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GRASS & GRAIN[®]

AGRICULTURE'S LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Published by AG PRESS

69th Year

No. 28

September 12, 2023

\$1.00



'Million-dollar' summer rains support cotton harvest

Editor's Note: This is the second installment of our 2023 Fall Harvest Series, sponsored by Santee Steel, Herrs Machine Hydrostatics, Kopper Kutter and Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission.

By Lucas Shivers

Cotton crops love Kansas heat, provided there is rain once in a while, said Rex Friesen, a consultant for Southern Kansas Cotton Growers.

Thankfully, a few well-timed summer rains supported a strong fall harvest this year.

"In early August, we had about an inch of rain, and it was ideal," Friesen said. "The heat this summer was perfect for cotton as well. Cotton adjusted to the million dollar rains you hear about. It revived the crop and made it grow great guns again."

Friesen said cotton has been in southern Kansas since the late 1800s and on a limited basis in the 1980s before returning again about 20 years ago.

"Right now, we're cautiously optimistic as the harvest could be terrific," Friesen said. "It all depends on the weather for the rest of the season. Today, our yield potential is quite a bit above average."

The Kansas Cotton Association (KCA) was chartered in 2003 by a group of ginners and producers to promote the crop and initiate a program of legislative affairs. The KCA membership includes producers, ginners, crushers and warehousemen.

Coming to Kansas

In 2000, Friesen moved to Winfield to support a scouting program to help Kansas growers since it was so new to many in the region.

"We scouted fields to help with knowing when to spray or offer practical advice," Friesen said.



Rex Friesen, a consultant for Southern Kansas Cotton Growers, shows a cotton field in full bloom.

Courtesy photos

"Since starting more than 23 years ago, I've been a resource person for growers and the general public. My primary objective is to help growers produce outstanding cotton."

Every year, producers' needs change a little bit each year. Producer numbers also vary quite significantly.

"This year we are working with 100-plus growers," Friesen said. "There are many more that have grown cotton before, but for various reasons are not this year."

Acres and producers are significantly affected by prices of the other commodities, and a number of other factors.

"Around here, corn was the big winner in acres this year as we have never seen so much!" Friesen said. "Cotton acres have been down the last couple of years, but I expect that will come back as circumstances continue to evolve."

Ideal Kansas Climate

Born and raised in central California but now a Kansan, Friesen grew up surrounded by agriculture and especially cotton, which is more rare there now with climate conditions.

"I got my feet in it early with my first summer job at a USDA cotton research station," Friesen said. "I've moved around a lot since then."

Friesen next worked with Extension services in southwest Texas. Now he primarily works with growers who gin their cotton with SKCG, having gins at Anthony and Winfield in south central Kansas.

"Coming from California, which is 100% irrigated, Kansas blows my mind because of the rainfall and the heat," Friesen said. "Our dryland yields in Kansas are phenomenal compared to most places. It's a sweet spot."

Producers start harvest typically in October and it can run into February.

"A normal year, if there is such a thing any more, will finish harvest in January, or so," Friesen said.

New equipment called baler strippers or pickers are the newest innovation. These technologies allow for a one-man operation to harvest and roll the cotton in big round bales to go to the gin.

"It used to be very different," Friesen said. "It took more equipment and people; but now we're rapidly moving away from that. We see some of the old machines, but it leaves a lot to be desired compared to the new equipment."

Transitioning to Cotton

Friesen said that it may be a risk to get started with cotton.

"In the early 2000s, we encouraged people to try it - and we still are!" Friesen said. "It's more management-intensive and the expenses are quite a bit up front."

Many producers spend more on cotton input costs than wheat harvest gross.

"It can be up to \$300-400 an acre with production and input costs, but it usually pays better due to the returns," Friesen said. "It's a whole different ball game."

Friesen's encouragement is to start small with 100-200 acres and let the consultants help them grow.

"It's not a plant and forget crop, but a consultant needs to help with bugs and weeds, or any other problem that may arise" Friesen said. "If you get a weedy field, it can make harvest difficult or impossible."

"Insect pests feed on the 'squares' (flower buds) or bolls and can knock them off or damage them if you're not careful. We need to catch weed and insect problems early and take prompt action - timeliness is crucial."



Bale strippers allow one operator to harvest and roll the cotton into big round bales ready to be taken to the gin.

Courtesy photos

Goats On The Go clean up problem areas

By Donna Sullivan, Editor

Clearing land of unwanted vegetation can be a challenge when the terrain is rough and uneven or prescribed burning doesn't fit into the landowner's management plan. In these cases, grazing by goats could be a viable option and Jessica Boeckman of Randolph has started a business to make that happen for area landowners.

She is an affiliate of Goats On The Go, founded in Ames, Iowa in 2012. According to their website, in 2016 they began to develop a family of independently owned-and-operated businesses that provide local targeted grazing service under the Goats On The Go® brand. Affiliates receive training and support from Goats On The Go's® founders.

Boeckman's territory covers from Washington and Marysville south to Herington and Council Grove, and from east of Manhattan to Abilene.

The targeted, intensive mob-grazing style of the goats allows them to efficiently clear a property of vegetation such as thistles, buckthorn, ragweed, poison ivy and sericea lespedeza, as well as brushy trees.

Boeckman says she



Goats are a good option for clearing land of unwanted vegetation, and Jessica Boeckman has become an affiliate of Goats On The Go to provide that service.

had been around sheep and goats all her life, but didn't have any of her own until her father passed away. She was going through the process of selling his goats and when she came down to the last ones, just couldn't bring herself to sell the last

twelve does and four doe-lings. "I bought a buck to breed them, then started thinking of other ways they could earn their keep," she said. "I came across Goats On The Go. It was a no-brainer to become an affiliate and get started goat grazing."

She now has 45 goats and typically puts 40 on a grazing site. To prepare the property for the goats, she sets up an electric net fence with a solar-powered fence. She has a 50-gallon water tank that she places on site and also puts out salt and mineral.

Because goats are sure-footed, they can

clean up areas that would be very hard to access with equipment. "Really, we're the limiting factor on where the goats can graze," she said. "If we can fence it, they can graze it. They're so agile and able to get up and down hills. The perfect solution to hard-to-get-to places."

Depending on the type and density of the vegetation, it takes the goats five to seven days to clean up an acre of property. Boeckman fences off smaller paddocks for the goats so they will clean up all the vegetation rather than picking and choosing the plants they like best.

While it's been a steep learning curve, Boeckman says she is really enjoying it. "I'm having a lot of fun with it," she stated. "The goats are fun to share with the property owners. Every place I've gone the property owners enjoy watching them and are sorry to see them go. A lot of people haven't been around livestock or goats so it gives them a chance to be part of it."

She hopes to expand next year and has plans to purchase more goats to allow her to do more jobs and bigger properties.

Later this month she has her first job inside of city limits, and she's looking forward to the opportunity to share her passion for her goats with people who may have little to no experience with livestock.

"I'll talk to anybody any time about my goats," Boeckman said. "That's the best part of it, getting to meet new people and share my goats and what they can do. It makes us all better stewards of what we have."

Boeckman can be reached at 785-293-2290.



Because of their sure-footedness and agility, goats can clean up areas that would be hard to reach by other means.

Courtesy photos



A Farm Dog's Life

By Kim Baldwin,
McPherson County farmer
and rancher

Late summer on our central Kansas farm has consisted of keeping our crops irrigated, checking cattle, working ground and the start of fall harvest.

Since the kids are back in school, my main focus has been monopolizing large tracks of uninterrupted time during the day working in our office while my husband is out and about checking fields,

switching water gates and running equipment.

In the mornings, my husband usually heads out in the side-by-side to check irrigation and switch water gates while I get the kids ready for school. During the summer mornings, he'd usually have one of the kids with him helping and keeping him company. Since school has started, my husband's main helper is now our farm dog, Rosie.

Rosie has a constant

known presence on our farm. Whether she's barking at mysterious creatures in the night, welcoming visitors to our home with dirty pawprints, dumping out trashcans or harassing the barn cats, we can't help but love that dog. Rosie is truly a gem of a farm dog and definitely takes all of her jobs very seriously.

When she was a puppy, we wired a plastic egg crate onto the front of the four-wheeler that she'd ride in while checking irrigation.

She would trot with pride behind her humans and remind us that she was ready to go to work as we'd pick her up and place her in her little crate. With her two little pups

propped up on the edge of her box, you'd see her nose pointed high sniffing the air and her ears blowing in the wind as my husband would zoom down irrigation roads.

When she no longer fit in her crate, she'd ride behind the driver. Something she still does to this day.

Rosie is a staple in the farm truck when my husband or I are driving. Wherever we go, Rosie generally goes as well. She's claimed the front passenger seat as her own and will begrudgingly make allowances for others to sit in her seat by scooting over to the middle and sitting right next to the driver only if the passenger will give her scratches behind her ears.

When we take the side-by-side out to check cattle, Rosie will only allow a passenger her seat if she can still either prop her front paws up onto the dashboard to get a full view of what's ahead of her or if she can lay underneath the passenger's legs and stick her head out the side of the UTV.

Rosie also rides in combines and tractors for hours with one of her humans. One might see her on the lookout for wildlife to bark at while properly sitting at attention in the buddy seat as the tractor makes a turn at the edge of the field.

While sitting in the buddy seat, she's also been known to place her paw on my husband's leg while he

drives a combine for hours keeping him company. When she needs a break, she'll just jump down to the floor and take a nap while enjoying the cold air coming from the vent.

She's entertainment, protection, motivation and a companion all balled up into one large ball of fur.

From checking the irrigation in the mornings to harvesting fall crops late into the night, our Rosie is living her best dog life this fall on the farm.

"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.

Rep. Bloom addresses effects of drought on region

By Rep. Lewis (Bill) Bloom

As all of us know, parts of Kansas are in a severe drought, as we are here. Most of our crops are already fried in the fields or are in the silo if you could get it put in there in time. What I have seen is if the lack of rain didn't get it, the hot winds dried out and killed the pollen on the tassels. The beans were hanging on amazingly well until last week and most of them threw in the towel, as well. The milo seems to be in the same boat.

Most of our ponds are dry and have been for some time. A lot of farmers and ranchers are hauling water and that is a time-consuming job. When the grass is this dry, it seems the cows drink twice as much.

We're all wondering where the feed is coming from this winter and at

what price. We have gotten our cow herd through the winter on grain, straw and molasses, but this year there has been very little straw, and most of the hay was used up last winter.

