



## Ray and Susan Flickner receive Kansas Leopold Conservation Award

Ray and Susan Flickner of Wichita have been selected as the recipients of the 2023 Kansas Leopold Conservation Award.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water, and wildlife resources in their care.

In Kansas the award is presented annually by Sand County Foundation and national sponsor American Farmland Trust, with state partners: Kansas Association of Conservation Districts and the Ranchland Trust of Kansas.

The Flickner family farms in McPherson, Hodgeman, Dickinson, and Norton counties. Their Flickner Innovation Farm is a collaboration of university, industry, and agency partners where new methods to improve soil health and conserve water are demonstrated. They were announced as the recipient of the award at the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts' 79th Annual Convention in Wichita and receive \$10,000 and a crystal award for being selected.

Earlier this year, Kansas landowners were encouraged to apply (or be nominated) for the award. Applications were reviewed by an independent panel of agricultural and conservation leaders. Among the many outstanding Kansas landowners nominated for the award were finalists: Kevin Karr of Emporia, Janus Farms of Cherryvale, and Glenn and Barbara Walker of Brookville.

The first Kansas Leopold Conservation Award was presented to Sprout Ranch of Sedan in 2015. Last year's recipient was Michael Thompson of Almena. View all recipients



Ray and Susan Flickner, pictured above with their family, were recently awarded the 2023 Kansas Leopold Conservation Award.

Courtesy photo

at [www.SandCountyFoundation.org/Kansas](http://www.SandCountyFoundation.org/Kansas)

The Leopold Conservation Award in Kansas is made possible thanks to the generous support of American Farmland Trust, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, Ranchland Trust of Kansas, Sand County Foundation, Farm Credit Associations of Kansas, ITC Great Plains, Kansas Department of Agriculture (Division of Conservation), Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Forest Service, Green Cover Seed, McDonald's, The Nature Conservancy, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and a Kansas Leopold Conservation Award recipient.

In his influential 1949 book, *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage, which he called "an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity."

Sand County Foundation presents the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 27 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. For more information, visit [www.leopoldconservationaward.org](http://www.leopoldconservationaward.org).

### About Ray And Susan Flickner

Ray and Susan Flickner compare agricultural conservation to a long road, but it's a journey they've resolved to travel.

The Flickners are lifelong learners with master's degrees. They have channeled their education and experience into innovation on their Kansas farmland, and see conservation as critical to its environmental and economic resilience.

Ray has shared his knowledge as a speaker at the governor's conference on the future of water in Kansas, and before a U.S. Senate agriculture subcommittee on making conservation programs user-friendly for farmers.

Amid the 1980s farm crisis, the Flickners bought 220 acres of farmland in McPherson County that has been in Ray's family since the 1870s. They've added another 630 acres, and it's now known as Flickner Innovation Farm where more than a dozen university, industry, and agency partners explore new methods to improve soil health and conserve water.

Modern irrigation technology tested at the

farm helps make good use of every drop of water in a drought-prone region. Switching from a flood irrigation system to sub-surface drip irrigation showed 40 percent less water use over a decade, compared to the county average. Real-time feedback on how much water will benefit every slice of a field is provided by plant-based water sensors and a ground-penetrating radar mounted to a center pivot irrigation system.

Crop yields have improved thanks to irrigation technology and the grid soil sampling the Flickners conduct every four years. The sampling shows where to apply nutrients and lime at varying rates to adjust the soil's pH level. Cover crops are grown to suppress weeds and improve soil health. These conservation practices have increased their soil's organic matter over time.

Water and soil conservation has long been a priority at Flickner Farms. Ray and Susan recently rehabilitated shelter belts and windbreaks that his ancestors planted in the 1930s to prevent erosion. Ray credits his father with stopping the use of anhy-

drous ammonia fertilizer in the 1960s and switching from traditional to minimum and conservation tillage in the 1980s.

Over the years, Ray and Susan bought more farmland in three other counties (Dickinson, Hodgeman, and Norton), where annual rainfall and topographies vary widely. They have created pollinator habitat in areas not suitable for row crop farming, constructed miles of terraces, and built acres of grass waterways. A marginal five-acre tract was taken out of crop production and reseeded with grass to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat. Other fields have benefited from using the Kansas Forest Service's conservation tree program to build windbreaks.

With assistance from their county conservation district, intermittent streams have been reshaped and seeded to brome grass. Grass waterways previously under an irrigation center pivot were relocated to field edges. Productivity is improved when large farm equipment can be maneuvered to limit hairpin turns where over-application of seed, fertilizer, and chemicals are more likely to occur.

Ray and Susan have turned their conservation ethic to 320 acres of Hodgeman County farmland that Susan acquired from her father's estate. In addition to redesigning its terraces, the farm features two playas. The Flickners are coordinating with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on how to best rehabilitate these important High Plains aquifer features. It's just the latest step to improve water resources in Kansas on a constantly evolving journey.

### Accolades

"The Flickners have made it a priority to constantly improve soil health

and conserve water, while sharing their experiences and knowledge with neighbors and agricultural producers across the state of Kansas. They are most deserving of this award" said Mike Beam, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture.

"Ray has been a leader in adopting innovative practices over the years with it culminating in the Flickner Innovation Farm, where he has been able to share what he is learning with others," said Dan Meyerhoff, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts executive director. "Ray exemplifies the extraordinary commitment celebrated by the Leopold Conservation Award."

"Congratulations to the Flickners on their selection as the 2023 Kansas Leopold Conservation Award recipient," said Barth Crouch, Ranchland Trust of Kansas Board Chairman. "RTK is pleased to honor all of the recipients and nominees of this award, which recognizes the vital contributions of working agricultural lands to wildlife, clean water, and other natural resources in Kansas."

"These award recipients are examples of how Aldo Leopold's land ethic is alive and well today. Their dedication to conservation shows how individuals can improve the health of the land while producing food and fiber," said Kevin McAleese, Sand County Foundation president and CEO.

"As the national sponsor for Sand County Foundation's Leopold Conservation Award, American Farmland Trust celebrates the hard work and dedication of Michael Thompson," said John Piotti, AFT president and CEO. "At AFT we believe that conservation in agriculture requires a focus on the land, the practices and the people and this award recognizes the integral role of all three."

## K-State irrigation engineer bringing water competition to Kansas

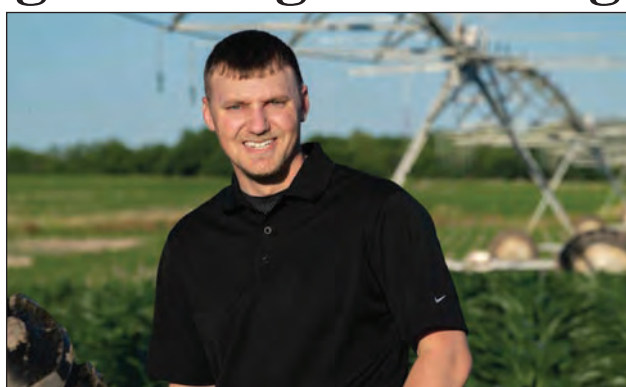
By Pat Melgares, K-State Research and Extension news service

An innovative program comparing High Plains farmers' use of various water management technologies in their operations may seem like a reality show, but Daran Rudnick sees it much different.

True, Rudnick says, the program is billed as a competition, but the participants – in this case, farmers in Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Oklahoma – are actually building their own support network.

"There is so much technology and so many water management practices out there currently, that it's really difficult to expect anybody to be able to introduce those in their own operation, whether it's because of time or cost restraints," said Rudnick, a professor of biological and agricultural engineering at Kansas State University, and the director of sustainable irrigation in the College of Agriculture.

Rudnick, who has been at K-State for less than a month, was a key figure in creating a University of Nebraska program known as TAPS – Testing Ag Performance Solutions – which just completed



Daran Rudnick, professor of biological and agricultural engineering at Kansas State University, and the director of sustainable irrigation in the College of Agriculture.

its seventh year. As a new K-State faculty member, one of his assignments is to implement the program more fully in western Kansas, an agriculture-rich region threatened by dwindling water availability.

Rudnick said TAPS facilitates several interactive, real-life farm management competitions aimed at profitability and efficient use of inputs. Producers who join the competition make the major decisions for test plots they manage, but they receive assistance from university researchers and Extension staff.

The support network also includes industry leaders, agriculture stu-

dents, government regulators and agency personnel.

"TAPS brings everybody together," Rudnick said. "Industry can offer their solutions in a more controlled environment, which is easier for them. Producers are exposed to new technology, so instead of a 30-minute highlight, they actually get to use it, make decisions and see how it plays out."

Currently, TAPS has six farm management competitions, including irrigated and dryland contests. In 2023, crops studied included corn, sorghum, wheat and cotton.

"Truly, it becomes pretty fun," Rudnick said. "Everything is anonymous; we're not trying to poke fun and say, 'Wow, look at this person; they lost X amount per acre.' It's a protected safe space to go out there and try something that you might not necessarily be comfortable doing otherwise."

"As a farmer, you can evaluate your existing

practices and see how you benchmark against others that are competing. You can try a completely different approach, such as you may want to be a little more aggressive in a given area. Or maybe you want to pull water off a selected hybrid that might be more drought-tolerant. So, farmers can really play around with no fear of failure."

Each TAPS competition begins in March of each year. Rudnick said farming operations compete for three awards: Most profitable; highest input use efficiency; and

greatest grain yield. Cash awards are given to the top three in each category.

More information is available by contacting Rudnick at [drudnick@ksu.edu](mailto:drudnick@ksu.edu), or 712-204-6772.

"In a lot of ways, TAPS embodies the excitement I have in coming to K-State," Rudnick said. "I'm an irrigation engineer by training, but the exciting part is in recognizing that I'm just one piece to the larger puzzle, and being able to work with other experts, stakeholders, producers and agencies – who are all trying to improve and

understand the system – is exciting."

**NRCS awards \$2.91M to build water support network in five states**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service has committed \$2.91 million for the first of a five-year agreement to help agricultural irrigators steward limited water resources.

The project involves partners in Kansas, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas. It is jointly led by the Ir-

• Cont. on page 3

## On the Move



Crystal Socha, Augusta, was the winner in the Livestock category of the Ranchland Trust of Kansas photo contest. All winning entries can be viewed on RTK's Facebook page or website, located at [www.ranchlandtrustofkansas.org](http://www.ranchlandtrustofkansas.org).



