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Kansas Soil Health Alliance provides resources for producers at all levels

By Donna Sullivan, Editor

"Take care of the land and the land will take care of you," is a quote credited to soil conversation pioneer, Hugh Hammond Bennett, who served as the first chief of the Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service, in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, created to address what Bennett called the "national menace" of soil erosion. That deep desire to care for the soil is the foundation of Kansas Soil Health Alliance, a non-profit organization founded in 2021. Their stated mission is to improve and protect Kansas soils. Led by farmers and ranchers who understand the need to couple conservation with profitability, the Kansas Soil Health Alliance strives to provide information and resources that can be put to work on operations in all of the state's 105 counties, regardless of their size. Passing healthy soils to the next generation of growers is a priority.

Their website, www.kssoilhealth.org is filled with articles and videos designed to assist producers wherever they may be in their soil health journey. USDA, NRSC defines soil health as "The continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem



KANSAS Soil Health ALLIANCE

that sustains plants, animals, and humans." This is achieved using five principals - Limited Disturbance, Soil Cover/Armor, Living Roots, Diversity and Livestock Integration.

The Biology of Soil Compaction, Prescribed Fire Online Course and Livestock Pasture Use and Plant Preferences are an example of some of the videos and articles available on the website. The resources are useful to any producer, whether they are just beginning to explore soil health or are more advanced in their experience and process. The website also includes a Soil Health Q&A section and Ask a Soil Health Question.

Another facet of the organization is the Kansas Grazing Exchange. "Our goal is to match available forage with livestock producers for mutually beneficial grazing relationships. Working with others to integrate livestock on the landscape is a win-win for both soil and animals," they say on their website. Benefits to landowners include: improved soil

health, enhanced nutrient cycling, increased cropland fertility and additional revenue channel. Benefits to livestock producers: reduce pressure on pastures and provide rest, extend the grazing season, improve animal health and nutrition, reduce feed costs by grazing naturally. On the site producers can explore listings or create one of their own.

Kansas Soil Health Alliance also hosts field days and events filled with demonstrations and informative speakers. The 4th Annual Southeast Kansas Soil Health Conference was held November 29-30 in Iola and featured a key-note presentation by Jay Young and two farmer-based panel discussions. The first centered on crop production and the second discussed regenerative livestock production. The conference was organized by Green Cover Seed.

The Kansas Soil Health Alliance can be reached at 785-545-5628 or by emailing information@kssoilhealth.org



Pictured above is an artist's rendering of the new American Royal facility in Kansas City, Kansas. *American Royal photo*

American Royal hosts barn-raising at new site

The American Royal has been a Kansas City tradition since 1899, whose mission is to be the nation's leader for food and agriculture education, events and engagement. In order to execute this mission, the American Royal has placed an intentional focus on developing the nation's epicenter for food and agriculture.

Nearly 500 competitors, volunteers, board members, and supporters witnessed American Royal history on November 28 as the vertical construction process began and the first piece of steel was placed on its new facility.

"The American Royal is constructing a purpose-built complex designed to attract visitors year-round to Kansas and Wyandotte County for food and agriculture events,"

explained Walt George, chair of the new building committee and secretary of the American Royal Board of Directors, during the barn-raising ceremony. "It all starts today with the barn, although it sounds so simple to just call it the barn."

The facility will span more than 390,000 square feet - the equivalent of nearly seven football fields. In addition to three arenas and a state-of-the-art learning and engagement center, the complex can house more than 1,500 horses or nearly 4,000 head of cattle.

"The agriculture industry is the lifeblood of our great state, and this new American Royal campus is going to serve as a national leader in education, events, and engagement - creating a food and agri-

culture innovation district that will be unlike any other in the world," said Kansas governor Laura Kelly. "It will also play a critical role in building up our workforce by instilling in young visitors a sense of pride about Kansas' deep agriculture heritage, perhaps inspiring them to pursue a career here."