So, I've been trying to get the counties I represent (House District 64) put on the Farm Service Agency (FSA) drought disaster list. Believe it or not, we don't qualify. The problem is certain small parts of our counties got some big rainfalls while most of them did not. This spring we got 30/100ths of rain and six miles north got four inches and that messes up the government formula that determines whether or not we are a drought county. The formula is used out of the government offices in Lincoln, Nebraska for Kansas and determines your need by averaging your whole county as one unit,

not what got rain and what part of your county didn't. They told me it helps if you call them (Brian Fuchs) 402-472-6775 and let them know where you live and your circumstances. Or go to kansasdroughtmonitor@unl.edu. I have had no luck getting them on the phone. When you email them on their website, scroll down to the orange area and click on email. Be sure and do this, as the more emails they get, the more they will consider doing something.

The local county FSA has been great to work with and really knows what's going on. Go talk to them as they have some programs that might help.

I have also been in contact with Dennis McKinney, who is the state executive director of the USDA Farm Service Agency in Kansas. He is also a farmer in Kiowa and northern Comanche counties

and knows our situation as well. He has served in the House of Representatives and been our state treasurer, so understands our situation and how the government works and is trying to help.

I called Senator Marshall's office, and they offered their help as well. We all need to call and talk to their farm staff.

I had the good fortune of being invited to the General's Summer BBQ at Ft. Riley, and Senator Moran was there. He knew instantly what I was talking about, knew the formula and said in a lot of years it

doesn't work. He is going to work on it and see if we can't get something changed, so it works for all farmers.

The average age of the American farmer is 57. Most of us older farmers who are not highly leveraged will be okay. The young farmers will be hurt the most and there's not many of them. If we lose them, we lose our food supply and there can be nothing more serious than depending on someone else for our food. A lot of their expenses are out of their control. Skyrocketing prices on fertilizer, machinery,

property taxes, inflation, and interest rates going up are enough to do them in.

If you are looking for emergency loans or information contact: Jared Cullop - Beginning Farmer Coordinator at the State FSA Office 785-564-4740 or Emily Allen - Farm Loan Manager - Washington County USDA Service Center.

So call and email the drought monitor group, our state and federal representatives and senators and see if we can get something changed this year and not wait until it is too late.

KSDE can connect ranchers with schools to provide beef

The Agricultural Marketing Service has provided the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) more than \$2 million to purchase local foods for school meal pro-

grams. Through the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS), KSDE can buy local, unprocessed or minimally processed meats for schools to serve through

the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs.

For the LFS program, local is defined as within 400 miles of the school or within the state of Kansas. Unprocessed or minimally processed meats generally are understood to need preparation beyond heating and do not come precooked or ready to eat. Funds cannot be used for processing fees unless they are included in the final product cost. Funds can be used until January 31, 2024.

If a Kansas beef producer is interested in establishing a connection with their local school to provide beef, KSDE recommends reaching out directly to the authorized representative at the school. For a list of representatives for schools, visit https://datacentral.ksde.org/nutrition_reports.aspx and select School Nutrition Program: Contacts as the report. The program year should be "2022-23" and the contact type is "authorized representative."

For questions, contact Farm to Plate Project Coordinator Eryn Davis at edavis@ksde.org or (785) 296-5060.



I used to think that those of us in agriculture were averse to change. I am not sure about any of you, but I am a creature of habit, and it is hard for me to deal with any changes in my day-to-day life. I don't handle doing chores differently or even my daily routines for that manner. Every morning I get up and drink two cups of coffee, watch the news and gather my thoughts before I head out the door. Mess that up and I am a wreck for the rest of the day. In the evening I need some time in my recliner, maybe a little reading and the weather on the news or I have trouble going to sleep. I can't be the only one like that.

Recently I was interviewed about agriculture and some of the changes that I had seen during my career. I really don't think of myself as a grizzled veteran farmer but then I thought about how long I had been at it. That was rather humbling. However, in the grand scheme of things my career does not cover that much history and yet I have seen a tremendous amount of change in that short span. That got me to wondering just how change-adverse we really are.

In the period of thirty to forty years we have seen tillage go from plowing everything under to no-till. I don't know what the exact percentages are, but it sure seems like no-till has become the norm and not the exception. Now cover crops have gone from a novel idea ten to fifteen years ago to something that is becoming more and more of a regular practice. I know those time frames don't sound fast but when you think of it in the context of one crop a year, it is very fast.

Then throw in the precision farming and auto guidance systems; the advance of technology has jumped on us in a big hurry. In the livestock side of the business, we know more about genetics and nutrition than ever and most of that has come about in the last decade. I would submit that those of us who farm and ranch are rather good at the change thing. Well, we are in business anyway.

This same interviewer asked me if this was in response to climate change at all. My answer was no. This change was because it was the right thing to do and not a response to anyone or anything. When

we are presented with new technologies and ways of producing food, we do a really good job of adopting it. Sure, it might be a little slow in the beginning, but we are all looking to produce food faster, better, cheaper, using less inputs all while protecting the air, soil, and water around us. I do what I do because I want to pass my farm on to the next generation and I want it to be better than I got it.

Change is one of those things that seems slow but if you step back and look it actually happens at a rapid pace. I think we are also seeing changes happen faster than they used to and that is all technology. Who would have ever guessed that most of us would carry a so-called phone in our pockets that is more powerful than any computer we had ten years ago? Who would have ever guessed we could look things up, basically out of thin air, from anywhere? We have cars and trucks that will back up without us touching the wheel, navigate us to our destination and brake for us when we aren't paying attention. The whole world is about change.

It's tough for the technology-challenged, like me, to adopt and adapt to rapid changes. I am fortunate that I have children who can help me navigate new technologies like being able to project pictures from my phone onto the TV. I struggled with that one for thirty minutes until a call to Isaac made it happen in less than a minute. There are changes I am reluctant to accept, like paying for things from my phone.

I really don't want to have my wallet, my phone, and my computer all in one. I do have a problem with misplacing items, and I don't want to lose everything in one fell swoop. I also like to be able to see and touch my money, if I have to physically part with it, I am a little slower about spending it. We will see how long it take for me to make those changes, but it will probably be swifter than I think or like.

Change is hard, there are no two ways around it. I am the guy who trips over the furniture for a month after we rearrange things. Change is necessary and good, but in the end, that doesn't mean it's easy.



Harvester Ant



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Published by AG PRESS

785-539-7558
Fax 785-539-2679
Editor/Publisher Donna Sullivan
gandgeditor@agpress.com

— Advertising Staff —
Briana McKay
briana@agpress.com
Luisa Honeywell
luisa@agpress.com

GRASS & GRAIN (USPS 937-880)
The newsweekly for Kansas and southern Nebraska, published each Tuesday at 1531 Yuma (Box 1009), Manhattan, KS by Ag Press, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Manhattan, Kansas and additional offices. Postmaster send address changes to: Ag Press, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505.

Subscription — \$80 for 2 years. \$43 for 1 year, plus applicable sales tax. Outside Kansas, \$53 for 1 year, \$99 for 2 years.

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Farmer sentiment dips amid weaker view of current conditions

Producer sentiment was notably lower in August, as the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer index dipped eight points to a reading of 115. This month's decline was fueled by producers' weaker perception of current conditions both on their farms and in U.S. agriculture. The Index of Current Conditions fell 13 points to a reading of 108. The Index of Future Expectations also declined five points in August to a reading of 119. Last month's Ag Economy Barometer survey was conducted from August 14-18.

"Rising interest rates and concerns about high input prices continue to put downward pressure on producer sentiment," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture. "This month over half (60%) of the producers we surveyed said they expect interest rates to rise in the upcoming year."

When asked about their top concerns for their farming operations in the next 12 months, producers continue to point to higher input prices (34% of respondents) and rising interest rates (24% of respondents). Even though crop prices weakened significantly this summer, only one in five producers (20% of respondents) chose declining commodity prices as one of their top concerns.

Comparing feedstuffs for livestock

Feed prices are constantly changing. One may be more economical now, but not the best option at another time. All producers should know how to compare feed costs and balance least-cost rations. Feedstuffs are priced according to different units of measure: bushels, tons, or bales. Bales come in varying sizes and densities, so, the first step is to convert prices to the same unit, usually pounds or tons. Barley that sells for \$3/bushel is \$0.06/pound. A hay bale weighing 40 pounds, costing \$5 is 12.5 cents/pound. Lighter bales will increase the per-pound cost of the hay.

Livestock feed rations are balanced on a "dry matter" basis. However, feedstuffs are priced "as-is," meaning that a portion of the feedstuff's weight is moisture. Because the dry matter content of feedstuffs can vary significantly, prices must be converted to a dry matter basis. This is especially important when comparing dry feeds like hay or grain with high moisture options like silage or haylage.

Livestock does not require certain feedstuffs; they require nutrients (protein, energy, minerals, and vitamins) in specified amounts. Feedstuffs vary considerably in the amount of protein, energy, and other nutrients that they contain. For this rea-

son, the cost of providing a certain nutrient is the basis on which feedstuffs are compared.

To determine the cost of a nutrient, divide the feed's dry matter cost by the percent nutrient in the feed. Continuing with our barley example, the energy costs \$0.085/pound whereas the cost of energy in alfalfa hay is \$0.25/pound. While grains have fairly consistent nutrient levels, forages and by-product feeds can vary drastically. In order to compare the cost of nutrients of some feedstuffs, you should have them analyzed to determine their nutritional content. For example, the protein in alfalfa hay can vary from 10 percent to more than 20 percent. Cost is not the only factor to consider when evaluating feedstuffs. There may be limitations as to how much of a feedstuff can be fed. Corn silage is a very economical source of nutrients, but a high-producing

animal may not be able to eat enough of it to meet nutritional requirements.

Feedstuffs are combined to create a ration that is nutritionally balanced. Care must be taken not to create dangerous imbalances. Some feedstuffs contain high levels of certain minerals, like dried distiller's grain and sulfur. Sulfur binds with copper and limits its absorption. Feed cost also has to include delivery charges and waste. Some feeds have practically no waste, whereas others can have quite a lot. Feeding and storage methods have the largest effect on waste. Delivery charges are tacked on when feed is delivered to the grain bin by the feed supplier. If the ranch is hauling the feed, fuel is still a charge.

For more information, contact Wendie Powell, Livestock Production Agent, (620) 784-5337, wendiepowell@ksu.edu.

reading of 37. Increasing prices for farm machinery and new construction along with rising interest rates continue to be the two most commonly cited reasons for their negative view. Meanwhile, producers' rating of farm financial conditions changed little in August, as the Farm Financial Conditions Index declined just one point to a reading of 86.