## Spreading Caring and Kindness

By Glenn Brunkow,  
Pottawatomie County  
farmer and rancher

We are well on our way into the holiday season. Although, if you have been in any retail store or coffee shop, we have been in the holiday season since roughly August 15. I have to admit I am a sucker for this time of the year. I suspect this is the case for many of us, and the holidays are highly anticipated and much enjoyed.

But not everyone looks forward to the holiday season. This is also a time of the year that can be hard for many from a mental health state. There is a lot of pressure this time of the year. This is especially true for those of us in agriculture. It is also the end of the year and for many of us this has been a difficult year in multiple ways. Drought and financial pressure can take its

toll and the hustle, bustle and high expectations of the holiday season can be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

Couple that with the stiff upper lip, keep-it-all-inside mentality of farmers and ranchers and the holidays can be a very difficult, trying time. I am sure many of us have been there; it is a hard, lonely road to go down, but it doesn't have to be that way. The other thing about farmers and ranchers is that we are a tight-knit community, and we will go out of our way to help a neighbor. Mental health is no different.

It is simple for us to know what to do but very difficult to actually reach out to someone in trouble. Often neighbors and friends are the first to notice. Someone experiencing a mental health crisis might be withdrawn, quiet-

er than normal and avoid activities and events they normally attend. The signs are not always easy to see but as a friend or neighbor you will know when things aren't "right."

It is incredibly difficult to take the next step and urge someone to seek help and even more difficult to intervene on their behalf and get them help. I know it is not comfortable, but the consequences of ignoring signs of distress are even worse. We have to work together to end the stigma of seeking mental health care; it is just as important as taking care of ourselves physically.

I also encourage anyone struggling with added stress during the holidays to type Rural Minds Matter into any search bar to bring up a list of resources. If you or a loved one is experiencing an acute crisis, dial 988. It's a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress.

During this time of holiday cheer and the rush of the season, please take time to check in on friends and neighbors, especially if you have not seen them in a few days. Really talk to them and listen to what they are saying. If you are reading this and in mental distress, please seek help; it is not a sign of weakness but rather one of great awareness. I hope everyone will be able to enjoy this season of time with friends and family. Just remember, the greatest gift you can give is the one of caring and kindness.

"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.



Well, I am a day late and a dollar short. Who am I kidding? I am far more than a dollar short. I blew it, I forgot to write a Thanksgiving column, actually I lost track of the calendar. I know this year Thanksgiving is about as early as it will ever be, and I will use that as an excuse, but in reality, I just forgot what week it was. In any case, here is my Thanksgiving column.

This year has been quite a year, and I don't know about you but every time I watch the news I wonder where this world is going. We have a lot to be concerned about, I am sure everyone's stress level is as high as it can be, the future seems to be uncertain. That is why this year Thanksgiving is so important, rather than focus on what is wrong and worry about what might happen, we should take time to remember all of our blessings and how good our lives really are.

First of all, we are all blessed to live in this great nation. No matter what our situation or station in life is, the United States of America is still the best place in the world to live. We have all been granted freedoms that no one else in the world have. We can worship where we want to, we can pursue the career we want, and we have the freedom to speak our mind. Most places in this world only dream of the rights and freedoms that we have and yet many of us take them for granted. Thanksgiving is the one day of the year when we should focus on the blessing of living in this great nation, even though I would argue that should be every day.

Many of us live in what would be considered upper-class style in the rest of the world. We have a roof over our head, protection from the elements and a soft place to sleep at night. We have more clothes than most people could dream of. Our refrigerators and pantries are full and if we need anything it only requires a trip to the grocery store. I might also add that our store shelves are fully stocked and most of us have several options of which store we will give our business to. That is a blessing this nation has that few others in our world

can claim. Most of us have at least one car and I would guess a lot of us have multiple vehicles we can pick from. I know we Americans take our travel and ease of movement for granted. I will take this even a step further; we can go anywhere in this great nation that we choose, and we do not have to have permission and we do not have to worry about being detained and questioned. There are a lot of people in this world that only dream of that kind of freedom, let alone a car to drive.

We have the ability to choose the occupation we want. We can start up our own business; prosperity is up to our talent, hard work, and dedication. It is possible in the United States to become successful even with a humble start. We control our own destiny and that is a rare thing in most other places on our planet. This is the time to be thankful for the comfort of our lifestyle and the freedom to pursue it.

Yes, we should celebrate all that we have. I do not point out our blessings to make you feel guilty or to say we don't deserve them, rather I want us to realize that we are blessed and that we should be thankful. Thanksgiving is a day that we should stop and spend time reflecting on all that is right in our lives and there is so much. I know I take it all for granted, my freedoms and rights that were hard-fought and earned with sweat, tears, and blood.

I know that I am living a life most only dream of and that I am a blessed man. I should give thanks every day for that, but the hustle and bustle of the world gets in the way. That is why it is so good that we have this day set aside as a reminder of all that we have and all that we should be thankful for. I know that when you read this Thanksgiving will be past and even the leftovers will be gone but I hope that you will find just a few moments to stop and reflect on all the blessings you have been given. This world is not all evil and bad, in fact, most of this world is good and that is what we should be most thankful for.



A couple of weeks ago on Sunday afternoon I sat down at my computer and made my "click-list" at a Manhattan grocery store for the groceries I would need for Thanksgiving dinner. It was so handy, just sitting there at my kitchen counter, going over my menu in my mind and ordering the ingredients. Then on Monday at my appointed time, I pulled into the parking place marked for pick-ups, checked in on the app on my phone and waited for a few minutes until a nice young man brought my groceries out and loaded them into the car. We exchanged a few pleasantries, then he went back to work and I drove away.

But it got me to thinking.

I've always loved chit-chatting with the clerks at grocery stores and find it a very serendipitous experience when I run into someone I know and we catch up on each other's lives in the frozen food aisle. But that day, I sat alone in my car... playing on my phone, waiting for my groceries to come out. Easier? Yes. Lonelier? Also yes.

A couple of months ago I wrote a story for our local newspaper about the cashier at our bank who had worked there for fifty years. She'd seen many changes, mostly in the area of technology, which made their jobs easier once they got the hang of it. But one change she didn't care for and just couldn't get used to was the lack of face-to-face contact with customers. She recalled the days of the bank's lobby filled with customers – neighbors exchanging pleasantries, catching up on the local happenings or lending a sympathetic ear when needed. The drive-up window was the first thing that took customers out of the lobby. Then along came online banking. Now her customers bank from the comfort of their homes and she rarely sees them. But she misses them.

Mental health is finally beginning to get the attention it deserves. Important conversations are starting to be had, and I'm very glad about that. I also think we each have a responsibility to invest in our own mental health, however that might look. Without oversimplifying a very complex topic, I think we need to take a good, long look at the connections in our lives that maybe we've let slip a little, favoring instead the convenience technology affords – whether it's communicating via a terse email or short text, or skipping the grocery store or bank in favor of online commerce. We are missing interactions that don't just benefit us, but also the people we talk to. In our hyper-connected society, we've become woefully disconnected from true, meaningful conversations and relationships. We truly were not designed to live like that.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not judging anyone who shops online, banks online, or goes through a drive-through. That's not the point. I understand how important convenience can be in busy lives. I'm just saying, for the sake of our mental health and that of others, we need to be careful not to overlook or neglect those little interactions throughout the day that make life so much richer and more interesting. We need to hear the sigh behind the standard answer of "Fine..." when we ask how someone is doing. And sometimes we need to let our own sighs be heard. That's how we do community... real community. How do we make a difference in the mental health conversation? By showing up and being there for our friends, neighbors and community.

And by allowing them be there for us.

## Congress can't ignore the mental health crisis anymore, Costa says

By Jennifer Shike

More than one in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness. U.S. Representative Jim Costa (D-CA) says Congress cannot ignore the mental health crisis in America any more.

Costa, along with representatives Randy Feenstra (R-IA), Angie Craig (D-MN), Mike Bost (R-IL), and Zach Nunn (R-IA), introduced the bipartisan Farmers First Act, which would expand and improve behavioral health services in rural communities and connect those in times of crisis with trained medical professionals to receive the personalized care that they need.

"Rural farming communities have limited or no access to mental health services – making it difficult for farmers, farm

workers and their families to get the support they need," Costa said in a release.

The bill is designed to expand vital, life-saving mental health services across rural America.

"Our farmers and producers are the backbone of our nation's economy; and their job isn't easy. It's a stressful business where livelihoods can be impacted by outside – and sometimes uncontrollable – factors, like market conditions, financial pressures and the weather," Bost said in a release. "It's important that they have somewhere to turn in times of need. I'm proud to help lead this legislation to expand access to mental health services for our hardworking Americans in rural communities. They

need to know they are not alone, and that help is available."

The Farmers First Act would reauthorize the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) and ensure rural communities have access to certified community behavioral health clinics, critical access hospitals and rural health centers.

"Farmers and farm workers are some of the toughest, hardest working people I know, but farming is a uniquely stressful job and we've got to get them the support they need," Craig said. "I'm working across the aisle to ensure that farmers and rural Americans know that there are resources available to them to help deal with stress and mental health challenges."



Since 1954

# GRASS & GRAIN

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

GRASS & GRAIN (USPS 937-880)  
The newsworthy 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.

MEMBER OF  
Associated Press

www.grassandgrain.com

# KDA announces Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure program grant opportunities

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is now accepting grant applications for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure program. Nearly \$6.46 million was awarded to the agency through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service for this program.

The purpose of the RFSI program is to build resilience in the middle of the food supply chain by awarding competitive grants for projects to expand capacity and infrastructure for the aggregation, processing,

manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, or distribution of targeted local and regional agricultural products. This program is intended to support food system crops and products meant for human consumption excluding meat and poultry products, which are funded through other USDA programs.

Grants will be awarded to Kansas food and farm businesses and other eligible entities, including nonprofit organizations, local government entities, Tribal governments, and institutions such as schools and hospitals.

