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Bob Smith recognized as KSU distinguished alumnus

Dr. Bob Smith was recognized as the 2023 Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry Distinguished Alumnus on Monday, November 13.

Smith was born in Pittsburg, Kansas where he grew up on a small livestock operation. He obtained his bachelor's (1968) and master's (1970) degrees from K-State ASI and attended K-State for veterinary school. Following veterinary school, he completed a large animal medicine and surgery internship and clinical instructorship at Oklahoma State University.

While at OSU, he was a field services clinician, with concurrent responsibilities for clinical research on stocker cattle diseases. He then worked as a feedlot veterinarian for two years and then returned to OSU for ten years and is currently Pro-



Dr. Mike Day presents Dr. Bob Smith with the plaque for being named the 2023 Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry Distinguished Alumnus.

fessor Emeritus at OSU's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Smith joined the Veter-

inary Research and Consulting Services LLC, in 2000, with primary practice emphasis on feedlot

and stocker health and management. The 11 veterinarians associated with the practice provide ser-

vice to feedlot clients in ten states. In 1983 he was certified as a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. While serving as the Food Animal Regent for the ABVP, he led the effort to establish specialties in swine, dairy and beef practice, making board certification more attractive to veterinarians whose practice deals intensely with one species.

During his career, Smith was involved in 45 research studies, producing 30 research reports and co-authoring or authoring over 30 peer-reviewed manuscripts. He has served as president of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, the Academy of Veterinary Consultants, and the Western Veterinary Conference. He was instrumental in developing and implementing the Beef Quality Assurance Program used

as guidelines by thousands of beef cattle producers in the U.S. Smith has been recognized numerous times for his contributions to veterinary medicine and the beef industry.

"The ASI Department is proud to recognize Bob Smith as the 2023 Distinguished Alumnus," says Dr. Mike Day, K-State ASI department head. "His impacts on many facets of the beef industry revolve around his commitment to taking a science-based approach to increase the quality of beef. His influence extends across producers, industry organizations, the animal sciences, the veterinary community and others. It was great to have him in the ASI department for a day to interact with students, faculty and staff."

Dr. Smith and his wife, Gerri, have four children and ten grandchildren.

Governor Kelly attends 2023 Governor's Conference on the Future of Water



Governor Laura Kelly attended the 2023 Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Manhattan last week. "Water is an issue that affects everyone in Kansas, so we need input from all stakeholders to develop viable, sustainable solutions to the challenges we're facing," she said. She highlighted the hiring of Vijay Ramasamy as senior advisor on water in her office. Ramasamy will work across agencies and with partners at the state and local level to develop well thought-out solutions to the issue of water use and conservation in the state. She also talked about the creation of a water sub-cabinet to build a collaborative, all-of-government approach to water issues and programs.

"In the last legislative session, we were able to pass two landmark bills thanks to stakeholders and legislators' willingness to come together and drive progress," Kelly said. "One of those bills, HB 2279, partnered with Groundwater Management Districts on an accountable and transparent path forward to manage our state's water resources. It created a specific timeline for communities to develop strategies around water quantity and quality across the state. This is a significant development. The other, HB 2302, allocated an unprecedented investment in the State Water Plan,

to the tune of \$35 million annually for the next five years."

Kelly discussed the agreement she and Senator Jerry Moran reached with the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the federal Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the water rights issues around the Rattlesnake Creek Basin.

"The impairment in Rattlesnake Creek has been an issue for decades and, much like our broader water problems, addressing it was not a question of 'if' but 'how.' We needed to ensure an accountable and sustainable solution, one that secured the Fish and Wildlife Service's senior water rights without simply cutting off water to hundreds of residents. The agreement we helped broker gives local stakeholders time to find a solution, while keeping in place a call for water if a satisfactory plan isn't submitted," she stated. "I know not everyone was a big fan of the decision, but we must move forward with both accountability and partnership. I'm grateful to the Fish and Wildlife Service for their willingness to come up with a compromise that provides a responsible path forward."

Stressing the critical nature of prioritizing water issues, Kelly said, "I won't sugarcoat this. Preserving the quality and quantity of our water is an existential issue for our

state. Resolving it is not going to be easy, and it's not going to be cheap. If there was a simple solution, it would have already been implemented. And, as I said earlier, there are many different stakeholders here, all of whom have different—and sometimes opposing—wants, needs, and objectives. There are going to have to be compromises – there is no other choice."

Kelly said the state has the funding, technology, data and momentum to make real progress on the issue of water in Kansas.

Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame inducts 2023 class



On November 4, 2023 five individuals were inducted into the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame at Boot Hill Museum.

The 2023 inductees were:

Phill Epp, Kansas, Cowboy Artist

Rodney Cook, formerly of Caldwell, Cowboy Historian

Charles R. McKinney, formerly of Englewood, Rancher/Cattlemen

George Steinberger, formerly of Richmond, Rodeo Cowboy

Orban Leon Stephens, Fall River, Working Cowboy

Boot Hill Museum and the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame thanks ITC for their generous support of this event.

Boot Hill Museum and the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame also thank the Boot Hill Distillery for their partnership in producing an exclusive series of single barrel bourbon whiskey in honor of the inductees. At the ceremony Boot Hill Distillery presented a check to the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame for the proceeds from last year's whiskey sales.

Beholding Glory



Justine Henderson, Minneapolis, was the winner in the People category of the 12th annual Ranchland Trust of Kansas photography contest. Photographers of all ages submitted photos that showcase the mission of RTK, "To preserve Kansas' ranching heritage and open spaces for future generations through the conservation of working landscapes." Winning images were selected by a panel of RTK and Kansas Livestock Association representatives, along with special guest judge and professional photographer Jim Richardson. Richardson is a Kansas native and has traveled the world as a National Geographic photographer for over 35 years. He also speaks nationally and internationally.