Despite increasing concerns about rising interest rates, producers remain cautiously optimistic about farmland values. The Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index rose one point to 126, while the long-term index was unchanged at a reading of 151. About four out of 10 (39%) respondents said they expect farmland values to rise over the next year, while 13% said they look for values to decline in the next year. When asked about their longer-term view of farmland values, more than six out of ten (63%) respondents said they expect values to rise over the next five years, while 12% said they expect values to fall.

To better understand the usage of carbon contracts in row-crop agriculture, corn and soybean growers were asked about the types of conversations they have had with those companies. In the August survey, 6% of corn and soybean growers said they have engaged in discussions with companies about receiving payments to capture carbon on their farms, while just 2% said they had signed a carbon contract. Nearly half (47%) of the farms who discussed contract terms with a company said they were offered a payment rate of \$10 to \$20 per metric ton of carbon captured. Among the farms who engaged in discussions but chose not to sign a carbon contract, half said it was because the payment level was too low.

Read the full Ag Economy Barometer report at <https://purdue.ag/agbarometer>. The site also offers additional resources – such as past reports, charts and survey methodology – and a form to sign up for monthly barometer email updates and webinars.

Each month, the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture provides a short video analysis of the barometer results, available at <https://purdue.ag/barometervideo>. For more information, check out the Purdue Commercial AgCast podcast available at <https://purdue.ag/agcast>, which includes a detailed breakdown of each month's barometer and a discussion of recent agricultural news that affects farmers.

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Winner Grace Demars, Glasco:
PINEAPPLE UPSIDE-DOWN CAKE

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 20-ounce can pineapple slices, drained
- 9 maraschino cherries
- 1 1/3 cups flour
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Melt the 2 tablespoons butter in a 9-by-9-inch round cake pan. Stir in brown sugar and 1 tablespoon water. Arrange pineapple and cherries in the pan. Set aside. In a medium bowl, stir together flour, sugar and baking powder. Add milk, the 1/4 cup butter, egg and vanilla. Beat with an electric mixer on low speed until combined. Beat on medium speed for 1 minute. Spoon batter over fruit in the prepared pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted near corners comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack for 5 minutes. Loosen cake from pan; invert onto a plate. Serve warm.

Janet Jehle, Baldwin City:

QUICK & EASY PEACH COBBLER

- Filling:
- 4 cups peeled & sliced peaches
 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 1 tablespoon baking mix
 - 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Combine all filling ingredients and spoon into a 1-quart casserole dish.

- Topping:
- 2/3 cup baking mix
 - 2 tablespoons firmly packed brown sugar
 - 2 tablespoons milk (optional)
 - 1/4 cup butter

In the same bowl you used above, mix baking mix and brown sugar. Cut in butter until mixture is the size of small peas. If desired, stir in milk until moistened. Spoon topping over peaches. Bake at 400 degrees for 30 minutes or until topping is slightly brown.

NOTE: Nectarines or apples may also be used.

Noah Demars, Glasco:
ZUCCHINI BREAD

- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Beat eggs. Add oil, sugar, grated zucchini and vanilla. Cream. Sift dry ingredients together and mix with wet ingredients. Bake in a greased loaf pan at 325 degrees for 1 hour. Makes 2 loaves.

Kellee George, Shawnee:
CUCUMBER SALSA

- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
 - 1 teaspoon ground cumin
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 2 medium cucumbers, peeled, seeded & coarsely shredded
- Mix all ingredients together and refrigerate.

Bethany Demars, Glasco: "This is the recipe that I used for the Cloud County Fair, and one that I enjoy."

RED VELVET CAKE
Bethany Demars
Miltonvale Hustlers

- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/4 cup red food coloring
- 2 1/4 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup sour milk (1 teaspoon vinegar to 1 cup milk)
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon vinegar

Allow eggs to stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, grease a 9-by-13-inch cake pan. Stir together cocoa powder and food coloring; set aside. In another small bowl, stir together flour and 1/2 teaspoon salt; set aside. In a large mixing bowl beat shortening with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Add sugar and vanilla to shortening; beat until well combined. Add eggs one at a time, beating after each addition until combined. Beat in cocoa mixture. Alternately add flour mixture and sour milk, beating on low to medium speed after each addition until just combined. Stir together baking soda and vinegar. Add into batter, mixing until combined. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 30-35 minutes, or until a wooden toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Cool cake in pan for 10 minutes. Remove cake from pan and cool thoroughly.

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:
EGGPLANT DIP

- 1 medium eggplant

- 1 small onion, cut into fourths
 - 1 clove garlic
 - 1/4 cup lemon juice
 - 1 tablespoon olive oil
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- Heat oven to 400 degrees. Prick eggplant 3 or 4 times with fork. Bake 40 minutes or until tender. Cool. Peel and cut into cubes. Place all ingredients into blender. Cover and blend on high speed until smooth. Serve with vegetables or crackers. Makes 2 cups.

Jackie Doud, Topeka:
ZUCCHINI PATTIES

- 4 shredded zucchini
- 2/3 cup flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Mix all ingredients together. Make into patties. Fry in oil until brown on each side and done.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
PLUM PRESERVES

- 4 cups sliced plums
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 stick cinnamon
- 1 small lemon, cut lengthwise into fourths then into paper thin slices

Mix all ingredients together in a 3-quart saucepan. Heat to boiling over medium heat. Stir often until sugar is dissolved. Boil uncovered about 35 minutes, stirring often until mixture thickens. Remove cinnamon stick. Let cool. Pour into containers and freeze. Refrigerate a container to thaw and use.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:
CORN SALSA

- 1/4 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/4 cup sliced green onion
- 2 tablespoons white vinegar
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 16-ounce can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 jalapeno, seeded & finely chopped
- 4-ounce can green chiles, undrained

Mix all ingredients. Cover and refrigerate about 4 hours or until chilled.



Pandemic Of Kindness

By Lou Ann Thomas

My age odometer recently rolled over and this year I had only one wish for my birthday. Kindness.

The desire for more kindness was brought to the top of my attention after a very uncomfortable conversation a week before my birthday. This conversation began with my conversant saying rude and insulting things about me under her breath, however always making sure she was loud enough that I could hear what she was saying. It ended with me vowing I would never do THAT again. But after I took some deep breaths and grounded myself, I realized the gift of this encounter was seeing that I too can be harsh and have an edge to my comments. I don't call people names and make fun of them under my breath, rather I say what I'm thinking right out loud, without regard for whether it is kind or not. I blame this sharp edge on the excessive heat and Vladimir Putin. But, regardless of the temperature or brutal autocrats in the world, my behavior is my responsibility and I always regret when I have been less than kind. Whether I am the one lacking in kindness or it is someone treating me thoughtlessly, I immediately desire more kindness from us both.

Kindness, defined as the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate, is such an easy thing to give. It's simple, free and doesn't require a lot from us. A smile, holding a door for someone, complementing someone, sending a note, making that phone call are all acts of kindness. It seems silly that we aren't all doing these things continuously.

Being kind is a valuable practice for us all

because it shifts our perspective and allows us to see others as human beings like us. In addition to building understanding and breaking down barriers, kindness increases our confidence and lifts our mood. It even lifts the mood of those who witness kind acts. Research indicates that simply seeing an act of kindness gives others a lift and encourages them to be more kind.

There other physical benefits derived from acts of kindness. These include the lowering of the stress hormone cortisol, which helps create a calmer mental state, as well as helps to control blood sugar and diabetes. Kindness can also lower blood pressure, positively influence the immune system and reduce inflammation.

Because kindness is so contagious one kind act can change the world. In fact, it can save a life. You hold the door open for someone with their arms full of packages. Later that day, Package Sherpa helps someone pick up their keys. A few hours later Mr. Dropsy crosses paths with a young boy who is having a terrible, awful day and feels alone and unseen. Dropsy makes eye contact and offers a big, warm smile and Junior feels uplifted and acknowledged. Junior's so energized that when he gets home, he cleans the garage for his father. Proud Poppa is so touched by this generous act that he voluntarily does all the dinner dishes that evening. And we all know, no man has ever been shot while doing dishes. Your kind act resulted in a life saved.

That's why my wish is that the next pandemic will be a deluge of kindness.

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

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September Is National Fruits And Veggies Month Summer's Bounty Helps To Make Eating Healthy Easy

K-State Research and Extension news service
MANHATTAN – It's not really a coincidence that the Produce for Better Health Foundation recognizes September as National Fruits and Veggies month in the United States.

Summer is filled with colorful fruits and vegetables, from watermelon to melons, tomatoes to greens, and many more. It's the season to indulge in foods that are tasty and good for you, too.

"There are many reasons to include fruits and vegetables every day in a meal or snack," said Kansas State University food scientist Karen Blakeslee. "The fiber in produce helps keep you full, helps improve digestion and helps reduce risks and effects of several diseases such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and more."

Many fruits and vegetables are packed with vitamins and minerals that our bodies can't produce on their own, said Blakeslee, who recommends filling half of your plate during meals with fruits and vegetables.

"By consuming more fruits and vegetables, you lower calorie intake, reduce weight gain and reduce the intake of high-calorie foods," she said. "Whether they are fresh, frozen, canned or dried, fruits and vegetables can

be consumed year-round."

In fact, with many garden foods reaching harvest, it's a perfect time to preserve fresh produce. Blakeslee said freezing is easy and doesn't take a lot of equipment; many foods can be frozen, though some – such as lettuce – do not freeze well.

"Canning and pickling are great options to reduce food waste," Blakeslee said.

In a monthly newsletter she publishes in her role as coordinator of K-State's Rapid Response Center for food science, Blakeslee suggests trying something new: Watermelon Rind Pickles.

"After enjoying the juicy watermelon fruit, save the rinds and turn them into a unique pickle," she said. "Always follow tested recipes and instructions for best safety and quality for all food preservation methods."

National Fruits and Veggies month also comes with a reminder to cut food waste in the United States. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that nearly 40% of food waste occurs at home.

"When shopping, plan meals and snacks to be a better shopper," Blakeslee said. "Before going to the store, shop your kitchen first. Incorporate what you already have into menus. Know your schedule and family likes to be sure fresh produce is used be-

fore it gets wasted."

Other tips for reducing food waste include:

* Add perishable foods to a casserole, salad or soup.

* Freeze fresh produce to use later.

* Don't buy in bulk if it's not an item you can use quickly.

* Prepare fresh produce so that it's easy to grab and go for easy snacks.

* If food is spoiled, consider composting if you have space available.

More information on incorporating fruits and vegetables into your daily diet plan – not just in September – is available from several sources, including:

K-State Research and Extension food, Nutrition, Dietetics and Health: ksu.edu/humannutrition.