Two grant types will be offered through the RFSI program. Infrastructure grants will range in value from a minimum award of \$100,000 and a maximum award of \$3,000,000. Simplified Equipment-Only Grants will range in value from a minimum award of \$10,000 and a maximum award of \$100,000. Infrastructure Grant recipients are required to contribute 50% of the total proposed project cost as a match to federal funding. This applies to all applicants except those who qualify for the reduced match of 25%. Simplified Equipment-Only Grants do not require

cost sharing or matching. Applications will be evaluated through a competitive review process in cooperation with the USDA-AMS. Applications will be ranked based on their project's need, proposed outcomes, and feasibility as well as the impact they will have on the local food supply chain and their communities. KDA encourages projects that benefit underserved farmers and ranchers, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, veteran producers, and processors and other middle-of-the-supply-chain businesses owned by socially disad-

vantaged individuals. Applications are due to KDA no later than 5:00 p.m. CT on January 31, 2024. For more information, please download and carefully read the Request for Applications from the KDA website: agriculture.ks.gov/RFSI. The vision of the Kansas Department of Agriculture is to provide an ideal environment for long-term, sustainable agricultural prosperity and statewide economic growth. The agency will achieve this by advocating for sectors at all levels and providing industry outreach.

## Calving Schools planned: K-State to host four events around Kansas

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

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

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

"Our goal is for producers to leave better

prepared for calving season," Tarpoff adds. "We will demonstrate building a proper calving kit, then discuss timelines on when to examine cows for calving problems, and when to call your vet for help if things are not going well, and how to care for the newborn calf. It's an excellent program regardless of experience level."

The meetings will have other timely educational topics determined by each location.

Meetings scheduled include:

- Thursday, January 4, 2024, evening, Stafford County Annex, St. John; RSVP to 21 Central District Extension Offices at Stafford County Office: 620-549-3502 or the Kinsley Office: 620-659-2149, or email baley@ksu.edu.
- Tuesday, January 9, 2024, evening, Haskell County Fairgrounds, Sublette; RSVP to Wild West Extension Office at Stevens County Office:

- Thursday, January 11, 2024, evening, Northeast Kansas Heritage Complex, Holton; RSVP to Meadlark Extension Holton Office at 785-364-4125, or email rfechter@ksu.edu
- More and updated information about the Calving Schools as well as local fliers will be available at KSUBeef.org.

**NRCS awards \$2.91M to build water support network in five states**

• Cont. from page 1

tion Innovation Consortium at Colorado State University, and the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment at Kansas State University.

Daran Rudnick, director of sustainable irrigation in K-State's College of Agriculture, said funds are intended to support a proposed Master Irrigator program in Kansas, as well as an innovative competition known as TAPS.

Master Irrigator is a four-day program that equips irrigators with advanced training, and the knowledge and connections to achieve conservation-oriented goals. TAPS is a program in which farmer-led teams compete head-to-head to see whose agronomic and marketing decisions are more profitable or most input-use efficient at the conclusion of the growing season.

**PAXICO INSURANCE AGENCY**  
We Work For You

(785) 636-5345 PH  
Paxico, KS 66526

FARM • RANCH  
AUTO • LIFE • COMMERCIAL

Scott Murray  
insuringkansas@gmail.com

**40x60x12 GARAGE/SHOP \$45,500\***

\*Price Includes: (2) 10'x10' OHD's; (1) 3'x6'8" Entry Door; (2) 3x3 SH Windows; 4' Wainscot; 12" Overhang; Reflective Radiant Barrier on Sides & Roof; Delivery and Install on your level site.

Check out our website for all our specials!  
QUALITYSTRUCTURES.COM  
**800-374-6988**

Quality Structures  
Richmond, Kansas

Travel charges may apply. Gutters not included.  
Price effective 11/1/23 - 11/30/23.

**Ag Risk SOLUTIONS**  
Experience. Knowledge. Integrity.  
YOUR Crop Insurance Solution.

www.ag-risk-solutions.com  
913-367-4711

@AgRiskSolutions  
/AgRiskSolutions

Ag Risk Solutions is an equal opportunity provider.

 <b>MIKE CHARTIER</b> Hiawatha, KS 913-370-0999	 <b>MARSHALL COFFELT</b> Ravenwood, MO 660-853-2415	 <b>TONY ELIZONDO</b> Wamego, KS 785-410-7563
 <b>JENNIFER FORANT</b> Atchison, KS 785-217-3815	 <b>MIKE SCHERER</b> Atchison, KS 913-426-2640	 <b>KURT SCHWARZ</b> LaCygne, KS 660-424-3422

**St. James 2023 CONSIGNMENT AUCTION**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023 - 9:30 AM**  
St. James Hall, 5th & Iowa St., WETMORE, KANSAS  
Breakfast 7:00-10:30, Lunch till end of sale by St. James Altar Society

**PARTIAL LISTING:**  
**CARS, TRUCKS, TRAILERS:**  
1998 Buick LeSabre, 3.8 eng, auto., 183,000 mi, new tires; 2014 Ford Expedition EL, 5.4 eng, auto., 4x4, 121,000 mi; 1989 Chevy 2500, 4x4, 350 eng, 4-spd w/flatbed; 1995 Dodge 2500, 360 eng, auto, 4x4, 240K mi, w/flatbed; 2000 Ford F250, ext. cab, V10 eng, auto, 4x4, 128,150 mi, w/Krogman bale bed; 2001 Dodge 2500, 5.9 Cummins, auto., 4x4, 341K mi, w/Krogman bale bed; 2004 Ford F250, V10 eng, auto, 4x4, 153K mi, new tires, tool box; 2006 Dodge 2500, 2wd, 5.7 Hemi, auto, 254K mi, new tires; 2014 GMC Sierra 1500, double cab, 5.3 eng, auto, 4x4, 6.5' bed, 173K mi, new trans, leather seats; 2015 Chevy 1500, crew cab, new 5.3 eng, auto, 4x4, 105K mi, leather seats; 1970 Dodge 500 Fire Engine, V8 eng, 4x2 trans, 5560 mi, 700 gal. SS tank; 1998 Polaris 500 6-wheeler, 662 hrs.; 2013 Polaris 800, open station, 5500mi.; 1965 Chevy C60 Truck, 350 eng, 4x2 trans, 13' bed w/steel sides & wood floor; 2016 Chevy bed only, 6'5", red; 2001 Northstar utility bed 8' fiberglass service bed, 8'; 2002 Ford F250 front & rear axles.

**TRACTORS, COMBINE, SKID LOADERS, TRAILERS:** JD 530 Tractor, SN# 5302607, NF, PS, No 3-pt. hitch; JD 4010 Tractor, dsl, WF, 3-pt., Hei-ker cab, single hyd.; JD 4430 Tractor, quad range, WF, 2-hyd., SN#4430H50317R, 18.4x38, 10.00x16, frt. & rear wts, Runs Good, AC not working; 2015 JD 6115D MFWD, 650 hrs, SN#D-VF0061929, reverser, 3pt, Quik Coupler, 3-hyd., w/H310 loader, QT, adapter for skid loader attachments; JD 4700 Tractor, MFWD, dsl, hydro, 3 pt, 3240 hrs, Turf Tires, dual mid-mount hyd.; CIH 1680 Combine, 2wd; IH 1060 6R30 Corn Head; IH 1020 Flex Platform, 20'; JD 893 Corn Head, 8R30', hyd. deck, plates, header height cont.; 2016 CAT 236D Skid Loader, 75hp., 220 original hrs, hand controls, heater, AC, high flow aux. hyd., 12x16.5 tires, 72" tooth bucket, rear camera, Like New Cond.; 2015 JD 332E Skid Loader, 76hp, 1580 hrs, high flow hyd., hand controls, 3rd hyd attach., new 14x17.5 tires, no bucket; Groser Steel Tracks, fits 14x17.5 tires, new never used; 2013 Dae-

ty Wagon w/elec. 12-ton gears; Kinze 2200 12R30 Pull-Type Planter, Ag Leader monitor, w/ Precision finger pickups; Sitrix 12 Wheel Pull-Type Rake, Good Condition; Rotary Cutter 10', single wing; Krause 3-pt Chisel; Combine Trailer, heavy duty; bale spear, 3-pt; 2-Easy Trail 3400 Gravity Flow Wagons w/ elec gears, roll tarps; Willrich 24' Field Cultivator w/harrow attach.; JD 4-bottom Semi-Mounted Plow; Ford 501 Sickle Mower, 3-pt., 7'; Artsway Top Spread, Loader Mounted Spreader; Kelly Ryan 4'x8' Feed Wagon; Farm King Gravity Wagon mounted on gears, 250 bu.; JCT Rotary Cutter, 72", Skid Loader mountings; Hydraulic Post Hole Digger W 10" & 16" auger; JD GM1072R, 3-pt Finish Mower; JCT Hyd. Post Hole Digger, 3-augers; HD Walk Thru Pallet Forks for Skid Loader; TSC 3-pt blade 7'; 3-pt Dirt Bucket; 60" Grapple Bucket; 18.4x34 Clamp-on Duals; 18.4x38 Clamp-on Duals; Skid Loader Single Bale Spear; Skid Loader Pallet Forks; (2) 20.8x42 Tractor Bar Tires, 40%; (2) 16.5LX16.2 Tires.

**LIVESTOCK EQUIP.:** Cattle Guard 8'x12'; Creep Feeders on Wheels; 26' Bottomless Guard Rail Feed Bunk; 5-Swing Gates w/hinges, different lengths; 20 Cattle Panels, 6 bar, 20' length; Pile Cattle Panels; Feed Bunks; 6' T Posts; Electric Fencer Posts; 10- 21' Free Standing 6 Bar Panels; (20) 6-Bar Continuous Fence panels; Creep Feeder, 2000# on wheels; 30 Big Round Bales Straw, Net Wrap; 35 Big Round Cornstalk Bales, Net Wrap; 60 Big Round Bales Wheat, Net Wrap; 26 Big Round Bales 3rd cutting Alfalfa, Net Wrap; 25 Big Round Bales Brome Hay.

**MISC.:** (20) 26' Guard Rails; 3'x6' Work Bench, 5/16 thick; Hedge Posts, Lines & Corners; Snyder Poly Tank, 900 gal.; Crown Poly Tank, 500 gal.; (2) 27' 4" Bin Sweeps, No Motors; 30' 4" Bin Sweep, No Motor, New; JD Riding Lawn Mower; Overhead Sheetrock Panel Lift; 1100 gal. Fuel Tank; Old Maytag Wringer Washer; Oval Stock Tank, approx. 150 gal.; 200 Metal Folding Chairs; 2 Church Benches (nice).