Optimism and Opportunity

By Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau

Rural America has always been inhabited by optimists. People who accepted living in remote corners of the country came with challenges and even a little loneliness. Maybe they didn't have any better options, like the homesteaders who populated Kansas. Or maybe they understood they were trading one set of challenges for another

and, like a weed, loneliness can take root about anywhere.

My recent travels have made it clear that nothing has really changed, at least in rural Kansas. The optimists are still there. So are the challenges, but the biggest problem is the same as it's always been. There's simply not enough people to fulfill all of the opportunities available in the small cities, unincorporated towns and farms

that dot the landscape across the countryside.

Time after time, it's the same story. Jobs are plentiful, but the bodies to fill them aren't there. The jobs not being done are across all sectors and all pay scales, from professionals like doctors, lawyers and veterinarians to blue collar workers like truck drivers, plumbers and welders.

The journey to these shortages has been slow. As difficult as it is to attract someone new to a small town, it can often be harder to retain someone who already lives there. I'm a perfect example. It was always explicit I'd leave my small town to attend college. That was the message I heard from the

time I started kindergarten until I graduated high school.

I assumed leaving was a one-way ticket because the chorus was leave and get an education. There was no verse encouraging me to return, and I've met plenty of colleagues with similar backgrounds who heard the same song.

So, most of us left, got our degrees and went searching for opportunities elsewhere. We got married, had kids and settled into comfortable lives elsewhere.

I suspect this is partly because more populous places seemed more prosperous to those of us in our youth. Life was a lot less convenient as a teenager when the near-

est movie theatre was 30 miles away and your favorite restaurant was a similar distance in the other direction.

We were searching for amenities our towns didn't offer. No one considered why they weren't available or what message was received by our wanting.

Maybe because I'm now older, I look at things differently. In my recent travels it's evident people are noticing the little things and working to find solutions. There are efforts to keep schools open, secure the local grocery store or help an entrepreneur get established on Main Street.

The negatives of rural life are now treated as temporary obstacles that

can be overcome. This includes recasting nothing as one of the key amenities of living in a small town, like no traffic, no waiting and no commute.

Reversing a generation or two of pessimism will take time, but I'm optimistic it's possible. Maybe rural Kansas creates optimists rather than attracts them. After all, it's tough to not be filled with hope after seeing all the opportunities available. Now we just need others to notice.

"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.

Grain storage outlook improves for U.S. elevators, but bushels remain elusive

The profit outlook for U.S. grain elevators storing corn and soybeans has improved significantly for the 2023-24 marketing year with buy basis falling and carries returning to futures markets. The world market is currently awash in grains, and global supplies of corn and soybeans are abundant. The improved market conditions follow two consecutive years of inverted futures markets, which limited the ability of many elevators to earn a profit from storing grain.

The current challenge for grain elevators is simply gaining ownership of bushels. Farmers have been reluctant to sell, as corn and soybean prices have fallen sharply from their peaks earlier this year. That has left elevators with lower levels of grain ownership to take advantage of wider carries and basis levels. Basis has fallen to multi-year lows in some regions of the country.

However, the delay of grain moving to elevators is expected to be short-lived. According to a new report from CoBank's Knowledge Exchange, the challenge of acquiring bushels should begin to ease for elevators early in 2024. The rising cost environment will likely compel farmers to sell in January, February and March to generate cash for spring planting and operational expenses. Farmers are also expected to be more willing to sell on price rallies over \$5 per bushel for corn and \$14 per bushel for soybeans, which will cap any run-up in basis.

"Many grain farmers have the benefit of being in a very strong cash position following last year's record farm income levels," said Tanner Ehmke, grains and oilseeds economist for CoBank. "They have been quite content to hold on to their grain since prices have fallen. But higher land rents and borrowing costs, combined with rising prices for inputs like fertilizer, will probably motivate farmers to sell as the calendar turns to 2024."

Some elevators have been able to make up for the lack of ownership through higher storage fees and by offering delayed pricing programs. Delayed pricing allows farmers to deliver grain when it is convenient and price it later, with many elevators charging much higher service fees to cover the elevator's higher risk of owning unpriced bushels in a carry market. Storage programs have become popular as farmers wait for a rally in futures prices or local basis.



Isn't it funny how sometimes we go into a Monday morning thinking that things are going to go badly just because it is a Monday? I truly believe that attitude affects what happens to you and if you think things are going to go bad, they will. I say I believe this, but often I fall into the trap of thinking that because one thing did not go the way I wanted it too, the rest of the day will not go well either. I know that was all very convoluted, so let me give you the example of my last Monday.

I needed to get a lot of chores done and then run errands before leaving on a two-day trip out of town. I was leaving Jennifer the chores, so I wanted to make sure I had them as easy as possible. It was a tight schedule but if everything went right, I would be good. In the back of my mind, I was remembering it was a Monday and even though I know that has nothing to do with success, I let it cloud my thinking.

Chores went okay right up to feeding my newly weaned spring calves. I put their grain out and that is when I noticed the newborn calf in the pen. This is the newly weaned spring calf pen but there are also six fall replacement heifers among the group. I say they are in there because they are helping the newly weaned calves find the feed bunks and also helping to keep them calm. That is mostly true, but the real reason they are in the pen is because I don't have anywhere else to go with them at this moment.

My pen space is very limited, but I challenge anyone to tell me they have more pens than they need. This time of the year all my cows and calves will pass through my working facilities and stay there for differing lengths of time depending on many factors, the most significant of which is my ability to build electric fence. I had to wean the spring cows and move them out on corn stalks so I could bring the fall cows home, work the calves, and move them out on cornstalks also.