Before the barn raising program, supporters enjoyed lunch, toured the future home of the American Royal, viewed updated renderings and signed a steel beam that will be used in constructing the new facility.

"The new American Royal complex will be a place where relevant conferences, collaborations and events focused on innovations in food, fiber

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K-State sweeps national crops judging titles



Members of K-State's 2023 Crops Judging team are, from left: assistant coaches Sarah Frye and Kevin Donnelly, Molly Kane, Landon Trout, Quinten Bina, Renae Sinclair, Joel Bryan, and head coach Rachel Veenstra.

In the highly competitive world of collegiate crops judging, one university has flexed its muscle like no other: Kansas State University.

The 2023 squad rolled to the national title in mid-November, winning the Kansas City American Royal Collegiate Crops Contest on Nov. 14 and the Chicago Collegiate Crops Contest on Nov. 18.

K-State teams have now won the collegiate crops contest championship outright in 18 of the past 25 years. In the 100-year history of crops competition, K-State has won or shared the title 32 times. Texas

Tech is second best with 21 titles.

Renae Sinclair, a junior from Alamosa, Colo., was the overall individual champion, leading a one-two-three sweep by K-State. Junior Landon Trout (Scott City, Kansas) and sophomore Quinten Bina (Pilsen, Kansas) were second and third, respectively.

K-State's national title was powered by first place finishes in all three judging categories: grain seeding, seed analysis and identification.

"Such a sweep of all three contest components and the top three individ-

ual placings at both contests is very rare, and has only been accomplished four times before, all by K-State," said Kevin Donnelly, a former head coach who is now an adviser for the team. "This year's team score was the fifth-highest ever in the Chicago contest."

Donnelly said Sinclair's winning score in Chicago was the third highest ever recorded in that event, and the best since 1963. Only 19 students have ever won the Kansas City and Chicago events in the same year - 11 of those are from K-State. Sinclair is the fifth K-State student in the past ten years to pull off the feat.

Trout had the eighth-highest score ever at Chicago.

In the contests, participants are required to identify 200 plant or seed samples of crops and weeds; grade eight samples of grain according to

Federal Grain Inspection Service standards; and analyze ten seed samples to determine what contaminants they contain.

"These crops contests teach students the importance of hard work and dedication, valuable plant and seed identification skills, an appreciation for detail and how to be a good teammate and graceful winner or loser," said the team's coach, Rachel Veenstra.

"The skills they learn translate into nearly any profession and the identification skills in particular serve them well in future jobs, as well as certifications such as the certified crop advisor program. Some of our former crops contest competitors have gone on to be leaders in their communities, states and beyond."

Additional K-State team members are junior Molly Kane (Paola) and sophomore Joel Bryan

(Hiawatha). The team is coached by Veenstra, Sarah Frye and Donnelly, and sponsored by the Kansas Crop Improvement Association, K-State Department of Agronomy, K-State College of Agriculture, and the K-State Student Government Association.

The students received a team scholarship for winning the Kansas City contest, and individual scholarships for the top five finishers in Chicago.

"The win is an excellent reflection of our agronomy students' hard work and dedication to excellence, in and out of the classroom," Veenstra said. "With such a rich history of success in the collegiate crops contest, the pressure is high to perform well."

Raj Khosla, head of K-State's Department of Agronomy, said the team's success is an indication that "K-State educates

some of the brightest agronomy students in our nation."

"Thirty-two wins in 100 years is a testament to their knowledge, education and preparation by excellent faculty coaches," he said.

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

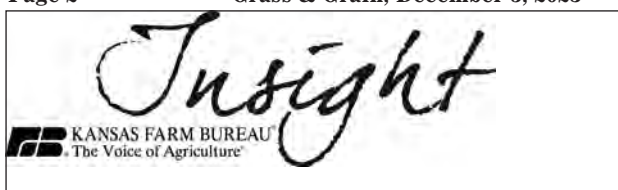
The primary sponsor of the Chicago contest was the CME Group. Additional donors in Chicago included the Crop Science Society of America and the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists.