**Vehicles, Equipment by 12:30. MORE items by Sale Date!**  
Major equipment items will be broadcast LIVE ONLINE with EQUIPMENTFACTS.COM beginning at approximately 12:30  
\*MUST PRE-REGISTER WITH EQUIPMENT FACTS TO DO ONLINE BIDDING\*  
For information contact: Bill 785-547-5082 or Ron 785-207-0434  
AUCTIONEERS: Wayne & Craig Wischropp, Rodney Burdick, Cody Askren, Cole Pitts, Dan Harris  
TERMS: Cash or check day of sale. Bid by number. Nothing removed until settled for. Announcements sale day take precedence over all written material. Buyers responsible for own inspection of all sale items. Not responsible for accidents.

Give a GREAT GIFT at a GREAT PRICE this Christmas!

Purchase a NEW Grass & Grain 1-year subscription to save over \$6!\*

\*Sales-tax free plus \$4 discount

Renew any current subscription and we'll pay the sales tax!

**NEW (In-State) Christmas Gift Subscription Rate:**  
**1 Year: \$39**

**Tax-Free Christmas RENEWAL Rate (IN-STATE)**  
**1 Year: \$43.00      2 Years: \$80.00      3 Years: \$111.00**

**OUT OF STATE\* Christmas GIFT and RENEWAL Rate:**  
**1 Year: \$49.50      2 Years: \$95.50      3 Years: \$134.50**

\*Tax-free rate available for In-State subs. only due to state tax laws.  
\$3.50 discounted from Out-of-State taxed rate.

**Must purchase before 9 a.m. Friday, December 22nd, 2023**

Special rates are good one time only - renewals after initial purchase will be at regular cost.

**Call or stop by today & MENTION THIS SPECIAL to take advantage of this limited time offer!**

**785-539-7558 • 1531 Yuma St, Manhattan, KS**  
Or mail your check to PO Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505

From our family to yours,  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



## Tips For A Healthier Life: Plan For Health During The Holidays

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

MANHATTAN – It's not always so clear-cut – or easy to follow-through – but being healthy and improving one's quality of life can be summed up in three small phrases.

Build a better meal.

Boost your physical activity.

Balance stress.

"So, the three B's are really important," said Chelsea Reinberg, a nutrition, food safety and health agent in K-State Research and Extension's Johnson County office. "I frame good health that way because it's easy to remember...but sometimes doing all three is difficult. Doing all three is important and they all affect our health."

The three B's, Reinberg said, can provide a valuable road map for people heading into holidays or considering New Year's resolutions.

**Build a better meal**

Reinberg said the USDA provides a visual reminder to help Americans make healthy choices from each of the five food groups. The graphic is called MyPlate, and can be viewed online.

"MyPlate gives us a great image of how all of our meals – breakfast, lunch and dinner – should be built," Reinberg said. "Half of your plate should be fruits or vegetables, a quarter should be grains – focusing on whole grains – and a quarter should be protein. Then, maybe a side of dairy, for those who consume dairy products."

Fruits and vegetables contain fiber, which may help to manage weight, prevent constipation, enhance gut health and reduce the risk of heart disease and type 2 diabetes, among other benefits.

"The great thing about food and nutrition is that we can be creative," Reinberg said. "Some people like to eat the same meals... but diversifying our plate is also healthy. As nutritionists, we say, 'eat the rainbow,' because each color had different nutrients, antioxidants, phytonutrients, vitamins and minerals."

**Boost your physical activity**

"When people think about physical activity, often they think about going to the gym or going out and running a mile or a marathon or whatever it may be," Reinberg said.

Instead, physical activity may mean a steady 15-20 minute walk, or another activity that reduces sitting time and gets you away from screens or other technology.

"Being more physically active has some immediate benefits; for example, you may feel like your stress is reduced after a short walk. It reduces your blood pressure, at least temporarily," Reinberg said.

Long-term benefits include a decreased risk of heart disease or diabetes; lower blood pressure; stronger bones and muscles; and better coordination and balance.

"Some studies have shown that no matter how healthy you are in terms of eating, if you sit for a majority of your day, and then you go home and just sit on the couch, that can actually negate some of the other health benefits that you're trying to get by maybe eating an apple in the morning for breakfast."

**Balance stress**

Physical activity also helps to reduce stress, but colder weather can limit the opportunity to get outside and move. Reinberg said it's important to ac-

knowledge stress and "have a game plan as we go into the holidays."

"If you know that finances or family dynamics are going to be points of stress, make sure you think about it and prepare a plan so that you know that if you're in certain situations, you will know how to handle them," she said. "Your plan of action should help to assure that stress doesn't get the best of you."

Chronic stress can increase the risk of heart disease, stroke or high blood pressure.

"Keeping stress in is not a good thing," Reinberg said. "People handle stress differently, which I think is important to acknowledge that you and I are going to react differently to stressful situations. But to really make sure that you know what your triggers are and that you know how to resolve those... is very important."

Regarding the three B's, Reinberg said "you don't have to tackle all three at the same time."

"Maybe you start with building a better meal first, and develop a goal for that. Then, once you feel like you're at a good place there, you can move on to setting a goal for boosting your physical activity or balancing your stress, or whatever order works for you."

More information on living healthfully is available at local Extension offices in Kansas.

*Links used in this story: MyPlate (U.S. Department of Agriculture), [www.myplate.gov/eat-healthy/what-is-my-plate](http://www.myplate.gov/eat-healthy/what-is-my-plate)*

*K-State Research and Extension statewide offices, [www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/statewide-locations.html](http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/statewide-locations.html)*

## 4-H Holiday Guide Contains Many Fun And Educational Activities For The Season

K-State Research and Extension news service

MANHATTAN – Kansas 4-H youth development specialist Beth Hinshaw knows how important meaningful family time is during the holidays, and how it may be a challenge to come up with ideas on how to spend that precious time together.

That's one of the very reasons why the national 4-H program has published a holiday activity guide.

"The Holiday Activity Guide has great ways to spend quality time with people, and we can learn so much from our family when we see them at the holidays," Hinshaw said. "And to be able to have these learning experiences with them – that'll make a memory for us as well."

The Holiday Guide, she said, contains an array of fun activities, such as making ornaments, family story time, visual art projects, and many food recipes.

"One of the things I think about, in my own experience, is the things I learned in the kitchen, during the holidays from my grandmothers," Hinshaw said.

Within the Holiday Guide is a "cookie book" – listing more than 20 sweet holiday recipes to make together. One of Hinshaw's favorites is the no-bake cookies, a recipe from a Kansas 4-H member.

"In the holiday guide, there are several activities that are STEM and math-focused, but as you read through and think about it, they're fun as well," Hinshaw said. "That's one of the things we pride ourselves on in 4-H – to have those experiential, fun learning activities."

Food and STEM are both project areas 4-Hers may already be involved in, and the activity guide includes an additional area important during the holidays: service.

"It shares how you might put together a winter coat drive for your community," Hinshaw said. "Or how you might make fleece scarves by hand for the homeless."

To begin one of the many fun and educational projects offered by 4-H, go online to find the complete Holiday Activity Guide.

More information about opportunities available through Kansas 4-H is available online, or visit your local Extension office.

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

*<https://4-h.org/clover/activities/clover-at-home-for-the-holidays/>*

### AG LIME GYPSUM

Standard or Variable Rate Application

GEARY GRAIN, INC.

Junction City, Kansas

785-238-4177

[gearygrain.com](http://gearygrain.com)

## Prairie Gal Cookin'

Recipes and Ramblings from the Farm

### Waikiki Meatballs

By Ashleigh Krispense

It's hard to believe how quickly November passed by. The holidays aren't just rapidly approaching, but they're here! While Thanksgiving might have left you feeling full with not only lots of turkey and stuffing, but hopefully plenty of family time, Christmas is shifting into high gear and just around the corner. At our house, the Oreos have been bought for the traditional creamy, Oreo balls, my childhood radio station is already playing Christmas music, and the gift list is gradually being whittled down. Life is busy, but oh so full of blessings!

Things can get a little hectic though as we juggle between everyday living, holidays, and new projects. Sometimes a quiet evening at home with a warm meal and your favorite cozy couch is exactly what you need.

Today, we're trying a recipe from my grandma-in-law. A favorite of hers, it came from a church lady that would bring these little meatballs to about every potluck we had. While they do take some time to roll into tiny little balls, they're a tasty alternative to the traditional BBQ meatballs that many of us love, and offer a great option for party appetizers!

**Waikiki Meatballs**

2 pounds ground beef, thawed  
2/3 cup saltine cracker crumbs (although I substituted Ritz in ours)

1/3 cup fresh onion, minced  
1 egg  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
1/4 teaspoon ginger  
1/4 cup milk  
2 tablespoons cornstarch  
1/3 cup vinegar  
1/2 cup brown sugar, packed  
1 tablespoon soy sauce  
Syrup from (13-ounce) can of pineapple tidbits (or cut-up rings, chunks, etc.)



In a large bowl, combine together the thawed hamburger, cracker crumbs, onion, egg, salt, ginger and milk.



Mix well and form in small meatballs, about 1-inch.



Brown the meatballs in a large skillet

(it might require doing them in batches!). Once finishing browning, remove from skillet and set aside until all meatballs are done. Pour off any remaining fat in the skillet and if needed clean off any burned tidbits that are leftover.



In another bowl, mix together the cornstarch, vinegar, brown sugar, soy sauce and pineapple juice. Pour into the skillet (or I switched to a Dutch oven) and continue to stir and cook until the sauce becomes thick.



Once thickened, add the meatballs and pineapple tidbits back to the skillet. Heat everything through and serve! Can be served with a bed of rice and vegetables if desired. Enjoy!

Ashleigh is a freelance writer and the gal behind the website, *Prairie Gal Cookin'* ([www.prairiegal-cookin.com](http://www.prairiegal-cookin.com)), where she shares step-by-step recipes and stories from around the farm in Kansas.

Prairie Gal Cookin'

Recipes and Ramblings from the Farm

## Gentlemen: Have your past gifts put you on the naughty list?

Get the special lady in your life a gift she's sure to love!



Vol. 8 of the Grass & Grain "Our Daily Bread" cookbook

2x the size of the last edition!

Call in & place a mail order or stop by today!

\$22 each, +\$5 shipping to U.S.