I got the spring cows moved out and the fall cows moved in. I have three fall cows to calve yet; that is an important piece of information and one I didn't think about. Back to the moment. I see the baby calf and for some reason I jump to the conclusion that one of the replacement heifers had gotten bred and

had a calf. Why did I jump to that specific conclusion? Probably because it was Monday, I was in a hurry and stressed, so I assumed the worst.

Immediately I went into a panic and thought I now had a bucket calf because no one in the pen acted interested in the calf. I didn't have any colostrum or milk replacer and would have to run into town, that would take at least half an hour. Then I would have to feed the calf and that would take even longer. On top of that I was leaving Jennifer with more chores to do in the morning, and I was in the midst of a panic attack, crisis. I did not have time for this in my tight schedule.

I decided to finish chores, and everything needed their hay feeders filled. I should have taken care of the calf first, but I was having trouble dealing with the intrusion on my finely tuned plans. I know, it wasn't right but that is the truth. I will say that did come back to be a good thing in the end. Jennifer called in the middle of all of this to check and later she would say I was grumpy. She was right, but I plead that it was a Monday and that should trump grumpy.

In full panic mode I fed the cows and that included one of the fall cows insisting that she go out the open gate and disappear into the bigger pasture. She would be dealt with later; I had bigger issues. I fed the fall cows and noticed that one of the three cows that had not calved had afterbirth and the mystery of the unclaimed calf was solved. How the calf got through two good fences is still a mystery. Long story short, I got her in the corral and reunited her with her calf. All was good, even on a Monday.

Upon reflection, I decided that on just about any other day of the week I would have taken it in stride and not panicked but my brain just assumed because it was Monday, something had gone wrong. In fact, everything had gone right. The calf just as easily could have gone the other way out into the larger pasture and been coyote bait. The cow could have been harder to catch, and the story could have ended differently. I went on about my business and my schedule worked out perfectly and I was, in fact, very early to my evening appointment that I had worried about being late too. Who knows, maybe Mondays are really good luck?

For elevators that have been able to gain ownership of bushels, the transition to a carry market will be awkward for some merchandisers who have been actively trading freight and selling commodities in an inverted market for the past two years. In a carry market, elevators are instead incentivized to store grain rather than sell it.

Supported by strong domestic demand for corn and soybeans, basis is expected to appreciate over time. Cheaper transportation rates plus strong end-user demand among livestock feeders, ethanol plants and soybean crushers are expected to help prevent basis from dropping significantly. However, the rise in basis will be limited given the ample global supply of corn and soybeans.

The smaller U.S. soybean harvest this year combined with record processor demand has put a strong floor under soybean basis relative to corn. Processor margins have been supported by growing demand for soybean oil for renewable diesel and a record export pace for soybean meal in the absence of Argentine exports.

Ehmke said the biggest wildcard that could affect carry and basis is the U.S. corn and soybean export program.

"The risks largely come from abroad," said Ehmke. "Chinese demand could suddenly appear for corn or soybeans or disappear for grain sorghum. And a short South American crop would result in futures spreads narrowing considerably, which would incentivize elevators to sell soybeans."

Reward increased for cattle missing in Wabaunsee County

A total of \$11,000 now is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) who stole 16 calves and one cow in Wabaunsee County last month. The owners of the missing cattle are offering \$5,000 and the Kansas Farm Bureau has tacked on \$1,000. This is in addition to the original \$5,000 offered through the KLA theft reward program, which only applies when the producer is

a member.

The cattle were stolen sometime between October 9-16 from a pasture about five miles southeast of Wamego. The black- and red-hided calves weighed 400 lbs. to 450 lbs., are of mixed sex and had yellow tags in their right ears. Anyone with information on the cattle should contact the Wabaunsee County Sheriff's Office at (785) 765-3323.

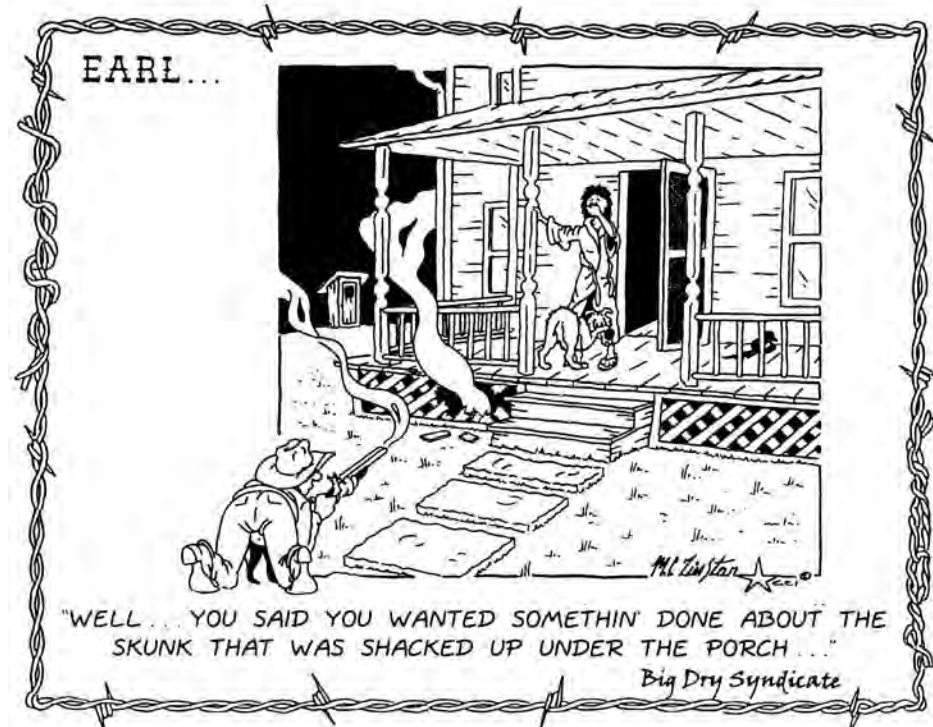
Kansas corn, sorghum production up, soybeans and cotton down

