

What my dad taught me – a daughter's reflections

By Julie Jones

When I first sat down to write this story, I wrote it like any other feature article – factual, concise, and heartfelt. That's how I was taught to write for a newspaper, but I've been taught other more important lessons throughout my life by a man many of you may know as Cleo Jones, but I know him as my dad.

Lesson #1 – Work Hard: My dad has been a working man since he was a freshman in high school. He started off like many others, working a summer job hauling hay for Harold O'Malley out of Cherokee County. In 1974, his senior year in high school, Harold's son, Phil, owner

of O'Malley Implement in southeast Kansas, offered my dad a position as a mechanic. He ended up working in the parts department after another employee left. And now, 49 years later, my dad clocked out of what is now Heritage Tractor for the last time.

But it's not just this full-time job that makes him a hard worker. In 1978, he married my mom, Peggy, and together, they began farming land and raising cattle. The time, money, and energy that goes into this isn't easily understood by those far removed from the country life. And then, because he didn't have enough responsibility, he

became a father to three children (back-to-back-to-back years, what were they thinking?!).

As I got older, I watched my dad wake before the sun and not stop until it had long since disappeared. Cows needed to be fed, hay had to be put out, calves had to be checked, beans had to be planted, corn had to be combined, the tractor needed a new filter, the kids had to be transported to sports practices, I needed help with my math, Church on Sunday mornings, family birthdays, work at O'Malley's, and the list could continue, which leads me to my next lesson.

Lesson #2 – Responsibility: Through all the different responsibilities in his life, he never shirked his duties. His turn to work on Saturday? He'll be there. Need to unload the newest delivered load from the truck at 4 a.m.? He's on it. Basketball game on Friday night? He'll save you a seat. Church toilet has to be fixed before Vacation Bible School? Consider it fixed. I suppose that time management is something that can be a side piece of this lesson because he had so many irons in the fire and never seemed to get burned. He showed time and time again that he could do his job well while still being a family man that many should strive to be.



Pictured are, from left: Ben, John, Cleo and Julie Jones. Cleo's last part sold was to his three children, who purchased a filter for his 4020 tractor. After 49 years with the John Deere dealership, Cleo retired on Feb. 24.

Photo by Louis McNew

I may be his daughter, but I'm not the only one who has noticed all of this about Cleo. His Vo-Ag teacher at Southeast High School recommended him to O'Malley for the job all those years ago. Farmers

have been consistent customers at the John Deere dealership because of him. Customers call him on Sundays because they know he'll meet them at the store to sell them the part for their baler that just broke down. That's the job, that's part of the responsibility.

Lesson #3 – Loyalty: Forty-nine years. There aren't many out there who can say they've worked for the same company, business or even in the same field for that long. I've been a teacher for 14 years, and I've had 12 different admin come through my building, so when my dad celebrated 40 years with O'Malley Implement, I was proud. He was loyal to Phil, who gave him the job, helped him build a career out of it. He is loyal to his customers, who know they can call Cleo up, tell him the problem with their machine, and he'll rattle off the part they need to fix it.

And when O'Malley sold the business to Heritage Tractor, instead of worrying about the new ownership and the changes that would come with it, he stayed.

My parents will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary on April 1 this year. It's a fun joke for April Fool's Day, but never once has my dad's loyalty to my mom and to his family wavered. Like other couples, they've faced their share of struggles with the changing economy and the addition of children, but through it all, they've remained a united front.

Three lessons that I've learned from my dad, and they're three lessons that this world needs. My dad is the kind of person this world needs more of. He may be retiring, but he's not done yet. Honestly, I've never been able to see my dad living up the retired life, and I don't think much will change. He'll still keep himself busy with the cows and the land. He'll still go to ballgames of younger relatives and family friends. But there's a little bit less on his shoulders now, and I can't think of anyone else who has earned that reprieve.

I call him a man's man as he's shimmying up the loader connected to the tractor to change the light in our yard light; I tell my mom he's a keeper after he's teased her mercilessly throughout an episode of *Jeopardy*; and I pray that I'll someday become half the person that my dad is.