Limited copies of Vol. 7 still available, \$15/ea +\$3.50 shipping

Grass & Grain

785-539-7558

1531 Yuma St • Manhattan, KS

A Complete Cattle Feeding & Marketing Service

# TIFFANY CATTLE CO., INC.

Family Owned & Operated

Tiffany Cattle Company, with a total capacity of 32,000 head, is equipped to offer economies of scale and industry leading service to customers of any size.

### Production Services

Objective is simply: Least Cost Per Pound of Gain!  
Ration formulation and cost analysis, health program designed and maintained by veterinarian, special pens and attention to sick animals, feed financing and cattle purchasing available.

### Marketing Services

Marketing finished cattle is top priority at Tiffany Cattle Company. You have the option of selling on the cash market, forward contracting or grid pricing through multiple Kansas packers.

★ [www.tiffanycattle.com](http://www.tiffanycattle.com) ★

Follow us on at Tiffany Cattle Company

Tiffany Cattle Company  
1333 S. 2500 Road  
Herington, KS 67449  
(785) 258-3721

Tiffany Cattle West  
758 Pioneer Road  
Marquette, KS 67464  
(785) 546-2216

Shawn Tiffany - COO (785) 229-2902 [shawn@tiffanycattle.com](mailto:shawn@tiffanycattle.com)  
Shane Tiffany - CEO (785) 466-6529 [shane@tiffanycattle.com](mailto:shane@tiffanycattle.com)  
Dennis Roddy - CFO (620) 767-2139 [dennis@tiffanycattle.com](mailto:dennis@tiffanycattle.com)  
Tanner Stucky - Asst. Mgr. (620) 214-0979 [tanner@tiffanycattle.com](mailto:tanner@tiffanycattle.com)

## GET YOUR NAME-OUT THERE!

Reach YOUR customer base with affordable advertising.

**WE CAN BUILD TO YOUR BUDGET!**

You can't sell what you don't advertise!  
Call today for more info!

# GRASS & GRAIN

785-539-7558



## Resurgence of the Unicorns

Ah, yes, that elusive creature that missed the boat. Beautiful in appearance but so carefree, mindless, and irresponsibly silly they were celebrating in the rain as the door was closed on Noah's ark. At least that's what I heard in a popular Irish folk song a long time ago, in a (Ford) Galaxy far away!

Unicorns were once thought to be mythical creatures that bounded about on pastel rainbows

and smell like bubblegum. That seems to be one of the more recent popular interpretations via the cartoons and figurines sold in the big box stores, quaint shops, and online venues alike (It's one reason I don't chew bubblegum. The other is, well, as obvious as the mustache perched under my nose!).

Personally, I had come to the conclusion that the unicorn persona had been egregiously exaggerated by some drunken shep-

herds who had caught sight of a possum running across the backs of some overcrowded sheep outside the great walls of Babylon... Seriously now, have you ever seen a possum run?!

But newly discovered evidence of a proliferation of the Unicorn species has blown the lid off the "mythological theory," proving, after millennia, that unicorns are overpopulating the Earth, and have placed the entire planet, (well, perhaps that's a wee bit hyperbolic) at least Europe and North America, in grave danger!!

You see, scientific data and independent fact checkers (IFCs) have brought to light startling evidence that unicorn flatulence is the most dangerous gas in the known universe, and renders the human species powerless

to use those previously instinctive mental processes of "reason and common sense" that has preserved humanity for thousands of years!

Yes, Virginia, it seems that constant inhalation of unicorn flatulence has left entire continents full of humans adding to the unicorn population by the millions per year, as unicorns are known to reproduce, not biologically like carbon-based organisms and creatures, but 'gaseously' (new word transforming previously common adjective/noun into an adjective/verb) by infecting the minds of humans through media and academia! Hey, you can't blame the unicorns; they have been lying dormant, content to be relegated to mythological status (nearly facing extinction since the previous crop of Bol-

sheviks died off), waiting for this opportunity to once more become the leading parasitic malady to the human race.

Yes, according to the latest findings of the IFCs, it's now known that Unicorn Proliferus is a parasite, that like most parasites, only exist by preying upon an otherwise, seemingly strong and healthy independent host, and will eventually infect a high enough population which thrives on delusional crises, even to the point of sucking the very life from the Utopian minded host's society.

You see, the pathology of the Unicorn Proliferus-Utopian Radical Syndrome (UP-URS), or more commonly known as the "Unicorn Pandemic," always leads the victim to the Utopian ideology that "Collectivism will work,

it just hasn't been tried by the right people yet," and of course a full-blown infection induces blatant disregard for self-preservation, and that of posterity, bringing the human mind to the point that it thinks "We are the Ones we've been waiting for!"

Of course, I have the obvious cure to this problem.

I have extracted the solution from their own playbook of eliminating animal agriculture, carbon-based fuel usage, and right in line with the gaseous fantasies of those who have been infected beyond the point of self-preservation:

Tax the Unicorn Flatulence!

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

## Hitting the consumer target in a direct-to-consumer business

By Burt Rutherford

For beef producers looking to begin or expand a direct-to-consumer business model, start by asking yourself some questions. That's what Michael Uetz, co-founder of the meat-oriented marketing firm Midan Marketing, told Wagyu breeders. Speaking during the recent World Wagyu Conference in San Antonio, Texas, Uetz encouraged Wagyu breeders to understand their consumer target. "Based on what it is you are providing to the marketplace, who specifically is your

target and what drives them to purchase? Why should they pick your product up? That's what we need to consider every day." Sound advice, given that Wagyu breeders, more than beef producers from any other group, sell their beef directly to consumers, grocery stores and restaurants. To that end, Uetz detailed updated results of meat consumer segmentation research the marketing agency began in 2016. The first consumer segment is Connected Trendsetters. "And they truly are just that. They're

connected in that they are addicted to digital." This group is constantly online and constantly looking for information, he said. In general, this group is younger. "They're very experimental. They love to cook, they love to try different proteins. And they're very interested in the alternative protein space," he told Wagyu breeders. "So we've got some competition in their mindset on why they buy beef versus why not try the newest alternative product." This consumer group is highly engaged and can be reached online with recommendations, he said. "This is a group I would say you really need to be interested in because they are really interested in what's new and exciting and they share that information with all their contacts once they've tried it." The

second consumer group is dubbed Claim Seekers. "It tends to be more females and is a quarter of the meat consuming population," Uetz said. "So more and more, consumers are interested in what we're doing, and they want all the details." In response, beef producers are providing more and more label claims. "The challenge for the consumer is not to get overwhelmed in the claims we're serving up for them to understand exactly what it is we're trying to get across to them." This group is driven by health for themselves and their family, as well as by the health of the animals that produce the meat and the health of the environment. "They're very aware and are looking for signs of engagement in providing details about how healthful the product is and what

was done in the caretaking of the animals and the environment. They are specifically focused on looking on the packaging for claim callouts," he said. This group tends to move away from beef and pork toward more poultry. "That's our challenge. Keep them focused on our product, keep them in our space."

The next group is Convenience Chasers. "It tends to be more of a male personality and they are all about convenience. They are always looking for something quick and easy," Uetz told Wagyu breeders. "They don't have a lot of time to do a lot of cooking. They believe, in many cases, that meat takes too long to cook during a weekday." Thus, they are looking for shortcuts. "They are looking for value-added, they are looking for something that's further prepared. They're looking for meal kits, something that's going to be quick and easy," he said. This group loves beef, but they're all about getting meat on the table as quickly as possible. "They tend to be big online purchasers," he said, with 44 percent of the group saying they shop online specifically because it's convenient. The fourth group is Committed Carnivores. "This group is all about their love and pas-

sion for meat," Uetz said. "They can't imagine life without meat. They also believe that their entire family is really about loving meat. They love to cook it at home and serve their family the best meal they can." Uetz reminded Wagyu breeders to recall what happened during COVID. "Everybody started eating at home. They realized they have a family, that they actually have a dining room table and they spend time at it. Through that process, this group in particular continues to hold onto the values they recognized when they found themselves in that situation," he said. The fifth group is called Classic Palates. For them, meat is a staple. "It's always there, but they don't have a passion about the product," he said. "It's just something they've always purchased and they're always going to have it as part of their meal," he added. "I think the biggest opportunity for our industry is with the Connected Trendsetters and the Claim Seekers segments," Uetz said. "That's the space we need to really get to know better and live in when we talk about marketing our product." If you would like more information about Midan's meat consumer segmentation research, go to their website at [www.midan.com](http://www.midan.com).

**REAL ESTATE AUCTION**  
**150 acres, M/L, of Jackson County Farmland, Pasture & Wildlife Habitat**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023 \* 1:30 PM**

**AUCTION LOCATION: Soldier Community Center, 212 First Street, SOLDIER, KANSAS**  
**PROPERTY LOCATION: From Soldier, KS, go 2 miles East on 270th Road to G Road. The property is on the Southwest corner.**  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The Northeast Quarter of Section 14, Township 6 South, Range 13 East less a tract, Jackson County, KS. This property consists of 150 acres m/l of which there are 84.20 DCP cropland acres. Base acres are corn 64 base acres and soybeans 19.40 base acres. These cropland acres are all terraced with some being tile terraces.**  
 The balance of 65.80 acres consists of mix grass pasture, a wooded creek area and a waterway. This property has 2 larger ponds and some good wildlife habitat.  
**\*\*This property has good access with 270th Road along the North & G Road on the East Side.\*\***

**Come take a look at this diversified farm.**  
**For more info or viewing, please call John E. Cline, Broker, 785-532-8381**  
**For Pictures check our website: [www.clinerealtyandauction.com](http://www.clinerealtyandauction.com)**

**TERMS & POSSESSION:** The Seller requires a non-refundable 10% down payment day of sale with the balance to be paid on or before January 16, 2024. Possession to be upon closing. Buyers and Sellers to equally split the Owner's Title Insurance fee and the Escrow closing cost. Seller to pay the 2023 taxes in full. Statements made sale day take precedence over printed material. Sale subject to Sellers' confirmation. Cline Realty & Auction, LLC represents the Sellers' interests.