Based on November 1 conditions, Kansas's 2023 corn crop is forecast at 645 million bushels, up 26%

from last year's production, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Area to

be harvested for grain, at 5.33 million acres, is up 20% from a year ago. Yield is forecast at 121 bushels per acre, up six bushels from last year. Sorghum for grain is forecast at 155 million bushels, up 47% from last year. Area for harvest, at 3.30 million acres, is up 22% from 2022. Yield is forecast at 47 bushels per acre, up eight bushels from last year. Soybean production is forecast at 114 million bushels, down 12% from last year. Area for harvest, at 4.40 million acres, is down 7% from 2022. Yield is forecast at 26 bushels per acre, down 1.5 bushels from last year. Cotton production is forecast at 165,000 bales, down 1% from last year. Acreage for harvest, at 88,000 acres, is down 50,000 acres from 2022. Yield is forecast at 900 pounds per acre, up 323 pounds from a year ago.

Country Chuckles by Jonny Hawkins



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By
Kelsey
Pagel

The "Trip"

Most weeks I feel as though I don't have a lot to report. It feels like every time I turned around these last couple weeks, I was telling myself to make a note in my phone to write about.

We never have gone on an official date night out for our anniversary, nor went on our annual vacation for the year. Matt bought a silage header on the internet that was in Illinois. I thought we could turn this into an overnight trip at least and maybe get supper out at somewhere other than our normal places.

This trip was a "trip" from the beginning. We didn't really plan when we were going to go. Sundays are supposed to be "slower" around our operation and time for me to spend in the house doing all the things that get neglected. The Sunday of the time change, I did my chores, watered the cows and was back in the house really early because I got up at daylight which was an hour earlier. Matt shows up with the pickup and trailer and says let's go around ten in the morning. We packed an overnight bag really quick, fed and watered the cats and dog and chickens enough to get them through a couple days and hit the road.

Matt doesn't drive very often. Anytime we're together, I'm driving. I'm told the destination is just the other side of St. Louis. We hop on I-70 and head east. I casually mentioned here and there about attractions along the road that might be fun to stop at. I'm no mind-reader, but after ten years of being married to this man, I've figured out a couple things about him. He is intent on getting to his header. I acquiesce, thinking we can stop on the way back. I realize that the mission of this trip is to get the head and the seller would have to make special plans if we didn't make it on Sunday because he works in St. Louis on Monday. Matt wanted to get it Sunday while he was home rather than having to make him change his schedule on Monday. I can understand that.

With the aforementioned time change, it got dark really early. Another thing to note, one would think since I drive, Matt navigates. But no, that's not the case. He's the worst navigator on the planet! I still can't figure out what is so difficult about typing an address into maps, but he has some serious difficulties (ask how we wound up in downtown Lawrence in the middle of a super-busy event when we were supposed to be clear on the outskirts. Terrible navigator).

We show up to this farm after missing the turn to the farm. To be fair to him on this one, the cell service was kind of sketchy so I can't blame it entirely on him. We load the head, strap it on. It was supposed to come with a pallet of parts, turns out it was one box. But Matt is

very excited about the contents of this one box. He said it was worth the price and trip even without the head. So yay for that I guess.

At this point, it's completely dark and they're still trying to harvest corn so we're ready to get out of their hair. This is when the dad says, let me run and get my van out of the garage. I want to show you something. It is pitch-black, in the middle of nowhere, complete strangers, and subpar cell service. So what do we do? We hop in the van with the person we've known for all of eight minutes at this point. We proceeded to tour four different sheds on three different locations all packed to the brim of restored Oliver tractors. Thirty-plus tractors and some other odds and ends farm equipment. He was so proud. It's what he and his son do together and in their "spare" time.



He loved showing off their hard work and collection. I can appreciate the passion and the pride, but cannot share the enthusiasm in this particular hobby. But we can say we saw a whole bunch of restored tractors that looked very pretty, and survived getting into a stranger's van.

So at this point, we head out before he can show us the collections he has inside his house. There's a fuel station a few miles down the road where we pull off, check the straps, hit the bathrooms. I'm starving by this time since I ate lunch early and it's extra late now with the time change. Matt had assured me at the beginning of this trip he was going to take me out for a nice supper. But we were in the middle of nowhere and I was starving. So we split a Subway sandwich from the gas station and he said we could eat when we got back to civilization or when we stopped for the night. We had both agreed that we wanted to get through the construction we saw on the way there and to the west side of St. Louis so we wouldn't have to deal with rush hour traffic in the morning.

So I start driving and things went well. Until we get to the middle of St. Louis in six lanes of traffic. Even at ten at night, St. Louis is incredibly busy. You guessed it, we blew a tire. So we limp to the side of the road. But there isn't a great place to get off and

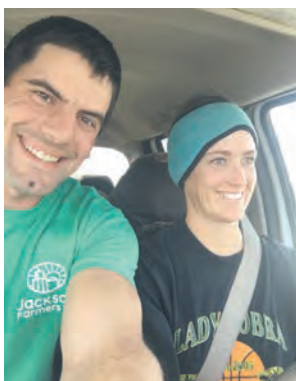
by the time I got off to the side of the road, I thought I'd driven enough on the rim. We'd already changed one tire at a gas station earlier in the day so we put the last spare on. (This is why I'm such a big advocate of having a full-size spare in everything). And two extra tires isn't enough when going on a road trip apparently. We are always prepared with the impact and a good jack, but it was still not fun changing the tire in the dark in busy traffic. But we got it.