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Few surprises as Cattle Contract Library pilot kicks off

The USDA Cattle Contracts Library pilot program kicked off with the first report on January 7. The program's intent is to enhance price transparency in the fed cattle trade as a provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022. Individual packing plant locations harvesting no less than 5% of the total U.S.-fed cattle supply annually are required by law to submit contract information. According to the USDA, the provision encompasses 18 packing

plant locations operated by four packing firms that represent a total of approximately 85% of the total fed cattle packing volume. In 2022 about 70% of fed cattle sales were reported as either formula or forward contract. A look at the weekly reports on record thus far reveals few surprises. Recent data shows that 75% of these contracts establish the base price through USDA reports, primarily the Nebraska, Kansas and

Texas/Oklahoma regional reports. Another 10% use CME contracts to establish the base price, with 9% negotiating the base and the final 4% using the top of the market as the base. Confidentiality requirements result in the sum of these percentages falling short of 100%. Of further interest, adjustments to the base price were applied to 70% of the contracts reported with the adjustment averaging \$1.23/cwt. Base price adjustments of this type are a well-known feature of the market. The bottom quarter value of these adjust-

ments was just \$0.50/cwt. and the top quartile average was \$2.00/cwt. applied to the base. Contract specifications may be the topic in the library previously least understood by the greater cattle-producing industry. The specification list is too lengthy to detail here but the majority of the specs are relative to carcass grading and other carcass traits. Leading off the list, unsurprisingly, was the "Quality" spec with 88.76% of contracts featuring that component. With no further detail included, we'll

assume "Quality Grade" is the measure this refers to. Further down the list ranked sixth for prevalence is "Branded" (for which we'd assume "branded beef program") with 49.44% of contracts including this spec. The Certified Angus Beef® brand is the only brand listed in the detailed premiums and discounts pricing information. While there are several styles of contracts represented in the library perhaps the take-home message is that there are fewer mysteries within the library than one may have

thought. Carcass outcomes are widely emphasized in the contract mix and quality is the largest driver of premiums and discounts. This is very similar to what we see in the grid marketing arrangements offered more openly to feedyards. There are many specification traits of importance, and it would be advantageous for cattlemen to take a closer look at the additional information. To access, go to <https://my-marketnews.ams.usda.gov/filerepo/reports> and type in the "Slug ID" number "3663."

Cheyenne Brunker earns Junior Silver Award

Cheyenne Brunker, Ottawa, has earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Silver award, according to Caitlyn Brandt, events and junior activities director of the American Angus Association® in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Brunker is the 13-year-old daughter of Charlie and Jessica Brunker and attends Baldwin Junior High School. She is a member of the NJAA and the Kansas Junior Angus Association.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Brunker participated in the quiz bowl contest and the 2021 and 2022 mentoring program.

The Silver award is the second level of the NJAA Recognition Program that began in 1972. Junior Angus breeders must apply for the award, then meet point requirements in many areas of participation before receiving the honor. Applicants are evaluated in areas of junior Angus association activities and leadership, participation in showmanship, contests and shows, using performance testing to improve their herd and their progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

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Dahmer named KSU livestock judging coach

Payton Dahmer has been announced as the new Instructor and Livestock Judging Coach for the Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry Department. Dahmer will assume the role this summer.

Dahmer received his associates degree from Butler Community College. During his time at Butler, he was member of the 2017 Livestock Judging Team, which was named "Team of the Year." He then attended K-State for his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate. During his judging career at K-State he was a member of the 2018 Reserve National Champion Livestock Judging Team and the 2018 National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Team.

During his collegiate judging career, he received honors of being a member of the 2017 All-American Junior College Team and the 2018 All-American Senior College Team. Additionally, Dahmer was recipient of the prestigious



F.W. Bell Award.

While receiving his master's degree, Dahmer served as the assistant coach and had the opportunity to assist in coaching the 2019 Reserve National Champion Livestock Judging Team and the 2020 National Champion Livestock Judging Team.