**SELLER: RAYMOND A. DROGE LIVING TRUST**  
 Auction Conducted By: **CLINE REALTY & AUCTION, LLC**  
 John E. Cline, Broker/Auctioneer, Onaga, KS, 785-889-4775  
**WEBSITE: [www.clinerealtyandauction.com](http://www.clinerealtyandauction.com)**

**FOR SALE:**

**New 2019 International 7400 6x6 Workstar**  
 DT 530 engine, 54,000 GVW, air, winch,  
 2-speed transfer case, 6-speed, turns tight

**CONTACT**  
 Myron Zumbach: 319-480-1673 • Dave Zumbach: 319-480-1426

**\*COIN AUCTION\***  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023 — 10:00 AM**  
**LOCATED: Inside at the Beattie Community Center, BEATTIE, KANSAS. FOLLOW SIGNS.**

20-2016 American Silver Eagle Coins; 20-2018 American Silver Eagle Coins; 17 Silver Buffalo Rounds; 1878 U.S. Silver Trade Dollar; 45+ Morgan Silver Dollars; 35+ Silver Peace Dollars; 4 Ike Bicentennial Dollars; 1971 Ike Proof; 1999 S.B. Anthony Proof; 1892 US Columbian Exposition Silver Half Dollar; 49 Walking Liberty Half Dollars; 68 Franklin Half Dollars; 50+ 1964 Kennedy Half Dollars; 23-1965-69 Kennedy Half Dollars; 80+ Silver Washington Quarters; Seated Liberty Dimes; 27 Barber Dimes; 200+ Mercury Dimes; 150+ Silver Roosevelt Dimes; Seated Liberty Half Dime; 1867 Shield Nickel; 30 Liberty Head V Nickels; 60 Dated Buffalo Nickels; 22 War Nickels; Three Cent Pcs; 2-1864 Two Cent Pcs; 3 Braided Hair Liberty Large Cents; 60+ Indian Head Pennies; Steel Pennies; 600+ Wheat Pennies; 2020 Basketball Hall of Fame Silver Dollar; Basketball Hall of Fame Proof Half Dollar; 2-2020 American Innovations Reverse Proof Coin; American Innovation \$1 Proof; 2019 Delaware Reverse Proof Coin; 2018 San Francisco Silver Reverse Proof; 2-2020 Women's Suffrage Centennial Silver Dollars; 67 Presidential Dollar Coins; 12 Innovation Dollar Coins; 21 American Innovation Coins; **Coins in Books:** Kennedy Halves, 132 (71 Silver) Washington Quarters, 73 Mercury Dimes, 1946-1989 Roosevelt Dime Book, 131 Jefferson Nickels, Lincoln Cents Book 1909-1983 missing 15, US Type, Presidential 1st Spouse Medals, Dist. Of Columbia & US Territory Quarters; Washington Statehood; Washington Quarters Nat'l Parks; US Presidential Dollar; **Coin Sets:** Obsolete Coinage, Lincoln Memorial Collection, The Silver Story, Wartime Coinage, Vatican, Jefferson Nickel; Silver 2020 Hall of Fame Basketball, Freedom American Bicentennial, Presidential Service, Silver Veterans, Silver Thomas Edison, Ellis Island, US Liberty, Silver Dolly Madison, US Constitution, USO Silver Dollar, Silver 2019 Pride of 2 Nations, 1987 to 91 Prestige Sets, 1966 Special Mint, Heritage of America, Silver US Korean War Memorial, Silver US Constitution, Silver 1988 Olympic, Susan B. Anthony, Silver Bicentennial, Silver Yellowstone Nat'l Park Commemorative Coin, Silver American Buffalo, Columbus Quincentennial, Silver 2019 Apollo 50th Anniversary, Silver Marine Corps 230 Anniversary, 2-US Mint First Flight Centennial, Silver San Francisco Old Mint, Silver 2019 American Legion, Story of Proof, The \$2 Bill, America Going to War, 2-2018 WWI Centennial Silver Dollars, 2017 & 2020 L.E. Silver Proof Set, 2017 225 Anniversary; **Framed Coin Sets:** Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Era, Tribute to Kennedy, Coins of WWII, US Proof Set Story, US Coins of 20th Century; **Silver Proof Quarter Sets:** 2006,07,19,20; **Proof Quarter Sets:** 1999,03,17,19,20; **Silver Proof Sets:** 1990 to 1999, 2002, 2004 to 2020, **Proof Sets:** 1968,69,71 to 74,76 to 2005,2007 to 2020; **Mint Sets:** 1961 thru 64,70,72,1974 to 80, 1984 to 2021; Canadian Coins Inc: Silver Dollars, Few Silver Halves, Quarters & Dimes; 1854 5c Franc; Foreign Paper Money; Foreign Coins; NAPA Echlin/Schrade Knife Package.

**Coins to be sold for the Thelma L. Gaddis Estate include:** 6 Peace Dollars; 2 Walking Liberty Half Dollars; 10 Franklin Half Dollars; 90 Silver Washington Quarters; 43 Roosevelt Silver Dimes; 1907 V Nickel; 100 Wheat Pennies; **Mint Sets:** 1973 to 1976; **Proof Sets:** 1972-74-76; 2002 Walking Liberty Silver Coin; Ike Proof & Unc. Dollars; 6 S.B. Anthony Unc. Dollars; Sacagawea Dollars; 1973 Bicentennial Commemorative Silver Medal; 2 Double Eagle Tribute Coins; 2 Eagle Bicentennial Coins; Jimmy Carter Presidential 14K Medal; **Coin Sets:** 2-Rapidly Vanishing US Nickel Classic, 2 Bicentennial Unc, 20th Century Military Historic Collection, 2-1943 Lincoln Steel, 2-1959 to 82 Lincoln Memorial Penny, 2-Indian Head Cent Collections in case, 2-Legend of Lincoln Penny, 100 Years of Silver Dollars in America in case, American Buffalo Series, 2-5 Decades of JFK Half Dollar, 1976 Bicentennial Medal; 2004 Lewis & Clark Collector, 3-Nixon/Agnew Inaugural Medals; **US Postal History Silver Medals in book:** Few Canadian Coins; Miniature Kruggerand in 14K Gold; Presidential Spoons; Other Coins. **Partial Sale Bill. For Full Sale Bill & Pictures See Website.**

**ROBERT "BOB" PACHE**  
**AUCTIONEERS [www.olmstedrealestate.com](http://www.olmstedrealestate.com)**  
 Tom Olmsted Rob Olmsted Jeff Sandstrom  
 785-562-6767 785-353-2210 785-562-3788

**TERMS:** Cash sale day. Statements sale day take precedence. Sellers & Auctioneers not responsible for accident or theft. Lunch served by St. Malachy's Guild.

**SANTEE STEEL**

*Serving Clay, Cloud, Dickinson, Geary, Marshall, Morris, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Republic, Riley, Saline, Wabaunsee, & Washington counties*

**LOCAL BOYS - A FULL 3 YEAR WARRANTY.**  
**WE ARE NOT FROM OUT OF STATE.**

**DON'T WAIT TILL WINTER TO ORDER YOUR BUILDING - WE MAY GET BOOKED UP**

**WE SERVICE OUR WARRANTIES, IF THERE IS A PROBLEM.**  
**LIST OF REFERENCES TO PROVE IT.**

**POST FRAMED POLE BARN AND STUD FRAMED SHOP BLDGS FULLY FINISHED.**

**SHOP HOUSES, IMPLEMENT BLDGS, HAY BARN & SO ON.**

**GIVE CARL A CALL TODAY:**  
**785-370-3189**

## Flint Hills District holds 4-H officer training



Flint Hills District 4-H officer training for 2023-2024 Morris County 4-H officers was held at the Morris County Courthouse on Tuesday, November 14. Forty-one Morris County 4-H officers and junior officers participated in the event. Youth learned about their officer responsibilities in both large group and small group activities. Offices represented were president, vice-president, parliamentarian, secretary, treasurer, reporter, historian, song leader, and recreation leader.

## USDA increases minimum annual payment for Conservation Stewardship Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is increasing the minimum annual payment for agricultural producers participating in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) from \$1,500 to \$4,000 starting in fiscal year (FY) 2024. The increase addresses challenges faced by small scale, underserved, and urban producers and improves equity in the program by making participation more financially beneficial for smaller operations. The new minimum payment is available for new and renewed CSP contracts, and new applications. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis with our first sign up period ending November 17, 2023.

"Increasing the minimum payment to CSP participants regardless of the size of their operation helps to make participation worthwhile for a larger number of producers," said Kris Ethridge, Acting State Conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kansas. "By broadening the appeal of CSP, we can further expand implementation of Inflation Reduction Act funding for conservation programs," Ethridge continued.

CSP offers technical and financial assistance to help agricultural and forest producers take their conservation efforts to the next level. The program is designed to compensate agricultural and forest producers who agree to increase their level of conservation by adopting additional conservation activities and maintaining their baseline level of conservation.

Examples of CSP enhancements that are suitable for being adopted by smaller scale and urban producers include:

- Planting multi-species cover crops
- Mulching with natural materials
- Establishing pollinator habitats
- Soil health crop rotation

### Inflation Reduction Act and CSP

Currently, an unprecedented amount of funding is available for CSP through the Inflation Re-

duction Act (IRA) and Farm Bill. IRA provided \$19.5 billion in additional funding for NRCS' over-subscribed programs like CSP for five years. IRA funds are available to help producers adopt climate-smart practices.

NRCS recently announced it increased the number of Climate-Smart Agricultural and Forestry Mitigation Activities eligible for Inflation Reduction Act funding for FY 2024 through CSP, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). To learn more, download the list of practices and a fact sheet available on our website.

**How to Apply**  
NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs year-round, but producers interested in this cycle of IRA funding should apply as soon as possible. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis. Producers interested in EQIP should apply by November 17, 2023 or CSP

should apply by November 17, 2023 for consideration in the first signup period. Funding is provided through a competitive process and will include an opportunity to address the unmet demand from producers who have previously sought funding for climate-smart conservation activities.

For more information about assistance available, contact your local USDA Service Center.

# 60

The post office forwards newspapers for 60 days.

Contact us with your new address ASAP to keep G&G coming to your mailbox!

785-539-7558  
agpress3@agpress.com

## NCBA opposes USDA rule allowing beef imports from Paraguay

Two weeks ago the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced a final rule to allow fresh beef exports from Paraguay starting next month.