More information about the K-State crops judging team is available on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Sunsets and Silhouettes



Honorable Mention in the youth category in the Ranchland Trust of Kansas photo contest went to Lacey Jones, Wilmore. All winning entries can be viewed on RTK's Facebook page or website, located at www.ranchlandtrustofkansas.org.



Spreading Caring and Kindness

By Kim Baldwin, McPherson County farmer and rancher

My husband is a major believer in no Christmas decorating until after Thanksgiving. The older he gets, the harder the line he seems to take with this belief.

I am the total opposite. The earlier I can get my Christmas decorations out, the better! I have tried for years to convince him otherwise, but I have failed.

He generally comments on the holiday decor when it appears at the grocery store the day after Halloween. He gives me "the look" when he finds me listening to my Christmas channel in early November. And I avoid at all costs taking him into a mega craft shop in a

Ag labor shortages

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

Kansas State University and Kansas Department of Agriculture economists are reporting findings of a study indicating that alleviating a shortage of farm labor in Kansas could boost the state's economy by as much as \$11.7 billion.

"Accepting the status quo in the labor market is costly," said agricultural economist Jenny Ifft, who is also K-State's Flinchbaugh Agricultural Policy Chair.

She shared findings of a report that pegs the shortage of Kansas' farm labor between 5,627 and 15,873 jobs over 72 agriculture and agriculture-related sectors present in the state – from grain farming

and landscaping to meat processing and snack food manufacturing, among many others.

Ifft notes: "Between \$2 billion and \$6 billion in additional economic output could be generated in sectors affected directly if shortages in the labor market were filled."

Taken further, shortages in agricultural labor create an additional 8,466 to 23,843 unfilled positions through indirect and induced effects, according to the report, which notes that "for each job in agriculture that remains unfilled, roughly 1.5 positions remain unfilled throughout the rest of the state's economy."

"We're not just looking at production agriculture," Ifft said. "Our model

nearby town until at least Nov. 24 to avoid calling him Ebenezer Scrooge.

However, there is always hope for change.

This year, my husband texted me a couple of weeks prior to Thanksgiving an image of two Christmas chickens he had come across at our local farm store. Two six-foot tall metal Christmas roosters to be more precise. Two large red and green roosters adorned with holiday scarves, stocking caps and poinsettias.

The message attached to the image: "You can put up the tree if I can get a six-foot Christmas rooster."

"DEAL!!!" I replied, "Will the rooster go on the roof???"

The rooster did not go on the roof. In fact, the six-foot metal Christmas rooster was not purchased.

However, by seeing those Christmas roosters, pre-Thanksgiving Christmas cheer was clearly planted within my husband's heart that day as he ended up bringing home a three-foot tall Christmas mouse and placed it where everyone could see it in the farmyard.

When the kids got home from school that day my daughter, not quite believing what she was seeing, declared, "Time to get out the Christmas decorations!"

cost state economy as much as \$11.7B

accounts for such things as, say, a farmer can't get his grain to market in time (due to a labor shortage), which affects the number of employees a cooperative can hire, which then affects their spending with other businesses in the community."

Parker Vulgamore, a K-State graduate student in agricultural economics and a co-author of the study, said that including indirect and induced effects, "Kansas could generate \$4.1 billion to \$11.7 billion additional output across the state's economy if agricultural labor shortages were alleviated."

The unrealized economic impact caused by labor shortages represents 1% to 2% of all Kansas economic output. In total,

Kansas could add 39,000 direct and indirect jobs to the economy by filling agricultural shortages alone.

"More than 60% of the respondents to our survey reported having some degree of labor shortage, varying from 5% up to 60%," Vulgamore said. "But the key point is that this isn't a small issue affecting only one type of business or only one part of the state. It's widespread. But on the flip side, there was about 40% of respondents that reported having no shortage, which means there are things we can do to combat this issue."