While working on his doctorate, he has managed the K-State Sheep and Meat Goat Center. Additionally, Dahmer helped teach the swine section of the ASI Undergraduate Research Program and Sheep and Goat Science.

"Payton is no stranger to our department; he joins our team with great knowl-

edge and leadership in the livestock judging arena," says Dr. Mike Day, K-State ASI department head. "We are excited to have his expertise continue the rich traditions of the livestock judging program and contribute to our ASI teaching and research programs."

With a broad research knowledge, Dahmer has extensive background in teaching and research within the department. He will be defending his doctorate this spring on "Nutritional and management strategies to improve beef and pork production efficiency."



Lakeview Lady C 2119 won grand champion female at the 2023 National Western Stock Show's Junior Angus Show, Jan. 12 in Denver, Colo. Cheyenne Brunker, Ottawa, owns the April 2021 daughter of KR Casino 6243. She earlier won junior champion. Dan Harker, Hope, Ind., evaluated the 78 entries.

Photo by Legacy Livestock Imaging



Molly McCurry, Hutchinson, showed the reserve grand champion predominantly black Angus steer at the 2023 Kansas Angus Futurity Junior Show, Jan. 21-22 in Hutchinson.

Photo by Jeff Mafi, American Angus Association

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Barn cameras save time and calves

By Heather Smith Thomas

Josh and Maggie Malson are part of Malson Angus and Herefords, near Parma, Idaho. A few years ago they purchased cameras to help monitor any activity in the barn.

"Even though our barn is not far away, I had to get up, get dressed and drive to the barn to check on any cows calving, but the cameras allow me to view images on my phone. I don't have to go to the barn unless there's a reason," Maggie explains.

"When we had the 'snowmageddon' in 2017, we had to put a lot of cows in the barn to calve," she says. "Usually our cattle calve out at pasture, but that year the weather was so bad, with so much snow, we put many of them in the barn. They needed watched a lot, and we could check on them with the cameras."

Maggie says they don't often put cows in the barn as they prefer being outside. But when there is a cow in the barn, the cameras allow her and other family members to see what's happening without disturbing the animal.

The cameras are mounted on different walls and rotate, so their direction can be changed with her phone. She can also zoom in on a certain view for a closer look.

"The cameras also have a microphone and sound," says Maggie. "I can hear if a cow is calving and gently mooing."

She considered having an outside camera also, but most of the cows calve farther away out in the pasture, she shares. "We don't need a camera as much on

the outside, but any time we have something in the barn, we can monitor and have eyes on them."

The cameras save a lot of time, and it's handy to see things a person might miss otherwise, like a calf coming backward, Maggie explains. "Using the app on my phone, I can zoom in on something like that, and get a closer view and have a better idea about a certain problem and whether we need to rush out there."

Many companies sell cameras, and it's easy to shop around to see what might best fit certain needs. The Malsons started with more of a home security camera, Maggie says. "Some companies make barn camera systems, but these security cameras were very affordable and gave us something to start with and try before we invested in a bigger system."

If a person isn't ready to make a big investment, starting with something similar that is inexpensive to see how the cameras work and what additional features may be needed is a good route, she says. "It may also depend on where you plan to put them. These are designed for indoors; they wouldn't withstand wet weather."

Maggie says she knows of other ranchers who use cameras outside of the barn for checking pens. The cameras are mounted on poles with a protective cover over the top of them.

"Some people have a TV in their house where images can be viewed, but we just have them on our phones," Maggie says. "It's a simple system, but has worked really well. Having barn cameras has definitely saved us time, peace of mind, animals and sleep."



Riverstone Vegas 49H won reserve grand champion bull at the 2023 National Western Stock Show's Super Point Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Show, Jan. 13 in Denver, Colo. Six Mile Ranch, Fir Mountain, Sask., Canada; Zane Ward, Abilene; and Coor Cattle, Greenfield, Ohio, own the January 2020 son of KR Casino 6243. He earlier won senior champion. Scott Bush, Britton, S.D., evaluated the 123 entries.