Produce for a Better Health Foundation: <https://fruitsandveggies.org>

USDA MyPlate: <https://www.myplate.gov/eat-healthy/what-is-myplate>

Links used in this story: You Asked It! monthly newsletter, <https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/newsletter>

Rapid Response Center for food science, <https://www.rrc.k-state.edu>

Watermelon Rind Pickles (recipe), https://nchfp.uga.edu/how/can_06/watermelon_rind.html

Food preservation (K-State Rapid Response Center), <https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/preservation/index.html>

Less Is More: Time To Divide And Conquer Perennials

Linda Geist, Writer
University of Missouri Extension

COLUMBIA, Mo. – "Some perennials can suffer from too much of a good thing," said University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein.

As it grows, year after year, a perennial's growth clump, or crown, gets so big the plant begins to compete with itself for light, water and nutrients. Eventually this self-struggle leads to fewer and less showy flowers.

Rejuvenating tired, overgrown perennials simply involves dividing the clump. "Take a sharp spade and go right down the middle," Trinklein said.

Once the clump is cut in two, remove half, taking as many roots as possible with it. Fill the resulting hole with good garden soil. Now the original plant will increase root growth over the winter and be ready for bloom in the spring, Trinklein said. Plant the other half as is or divide it further into quarters or eighths and share the wealth.

"Very few plant people will throw a plant away," Trinklein added. "They will use that portion of the perennial removed to expand their garden or give it to friends and neighbors."

Dividing and re-planting may sound like a

spring chore. "Not so," he said.

"We rejuvenate most perennials beginning just after Labor Day to avoid summer heat and water stress," he said. "Because the divided plant has suffered some root damage, it needs time to reestablish its root system."

There's a tendency to judge the growing season by the vegetative growth above the ground. But root growth continues much later into the season.

"Roots cannot tell length of day or night," Trinklein said. "As long as the soil temperature is relatively warm, roots will continue to grow."

Dividing is not a necessity for all perennials. Peonies are a good example of a species that doesn't like to be disturbed. Perennials that lend themselves well to division include iris, daylily, hosta, black-eyed

Susan and purple coneflower.

There is one caveat, however.

Whether you're re-establishing plants from the new divisions or trying to encourage new growth from the remaining part of the plant, avoid adding fertilizer during the fall, Trinklein said. Fertilizer stimulates vegetative growth, which can put the plant at risk if there's a severely cold winter.

"Wait and apply fertilizer whenever the plants break dormancy the following spring," Trinklein said. "That's the time to fertilize most garden perennials."

For more information, the MU Extension publication "Flowering Perennials: Characteristics and Culture" is available free online at <https://extension.missouri.edu/g6650>.

Source: David Trinklein, 573-882-9631

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By
Kelsey
Pagel

Miss Tilly

Since last time, we have indeed started fall calving. It feels as though I've been doing twice-a-day checks for months, when really it's been less than two weeks. They are getting off to a really slow start, but I'm starting to expect at least one new one in each pasture at every check.

It didn't take long to get a bucket calf from fall calving. Cows can be so incredibly smart, but also so frustrating too. This cow calved right along the only ditch in their paddock. She had a live calf with her that had nursed. I tagged the calf and moved on through the pasture. I was headed back to the pickup when I thought maybe I should just go check the ditch, just in case there was another one. I turned off the four-wheeler and tried looking in the ditch. Sure enough, I hear a pathetic little bawl from the bottom. I got her pushed out of the ditch, loaded onto the four-wheeler, hauled across the pasture to the pickup, in the pickup and hauled home for her supper.

Babies are so resilient. It's amazing to me how



fast she has figured out that I'm temporary mom, where her shade is in her pen, and how to eat from a bottle. Both twins were heifers. Growing up, my sisters and I always wanted bottle calves that could be kept. Some of our best cows came from our bottle calves. I know a lot of people think they don't grow up to be anything, but they are the best. I'm not great at naming, so turned to my social media and little twin was overwhelmingly voted to be Miss Tilly when given the choice of Ember, Fall or Tilly. I'm positive she won't remain a bottle calf for long. Somewhere along the line, we will lose one, and Miss Tilly will be adopted by a bovine momma.

I'm reluctant to say, but I think by the time I write another of these columns, we will be in the field harvesting. Harvest is fun for all of an hour. Then I'm over it. There is SO much prep work that Matt puts in to helping harvest go smoothly. The hours and hours and hours he spends working on the equipment, preparing the bins, checking which field is ready first, excitedly asking me every single day if I think we can start yet, is what he lives for.

Somebody once told me that Matt is such a rancher, implying he loved the cattle side of the operation more. That is absolutely malarkey. He is a farmer, and I'm a rancher. I would be fine with being a farmer, if we didn't have cows. I could be fine with the hours and hours put into planting, harvesting, equipment maintenance, etc., if I only I didn't have to be worrying about if the cows were calving while I was running the combine or what crops they could be getting in to all summer or having the mornings while he was

servicing the equipment to do the things that get pushed back during harvest like quality meals, yoga and reflection time, house cleaning, laundry, etc.

But when it's go time during harvest, it's go time. I do the bare minimum to keep the cows taken care of and give up on a having a sink that's not full of dishes so that combine can be rolling as many hours as it can. According to the people that keep track of the weather and old wives' tales, it's supposed to be a wet harvest season. As we're sitting at a temp of 97 degrees today, a little rain sounds quite refreshing, but we all know what a farmer can be like when harvesting cannot be done when it needs to be done.

Be kind to the people around you. I know harvest is important and it's necessary to be rolling when you can be, but understand that people are important too. I'm not asking you to stop progress, simply asking you to think about what you can do before, during and after for the people in your life that you rely on to make harvest what it is. Breakdowns will happen. Yelling and cursing will not fix it. Duct tape or baling wire, maybe. Yelling, no. I beg of you to remember to offer grace and patience in the moments when you least want to. Happy harvesting and calving!

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 @team-pagel.

You may email Kelsey your comments at kelsey-pagel13@gmail.com

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Proper corn harvest timing requires patience and balance

Properly timing corn harvest is a critical crop management decision. While an early harvest can reduce field losses, drying costs can increase. Likewise, harvesting later reduces drying costs but may result in decreased crop quality and reduced yield.

Determining the right time to harvest each field can be difficult. Competing field demands and weather play important roles in harvest timing. Choosing where to start is often difficult as weather and grain moisture levels quickly alter carefully laid plans.

"If you haven't been out scouting in your fields yet, right before drydown is a good time," said Pioneer field agronomist Crystal Williams. "While it won't tell you the full yield story, it can help prioritize fields for harvest."

Grain moisture levels at harvest affect grain quality, as well as the time and cost required to dry the grain. Wet grain can incur damage during combining, handling and drying.

If grain quality is significantly reduced during harvest and drying, dockage may result, and grain losses

can occur.

University of Minnesota Extension corn agronomist Jeff Coulter recommends a guideline of 24% to 25% grain moisture to begin harvest, noting today's farmers have the logistics for handling and drying corn.

Achieving this requires close monitoring of crop conditions during drydown. Timing corn harvest to maximize profitability means striking a balance between maximizing bushels harvested and minimizing drying costs.

Corteva Agriscience launches new fungicide with best-in-class white mold protection for soybeans

Corteva Agriscience has announced the expansion of its U.S. fungicide portfolio with the launch of Viatude™ fungicide, a new solution for farmers from northern U.S. soybean-producing states to help protect their soybeans from white mold disease.

"White mold is one of the most significant crop diseases soybean farmers in that northern geography deal with – it causes millions of dollars in

yield loss every year," said Clark Smith, U.S. fungicides product manager, Corteva Agriscience. "Viatude fungicide is a new crop protection tool that will provide best-in-class protection against white mold in soybeans, and help prevent yield loss and protect profitability."

Viatude fungicide contains two effective modes of action on white mold in a convenient, all-in-one premix. Viatude

fungicide has the same proven disease control and performance of Onmira™ active found in Aproach® fungicide that farmers have come to rely on, plus prothioconazole for added white mold protection and strong plant health.

Viatude fungicide offers preventive and curative action on white mold to reduce disease infection. Smith said the superior protection in Viatude fungicide leads to vigor-

ous soybeans throughout the year.

"Viatude fungicide provides complete plant coverage with its rapid absorption and translocation. The four movement properties found in Viatude fungicide quickly surround, penetrate and protect leaves and stems," Smith explained. "This strong plant health helps farmers achieve higher yield potential at harvest."

According to Smith,

farmers can pair Viatude fungicide with Aproach fungicide in a two-pass system for even stronger plant health throughout the year. A program approach with two fungicide passes, along with other Integrated Pest Management practices, can help prevent disease resistance from developing.

Viatude fungicide received federal regulatory approval in late 2022. Several key northern soybean-producing states

have also approved the new solution. Viatude fungicide is also labeled for use in canola. A limited supply of Viatude fungicide is available this year for farmers in northern U.S. soybean states, with additional supply anticipated for 2024 in the same geographies.

Visit Corteva.us/Viatude to learn more about the best-in-class white mold protection of Viatude fungicide.

Rising U.S. corn yields boost production without additional land

By Krista Swanson

Remarkable growth in corn yields has boosted corn productivity in the United States over the past century. While corn

production has risen, the land used to grow corn has not. United States farmers planted an estimated 94.1 million acres of corn in 2023, the highest level

since 2013.

Despite status as the highest acreage of this decade, it falls short of the more than 100 million acres of corn farm-

ers planted a century ago. In the past decade, U.S. corn production is over six times production of the 1930s with fewer corn acres.

Corn Yields

Throughout the 1930s the average U.S. corn yield was 24.2 bushels per acre, grown on an average of 102.2 million acres for an average production of two billion bushels of corn. In contrast, the 2010s brought an average U.S. corn yield of 161.5 bushels per acre, grown on an average of 91.4 million acres for an average production of 13.5 billion bushels of corn. In the decades between, yield grew steadily. On average, the annual increase in corn yield has been 1.8 bushels per acre, per year.

Factors in corn yield growth over the past century are advancements in genetics and plant breeding that led to the development of better hybrids and parent lines of corn and improved agronomic farm management and soil fertility. Later, genetic engineering led to commercial introduction of traits in corn hybrids by the mid-1990s and continued expansion in genetic technology.

Growth in corn yields is expected to continue. Over the next decade USDA long-term projections indicate a two bushel-per-

acre increase each year through 2032.

Corn Acres

United States farmers planted an estimated 94.1 million acres of corn in 2023, the highest level since 2013. Despite status as the highest acreage of this decade, it is less than the over 100 million acres U.S. farmers planted to corn several years in the 1930s.