We start driving again. By the time we got to the west side of St. Louis, it turned in to one of those things of, we'll just keep driving for a little while longer until we see somewhere to stop. Finally I said I was done driving so we stopped and got fuel and Matt said he would drive for a while. We agreed we would take the same way home that we came. I asked him if he wanted me to turn on my GPS. He told me no, it was just following I 70. At some point, I must have fell asleep.

I wake up and we're in Basehor, Kansas. Basehor is not even close to how we went or how we were going home! I asked what we were doing in Basehor! He told me he didn't know, he just kept following 70 and took the last free exit because he didn't want to pay the toll. He said we went by the stadiums and Bass Pro Shop and Cabela's and downtown Kansas City was really pretty with all the red lights since the Chiefs had won that morning. He said there was a couple spots that he made sure the doors were locked because it looked kind of scary. He said I thought about waking you up, but you were sleeping so I didn't.

This is why he doesn't drive! This is also why I question his navigation! He added at least an hour and half to our trip which would have been all well and good if we were going to stop and do something. But by this point, we're almost home, it's the wee hours of the morning and we're both going to be tired tomorrow anyway. We decided our own bed sounded nice so we came on home.

So I've learned my lesson when I request an overnight trip. I need to specify that I want to sleep somewhere besides a moving vehicle, especially one that he is navigating. Who knows where we'll end up. All in all, not the trip I had in my mind when he said he bought a head in Illinois, but I think such is life. Very few things turn out the way that we intend. If I'm being honest, I'm



still a little bitter that we haven't gone on an official date night for our anniversary and that the overnight trip I was banking on being our vacation didn't go as I was thinking it would.

But, I also know that Matt has made quite a bit of effort lately to better our marriage. So I keep reminding myself, marriage is not about keeping score. And we had a lot of quality time together. And maybe that's enough for now. I keep reminding myself of how I end these - grace and patience. I really feel like that's the answer to so many things. And love. I'm gonna add that. If we would all respond with grace, patience and love to things, I feel like it would change a lot of things in our world. We don't have to agree, but we have to be respectful.

All right enough babbling for now. We worked two groups of fall calves today. It went well, but always a long day. I smell like branding iron smoke and have all sorts of bodily fluids all over me. I'm ready for a shower and supper and to sit down for the night. And while it's really easy to type these things, it's harder to implement, but each day gives us a new chance to try so I will keep trying to show grace, patience and love.

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

You may email Kelsey your comments at kelseypagel13@gmail.com

Workshop: Preserving the Holidays

K-State Research and Extension - Wildcat District and the Independence Community College FabLab are working together to provide a fun, two-day, gift-making workshop - Preserving the Holidays.

The first workshop meeting will be held on December 5 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Independence Community College FabLab West located at 2615 West Main Street, Independence. Participants will have fun making spiced apple rings as well as drying apples and oranges, while learning how to safely preserve food at home. To complete the evening, K-State Research and Extension Master Food Volunteer, Janet Rau, will lead participants in making herb butters.

The workshop's second session will be held December 7 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Independence Community College FabLab Main Campus located at 2564 Brookside Drive, Independence. FabLab staff, Laura Schaid, will demonstrate processes in the lab to make holiday gift tags. Wreaths will be made using dried fruits, wooden cutouts, and bows.

During this workshop, each participant will make a 24-inch wreath, a jar of spiced apple rings, and a butter log. Participants will be given the opportunity to purchase a FabLab membership for an additional fee to use FabLab facilities to make additional gift-giving tags and crafting projects.

This class is limited to the 12 registered participants. Register today by calling the Montgomery County Extension Office at 620-331-2390.

For more information about nutrition, food safety or health contact Holly Miner at haminer@ksu.edu or call 620-331-2690.

Hurry! Thaw That Turkey Safely!

Are you in the mood for turkey this Thanksgiving? This year start thawing that turkey early. There are three ways to thaw your turkey safely: in the refrigerator, in cold water, or in the microwave oven.

In the refrigerator (40 degrees F or below):

Allow approximately 24 hours for every 4 to 5 pounds
 * 4 to 12 pounds = 1-3 days
 * 12 to 16 pounds = 3-4 days
 * 16 to 20 pounds = 4-5 days
 * 20 to 24 pounds = 5-6 days

Keep the turkey in its original wrapper. Place it on a tray or in a pan to catch any juices.

In Cold Water:

Allow approximately 30 minutes per pound
 * 4 to 12 pounds = 2-6 hours
 * 12 to 16 pounds = 6-8 hours
 * 16 to 20 pounds = 8-10 hours
 * 20 to 24 pounds = 10-12 hours

Wrap your turkey securely, making sure the water is not able to leak through the wrapping. Submerge your wrapped turkey in cold tap water. Change the water every 30 minutes. Cook the turkey immediately after thawing.

In the Microwave Oven:

* Check your owner's

manual for the size turkey that will fit in your microwave oven, the minutes per pound and the power level to use for thawing.

* Remove all outside wrapping.

* Place on a microwave-safe dish to catch any juices that may leak.

* Cook your turkey immediately. Do not refreeze or refrigerate your turkey after thawing in the microwave oven.

Remove the giblets from the turkey cavities after thawing. Cook separately.

No matter which of these safe methods you use to thaw your bird, always cook poultry to an internal temperature of 165 degrees F to reduce the risk of a food borne illness from undercooked meat.

For more information about cooking turkey, visit <https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2022/11/usda-advice-clears-turkey-confusion-before-thanksgiving/> to view Food Safety News article, "USDA advice clears Turkey confusion before Thanksgiving."

For more information about nutrition, food safety or health, please contact Holly Miner at haminer@ksu.edu or call 620-331-2690.