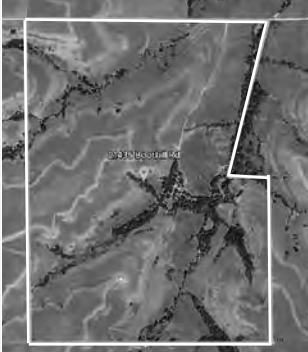
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Seven Day Forecast	In-Depth Local Forecast	Today's Local Outlook																																
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2/25	52/12	49/23	0.00"																															
2/26	62/25	49/24	0.41"																															
2/27	66/41	49/24	0.05"																															
2/28	64/33	50/24	0.00"																															
3/1	61/34	50/25	0.00"																															
3/2	44/30	51/25	0.00"																															

This Week's Sun & Moon Chart

Last	Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	First
3/14	Wednesday	6:39 a.m.	6:26 p.m.	7:46 p.m.	7:54 a.m.	3/28
	Thursday	6:37 a.m.	6:27 p.m.	8:48 p.m.	7:55 a.m.	
	Friday	6:36 a.m.	6:28 p.m.	9:52 p.m.	8:18 a.m.	
	Saturday	6:34 a.m.	6:29 p.m.	10:59 p.m.	8:43 a.m.	
	Sunday	7:32 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	Prev Day	10:12 a.m.	Full
	Monday	7:41 a.m.	7:31 p.m.	1:08 a.m.	10:47 a.m.	
	Tuesday	7:39 a.m.	7:32 p.m.	2:19 a.m.	11:31 a.m.	4/5

Local UV Index
 0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very High, 11+: Extreme Exposure

Weather History
 March 8, 1717 - On Fishers Island in Long Island Sound, 1,200 sheep were discovered to have been buried under a snow drift for four weeks. When finally uncovered, 100 sheep were still alive.

Growing Degree Days

Date	Degree Days	Date	Degree Days
2/24	0	2/28	0
2/25	0	3/1	0
2/26	0	3/2	0
2/27	-3		

2023 dicamba training resources available

By David Hallauer, Meadowlark District Extension Agent, crops and soils/horticulture

There are a couple of herbicides in Kansas requiring additional training beyond the private and/or commercial pesticide applicator licensing requirements. Paraquat (paraquat dichloride) is one. There's also the restricted use dicamba containing products Engenia, XtendiMax, or Tavium with VaporGrip, where we'll focus this week.

The labels of the aforementioned dicamba products outline annual training requirements. Even if trained previously, all applicators must complete dicamba or auxin-specific

training prior to purchase/use of these products in the 2023 growing season. Product labels state formulations are for retail sale to and use only by certified applicators. In Kansas, this means everyone purchasing/using these products has to obtain a private (application to agricultural lands owned or operated by individual) or commercial (applicators applying to other people's land for compensation) applicator license and complete the annual training requirements.

If you have been applying under someone else's license you will need to get your own if you are applying these products. If someone has been applying for you under your license, they, too must meet the requirements for application of the restricted use dicamba products, namely completion of an approved dicamba training and holding either a private or commercial applicator license. Training opportunities are available (in multiple formats) as follows:

BASF: <https://www.engeniaherbicide.com/training.html>

Bayer/Monsanto: <https://www.roundupreadyxtend.com/stewardship/Pages/default.aspx>

Syngenta: <https://www.syngenta-us.com/herbicides/tavium-application-stewardship>

NOTE: drop me a line at dhallaue@ksu.edu if you want web addresses e-mailed to you.

CLINE CATTLE CO. Spring Sale

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 | Manhattan, KS
 at the Manhattan Commission Co. | approximately 12 noon during the Special Stock Cow & Bred Heifer Sale

20 18-month-old Angus & SimAngus bulls
 Including sons of Connealy Concord, Connealy Gary, Montana Global, SAV Rainfall, SAV Renown, SAV Density, SVF Steel Force, W/C Executive Order and W/C Loaded Up. Developed slowly; athletic, sound and fertile.

15 Fancy fall-bred replacement Angus & SimAngus heifers
 All bred & pasture exposed to Sinclair Justified J575 for September & October calving

For the past 25 years, the Cline Cattle Co. program has been building upon proven foundation cow families to create sound, functional cattle with longevity and performance. Become one of our repeat customers!