Another study co-author – Kansas Department of Agriculture economist Tori Laird – applied a model known as IMPLAN to estimate sector-, indus-

And we did.

Now that our family has celebrated Thanksgiving, we've entered the time of year where, in years past, it'd be acceptable to bring up the Christmas decor from the basement and begin decorating our farmhouse.

However, since the tree is already up, the house is decorated, and our new Christmas mouse shines brightly in the night, I can't help but chuckle when I think of how a giant metal rooster brought about early holiday cheer for my husband this year.

I also chuckle as I glance over at our new reminder of this year's early Christmas conversion – a mini-metal Christmas rooster standing beside our tree that was purchased by my husband in the wee morning hours of Black Friday.

Whether it's a cherished song, a special ornament, a beloved recipe or a metal rooster, may you embrace reminders of Christmas cheer this holiday season.

"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.

stand the potential impact of continued work towards finding solutions.

"This study's findings heighten the urgency for businesses and governments across all levels to address labor shortages," Vulgamore said. "And I think the dialogue surrounding the issue has grown over recent years. There's an array of policies and public goods that can help address shortages, and so hopefully this study and our findings can help inform some of the dialogue surrounding that."

The full report, titled Help Wanted: How Agricultural Labor Shortages Affect the Kansas Economy, is available to read online from K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics.

Alliance Ag and Grain creates apprenticeship program through KFB's RKAP

Alliance Ag & Grain is pleased to announce the launch of an apprenticeship program through Kansas Farm Bureau's (KFB) award-winning Rural Kansas Apprenticeship Program (RKAP).

"Alliance Ag & Grain

is excited to partner with Kansas Farm Bureau in their Rural Kansas Apprenticeship Program," says Jeff Stockton, Alliance Ag and Grain vice president of business development. "For us, the labor challenge continues

in small-town America and we feel this program will be a piece of the solution. KFB provides us with the format, educational support and agricultural advocacy we need to develop and incorporate this apprenticeship plan.

We're confident this on-the-job training program will help us develop skills and provide technical instruction to our workforce as we look to meet our future employment needs."

The program is designed to provide training and technical instruction to employees hired into specific operations positions. Apprentices will be recruited, interviewed,

hired and employed by Alliance Ag. The company's open apprenticeships for an agronomy operator in Lewis, a heavy truck driver in Haviland and a grain elevator operator in Wright can be viewed here.

KFB will serve as the intermediary sponsor working with Alliance Ag and The Kansas Office of Registered Apprenticeship to assist in the administra-

tion of these apprenticeship opportunities. These apprenticeships will provide Alliance Ag with additional value proposition for attracting new employees and apprentices in these roles. Apprentices will receive mentorship, training and compensation while developing skills in a high-demand agricultural career path.

RKAP is the first-ever registered apprenticeship program focused on agriculture and rural Kansas. With its broad charter, RKAP has the capability to bring this innovative education and employment opportunity to communities across the state.

"Alliance Ag is an excellent partner because like KFB, they serve farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses," says Joel Leftwich, KFB's chief strategy officer. "KFB is excited to develop a program where Alliance Ag and its employees can grow alongside each other to support agriculture and rural Kansas."

If you are interested in partnering with Kansas Farm Bureau in an apprenticeship program, contact Joel Leftwich at leftwichj@kfb.org or visit www.kfb.org/RKAP.



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas around here. I know Walmart has looked like Christmas since August. No we are past Thanksgiving, it is now the Christmas season, and I am excited. Right on cue we got our first snow of the season, and I am excited about Christmas. The best thing this year is that because Thanksgiving was early, we have more time in between the two holidays. Maybe that will be the key to savoring Christmas season.