Although acres used to grow corn today are lower than a century ago, corn planted acres dipped for a period in the decades between. From the 1960s through the 1990s, the decade average corn planted area was below 80 million acres. In this period, growing yields resulted in corn production that continued to climb over time despite lower acres. When renewable fuel targets were put into place in 2006, demand for ethanol grew spurring an initial increase in corn acres that quickly leveled and has remained constant in a relatively narrow range below the earlier historical high points since then.

Further reduction and stabilization of corn acres is expected to continue. Over the next decade USDA long-term projections indicate a settle at 81.1 million corn acres.

Utilizing Corn's Productivity in The Future

In the years from 1933 to 2022, corn production increased more than 600%.

The remarkable growth in corn production is powered by rising yields on less land. Over the next decade, growth in corn production is expected to continue while land area for corn drops from today's levels to 89 million acres as yields continue to rise.

What if we could harness the future productivity of corn on today's acres, as opposed to the lower projected acreage? Consider an example where corn area in 2032 is the same as estimated for 2023; instead of 89 million planted acres there would be 94.1 million corn planted acres and 86.3 million corn harvested acres. With the growth in trend yield, that would result in corn production in 2032 that is more than one billion bushels greater than the current USDA projection for that year without increasing land for current lands. That could translate to approximately three billion additional bushels of ethanol under current conversion capabilities.

The continued growth potential for corn productivity in the future makes corn an ideal and environmentally friendly feedstock for biofuels and sustainable aviation fuel without using more land or taking supply away from feed needs for livestock and other valued users of corn.



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NASS reports on computer use and internet on farms

According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, 85% of Kansas farms had access to computers in 2023. This compares to the national average of 69%. In Kansas, 92% of farms had internet access, up 1% from the last time this data was collected in 2021.



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Safety is paramount during harvest activities

By David Hallauer,
Meadowlark District
Extension agent,
crops and soils

Travel almost anywhere in northeast Kansas this time of year and you'll likely note the signs of harvest. It signifies not only the conclusion of a growing season, but also the start of a very busy time for producers. If we're not careful, it can become a dangerous time as well.

Injury prevention features on modern equipment are better than ever, but not failproof. Whether

you're the operator or a casual observer, give a wide berth to moving equipment, particularly augers and power take off shafts. The snapping rolls on a combine pull in stalks at a rate of 12 feet per second—faster than you can react to pull away if you get too close. Stay away from moving/rotating equipment until the machine is shut off and can be safely approached.

Equipment operators should also be aware of fire hazards caused by residue buildup around engine/exhaust systems

and concealed drive belts/pulleys. Regular equipment cleaning, including a check of electrical systems, is vital to help prevent potential issues. For an added measure of safety, start harvesting on the downwind side of the field when possible. If a fire occurs, flames will move towards the harvested portion of the field, reducing potential damage.

Safety equipment should include a cell phone, first aid kit, and fire extinguisher. Make sure fire extinguishers

are properly charged and cell phones can be recharged through the day. Make note of poor cell phone coverage areas, when possible, sharing your harvesting plans including physical locations with your harvest crew and other family members. A little time updating can save a lot of precious response time later.

A vehicle traveling 65 miles per hour approaching a combine traveling at 15 miles per hour will cover and catch that combine in less than 20 seconds.

Operators should be aware of fast approaching vehicles, making sure equipment hazard lighting is clean and in working order. Look ahead for 'emergency exits,' giving yourself a place to go when an approaching vehicle doesn't allow for the same. Following equipment or semis on highways or county roads? Give equipment and yourself plenty of room. Pass only when safe to do so and be aware of vehicles entering and exiting the roadway to prevent approaching too quickly.

Be sure to take care of yourself as well. Take regular breaks to stop, stretch, and move around. Need 'time away' to refocus or get a break from harvest stresses? Carve out time to slow down and refresh. The marathon of harvest can feel like a sprint, but it will only be made worse if you or others around you are injured because of physical or mental fatigue.

Harvest is an awesome time. Plan now to make sure it starts and finishes that way.

Training modules available to help producers better manage phosphorus losses

A series of online training modules is now freely available to farmers, engineers, environmental consultants and others interested in designing on-farm systems to remove phosphorus from field runoff or subsurface drainage.

Available on the Internet, the modules comprise seven narrated videos, starting with a basic overview of the need for phosphorus removal systems followed by how to design, build and install them, as well as how to properly dispose of or recycle the absorbent materials used to help capture the nutrient in drainage water and runoff.

"These videos explain the basics, and then get into all the details necessary for designing and constructing phosphorus removal structures," said Chad Penn, an Agricultural Research Service (ARS) agricultural engineer who coordinated the modules' development. "The goal is to disseminate this conservation practice throughout the country and world"—helping producers strike an optimal balance between crop productivity and environmental stewardship.

Phosphorus is a critical nutrient for optimal plant growth, health and yield, added Penn, with the ARS

National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory in West Lafayette, Indiana. However, phosphorus that leaves agricultural fields in runoff or drainage water can accumulate in bodies of surface water, like rivers and lakes, compromising their quality and triggering the growth and decay of algal blooms that can imperil aquatic life and recreational activities.

Management practices and engineered systems that prevent phosphorus loss are vital to maintaining environmental quality.

However, deciding which system is best for a specific farm operation or crop field configuration can be challenging. Fortunately, the modules can help users navigate their way through the process, as well as provide "lessons learned" from the field, said Penn, who has conducted extensive field research on phosphorus removal systems.

The modules include lessons on using the P-Trap ("Phosphorus Transport Reduction"), a software program that Penn and collaborators developed to help users calculate specifications for building the structure based on the data that's entered, including expected water-flow rates, annual volume, dissolved phosphorus

concentration, drainage ditch depth and slope, pipe diameter and target removal goals.

Penn noted that regardless of design, phosphorus removal structures are intended for use on fields with a legacy, or long history, of phosphorus application in fertilizers or animal manures that has resulted in an accumulation of soil phosphorus to concentrations greater than crops need. The structures' uses are not a replacement for nutrient management practices but rather a complement to them, he added.

In addition to creating the P-Trap software, Penn also designs, installs and field tests phosphorus removal systems in collaboration with Kevin King of ARS's Soil Drainage Research Unit in Columbus, Ohio; Jay Martin of The Ohio State University, Jessica D'Ambrosio of the Nature Conservancy, Jeremy Freund of Outagamie County Conservation and Santina Wortman of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The team lent their technical expertise to the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) and the American Society of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers (ASABE), which developed the training modules with support from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Create a comprehensive plan to manage resistant weeds in 2024

Across the U.S., growers plant and harvest a wide variety of crops, but the one challenge that all growers have in common regardless of climate or geography is the threat of weeds. While technology has developed to improve weed control, it has also created the problem of herbicide resistance.

"Many different crops are grown in various regions of the U.S. each year, but pressure from herbicide-resistant weeds only continues to increase year-over-year," said Greg Binford, Wilbur-Ellis national director of advanced agronomy training.

The first case of herbicide resistance in the U.S. was reported in the 1950s. Currently, the International Herbicide-Resistant Weed Database reports 131 unique species of weeds have developed herbicide resistance. Resistant weeds are detrimental to all aspects of production; however, there isn't one right way to neutralize the threat. Instead, for each farm, there will be a multi-faceted approach to controlling resistant weeds and delaying resistance development in more weed species.

Include tillage to start clean in the spring.

Making tillage a part of your resistance management plan is an option that can reduce your operation's dependence on chemical applications for weed control. An initial tillage pass before planting helps start the season

with a clean field and is especially effective against pesky annual weeds. If needed, a second shallower tillage pass can be used to eliminate any remaining small weeds and prepare the seedbed for planting.

After planting, tillage using a rotary hoe or row cultivator can also be used for small weeds, and today's guidance technology makes this more accurate and effective even in higher residue systems. Where the terrain and farming practices are suitable for tillage, combining these practices with responsible chemical use can increase the consistency and sustainability of your weed control plan over time.

Crop rotation is key.

"One of the biggest considerations for resistance management is crop rotation. Designing a rotation that allows a wide range of herbicide modes of action to be deployed on that acre is a powerful tool for growers," said Binford.

Plan to rotate crops in a way that will allow you to rotate modes of action year after year. This won't be the same rotation for every grower, but Binford has some advice for rotation planning.

Some crops are better at suppressing weed growth. Discover what those crops are in your region and implement them in your crop rotation. Planting different crops can also allow growers to avoid or disrupt the growing season of weeds.

Rely on a variety of chemistries.

Strategically applying various modes of action and different active ingredients is essential to responsible resistance management.

"Good resistance management is not just applying that one active ingredient, but adding another chemistry in the tank that is also effective against the targeted weed to keep the weed population at bay," emphasized Binford.

Group 15 herbicides (acetochlor, dimethenamid, metolachlor and pyroxasulfone) are a valuable tool in the fight against resistance, especially in water-hemp.

"Several herbicides work well on small weeds up to around four inches. Once the weeds get larger, those same herbicides will likely stunt but not control them. The stunted weeds may still be able to produce seed for the next generation," stressed Binford. "This is one way resistance develops and why controlling weeds when they are small is a critical component to resistance."

Give your weed control an extra boost.

Pairing your weed-control chemistries with the right tank-mix partner can ensure the most effective control of problem weeds. EFFICAX®, a soil deposition aid, keeps residual herbicides in the top few inches of the soil where

weeds germinate and increases herbicide efficacy.

"With the use of EFFICAX we have seen weed control extended from ten days to two weeks beyond what we see with that same herbicide applied at the same rate, but without EFFICAX in the tank," elaborated Binford.

Consider drought impacts on weeds.

Extreme drought conditions in the past few years have added an extra challenge to controlling resistant weeds. Less rain means that growers have not had to deal with as much weed pressure in their fields, but the extremely dry conditions also mean some fields may have been left fallow. Fields that were left untouched often grew substantial amounts of kochia and Russian thistle, among other weeds, refilling the weed seed bed, particularly after spring rains helped weed seed germinate.

"In early 2023 in cotton, we relied on 2,4-D and flu-

mioxazin before planting to knock back that weed pressure," said Binford.

Drought also impedes the growth and activity of weeds, limiting herbicide absorption and movement through the plant which can stunt, rather than completely control the weed. As a result, they often produce seed, which can help evolve herbicide resistance.

Get ahead of resistant weeds.

Binford has a few key takeaways to help growers as they combat resistance in their fields. Be curious when it comes to new options and technologies in weed control.

"Be willing to be innovative, and try something new and different," he said. "One of the reasons we have so many resistant weed problems is because we relied on very few tools for a very long time. So being comfortable trying different things is vital." Technology and the understanding of weed science are constantly evolving.