The Cline Families
 Lance, Lynette, Lex, Lynelle & Leif Cline
 leccattle@gmail.com | 785-564-1744

Austin, Shenan, Dorothy & Carter Cline
 clinecattle@hotmail.com | 785-565-3246

Watch for updates on www.clinecattlecompany.com or on Facebook

View Catalog, Pictures and Videos
WWW.SUNFLOWERGENETICS.COM

MARCH 17 2023

K243 | 5/8 SM | CE 15 | WW 86 | API 174 | TI 95
 Gleason Family | Maple Hill, KS | Steve: (785) 640-8060
 Jake: (785) 640-8062 | Ben: (785) 640-9390 | Pat: (402) 209-4094

FERGUSON ANGUS BUILDING BETTER BEEF

33rd Annual Sale... Fourth Tuesday in March
March 28, 2023 - 100 Bulls Sell
 At the Ranch and Broadcast LIVE on DVAuction
 Call, Email or Text for a Sale Book
785-476-5345 • 785-533-1530 • FergusonAngus@Outlook.com

\$M 118
\$C 358
 Lot 17 by Surpass

\$M 103
\$C 323
 Lot 26 by Rawhide

\$M 111
\$C 315
 Lot 3 by Surpass

\$M 89
\$C 320
 Lot 20 by Rawhide

Lynn & Lori Ferguson
 Agra, KS
 785-476-5345

Sale Book is also available online at FergusonAngus.com

Brice & Vicki Korobka
 Phillipsburg, KS
 785-533-1530

Sell At St. Marys Tuesdays

Sell Or Buy **Cattle** By Auction **STARTING TIME 10:30 AM**

We sold 1371 cattle February 28. Steer and heifer calves were in good demand at prices steady to \$8.00 higher. Feeder steers and heifers were steady to \$7.00 higher. Cows and bulls sold \$3.00-5.00 higher.