I think Christmas is my most anticipated time of the year. I love the buildup to the day of Christmas as much as anything else. Advent in church is something I look forward to each year. I really enjoy lighting a new candle on the wreath each week and counting down the time until we celebrate Jesus's birth at Christmas. The Christmas carols that we sing with those services are also incredibly meaningful and bring back the best memories. Part of what makes the Christmas season so great are all the memories that come with this time of the year.

I think it is the memories of Christmas past that are a big reason I love this time of the year. I think back to those carefree years as a kid when Mom and Dad worked so hard to make the holidays so special for my sister and I. Now as a parent I realize how much pressure there was on them to make things just right. The smell of cedar takes me back to the simple tree we had. My Mom was a big believer in the idea that simple is best; that is a lesson I should have learned better from her. The holiday season to my mom was one of reflection on Christ's birth, everything centered around the Christmas story. I truly believe that she was the one who gave me the foundation for my joy of Christmas and the real meaning of the season.

Christmas as a kid also meant big holiday gatherings. Dad's side of the family was larger; he has four siblings and each of them have several children. When the whole family was together there were a lot of us underfoot in Grandma and Grandpa's modest farmhouse. At the time I did not know how much I would

miss those big, chaotic family gatherings with my cousins, I took it for granted they would always happen.

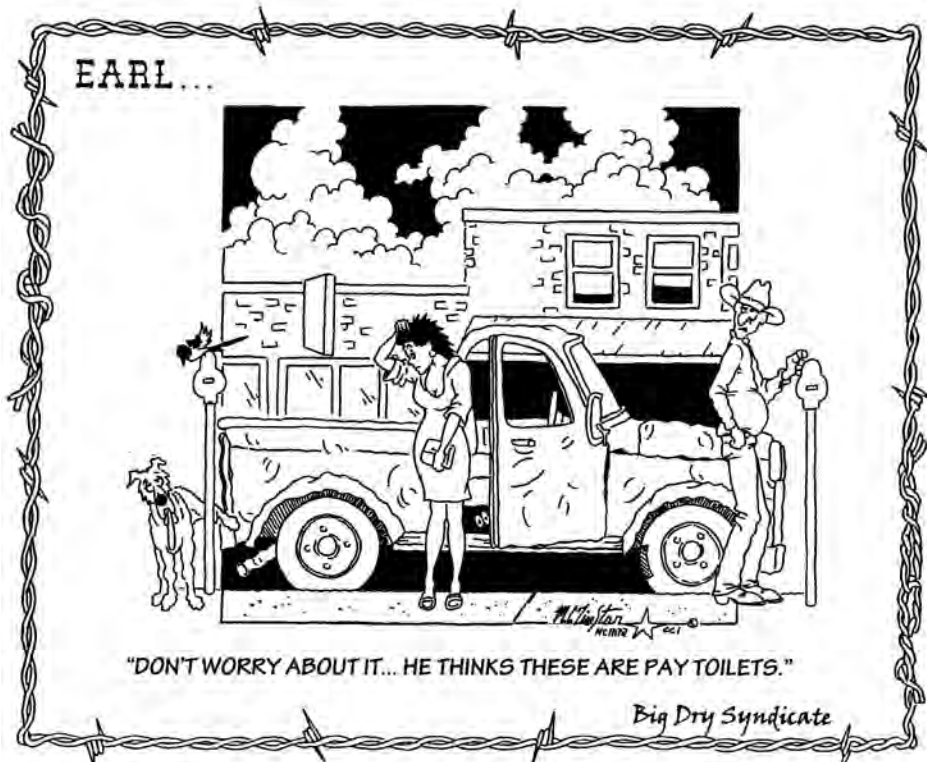
Then as Jennifer and I had our own family, we understood the pressure of trying to provide the perfect Christmas for the kids. I know, we should have lived in the moment and not worried about the details, but that is easier said than done. The late-night sessions trying to make sure Santa's gifts were fully assembled and making sure the milk and cookies left out for Santa were gone the next morning (okay, it was not much of a sacrifice). I miss the wonderment that comes with Christmas with little kids. I miss sharing the story of the first Christmas with my kids and their barely controlled excitement for the season.