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Scoular's Canola MVP provides farmers with resources to grow canola

Through a new program called Canola MVP, Scoular is partnering with Kansas and Oklahoma farmers to expand canola production to feed the growing renewable fuels market.

Growing canola can increase overall revenue, with wheat-canola rotations increasing profitability up to 20 percent more than a continuous wheat rotation, according to a Kansas State University study.

Canola MVP, announced by Scoular recently, provides several key benefits to producers:

- Access to Kansas State and Oklahoma State University agronomists who will provide guidance on seed varieties and growing canola.
- Connectivity to



Scoular's Goodland facility is one of their local delivery points. Others include Pratt, Wellington and Coolidge. *Courtesy photo*

Scoular originators and successful canola growers to answer localized production-related questions.

- Current local delivery points, including Scoular's Pratt, Wellington, Coolidge and Goodland locations.
- Producers seeking more information should:
- Contact their local Scoular elevator.
- Visit scoularview.com.

Oklahoma producers can contact Lucas Price at lprice@scoular.com or call (913) 696-9248.

In March, Scoular announced that it was converting a facility in Goodland to a dual oilseed crush plant. The facility is projected to begin operations in fall 2024. Because of its high-oil content,

canola is highly valued in the renewable fuels sector, particularly for use in the growing renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel markets. Those markets will grow to over 5 billion gallons by 2025.

"Winter canola is a reliable crop for producers, and Canola MVP will provide them with the resources, revenue potential and reassurance to grow canola," said Ed Prosser, Scoular senior vice president.

Added Michael Stamm, a K-State agronomist: "Fall precipitation gave producers the opportunity to plant winter canola in 2023. K-State is dedicated to supporting these producers with information to help them be successful growing the crop."

From the Land of Kansas now selling 2023 holiday gift boxes

Holiday gift boxes are now available to order for the 2023 holiday season from the From the Land of Kansas state trademark program at the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Each gift box contains an assortment of products grown, raised or produced in Kansas, with two size options available: the

Konza Box and the Ad Astra Box. From the Land of Kansas gift boxes allow for ease of purchase for family, friends or clients and add a personal, customized note for the holiday season.

The Konza Box products: Honey (New Hope Farm and Apiary in Wellsville); Beef Jerky (Pat's Beef Jerky in Liebenenthal); Lightly Salted Wheat Snacks (Wheatland Foods in Hays); Hot Chocolate (Sunflower Fundraising Company in Olathe); Kenzee's Everything Sauce (MKC Kitchen LLC in Bazine); Mustard (Grannie's Homemade Mustard in Hillsboro); and a complimentary From the Land of Kansas branded leather coaster.

The Ad Astra Box products: Medium Garden Salsa (Holmes Made Salsa

in Wichita); Tasty Teriyaki Beef Sticks (Yoder Meats in Yoder); Mild and Sassy Dry Rub (Spice It Up in Bonner Springs); Prairie Ranch Dip Mix (Twisted Pepper in Wichita); Red Wine Chocolate Sauce (from Cocoavino in Olathe); Popcorn (Free Day Popcorn in Belleville); Chocolate Bar (Signet Coffee Roasters in Pittsburg); Lavender Lip Balm (Sweet Streams Lavender Co. in Bucyrus); Beer Bread Mix (Bruces Bullseye Farms in Leon); Sunflower Oil (Wright Enterprises in Bird City); and a complimentary From the Land of Kansas branded coaster.

Governor Kelly creates water subcommittee to search for collaborative solutions

Governor Laura Kelly announced recently that she has formed the Kansas Water Subcommittee to formalize cross-agency coordination, collaboration, and planning on the state's water quantity and quality priorities. Creating the subcommittee provides an efficient and practical internal forum for experts across several agencies to discuss water-related data and policy and strengthen state government initiatives on emerging and long-term water issues.

"My administration has been laser-focused on finding and implementing sustainable solutions to address our state's water concerns," Kelly said. "This subcommittee ensures we are all pulling in the same direction in those efforts and building an all-of-government approach to water issues."

The Kansas Water Subcommittee will be managed by the Governor's Special Advisor on Water, and its permanent members will include representatives from the Kansas Water Office, the Kansas Department of Agriculture, the Kansas Department of Commerce, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

"Our state's agricultural and rural economy is fueled by water, which is why our stakeholders often point to long-term water management as one of the state's most critical challenges," Kansas Agriculture Secretary Mike Beam said. "I'm looking forward to enhancing the collaboration among state officials with an active Water Subcommittee." The group's tasks could include developing cross-agency goals and strategies on Kansas' long-term water quantity and

quality issues, strengthening service delivery of the state's water grants and programs, and responding to upcoming and short-term water-related issues while strategizing preventative measures. The subcommittee will also prioritize securing federal or private funding opportunities across agencies to leverage the state's historic recent investments in the Kansas Water Plan.

"Our state's water challenges are daunting and complex, making it essential that we marshal the expertise and advice of all our water agencies," Connie Owen, director of the Kansas Water Office, said. "The Water Subcommittee can provide the critical experience, knowledge, data, and context necessary to help the state ensure a safe and secure water supply for Kansans."

The subcommittee will meet regularly and will provide monthly updates to the governor.

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Some emails are more interesting than others.

When I saw PBS in the sender's address, my radar went bing, bing and I thought, "Fundraiser?" but my second thought was, "This could be something!!!"

It was.

Azhar Merchant is a production assistant at PBS NewsHour and Washington Week. His team asked him to reach out to me about being interviewed during Native American Heritage Month about Vice President Charles Curtis. So Azhar and I had a little get-acquainted Skype and scheduled an interview with host John Yang (I have to add, Azhar is such an impressive young man. Whenever you get discouraged about the future of society, someone like Azhar comes along to restore your faith).

