 mix Tampa	806@172.00
4 blk Galva	669@189.00	60 mix Gypsum	730@171.25
12 blk Culver	648@189.00	48 mix Assaria	809@170.75
31 blk Lincoln	704@187.50	7 blk Lindsborg	643@170.00
16 blk Gypsum	776@187.25	8 char Little River	737@170.00
16 mix Alma	668@187.00	66 mix Salina	741@170.00
29 blk Abilene	765@187.00	64 mix Whitewater	755@169.50
15 blk Walton	767@186.50	5 blk McPherson	707@169.00
8 char Little River	766@186.50	64 mix Hillsboro	812@168.00
7 mix Lincoln	667@186.00	12 blk Longford	650@167.00
19 blk Longford	678@186.00	18 red Halstead	885@166.00
24 red Sylvan Grove	668@186.00	16 mix Mahaska	908@165.50
65 red Beverly	750@185.50	11 mix Columbus	922@165.00
29 mix Beloit	679@185.00	19 blk Ellsworth	1006@156.50
28 blk Lehigh	734@185.00	MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022	
7 blk Newton	699@185.00	HOGS	
		15 fats Lincolnville	309@58.00
		4 fats Abilene	243@56.00

Livestock Commission Co., Inc. Salina, KANSAS

SALE BARN PHONE: 785-825-0211
MONDAY — CATTLE • HOG SALE 2nd & 4th MONDAY
Hogs sell at 11:00 a.m. on the 2nd & 4th Monday of the month.
Cattle at 12:00 Noon. Selling calves and yearlings first, followed by Packer cows and bulls.

THURSDAY — CATTLE ONLY
Selling starts at 10:00 a.m. Consign your cattle as early as possible so we can get them highly advertised.

AUCTIONEERS: KYLE ELWOOD, BRANDON HAMEL & GARREN WALROD
For a complete list of cattle for all sales check out our website www.fandrive.com

CATTLE USA.com LIVE CATTLE AUCTIONS

FARMERS & RANCHERS HAS SWITCHED BACK to Cattle USA.com for our online auctions.

10 fats Newton	300@56.00	1 blk Falun	2150@99.00
2 sows Minneapolis	640@35.00	COWS	
CALVES			
1 blk Salina	280@575.00	1 blk Hope	1710@77.00
1 blk Salina	250@450.00	1 blk Salina	1905@76.00
1 blk Salina	160@350.00	1 grey Lorraine	1770@75.50
1 blk Glasco	140@260.00	1 blk Lincoln	1615@75.00
1 blk Lindsborg	85@235.00	1 blk Durham	1685@74.00
BULLS			
1 blk Newton	2150@109.00	2 blk Moundridge	1683@73.50
1 red Osborne	2390@107.00	1 red Longford	1115@73.00
1 char Durham	1925@105.50	2 blk Randall	1555@73.00
1 blk Gypsum	2130@105.00	1 blk Canton	1370@73.00
1 char Haven	2155@103.50	3 mix Salina	1637@72.50
1 blk Hutchinson	1895@103.50	1 red Salina	1370@72.50
1 blk Wells	1645@103.00	1 bwf Salina	1655@72.00
1 blk Salina	2250@101.00	1 char Burrton	1740@71.50
1 blk McPherson	1515@99.00	2 blk Salina	1400@70.50
		1 blk Lincoln	1265@70.50
		3 char McPherson	1398@70.00

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023 WEANED/VACC. SALE

130 black/char steers & heifers, 650-800, home raised; 180 black steers & heifers, 400-600, home raised; 10 black steers & heifers, 650-900, home raised, 63 days, fall vaccinations; 120 black steers & heifers, 500-700, 60 days weaned; 65 black steers & heifers, 600-850, weaned October 1; 70 black steers & heifers, 750-850; 82 mostly black steers & heifers, 750-850; 25 steers & heifers, 650-800; 63 mostly red steers & heifers, 700-800, home raised; 100 black steers, 700-800, home raised; 30 black steers & heifers, 700; 65 black steers & heifers, 750; 100 charX steers & heifers, 500-700, Fink sired; 100 black steers & heifers 500-600; 175 black steers & heifers; 35 steers & heifers; 850 black Sim/Angus steers & heifers; 60 black/bwf steers & heifers, 500-600, wean 45 days, fall vaccinations; 175 black Sim/Angus steers & heifers, 600-800; 250 black/red steers & heifers; 350 black steers & heifers, 650-850; 350 black steers & heifers, 650-850; 58 steers & heifers, 600; 200 black/bwf steers & heifers, 500-700; 60 black steers, 600-800, home raised; 49 black steers & heifers, 600-800; 100 mostly steers, few heifers, 900-950; 36 black steers & heifers, 600-700, home raised; 100 mostly black steers & heifers, 600, weaned October 28; 100 steers & heifers, 500-600; 20 black/rwf steers & heifers, 650-800, 90 days weaned, fall vaccinations, no implants, open; 80 black/bwf steers & heifers, 600-750; 55 steers & heifers, 600-750, 2 round vaccinations, Don Johnson sired, weaned September 26th; 150 black steers & heifers, 500-650, home raised, weaned October 1; 60 black steers & heifers, 625, home raised, 2 round vaccinations, Don Johnson sired; **PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME.**

UPCOMING SPECIAL TUESDAY SALES 2023:

COW SALES: Tuesday, January 17 & Tuesday, February 21
CALF SALES: Tuesday, January 3 & Tuesday, January 10
Tuesday, February 7

Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

IN STOCK TODAY:

• Heavy Duty Round Bale Feeders • Heavy Duty Feed Bunks

For Information or estimates, contact:

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

Jim Crowther
785-254-7385
Roxbury, KS

Lisa Long
620-553-2351
Ellsworth, KS

Cody Schaffer
620-381-1050
Durham, KS

Kenny Briscoe
785-658-7386
Lincoln, KS

Kevin Henke
H: 785-729-3473, C: 785-565-3525
Agenda, KS

Austin Rathbun
785-531-0042
Ellsworth, KS

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