Now in this season, the holidays are at our house, and the kids come home. It has been fun to have the kids back for extended times during the Christmas break. I know that as they graduate and get their own lives those Christmas visits will get shorter and shorter. It takes some getting used to, going from the relative quiet of just Jennifer and I in the house, but I enjoy our adult kids and the discussions we have now.

I know the next season will bring just as many good memories as the seasons past and the season we are in. It seems like no matter how much I try to slow the Christmas season down it goes by in a blur and suddenly it is January 2, and everything is quiet again. I just pray that I will have a few moments to really step back and enjoy the time at hand. It is easy this time of the year to get caught up in the hustle and bustle and lose sight of the real meaning.

My Christmas wish for all of you is the same as every year. I hope you will find that time for quiet reflection on the season. My time is first thing in the morning, in the glow of the Christmas tree with my first cup of coffee. I wish I could say it happens daily. In any case, don't sweat the details and enjoy those around you and the season. Most of all don't get caught up in all the commotion and forget the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

Country Chuckles by Jonny Hawkins



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McCurry awarded inaugural Young Breeder Award

By Max Stewart, Angus Communications

The success and longevity of a reliable pedigree requires two things – good cattle managed by good people. It's always easier said than done, but John McCurry, recipient of the American Angus Association's inaugural Young Breeder Award, might prefer the tougher more educational route.

"I can remember my dad; he was fed up." McCurry was in college at Kansas State University a few hours away from home. "We didn't know where we were going, who was going to do the work," McCurry remembers. "We were fall calving, and he told me was going to turn Hereford bulls out on all those cows and just make the best baldies we could and go commercial."

With college graduation on the horizon, McCurry was torn between seeking employment outside the farm or returning home. When he heard his father's new plan, he skipped a week of school plus Thanksgiving break to go home and get everything in order.

"I synchronized those cows and got them all artificially inseminated," McCurry says. "Then and there, I knew I was committed."

McCurry was recognized during the American Angus Association® Awards Reception and Dinner in Orlando, Florida. This is the first time the Young Breeder Award was presented and is designed to highlight a young, registered Angus breeder for their leadership within the Angus breed, participation in Angus programs and innovation within their herd.

McCurry's success as a young breeder was supported by a long Angus history in his family. **KLA thanks retiring county chairs for their faithful service**

Fifteen county chairs retired from the KLA Chairmen's Circle at the close of the annual KLA Convention last week. County chairs are responsible for member recruitment, local KLA meetings and serving as the liaison between local members and the officers and staff.

Those retiring, and their counties, include Ty Riggs, Chautauqua; Jeremiah Haring, Doniphan; Diltz Lindamood, Greenwood; Dustin Nattier, Harvey; Bryce Barnett, Jackson; Dustin Wootten, Jefferson; Katelyn Steffens, Lane; Matt Caldwell, Linn; Asa Phillips, Lyon; Grant McKay, Marshall; Tanner Stucky, Morris; Blake Jones, Osage; Brandy Jones, Pottawatomie; Rossie Stephens, Sheridan; and Spencer Jones, Wabaunsee.

KLA would like to thank these individuals for their outstanding service to the association and their fellow members.

gaining their journey into farming and cattle in the early 1900s, the original McCurry Brothers paved their legacy with competitive wins in the showing across the country in the 1960s and 1970s.

"They had success anywhere they went across the Midwest. Multiple state fairs, and of course the bigger shows like Denver and (at that time) Arizona," John says. "Dad would be the oldest son and he left the operation in 1975 and was the only McCurry boy that did so. He made it about fifteen miles down the road before ultimately returning to Burrton after meeting his wife, my mom, Mary."