While the rule establishes certain eligibility requirements, Paraguay has a long-standing history of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), and the information USDA used to justify this rule is outdated, stated the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) in a press release. NCBA is concerned that USDA's failure to use information from recent site visits in the risk assessment may pose great risk to the safety of the U.S. cattle herd.

"USDA based their decision to allow beef imports from Paraguay on a deeply flawed risk assessment that uses old data from site visits that were conducted more than nine years ago. Paraguay has a history of FMD outbreaks, and it is unclear if their inspection system can provide an equivalent level of safety for animal health to prevent a possible FMD outbreak on U.S. soil," said NCBA executive director of government affairs Kent Bacus. "Paraguay heavily relies on private sector funding for most of its FMD mitigation measures, and USDA did not consider the risk associated with Paraguay's economic downturn over the last several years."

### YOU ARE INVITED!

# Christmas OPEN HOUSE

**BSB Christmas Open House Locations and Dates:**

- Wamego: FRI, DEC 1
- Salina: FRI, DEC 8
- Lucas: TUES, DEC 12
- Minneapolis: WED, DEC 13
- Bennington: THUR, DEC 14
- Abilene: FRI, DEC 15
- Sylvan Grove: WED, DEC 20

Holiday Treats  
Fun Giveaways  
2024 Calendars



See [bsbks.com](http://bsbks.com) for location details

Mark Your Calendars!

## BENNINGTON STATE BANK

**CrustBuster SPEED KING INC.**  
Drills, Carts & Tenders

Drills 10' to 60'

Seed Tenders

Conveyors

USC LLC Field Loader

**Bill Burdick Sales**  
Wetmore, KS  
Contact 785-547-5082

For all Your Fertilizer, Grain & Seed Needs

## HARMS PLAINVIEW RANCH



Customer Driven... Industry Focused



ANGUS SIRE  
EMERALD • JUSTIFIED • TAHOE



CHAROLAIS SIRE  
AUTHORITY • ICON • LUNCH MONEY



RED ANGUS SIRE  
ENERGIZE • FRANCHISE • STOCKMARKET

Calving season is here, which means selecting your next herd sire is on the horizon. Make your choice at HPR... where the dams, granddams and great-granddams of every bull we offer are raised and maintained on our ranch. We combine the latest science and technology available with real-world, hands-on stockmanship and experience... progressive and practical. Purchase your bulls where the females and our customers always come first.

## 2023 Fall Customer Convenience Bull Sales

ANGUS • CHAROLAIS • RED ANGUS

Contact us to schedule a time to make your selections.

[www.HARMSRANCH.com](http://www.HARMSRANCH.com)

Mark Cell - 620.382.6388 • Kim Cell - 620.382.5373  
Ranch - 620.924.5544  
Harms Plainview Ranch • Lincolnville, Kansas

E-Mail - [hprbulls@tctelco.net](mailto:hprbulls@tctelco.net)  
Please check our Harms Plainview Ranch Facebook page and @harmspainviewranch Instagram page for frequent updates.

SEE G&G  
ASAP!

Our email edition arrives Monday afternoon and is **free** with your print subscription!

Call 785-539-7558 or email [agpress3@agpress.com](mailto:agpress3@agpress.com) and we'll set you up.



# Millions of soy and other agriculture acres on the line if EPA pesticide proposal becomes a reality

Recently released proposals from the Environmental Protection Agency regarding its Endangered Species Act commitments under the pesticide program are causing great concern among soybean farmers. To provide scope for the potential detriment to soy, just one of the proposals alone could significantly hinder or eliminate pesticide use on close to 13 million acres of cropland, including more than 5 million acres of soybeans.

"Soy growers are fully supportive of EPA taking care to assure the pesticide registration process, including usage parameters, will not harm our wildlife or the environment, but the broad approach EPA is suggesting in the Vulnerable Species Pilot Project would negatively impact millions and millions of acres of valuable farmland. What's more, we know the agency intends to expand the pilot project to include much larger areas in the future," Alan Meadows, soybean farmer from Halls, Tennessee and American Soybean Association board member commented.

EPA is caught in a continuous struggle to complete endangered species impact evaluations for the laundry list of pesticides it is required to review. It has lost multiple lawsuits as a result, sometimes leading to the untenable outcome of the agency immediately pulling a pesti-

cide from the market. ESA consultations typically take four to 15 years, and EPA has court-determined deadlines to complete 18 reviews in the next six years. To alleviate the subsequent unending backlog of reviews, EPA has proposed several ESA pilot projects and strategies, including the VSPP, aimed at streamlining the system.

Under the VSPP proposal, growers would be required to make unwieldy efforts intended to protect specific endangered species in predetermined areas to achieve ESA compliance without waiting indefinitely for individual species evaluations. The agency proposed these VSPP areas based on 27 endangered species ranges, all found in the continental United States. EPA says it has suggested small ranges, but additional species with larger ranges will likely be added in a future pilot expansion.

To Beetle or Not to Beetle? That is the question. Soybean growers are not flippant when it comes to protecting species, but taking into account just one of the 27 vulnerable species involved, it is easy to see the impact of the VSPP proposal. The American burying beetle alone brings restrictions on the most acres at over 43 million. The total acreage impact for all 27 species is more than 97 million acres.

EPA's proposal creates two specific "areas:" 1. Over 20 million acres designated "avoidance areas," or highly restrictive zones with zero pesticide applications without Fish and Wildlife Service consent months in advance, or 2. "mitigation areas," which do not have outright pesticide bans without prior consent but do have a list of hurdles farmers must navigate to continue using pesticides. Take for example spray drift minimization: The exact requirements vary by species and application method but generally involve spray buffers. The second mitigation is runoff/erosion minimization, which has a litany of requirements and applies to all species areas except White Bluff's bladderpod and, again, the American burying beetle, which we point out as an example of how species-specific these requirements can be. For six species, avoidance and mitigation areas are explicitly determined by location. For the other 21, the avoidance and mitigation areas would be separated by whether the land in the area contains habitat that fits the provided description. For instance, the habitat for the Ozark cavefish is karst groundwater defined as, "features of the Springfield Plateau aquifer that exists within a few hundred feet of the surface such as un-

derground streams, pools, etc." Pesticide users are responsible for determining if the habitat meets this tricky criterion.

To add another layer of complexity atop the species and region (area) complexities, runoff mitigation options vary by crop type. For instance, rice has only four options. Given that four mitigations must be implemented for many of these areas, rice producers have no discretion in selecting the qualifying practices. Field crops have 13 options, four of which they must utilize. Some are beyond farmer control, such as the slope of the field. Many of the mitigations have a high cost of implementation. For example, planting buffers (i.e., trees) could cost \$330 per acre annually and filter strips like grasses or other natural vegetation could cost \$233 per acre annually. There are also equipment costs to be considered.

The layers of burden would also affect organic production. Many pesticides permitted for USDA-certified organic agriculture would fall under the program. Further, conservation practices often rely on herbicides. For instance, no-till practices require herbicides that can be applied over the top of the crop to control weeds, and cover crops are often terminated with herbicides. Farms that use these conservation prac-

tices in VSPP areas will find it costly to implement or continue them.

The financial impact for landowners and farmers in the program would likely be severe. For avoidance areas, it is quite possible agriculture could not persist under the proposal, a conclusion also reached by USDA. Even in the mitigation areas, the ability of agriculture to survive is questionable. According to ASA analysis, scenarios demonstrate land would have almost no agricultural return.

Adding up the blanket protections suggested for everything from burying beetles to fairy shrimp, milk-weed to prairie chickens in areas that affect the majority of the United States, the bottom line is this: EPA's proposed broad approach to ESA compliance will likely result in hundreds of thousands to millions of acres of farmland being removed from production due to an outright inability to use pesticides or the cost of mitigations exceeding the agricultural productivity of the land. Most

concerning is that EPA intends to expand the program beyond the 27 initial species labeled as having "small" ranges.

The VSPP has not been finalized: Per the terms of a recently announced court settlement, EPA has until Dec. 30 to determine if modifications should be made to VSPP and until Sept. 30, 2024, to determine if the proposal should be expanded.

USDA has suggested measures that can be taken to protect valued endangered species while increasing the ability of farmers to comply. These include tailoring the restrictions to the risks of individual pesticides, providing for offsets to allow agricultural production where it is most valuable and accounting for a better understanding of species' ranges. ASA asks that EPA consider these suggestions and what will protect our species and environment effectively but not sacrifice the livelihoods of America's farmers and the products they produce.

## How can dairy farmers minimize their feed costs while boosting milk fat content?

In recent years, there has been a surge in demand for milk protein and butterfat in the U.S. While farmers can use fat supplements to increase milk fat, this option increases feed costs. Pioneer® brand Plenish® high oleic soybeans are proven to help provide both higher milk fat in dairy cows and lower feed costs to dairy farmers.

Linoleic acid, which is found in high amounts in common dairy feeds such as corn silage, corn grain and commodity soybeans, is the primary cause of milk fat depression in dairy cows. Plenish high oleic soybeans replace most of that linoleic acid with oleic fatty acid to maximize milk fat production.

"There is a three-prong effect from Plenish high oleic soybeans," said Kevin Putnam, Pioneer Dairy Specialist. "They provide increased milk fat production, reduced ration cost and improved feed efficiency."

- Increased milk fat production: The higher oleic fatty acid level compared to commodity soybeans not only increases milk fat concentration through less linoleic acid content, but also has no negative effects on intake, yield or milk protein production.

- Reduced ration cost: By growing Plenish high oleic soybeans on-farm, dairy farmers can minimize their off-farm feed costs. In some cases, growing Plenish high oleic soybeans has reduced ration costs by over \$1 per head per day for dairy operations.

- Improved feed efficiency: Researchers at Michigan State University found dairy rations that contained high levels of roasted Plenish high oleic soybeans increased Energy Corrected Milk by 7.5 lb. with a decline of 1.6 lb. per day in dry matter intake, demonstrating a 10% improvement in feed efficiency.

Dairy farmers also need to consider whether to roast or not to roast. Soybean roasting is a common practice to prevent oil rancidity and improve palatability.

"Roasting Plenish high oleic soybeans doubles the amount of rumen bypass protein and helps break down trypsin inhibitor and urease enzyme. With roasting, urea would not be available for dairy farmers to use in their rations," Putnam said. "If roasting is not possible, it is recommended to feed dairy cattle quartered beans rather than whole."