My friend Ken Bellmard, an enrolled member of the Kaw Nation and the governmental affairs liaison for the tribe, was also interviewed. We recorded last Sunday and the segment will air on Thanksgiving weekend. Watch our Around Kansas FB page and I'll share the schedule when I know. Once it airs, there will be a YouTube link on PBS's site and we'll share that as well.

I'm a huge fan of John Yang so it was really an honor to be interviewed with his credentials and sharing it with Ken was a bonus. Both gentlemen are so well-spoken, so eloquent.

I have also gotten some very welcome emails from you readers! As I work on the biography of one of Kansas's most accomplished sons, many of you have reached out to share letters or stories, sources that I could not have known about or discovered.

Honestly, the deadline on this book is hanging over my head like a baby grand piano swinging on a piece of twine. All your help is so appreciated!

Keep the cards, letters, and emails coming!

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



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Liberty Thompson and Baylee Wulfkuhle receive 2023-2024 David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarships

Liberty Thompson of Elkton, South Dakota, a senior in agricultural economics and global food systems leadership, and Baylee Wulfkuhle of Lawrence, a senior in agricultural economics and global food systems leadership, have been awarded the David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarship through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center and the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University.

Liberty Thompson serves as a K-State College of Ag Ambassador and has been part of the leadership team for the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society. She was selected to the KS Collegiate Corn Academy and is a member of the K-State Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness Club. Liberty worked part time for Farm Credit Financial Services while maintaining a high academic standard in her classes. She completed internships with CoBank and Frontier Farm Credit and will begin working with the Bank of Teasdale after graduating in December 2023. Liberty and the Thompson family are affiliated with the following cooperatives: AgFirst Farmers Cooperative, Chandler Co-op, CHS Brandon, Dakotaland Federal Credit Union, Farmer's Co-op Elevator Company, GENEX, ITC, River's Edge Cooperative, Sinai Co-op Elevator Co., Sioux Valley Energy and Thrivent Credit Union.

Baylee Wulfkuhle grew up on a fourth-generation farming and ranching operation. Her father and grandfather both served as directors on cooperative boards so she has a strong connection to the value of cooperatives. Baylee serves on the K-State College of Agriculture Student Council and is a KSU Food Security Scholar, a Student Fellow for the Center for Risk Management Education and Research, a K-State College of Ag Ambassador and a member of the K-State Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness Club. She is also a member of and has held leadership positions



Liberty Thompson and Baylee Wulfkuhle, center, were recently awarded the David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarships.

for the Kansas and National Junior Angus Associations. Baylee volunteers for several community organizations, works for K-State Athletics and served as a teaching assistant for the K-State Department of Agricultural Economics while excelling academically. She completed internships with Frontier Farm Credit and Landmark National Bank and upon graduation in December 2023, she plans to pursue graduate school or a career in ag lending. The Wulfkuhle family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Free State Electric Cooperative, Frontier Farm Credit and KEPCO.

The David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarship has awarded over \$151,597 in scholarships since its establishment in 2014. David and Susan Barton came to Kansas State University in 1976 and have been contributing to cooperative education for many years. They are now encouraging the next generation to develop into strong educated leaders.

"The purpose of the David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarship is to encourage the development of leaders in the agribusiness community," states Professor Brian Briggeman, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. "It's also to provide significant financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in educational programs emphasizing these areas of study."

To be eligible for the David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarship, a student must be either a junior or senior in K-State's College of Agriculture at the time the scholarship is received and be pursuing a degree in Agribusiness or Agricultural Economics. The recipient must also have strong academic performance and be affiliated as a member or as a child or dependent of a member or employee of a company operating on a cooperative basis in the United States (including agricultural, farm credit, credit union, rural electric or rural telephone cooperatives). Continuing K-State students are encouraged to fill out the K-State scholarship application to be included in the university scholarship process for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarship was established by donations

Anhydrous ammonia fall application nears

By Greg McClure, Riley County Extension agriculture and natural resources agent

The soil temperature is getting close to being low enough for fall application of anhydrous ammonia. The soil temperature at a four-inch depth was still 62 degrees Fahrenheit three weeks ago and had dropped to 55 degrees earlier last week. Our target for applying anhydrous ammonia in the fall is 50 degrees Fahrenheit or

lower. The reason we want cool soil when fall applying anhydrous is to minimize nitrification losses. Anhydrous ammonia (NH₃) will rapidly convert to ammonium (NH₄⁺) when it comes in contact with moisture in the soil. In the ammonium form nitrogen does not readily move in most soils (sand would be the exception) so we want our nitrogen to remain in the ammonium form through the winter, which it will do when the soil temperature is at freezing or lower.

Conversion from ammonium to nitrate-N (NO₃⁻) – the form in which losses nitrification losses happen – occurs when soil temperatures are above freezing, but the conversion process is very slow at 50 degrees and lower. Thus, the recommendation to wait for the soil to cool to 50 degrees before applying anhydrous ammonia. By delaying application of anhydrous ammonia until cold weather, most of the applied N can enter the winter as ammonium, and over-winter losses of applied N will be minimal.

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Why 50 degrees soil temperature for planting corn?

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

There are lots of 'rules' we operate by during the corn-growing season. Soil temperatures should be 50 degrees (and climbing) when we plant. Optimum fungicide application window is between tassel and early reproductive stages, and this time of year, fall anhydrous applications should be

delayed until soil temperatures cool below 50 degrees. They're all good 'rules' and all have reasoning behind them, but have you ever wondered what that reason is?

Take the soil temperature recommendation for fall anhydrous applications. There's nothing necessarily magical about 50 degrees (at a four-inch depth). The conversion process of nitrogen from a form with

less possibility of being lost through the winter to one with a greater possibility doesn't cease at 50 degrees (it does slow significantly at 40 degrees) – it just slows. In fact, any time soil temperatures are above freezing, conversion can occur (if wheat is growing, conversion is occurring), with nitrogen transitioning to a state more susceptible to loss.