Whether it be a combination of existing chemistries or the implementation of innovative technologies, an open-minded approach to weed control is essential.

Be proactive, not reactive. Nip herbicide resistance in the bud by planning crop rotations and modes of action years in advance. This can reduce costs and ensure you use a variety of weed control chemistries on the weeds in your fields.

"If it's a three-year or four-year rotation, be thinking and strategically planning. Ask yourself, which active ingredients do you want to be using? Which modes of action do you want to be using? And constantly change those up," concluded Binford.

Have questions? Looking for agronomic expertise and technology to get weeds under control? Reach out to your local Wilbur-Ellis expert today to get started: <https://www.wilburellisagribusiness.com/locations/>.



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by Kirk Sours

September Tuesday

We had weaned calves early that year and there were a few of my own cows I wanted to sort out and take to Stan's place for the winter.

Stanley was a close friend from the "greatest generation," and a man I admired from the time I met him until his passing several years ago. He and I had partnered on a few cows in the mid '90s and he always enjoyed wintering them on his few acres, spoiling them with hand-fed range cubes, and just sitting on his bucket out in the pasture talking to them until they grazed their way

out of hearing range. It wasn't the most convenient thing to load those few cows up and haul them over to his place, then back to the ranch in the spring after calving, but they brought such happiness to him it was well worth the effort.

I had stopped by a couple days before to let him know the weaning weights on the calves and that I'd be bringing them "home" Tuesday, and did he need me to check the fence. He had already attended to that chore in anticipation of "getting the girls back." That morning was clear

and as perfect an early fall/late summer morning as I'd ever seen; deep blue sky above with nary a cloud in sight. Tim and I took our time saddling up, chatting about nothing important, except that we'd have to cut the Rafter S cows off before we moved the last set of "bawlers" to some pastures on the northern end of the ranch. They weren't really still "bawlers," as they had been weaned for several days and pretty much bawled out. But some of these cows need to be taken a fair distance out of earshot of the calves, or they "magically" appear the next morning in the weaned calf paddock.

We brought a number of cows in to a smaller pen to sort, just making sure we had the ones we needed to haul. As we began to cut those cows out and into the next pen I happened to catch a strange "cloud" formation in the southern sky. I stopped my horse and studied the oddity,

which became obvious as a contrail from an airliner. Now we are located in the southwest approach path to KCI airport, so seeing or hearing airliners overhead isn't that big a deal. But these were higher than normal, with the knowledge that usually these planes come in from the southwest at about four or five thousand feet, on a straight approach for landing.

As I continued to look upward I realized there wasn't just one, but three airliners, high enough they were leaving perfect circular contrails against the dark blue sky. That was definitely something I had never seen before, and we both commented how strange it was. Nonetheless, we turned back to the task at hand and finished the cut, loaded the cattle, and haltered our ponies, intending to have coffee with Stan before returning to move the herd.

Tim and I loaded up and drove the four miles

over to Stan's and backed up to the gate in front of the house and unloaded the cows. Just as the trailer gate slammed shut, Stan stepped out on the front deck and said, "You boys better come in here." His wide smile was absent this morning and there was a heaviness to his voice. We looked at each other and climbed the steps toward the open door. I checked my watch - a quarter past 9. "We are at war," Stan stated flatly. This man knew war personally, and remembered Pearl Harbor.

The images on the screen hypnotized the four of us as they replayed the crashes into the World Trade Center. I called my wife, who was beginning her day of homeschool with our kids and told her to turn the television on. Then the North Tower collapsed. I suddenly felt the need to go to my family, so we apologized to Stan and Mary, and Tim and I went to our homes to be with

our families. We would strip our horses afterward.

September 11, 2001. There is a whole generation of young adult Americans who weren't alive then. As Pearl Harbor was "a date that will live in infamy," so too is 9/11. Except, I would venture to opine that 9/11 changed our country, the United States, and the American people even more than Pearl Harbor did. The time prior to that day now seems like a lifetime ago, and that time like an "age of innocence" for many of us. Everything changed.

So we memorialize those who were murdered on that tragic day, those who died in our service in desperate efforts to save some, and those who have been lost and wounded in the subsequent wars over the last 20 years.

We must never forget.

Kirk Sours is a ranch manager and columnist in northeast Kansas. Email him at: sours.kirk@yahoo.com

Trail cameras prohibited on KDWP-managed lands

Over the past several years, staff with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks say they have fielded an ever-increasing amount of public concerns regarding the use of trail or game cameras on public lands. Concerns cited by the public commonly included the ethics of "fair chase," issues of theft and

privacy concerns. After much deliberation - including seven public meetings held over the course of two years - Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commissioners voted this year to prohibit trail cameras on Department lands and waters, including Walk-in Hunting Access and iWIHA properties (private

lands leased by KDWP for public hunting access).

"As the number of trail cameras on the landscape increased, so did the number of reports made by constituents citing camera theft and misuse," said Ryan Stucky, KDWP Public Lands assistant director. "There were also concerns about trail camera users

disturbing wildlife with frequent visits to check on those cameras."

As a result, Department staff and Commissioners agreed the regulation change - which is now in effect - should state that no person shall place, maintain, or use a trail or game camera on Department lands, or use any im-

ages or video from a trail or game camera including location, time, or date, for any purpose on KDWP lands and waters.

KDWP defines trail or game cameras as any remote motion-activated or infrared camera in which the shutter is activated by sound triggers, proximity sensation, radio transmitters, or a self-timer built into the trail or game camera.

While using images of

wildlife produced by or transmitted from a satellite to aid in taking or locating wildlife on Department lands and waters is prohibited, the use of mapping systems or programs remains a legal activity.

For the full regulation, visit ksoutdoors.com/Services/Law-Enforcement/Regulations and click "Department Lands and Water" then "115-08-25, Trail or game cameras and other devices."

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I was sorting papers, notes, schedules, copies, books, odd maps and brochures, when suddenly the face of Jim Lane was

staring up at me. Bless his heart. It was another bad hair day. Our illustrious first U. S. Senator, James Henry

Lane, was a legend in his lifetime and beyond. He is, I believe, the most fascinating character in American politics. It's fellows such as Lane who lend credence to the book title, *Rascals in Democracy* (my favorite book title ever!).

Jim Lane was one of the architects of Kansas government, or political process in Kansas, or maybe it is more aptly described as "The way things are in Kansas."

He was not a unifying force. He was a lightning rod, in constant motion

(hence, the unkempt hair). Were Jim Lane alive today, social media and television would have a field day. He would dominate the media with his stirring, if not inflammatory, speeches. He would get thousands of likes and equally as many folks condemning him and his methods.

Whew. Better file that picture in a safe place right now, a place where Jim Lane cannot escape.

Packing my bag for Independence, Mo., and the Santa Fe Trail Con-

ference at the end of the month. The theme is "Art and the Trail" and among our keynote speakers are James Pepper Henry, First Americans Museum, and Michael Grauer, National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. I will be filling in for Fran Levine, delivering her presentation since she cannot attend. It is going to be an awesome gathering. September 28-30, visit santafetrail.org for details.

The next weekend, it's back in Dodge City for the Order of the Indian Wars

tour. Again, I am lending a hand and I am so excited to be hosting my friends from all over the nation and sharing our sites and stories.

And then... Well, let's put it this way; I probably won't be unpacking.

Deb Goodrich is a producer on Sod and Stubble and the host of Around Kansas. She is the Garvey Texas Foundation Historian in Residence at the Fort Wallace Museum and chairs the Santa Fe Trail 200. Contact her at author.debgoodrich@gmail.com.

Kansas wheat industry offers resources to help producers address the challenge of short supplies of certified seed wheat

By Julia Debes

The availability of certified seed wheat is usually as reliable as bread on the shelves at the local grocery store. Following the short harvest, however, wheat farmers like Gary Millershaski near Lakin are finding sourcing the specific varieties of certified seed wheat more difficult and costly than taking a quick trip down to pick up the bags they need. Producers need to think creatively and use their available resources to secure quality seed wheat that will help make

next year's wheat harvest. "I try to plant all certified seed because we invest a lot of money into seed production," Miller-shaski, who also serves as the chairman of the Kansas Wheat Commission, said. "This year, if you didn't speak for it early, you don't have the option of any particular variety you want. Now there is seed available, but it is going to cost more this year."

It is no shock that certified seed wheat supplies are limited this year due to the drought and short

production from the Kansas harvest. Many seed dealers across the state are either sold out of certified seed wheat or have limited supplies.

"It's extremely tight and it's getting tighter by the day," said Dan Dall, Central Plains regional commercial manager for Limagrains Cereal Seeds. "Guys need to be getting stuff ordered and taken care of so they can get what they want. I think we're already down to second or third choice in a lot of places."

Seed dealers and the companies they represent are trying to offset these shortages and meet the demand of their local customers by securing sources of certified seed wheat from other parts of Kansas or other states, but it may not be cost-effective to do so considering the high cost of freight.

Add more varieties to shopping list for seed wheat

Given the shortage of certified seed wheat supplies, wheat producers should be prepared to expand their list of preferred varieties to purchase, if they have not already locked in seed wheat.

"Instead of one or two options, be prepared to be thinking through three, four or five different options of the varieties you

want," said Bryson Haverkamp, Kansas Wheat Alliance CEO. "Your first or second choice may not be available."

Luckily, Kansas growers have a wealth of resources available for this research, including K-State's Kansas Wheat Variety Guide or the "Wheat Varieties for Kansas and the Great Plains" best choices book.

<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf991.pdf>

<https://thewheatfarmer.com/wheat-varieties-book/>

When looking at this data, Andrew Blubaugh, wheat commercial manager for WestBred, cautioned producers not to just look at this year's data, but to look back at two, three or four years of data to get a better picture of a variety's performance and consistency.

"Don't be upset that your pick for this year isn't on the top of the list because this year's data was skewed with the challenging harvest," Blubaugh said. "Make sure to look at that multi-year history."

In addition to these publications, seed dealers and company representatives can help growers walk through the list of available varieties to source ones that will work for their operations.

"There's a lot of good advice out there," Dall

said. "Most company representatives can provide you with pretty good guidance on new varieties or different varieties to try. There are resources out there and we're more than happy to help."

Another option for growers is to try out a new or different variety. Instead of relying on a go-to variety, producers could branch out to something with similar agronomic characteristics.

"The marketplace is full of great varieties," Dall said. "It might be a good time to try something new. We like to be set in our ways, but this does give us an opportunity to take a look at something else."

Producers should also have confidence that the varieties for sale, even if they are not their go-to selections or the hot new pick for the season, are the result of an extensive wheat breeding process and the varieties that make it to market are there because they were consistent top performers in their generations.