Plenish high oleic soybeans benefit dairy farmers from both sides of the equation. They mitigate the risk of milk fat depression and can increase milk fat by increasing preformed and de novo fatty acids in milk, which can lead to higher milk prices for dairy farmers and increased returned on investment.



(800) 369-3882

www.toplinebuildings.com  
sales@toplinebuildings.com

## STEEL BUILDING INVENTORY SALE

I-Beam Construction  
Easy Bolt-Up Design

40x65 • 60x90 • 100x150 • Many Others Available

\*\*\*FOR SALE\*\*\*

## Lane County Native Pasture Land

East ½ of NW ¼ of 21-16-27 \* East ½ of 16-16-27  
400 acres of native pasture land with new fences on the east & north sides, 2 live springs for good watering, 1 windmill not pumping at present. Minerals go to the buyer with a monthly income of \$1,250.00 from producing oil well. Extra income may be possible from the large sand pit and the wild life on the property. [Call for more info.](#)

For more info contact:

Lawrence &amp; Assoc. Realty or Russell Berning, Listing Agent

513 Main  
Scott City, KS 67871  
620-872-5267812 West M St.  
Leoti, KS 67861  
620-874-4405

# LEACHMAN CATTLE

BULLS THAT BUILD BETTER COW HERDS

DECEMBER

9

Offering 60 Stabilizer Bulls

## NEBRASKA CENTRAL PLAINS SALE

Sale starts at 1:00 PM (CDT)  
Alma Livestock Auction - Alma, NEView and bid online at:  
[www.leachman.com/sales](http://www.leachman.com/sales)

FERTILE - GOOD DOING - SOUND - EXTRA LONGEVITY



WWW.LEACHMAN.COM | (970) 568-3983

JERROD WATSON (CO) 303.827.1156  
AARON RASMUSSEN (NE) 308.763.1361  
KURT SCHENKEL (OH) 740.503.6270

COPIES OF GRASS &amp; GRAIN

NOW AVAILABLE IN RILEY

120 S. Broadway in Riley, KS

in front of County Office

**Brickhouse Antiques:**  
Topeka, KS- 3711 SW Burlingame Rd.  
(just off I-470) -**The Store:**Leonardville, KS  
- 104 E Barton Rd. -**Dara's Fast Lane:**

Manhattan, KS

- 5321 Tuttle Creek Blvd. -  
- 8811 US-24 -  
- 1132 Pillsbury Dr. -Copies are also available at these businesses:**Bluestem Farm & Ranch:** 2611 W. HWY 50 - Emporia, KS**Pioneer Farm & Ranch:** 427 NE 14<sup>th</sup> - Abilene, KSOr stop by the Grass & Grain office:

- 1531 Yuma St., Manhattan, KS -

**Office Hours:** Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-4 pm



# USDA invites agriculture producers to respond online to the 2023 Irrigation and Water Management Survey

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) recently mailed survey codes to a selected sample of irrigators across the 50 states with an invitation to respond online to the 2023 Irrigation and Water Management Survey.

The survey is a special study to the 2022 Census of Agriculture and provides the only comprehensive dataset of irrigation activities and water use across American

farms, ranches, and horticultural operations. Producer input through this survey will aid USDA's efforts to promote efficient irrigation practices and long-term sustainability of water resources across the United States.

The survey will be mailed in phases, with paper questionnaires following in January. Producers need only to respond once, whether securely online or by mail. The online option offers

timesaving features ideal for busy producers. All responses are due Feb. 15, 2024.

"Water is arguably the most important resource for agriculture and horticultural operations," said NASS administrator Hubert Hamer. "This survey is an opportunity to provide data that will influence policy decisions that have a tremendous impact on the industry for years to come."

Responding is more

convenient than ever due to the USDA NASS Online Respondent Portal at [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov) where producers can view and complete NASS surveys, view historical reports, and access other resources.

"I strongly encourage all farmers, no matter how large or small their operation, to promptly complete and return their questionnaire. This is your opportunity to share your voice, uplift

the value and showcase the uniqueness of American agriculture," said Hamer.

Responding to the 2023 Irrigation and Water Management Survey is required by law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113. The same law requires NASS to keep all information confidential, to use the data for statistical purposes only, and to publish in aggregate form to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual

producer or farm operation. NASS will release the data on Nov. 14, 2024, at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

To learn more, visit [www.nass.usda.gov/ag-census](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ag-census). On the website, producers and other data users can access frequently asked questions, past ag census data, other special study information, and more. For highlights of these and the latest information, follow NASS on X @usda\_nass.

## NCGA joins letter expressing concern with ad hoc disaster relief changes

NCGA and 16 corn state affiliated associations recently joined with over 140 allied national, regional, and state commodity organizations in sending a letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack relaying their concerns with the design of the Emergency Relief Program for 2022.

While the group expressed appreciation for the allocation of \$3.74 billion in much needed

ERP assistance to agricultural producers impacted by a wide range of natural disasters in 2022, the signatories said recent changes have raised concerns among

farmers.

Like previous programs, crop loss payments are generally calculated and factored using crop insurance coverage levels. However, new this year is a "progressive factor" that reduces the disaster assistance for many eligible growers based on the size of the losses. USDA also changed the method used to incorporate producer-paid insurance premiums.

The letter took issue with these two changes.

"In the case of the progressive payment factor, we oppose a policy that delivers the least amount of ben-

efit to those who have lost the most outside of the payment limits provided in statute," the letter said. "While we appreciate the funding restraints under which ERP 2022 was developed, we believe that USDA should instead aim to provide more equitable support for losses of all magnitudes. This can be achieved by using a single, uniform factor, as USDA has done in the past."

Growers with questions about the Emergency Relief Program should visit their local Farm Service Agency office for more information about the disaster programs.

## Put hay to work for feed, shelter and fuel savings

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

As I write this, it is a short week for the Thanksgiving holiday, my hope is that everyone can find reasons to be thankful and spend time with family over the holidays. In coming up with ideas to write, I ran across this old article from Joe Roybal, found it to be interesting, and hope it will be the same for those who are looking for ways to make multiple uses of hay bales. Driving the countryside, there are still forage bales in the field or on field margins, so if you will be moving forage for winter feeding, this might be a consideration yet this year.

Since 1998, the manager of the John E. Rouse Beef Improvement Center near Saratoga, Wyo., has stacked more than 2,000 tons of large, round

bales in giant "V" shapes pointed directly into the prevailing winter winds. The hay serves as winter feed for the Colorado State University facility's 400 commercial Angus cows and yearlings. But the stacking method also helps stabilize the cattle's nutritional requirements by providing them with shelter from chilly winter winds. Plus, the V shape makes snowed-in haystacks a thing of the past.

The giant, V-shaped walls of large round bales in the winter-grazing areas are stacked two deep and two high to a height of about 12 feet. The bottom rows stand vertically and the top rows lay horizontally across the top. The two, 100-ft.-long wings (50 bales each side) come together to form a 90° wedge. The point is oriented directly into the prevailing winter winds.

The hay compacts to form a solid surface im-

pervious to wind. When the wind runs into the V shape of the stack, it spills to the sides, channeling wind and snow along the sides of the wedge rather than over the top. The diversion greatly reduces the wind velocity in the area behind the stacks for as much as 300-400 feet downwind. It also eliminates accumulation of blowing snow in the protected area.

Moon's old-style stack yards tended to drift in. It wasn't unusual to have to use a crawler tractor to cut a path into a stack yard and dig out the bales at feeding time. The wedge design, however, keeps bales accessible as the wind scours snow from along the front of the structure and deposits it downwind outside the shelter area. "We've found the system works very well. The wedges take less space than our old stackyards and are

cheaper to fence because of that," he says. "We haven't had much snow the last five to six years but we have had a lot of wind and below-zero weather. That's when the cows really utilize the shelter behind the wedges."

During the winter-feeding season, Moon feeds from the ends of the wings. To prevent feed loss to wildlife, he surrounds his wedges with game-proof fence, something operators in other locales shouldn't have to do. "If you don't have a wildlife problem, temporary wire panels probably will work to keep cattle out of the hay supply," Moon says. "Corral panels would work the best, but they're expensive."

Moon feeds from the ends, working toward the middle as the winter progresses and the need for shelter dwindles. On the coldest of days (those 0 and below), he feeds be-

hind the shelter. On most days, he spreads hay away from the shelter to draw cattle out from the protected zone to spread out the manure buildup.

The hay wedges are the brainchild of Bob Jairell, a hydrologic technician formerly with the Rocky

Mountain Research Station in Laramie, Wyo. The idea was born out of research he and a team of blowing-snow experts developed over more than three decades. The team's methods and designs are in extensive use throughout the world.



**Fabric Buildings**  
Up to 25 Year Warranty • Hot Dip Galvanized • Commercial Agricultural • Industrial

**CONTRACTORS LLC**  
**GREENFIELD**  
Lynn Strahm • Sabetha, KS • (785) 285-2991  
[www.greenfield-contractors.com](http://www.greenfield-contractors.com)

## 100+ LOTS TO SELL!


# WHEELER ANGUS ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

**40+ BREEDING AGE BULL'S SELL  
HEAVILY INFLUENCED WITH  
BALDRIDGE GENETICS!**


**SPRING BRED COWS, FALL OPEN HEIFERS,  
FALL PAIRS SELL -  
EMBRYO'S AND MUCH MORE!**

**WHEELER 3**


ALSO SELLING REG. SPRING CALVING COWS AND FALL CALVING COWS  
LARGE SELECTION OF YEARLING, 18 AND 24 MONTH OLD BULLS  
Sired by: SITZ DIGNITY, LAR MAN IN BLACK, BALDRIDGE VERSATILE, AND BALDRIDGE ABRAMS




**GROWTH  
FUND  
6040**



**CAPITALIST  
316  
0115**




**SAV RAINDANCE  
110**




**CAPITALIST  
316  
0501**




**DIGNITY  
8384  
3039**




**VERSATILE  
F-193  
2109**



**PENDING  
2102**



**VERACIOUS  
3002**



**BLUE COLLAR  
ISABELL  
G1115**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023**  
CHAS WHEELER 573-473-2508  
COLTON BARTON 512-966-2617

**LUNCH AT NOON | SALE AT 1 PM CST**  
**WHEELER ANGUS SALE BARN**  
22618 HWY 24, PARIS, MO 65275