Why then do we shoot

for 50 degrees? One reason is the ability to spread out our application workload by applying a fertilizer product with a reduced loss potential under appropriate temperature and moisture conditions. If our typical fall weather pattern results in decent moisture plus consistent cooling of soil temperatures to 50 degrees with a continued downward trend through the fall, N conversion to a

more loss prone state will be held to a minimum, reducing the potential for losses through the winter. To monitor soil temperatures in-field, use a soil thermometer to check temperatures at a four-inch depth in mid-late morning. For continuously measured soil temperature trends, check out the Kansas Mesonet Soil Temperature page at <https://mesonet.k-state.edu/agriculture/soiltemp/>

If Mother Nature doesn't cooperate and soil temperatures remain elevated (or increase) following application, loss potential increases as well. When this occurs,

more and more 'stable' N is converted to a form of nitrogen at greater risk for loss, potentially leading to economic and environmental concerns.

If you're making a decision on whether to apply or wait, there are a number of great agronomic explanations – and recommendations – to help you minimize nitrogen losses. One of the best is from KSU Nutrient Management Specialist Dr. Dorivar Ruiz-Diaz in the October 26th edition of the KSU Agronomy eUpdate online at: <https://eupdate.agronomy.ksu.edu/> or upon request at any District Office.

Husker team aiming to establish first center for space agriculture

It's little wonder that so much of the early research into space exploration would focus on escaping orbit, or that the source of that escape, the rocket, would occupy so many minds with the cosmic ambition to match their intellect.

But that ambition fueled the race to space at least as much as liquid hydrogen did. And so, as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Yufeng Ge and Santosh Pitla witnessed the astronomical advances of their own era – reusable rockets landing back on Earth, a drone taking flight on Mars – the Husker engineers began thinking big about an aspect of space travel just obvious enough to often escape attention.

"We'll be on Mars and the moon, we'll have settlements – and people got to eat," said Pitla, associate professor of biological systems engineering.

Before long, the duo was applying for and earning a two-year Grand Challenges grant from Nebraska's Office of Research and Economic Development. Ge and Pitla's long-term goal is about as ambitious

as it gets: finding ways to sustainably grow food on space stations, the moon, Mars and other celestial bodies that might eventually sustain legions of human ones. To do it, they formed the Consortium of Space, Policy, Agriculture, Climate and Extreme Environment – SPACE2, for short.

The consortium's short-term aim doesn't exactly lean modest, either. It may not rank with the near-vacuum of space, but Ge and Pitla would come to learn of a sizable void: No U.S. university features a center dedicated specifically to the study of space agriculture. The researchers want Nebraska to house the first.

"If NASA or the big space companies – SpaceX, Virgin Galactic, Blue Origin – want to go out and work with a university, who would that be?" Pitla said. "We have been doing ag research for more than 100 years, and we're an ag state."

"Why reinvent the wheel somewhere else when we already have all this experience?"

It helps, Ge said, that Nebraska U "sits very, very

nicely in that intersection" of multidisciplinary expertise and force-multiplier collaboration that the rigors and relentlessness of space will demand. The university-housed Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, the recent recipient of a \$19 million grant to pursue sustainable irrigation and mechanization in developing countries, has long endeavored to grow more food with less water. Ge's own research into ag-relevant sensors is likewise informing more precise, efficient application of fertilizer and water, both of which will prove even more precious in space than on Earth. Pitla has spearheaded the engineering and testing of Flex-Ro, an autonomous planter that can already seed a five-acre, untilled field on its own.

"Before humans go to Mars, we'll want some essential resources there – and for that, we will send robots," Pitla said. "Think about a greenhouse on a spaceship that's landed on Mars, and it's already started growing food. You need a fully automated, robotic farmer that is doing those things even before

humans arrive."

The Department of Agronomy's work in plant genetics, meanwhile, gets applied at the Greenhouse Innovation Center, where a combination of infrared cameras and AI-powered imaging analysis has accelerated the breeding of crop varieties that endure amid temperature extremes and drought.

"The only difference between that and what we'll be doing in space is, well, nothing," said David Jones, a member of the team and professor of biological systems engineering. "Space is just another one of those extreme environments."

In assembling their consortium, the engineers were careful not to overlook the value of related but less obvious expertise. They invited multiple colleagues from the Nebraska College of Law, which has emerged as an international leader in the thorny, unprecedented realm of legality and ownership in space. And they folded in faculty from the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts, whose ability to conceptualize the future has already given the engineers and scientists plenty to chew on.

"If it's not going to work here," Jones said of a space ag center, "it's not going to work."

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The Propane Education and Research Council is currently offering exclusive savings of up to \$5,000 off propane-powered irrigation engines, power generators, flame weed control systems, and agriculture water and building heating systems. PERC recommends that producers interested in taking advantage of these savings apply online now to ensure qualification for the 2023 program.

The Propane Farm Incentive Program is a nationwide research and demonstration initiative that offers financial incentives toward the purchase of new propane equipment in exchange for providing operation and propane usage feedback.

"The Propane Farm Incentive Program offers an exciting opportunity for PERC to directly help producers interested in upgrading farm equipment, making the transition even more cost-effective and beneficial," said Michael Newland, director of agriculture business development. "While we can't guarantee funds available year-to-year, we are currently offering up to \$5,000 in savings through the end of the year—so we're hoping to reach as many producers interested in taking advantage of the offer as possible."

To make the application process easier than ever, PERC has created a new online platform with all materials necessary for program qualification and participation. To apply, producers can simply visit propane.com/farmincentive and complete the step-by-step process to receive incentives toward qualifying equipment.

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