"There's a lot of varieties in the marketplace today and they're all very competitive," said Dave Abel, key account lead for AgriPro wheat. "There are products that perform better than others in certain areas, but I have confidence that everything in my portfolio

that's out in the marketplace is out there because it performs."

Select good quality seed for certified sources

One action producers should not take this planting season is to purchase seed wheat from unlicensed neighbors. Certified seed wheat is subject to plant variety protection (PVP) laws that govern the development and sale of certified seed wheat by public and private wheat breeders. While farmers can retain seed wheat from the certified seed they plant for use in their own operations, the sale of that "brown-bagged" wheat is illegal and could carry serious ramifications for not only the seller but also the buyer. In addition, bin-run wheat likely has not undergone the rigorous standards that certified seed producers are required to undergo to ensure that the seed they are selling is a quality product to put out to customers.

If producers are using their own retained seed wheat, they should send samples out for germination tests, especially following this year's challenging growing season. Haverkamp emphasized the importance of germination testing specifically this year to ensure seed is up to acceptable standards, especially considering the amount of head scab present in the western part of Kansas.

If not a regular practice, producers should also strongly consider seed treatments this year as the extra fungicide and insecticide will offer additional protection against seed-transmitted fungal diseases and fall-season insects.

"It's always a good idea to look at seed treatments, but especially in years like this when disease pressure was increased in the western part of the state, seed treatment is got insurance to help get your wheat crop off to a good start," Blubaugh said.

Good wheat varieties still available

Overall, while sourcing seed wheat will be a challenge this season, Kansas growers should be rest assured there are good wheat varieties available to make a crop next year.

"There's a lot of good wheat varieties out there," Haverkamp said. "Don't be disappointed if you don't get the variety you want. Each company has good varieties. Work really closely with your local seed provider and work with them on what they think would be a good fit for your operation."

Find the latest varietal information, performance data and certified seed directory through the Kansas Crop Improvement Association at <https://www.kscrop.org/>. Additional resources, including the most current K-State guidance on wheat variety selection, at ks wheat.com/wheatrx.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 — 9:00 AM
 Community Building in NEW STRAWN, KANSAS
COLLECTIBLE AUTOMOBILES (12 NOON): 61 Ford T-Bird, runs, drives, stored inside; 51 Ford 2 dr V-8 Sedan Model Custom; 56 Ford Victoria 2 dr hardtop (project); 40 Ford Pkup on S-10 frame (project); 50's Studebaker 4 dr (project). **CUSHMAN MOTOR SCOOTER** 1952, runs, older restoration; **JUKEBOX** 60's Seeburg Select-o-Matic; **SINGER UPHOLSTERY SEWING MACHINE**; **ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES** inc. 6 ft wooden backbar cabinet w/4 top glass doors; Very Old Handmade Kitchen Cupboard; round elec fans; **IRON:** Dutch Oven, scale wt, well pump, bench, plant stand, wheels, milk can; Atlas "27 Box" Cast Iron Stove; small adv. cans; & **More! LAWN & GARDEN:** DR trimmer; Stihl chain saw & weed trimmers; **SHOP EQUIP:** 4000# Continental Engine Hoist (near new); torch set, cart & tanks; Lincoln AC welder; Millermatic 140 auto set Wire Welder; Lg Miller Commercial Wire Welder CP 250-S; sand blaster US 90; freon recovery equipment; hand operated tire machine; misc. tools & shop equipment; air compressor; paint guns; 400 gal metal storage tank w/pump; **WOODSHOP EQUIP:** Craftsman radial arm saw (little use); Craftsman 12" wood lathe & stand; Hitachi electric miter saw; **LLAMA EQUIP:** Factory Grooming Chute; carder; **HOUSEHOLD:** Lift chair; recliner, living room furniture, lots of piano music & Piano Method teaching books; misc household goods; Holland grill; Diamondback & Motorsport bicycles; & **Lots more!**
NOTE: After 60 years of auto body repair business, owners have retired out of state. Concessions Onsite.
TERRY & MARIE REAMS, OWNERS
 Complete sale bill & some pics at: www.kansasauctions.net/kurtz
KURTZ AUCTION & REALTY SERVICE
 AUCTIONEER:
 Darwin W. Kurtz, 785-448-4152

RILEY COUNTY, KS
268.13± ACRES
 4 TRACTS - COMMERCIAL & MULTI-FAMILY
ONLINE LAND AUCTION
 Bid Online
SEPT. 5- SEPT. 19, 2023
 Sellers: Open Range Properties, LLC
 Contact Listing Agent
 Mike Campbell 785.821.0619
Big Iron REALTY
 EXPERTS IN SELLING LAND
 Explore the Property from Above
DRONE TOUR
 f t i n

BIDDING ENDS SEPT. 19 AT 11 A.M. CDT
 Get a salebill, register and bid at www.bigiron.com

- Ogden, KS, K18 Hwy, Exit 114
- Prime development land
- Commercial & Multi-Family all in Ogden, Ks city limits
- 4 Tracts sell individually
- Seller pays 2023 Taxes
- Go to BigIron.com
- >Upcoming Auctions
- >Sept. 19 Land Auction

Tract #1: 49.59± acres
 • 37.56 acres prime cropland
 • 2 fields border Ogden, KS neighborhoods
 • 1 field of timber

Tract #2: 53.48± acres
 • Northwest of exit
 • Access from Skyway Dr.
 • Hay meadow & timber
 • Scenic views, seclusion
 • Rock house in timber

Tract #3: 37.4± acres
 • 34.59 acres prime cropland
 • 4 fields east of exit
 • 2120 ft frontage K18 Hwy
 • Surveyed & Platted

Tract #4: 127.66± acres
 • 112.55 acres cropland mostly prime
 • Surveyed & Platted
 • 3,800 ft KS River frontage

Attend the Auction
Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023
 9 a.m. CDT until bidding ends
Holiday Inn at the Campus
Presidents Room
1641 Anderson Ave. | Manhattan, KS 66502

BigIron Realty Agents will be at the Holiday Inn at the Campus, in Manhattan, KS, on September 19, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. until the conclusion of the online auction. Please come during the times scheduled to discuss the land. BigIron Realty Representatives will assist buyers with registering to bid and with placing bids online. You do not have to be present to bid online, but you must be available by phone.

LAND AUCTION
545 ACRES, 3 TRACTS - GREENWOOD COUNTY, KS
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 - 2:00 PM
 AUCTION LOCATION: GREENWOOD HOTEL,
 300 N. MAIN, EUREKA, KANSAS
AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: These 3 tracts are a diverse selection of tillable farm ground, pasture, hunting, fishing and recreation!
INVEST IN LAND!

TRACT 1: 156 acres with tillable, pasture, quality trees, rolling terrain, abundant wildlife & a pond
TRACT 2: 274 acres of pasture with an 8 1/2 acre watershed lake, rolling terrain, and blacktop frontage
TRACT 3: 114 acres of Bachelor Creek bottom tillable, creek, trees, fishing, and hunting

SUNDGREN REALTY
 Land Brokers
 JEREMY SUNDGREN 316.377.0013
 JOE SUNDGREN 316.321.7112
 Visit www.sundgren.com for More Details, Pictures, Maps & Terms
LIVE & ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE

1,100+/- ACRE GRASS RANCH
ABSOLUTE LAND AUCTION
LOGAN COUNTY, KANSAS
TUES., SEPT. 19, 2023 @ 10:30 AM, CDT

AUCTION LOCATION:
BUFFALO BILL CULTURAL CENTER, OAKLEY, KS

SELLERS: JUSTIN & KAYLA FINLEY DEAN & AMY HERL

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
 All of Section 24-11-37, W/2 of Section 19-11-36, a tract in E/2 of 19-11-36 and a tract in NW/4 of 30-11-36

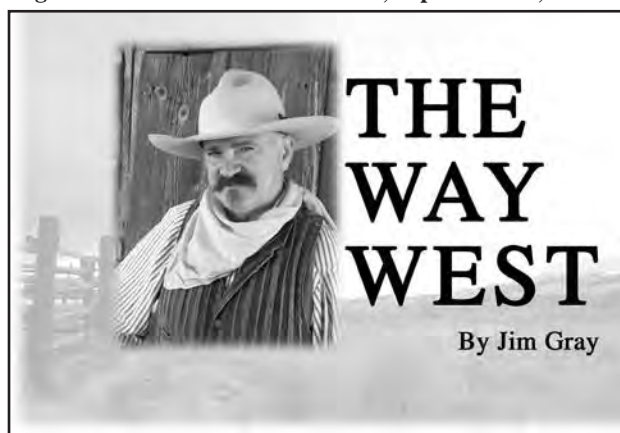
FSA Info:
 Grass Acres: 1,060±
 Cropland Acres: 41.91
CROPS: Tenant will retain 100% of 2023 crops under current cash lease agreement.
CRP PMTS: There are 600.4 acres enrolled in the CRP Grassland Program and Buyer will receive 100% of the 2023 payments. This contract can be terminated if Buyer desires. Call for details!
MINERAL RIGHTS: All Seller's interest will go to Buyer at closing. There is an oil and gas lease of record.
POSSESSION: November 1, 2023
NOTE: Good water well estimated at 10+ GPM with waterline to 3

ON-LINE & PHONE BIDDING ALSO AVAILABLE -- Call F&RR to register.

SEE DRONE VIDEO ONLINE
www.farmandranchrealty.com

FARM & RANCH REALTY, INC.
 1420 W. 4TH • PO BOX 947 • COLBY, KS 67701
 TELEPHONE: 800-247-7863
 Donald L. Hazlett, Broker/Auctioneer

"When you list with Farm & Ranch, it's as good as SOLD!"



A Knight Among Men

Topeka's *Kansas State Record* of November 6, 1867, reported Chester Thomas, Jr. leading Sherman Bodwell by one vote for Shawnee County Sheriff. The editor added, "Before going to press we hope to give the vote in Monmouth, when our readers can add it to the above votes. There are over 40 Soldiers' votes on the Plains, and it may decide who is Sheriff."

Elsewhere in the paper the Monmouth returns were reported, divulging an additional forty votes for Bodwell to twenty for Thomas. With a decided majority Bodwell was anxious to conclude the election, but there were those pesky absentee soldiers serving on the plains. Bodwell pressed the county election board to issue a certificate of election

without counting the soldiers' votes, arguing that the act allowing the count of absentee soldiers had been passed before the Constitution was changed "and therefore unconstitutional." Judge Gilchrist agreed. The election board was ordered to canvass the votes. The election board met December 10, 1867, counted the votes, excluding the votes of the absentee soldiers. Sherman Bodwell was declared the duly elected Sheriff of Shawnee County.