STEER & BULL CALVES	15 blk str	632 @ 233.00	3 blk hfrs	365 @ 214.00	115 blk/char hfrs	792 @ 174.75	1 blk cow	1000 @ 95.00	BRED COWS & HEIFERS	
6 blk str	468 @ 266.00	3 blk str	615 @ 232.00	9 wf/bwf hfrs	341 @ 211.00	30 blk/red hfrs	1470 @ 94.00	3 blk heifers	@ 1575.00	
8 blk str	506 @ 261.00	30 blk/bwf str	662 @ 218.00	5 blk/char hfrs	439 @ 211.00	7 blk/wf hfrs	1475 @ 93.00	2 blk/red cows	@ 1025.00	
8 blk/bwf str	531 @ 251.00	9 wf str	591 @ 217.00	4 blk hfrs	440 @ 210.00	4 red/char hfrs	1115 @ 92.00			
2 blk str	463 @ 246.00	18 blk/char str	664 @ 213.00	18 wf hfrs	460 @ 209.00		1 blk cow	1445 @ 91.50	BULLS	
2 bwf str	388 @ 237.00	13 blk/bwf str	673 @ 209.50	7 blk/red hfrs	419 @ 208.00		1 blk cow	1355 @ 91.00	1 blk bull	1105 @ 131.00
7 blk/bwf str	506 @ 235.00	4 blk str	660 @ 208.00	3 blk/bwf hfrs	322 @ 207.00	COWS & HEIFERETTES	1 blk cow	1665 @ 90.50	1 blk bull	1130 @ 129.00
8 blk bulls	394 @ 235.00	3 blk/char str	665 @ 205.00	1 blk hfrt	475 @ 200.00	1 blk hfrt	1 sim cow	1585 @ 90.00	1 blk bull	2405 @ 121.00
5 blk/bwf bulls	484 @ 233.00	3 blk str	673 @ 203.50	1 blk hfr	500 @ 195.00	1 blk hfrt	1 sim cow	1455 @ 89.50	1 blk bull	1285 @ 117.00
2 blk str	450 @ 232.00	4 blk str	696 @ 200.00	2 blk hfrs	458 @ 190.00	1 blk hfrt	1 blk cow	1270 @ 89.00	1 blk bull	1670 @ 113.00
7 wf bulls	425 @ 231.00	28 wf str	696 @ 198.00	11 blk hfrs	566 @ 209.00	1 blk hfrt	1 blk cow	1255 @ 88.50	1 char bull	1135 @ 111.00
1 blk str	395 @ 229.00	4 blk str	758 @ 193.00	7 blk hfrs	566 @ 206.00	1 blk hfrt	1 bwf cow	1145 @ 87.00	1 blk bull	2145 @ 110.00
4 wf bulls	300 @ 229.00	62 blk/bwf str	816 @ 189.25	19 blk/bwf hfrs	598 @ 194.25	1 blk hfrt	1 blk cow	1435 @ 85.00	1 blk bull	1440 @ 108.00
5 blk str	530 @ 226.00	63 blk/bwf str	828 @ 187.25	3 blk hfrs	577 @ 192.00	1 blk hfrt	1 char cow	1110 @ 84.00	1 blk bull	1430 @ 98.00
1 bwf str	465 @ 225.00	64 mix str	844 @ 184.50	8 blk hfrs	587 @ 190.50	1 blk hfrt	1 bwf cow	1250 @ 83.00		
2 blk bulls	403 @ 225.00	8 blk/bwf str	834 @ 184.00	2 blk hfrs	625 @ 188.00	1 blk hfrt				
1 blk str	520 @ 224.00	18 wf str	776 @ 180.00	4 blk hfrs	625 @ 188.00	1 blk hfrt				
2 wf str	525 @ 221.00	44 blk/red str	828 @ 179.75	44 wf hfrs	648 @ 182.50	1 blk cow				
1 blk str	435 @ 215.00	61 blk/bwf str	902 @ 179.10	24 blk/bwf hfrs	646 @ 180.00	1 blk cow				
4 blk bulls	525 @ 211.00	59 blk/bwf str	919 @ 178.75	6 blk/red hfrs	693 @ 176.00	1 blk cow				
		57 mix str	887 @ 177.75	3 blk/bwf hfrs	640 @ 175.00	1 blk cow				
		61 mix str	917 @ 176.50							
		61 blk str	965 @ 174.25							
		HEIFER CALVES								
		1 red hfrs	225 @ 225.00							

STOCKER & FEEDER STEERS
 9 blk/bwf str 604 @ 239.50
 5 blk str 622 @ 234.50
 47 blk/bwf str 616 @ 233.50

WATCH OUR AUCTIONS LIVE ON DVAuctions.com

CONSIGNMENTS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023:
 • 40 blk char str, 500-600 lbs., weaned, vaccinated
 • 50 Angus str & hfrs, 650-750 lbs., weaned, vacc.
 • 35 blk str & hfrs, 550-650 lbs., weaned, vacc.
 • 80 blk str & hfrs, 500-700 lbs., weaned, vacc.
 • 62 blk steers, 850-875 lbs.
 • 60 blk steers, 925-950 lbs.

CONSIGNMENTS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023:
 • 100 Angus str & hfrs, 500-650 lbs., weaned, vacc.

Our CONSIGNMENTS can now be viewed after 12 Noon on Mondays by going to www.grassandgrain.com & logging onto the online subscription

FOR INFORMATION OR ESTIMATES:
 REZAC BARN ST. MARYS, 785-437-2785
 DENNIS REZAC ST. MARYS, 785-437-6349
 DENNIS' CELL PHONE 785-456-4187
 KENNETH REZAC ST. MARYS 785-458-9071

LELAND BAILEY TOPEKA, 785-215-1002
 LYNN REZAC ST. MARYS, 785-456-4943
 REX ARB MELVERN, 785-224-6765

Toll Free Number.....1-800-531-1676
 Website: www.rezaclivestock.com
 AUCTIONEERS: DENNIS REZAC & REX ARB

Rezac St. Marys, Ks.
 Livestock Commission Company, Inc.