Sheriff Bodwell conducted the affairs of office with routine efficiency. Newspaper accounts record tax sales, election duties, general arrests, and occasionally delivering prisoners to the penitentiary. The son of "eminently honest" parents,

Bodwell lived by a strict religious code. He and his brother, Rev. Lewis Bodwell, were among the staunch New England abolitionists that came to Kansas in 1856. The brothers were active in the famous underground railroad, helping rescued slaves escape to freedom. Sherman Bodwell served in the Second Kansas Infantry and later the Eleventh Kansas Cavalry during the Civil War.

The June 11, 1869, *Topeka Daily Commonwealth* published a somewhat humorous account depicting Bodwell's sense of moral respectability. "The person in charge of the circus sideshow yesterday informed the gaping multitude who were staring at the speaking likenesses of the Maine Girl, 'The most beautiful little woman in the world,' and the 'The Giant of Palestine.'" It required a great deal of moral courage to enter that tent. But leaving required no such courage. Among those who "instantly and indignantly" left were a number of Topeka men including Sheriff Bodwell.

The June 23, 1869, *Daily Commonwealth* carried a light-hearted portrayal of Sheriff Bodwell's dispensation of the law. "Yesterday morning Sheriff Bodwell discharged two

of his employees, they having been promoted to a higher and more useful field of labor - the State free school, near Leavenworth, where there is always plenty to do, and tobacco thrown in. One of the aforesaid was the man who accidentally hitched his team to another man's wagon, and failed to discover his mistake until it was too late. The other was also sent up for the too free use of other people's property."

In early October, 1869, a Nebraska man tracked a pair of horse thieves to North Topeka. Instead of taking legal action he confronted the thieves with a proposition to let them go if they offered up an additional two horses. Unwilling to see the inside of a jail cell, the thieves agreed and were allowed to escape. In doing so, the Nebraska owner became a fugitive for the crime of "compounding a felony." Whether or not he was apprehended was not reported.

Bodwell did not run for reelection in the fall of 1869. The January 12, 1870, *Kansas State Record* noted, "Sheriff Bodwell is closing up his business as Sheriff of Shawnee County. No one can deny but that he has put the county to but little expense. He goes out on his own account (re-

fusing to run again) with clean hands. We have no better citizen or homester man in the county."

Ten months later Bodwell was working as mail clerk in the Topeka Post Office. Near sunset on September 12, 1871, he stepped from the curb into the street at the northeast corner of Sixth and Kansas Avenue. He was only a few feet into the street when a charging horse and rider hit him and knocked him to the street, "with great violence." The rider, known as Andrew Jackson, was apparently drunk, riding with the bridle loose on the horse's neck and making no attempt to guide him. He was described as a Texan working for Curly Marshall on the grading crew that was building the railroad extension from North Topeka to Atchison.

Bodwell was taken to the clerk's room at the post office where doctors treated swollen and bloody bruises on his face and forehead. He seemed to improve and was taken to

his father's home later in the evening. But soon he, "became unconscious and died at twenty minutes past ten o'clock."

The community was stunned at the loss of one described as "a good man and true, a modern knight, 'without feat and without reproach.'" Bodwell was thirty-six years old. The man who rode him down changed horses at Marshall's grading camp and fled, apparently to Texas. He was never found.

Sherman Bodwell was declared "a living power" whose memory and example would remain strong among Topeka's citizens. For those that knew him, the editor of the *Kansas State Record* wrote "Being dead, he yet speaketh." One hundred fifty-two years after his tragic death Sherman Bodwell's memory as a knight among men lives 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



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 - 2786.

BULLS: NO TEST. COWS: NO TEST				
300-400	\$349.00 - \$360.00	63	Mx	Abilene
400-500	\$298.00 - \$307.00	29	Mx	Burns
500-600	\$312.00 - \$329.00	15	Mx	Beloit
600-700	\$273.00 - \$286.00	67	Bkmtx	Hays
700-800	\$254.00 - \$269.00	59	Blk	Hope
800-900	\$240.00 - \$252.25	2	Mx	Geneseo
900-1,000	\$233.00 - \$244.50	105	Bkmtx	Hays
		53	Bkmtx	Hays
		60	Mx	Abilene
		60	Blk	Abilene
		63	Bkmtx	Mahaska
		54	Bkmtx	Enterprise
		62	Blk	Oklahoma
		60	Mx	Hope
		22	Mx	Abilene
		21	Mx	Kanopolis
		58	Blk	Carlton
		192	Bkmtx	Mahaska
		15	Mx	Benton
		5	Mx	Randolph
		5	Mx	Alma

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023				
3	Blk	Salina	312@	\$360.00
33	Blk	Galva	513@	\$329.00
1	Blk	Minneapolis	385@	\$325.00
7	Mx	Salina	391@	\$320.00
2	Blk	Galva	363@	\$310.00
2	Bkmtx	Hunter	438@	\$307.00
25	Blk	Galva	440@	\$305.00
4	Bwf	Hunter	478@	\$299.00
20	Bkmtx	Clifton	544@	\$295.00
8	Mx	Lindsborg	541@	\$291.00
14	Bkmtx	Clifton	521@	\$290.00
2	Rdmx	Beloit	525@	\$288.00
32	Blk	Galva	630@	\$286.00
3	Rdmx	Abilene	438@	\$285.00
2	Blk	Brookville	538@	\$285.00
9	Blk	Randolph	613@	\$284.75
16	Mx	Beloit	619@	\$284.00
4	Mx	Galva	550@	\$284.00
2	Bkmtx	Solomon	553@	\$283.00
18	Mx	Tescott	648@	\$280.00
39	Mx	Tescott	713@	\$269.00
9	Red	Geneseo	603@	\$269.00
4	Blk	Minneapolis	619@	\$268.00
7	Mx	Longford	615@	\$265.00
5	Mx	Minneapolis	636@	\$258.00
6	Blk	Solomon	732@	\$257.00
11	Bkmtx	Abilene	716@	\$254.00
5	Mx	Kanopolis	746@	\$254.00
12	Mx	Brookville	725@	\$254.00
32	Mx	Whitewater	723@	\$254.00
38	Mx	Oklahoma	808@	\$252.25
23	Blk	Carlton	795@	\$250.75
25	Mx	Abilene	807@	\$250.25

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.

Farmers & Ranchers FALL CLASSIC HORSE SALE OCTOBER 14-15, 2023

4	Bkmtx	Gypsum	666@	\$248.00	2	Bkmtx	Beloit	740@	\$219.00
19	Char	Beloit	650@	\$248.00	14	Blk	Salina	913@	\$218.00
5	Blk	Wilsey	725@	\$242.50	28	Mx	Randolph	911@	\$217.00
3	Mx	Galva	720@	\$240.00	7	Blk	Bennington	857@	\$215.00
20	Mx	Randolph	713@	\$239.50	7	Mx	Hillsboro	791@	\$214.00
1	Blk	Geneseo	715@	\$235.00	1	Blk	Kanopolis	940@	\$205.00
38	Mx	Burns	813@	\$233.75	1	Blk	Newton	825@	\$197.50
20	Mx	Beloit	813@	\$233.00	2	Blk	Benton	1050@	\$194.00
4	Blk	Salina	833@	\$226.00	1	Blk	Wilsey	1125@	\$185.00
1	Blk	Marquette	795@	\$220.00	1	Char	Brookville	990@	\$182.00
4	Blk	Hillsboro	840@	\$220.00	10	Mx	Randolph	1075@	\$159.00

Early Consignments For THURSDAY, SEPT 14, 2023

90 steers & heifers, 500-750, weaned, vaccinated to grass, off grass; 52 black & red steers, 600-675, long time weaned, 2 round vaccinations, off grass; 20 black steers & heifers, 700-850, home raised, 45+ days weaned, 2 round vaccinations, open, bunk broke; 180 heifers, 900, off grass, spayed; 95 mostly black steers & heifers, 500-600, off cow, 2 round vaccinations, no implants; 188 black steers, 675-800, off grass, 100 home raised, 50 off neighbor, 38 F&R; 130 Red Angus steers & heifers, 400-600, off cow, vaccinated; 27 mix steers & heifers, 400-600, off cow, vaccinated; 150 50% black steers, 850-925, off grass; 40 mix steers & heifers, 750-900, long time weaned, vaccinated, off grass; 25 black steers & heifers, 650-750, weaned May 15, 2 round vaccinations, open; 30 mostly black steers & heifers, 550-650, off cow; 50 black steers & heifers, 650-750, home raised, long time weaned, 2 round vaccinations, open, off grass; 25 black/red steers & heifers, 600-700, home raised, long time weaned, spring vaccinations, open, off grass; 18 black/bwf steers & heifers, vaccinated, off grass, off cow; **PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME.**

SPECIAL COW SALE!!! MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 (5:30 PM Start) Get Your Cattle CONSIGNED!!

60 black/bwf/ Red Angus cows, 3-4 years old, fall bred, gentle, bred LBW Angus (T&M), October calvers, all raised calves; 25 Red Angus, 3 year old cows, all coming with 2nd calf, heavy bred; 25 black cows, fall bred, 4-6 years old, bred Angus, (Complete dispersal); 30 black/red cows, 4-6 years old, home raised, fall bred, bred Registered Angus, (Complete dispersal); 4 black 3 year old cows, bred Red Angus, heavy bred; 15 black & Red Angus cows, 3-5 years, fall bred, bred black & Red Angus; 30 black cows, spring & fall calvers, some pairs (complete dispersal); 7 black/ bwf cows, 4 years old, heavy fall bred, bred McCurry Angus bulls; 2+2 black cow pairs, 3 & 6 year olds; 1 black 3 year old bred cow, fall bred, bred McCurry Angus; 30 black & red cows, 4-7 years old, early spring bred, bred black; 10 young to solid cows; 8 registered black cows, 6-older, bred black, January/February calvers; 15 black/bwf/red Angus cows, 3-6 years old, bred Angus; 3+3 young pairs; (Complete dispersal) 31 mostly bwf, 5-older cows, fall bred, bred Limousin; 26 mostly black 3-6 years, bred Angus; **PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME.**

UPCOMING SPECIAL SALES:

HORSE SALE: October 13-15
SPECIAL COW SALES: Monday, September 18 (5:30 pm start)
Tuesday, October 24 * Tuesday, November 21
Tuesday, December 19
CALF SALES: Tuesday, October 31
Tuesday, November 7 * Tuesday, November 14
WEANED/VACC SALES: Tuesday, December 5
Tuesday, January 2 * Tuesday, January 9
Tuesday, February 6

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 Schafer
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