No stranger to the breed, Mary was the third generation on her family's Tennessee farm to raise black-headed cattle. She was working toward her master's degree in meat science from K-State when she met Andy, McCurry's father.

Mary and Andy moved back to Burrton after marrying, bringing their two children, McCurry and his sister, Emily. Both were active in the National Junior Angus Association, and McCurry even went on to serve as a green coat on the National Junior Angus Association Board of Directors from 2001 to 2003.

During his time on the K-State Livestock Judging Team, McCurry met his

wife, Melody, also a livestock judging competitor at Oklahoma State University. Today, they have three children, Aubree, Molly and Drew.

"All of them are very active in sports, and as we get going that will be difficult to balance, but their heart lies in the cattle industry," McCurry says.

The evolution of the McCurry operation is evident in their annual bull sale, marketing around 200 bulls and pioneering a commercial female sale. The latter, now in its ninth year, not only showcases the family's commitment to their customers but also serves as a platform for community collaboration. The 1,500 head commercial female sale is a testament to their understanding of the industry's dynamics and the importance of creating spaces for transactions within the Angus community.

"It's a great place for our customers to trade and do business with each other," McCurry explains.

Amidst the success, he emphasizes the diversity within the Angus breed. The recognition that there's no one-size-fits-all approach to breeding underscores their inclusive mindset. McCurry advocates for unity, reminding Angus breeders that, despite differences, they are all on the same team with a shared goal of promoting



John McCurry of Burrton was presented with the American Angus Association's inaugural Young Breeder Award during the American Angus Association® Awards Reception and Dinner in Orlando, Florida. Pictured from left are Kelsey Theis, Miss American Angus; Drew, Molly, Aubree, Mary, Melody, and John McCurry; and Mark McCully, American Angus Association CEO.

and improving the breed. "There are so many great people that breed great cattle regardless of their breeding focus," McCurry says. "You need to

breed what you can market or sell or where that fan base is that follows you, and I'm a cheerleader for everybody and every avenue. It's important for

breeders to remember that we're all on the same team. We can all sell different things to different people and have different breeding goals in mind.

American Royal hosts barn-raising at new site

• Cont. from page 1
and fuel can happen," said Cliff Illig, member of the American Royal Board of Directors. "Visitors of all ages and backgrounds will come together to learn, celebrate and advance an industry that impacts each and every one of us, every single day."

Lindsey Patterson Smith, co-chair of the American Royal campaign cabinet, shared a vision for the American Royal Association from her late father, Neal Patterson, with barn-raising attendees.

"I am beyond thrilled to celebrate this milestone for the American Royal," said Patterson Smith. "My father, the late Neal Patterson, saw the opportunity the American Royal holds in creating a connection between agrarian and urban lifestyles, but knew that the organization needed to continue to evolve. The vision for the American Royal is aligned with that opportunity, and this facility is a critical tool to get there."

The American Royal's new development will have a significant impact on the agricultural community and the Kansas City region as the organization positions itself as the epicenter of agriculture. The facility is expected to host its first event in late 2025 or early 2026.

For more information about the American Royal and the new facility, visit <https://www.americanroyalonline.com/>.

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Ken Rahjes, Host

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2023 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Rose Reed, Clay Center, Wins Weekly Holiday Recipe Contest

Winner Rose Reed, Clay Center: "This keeps well frozen and is handy to have on hand in the freezer for holiday meals."

CRANBERRY SALAD

1 pound cranberries, ground
5 red apples, diced
1 large can crushed pineapple, well drained
2 cups sugar
1 pound marshmallows, cut fine (or use small marshmallows)
1 cup Tokay, or red, grapes, cut in half
1 pint cream

Whip the cream and add sugar to taste. Mix cranberries, apples, pineapple, sugar, marshmallows and grapes. Fold in cream. Let stand 2 hours or more before you freeze it.

This makes a 9-by-13-inch pan or several smaller dishes.

Anna Eck, Maple Hill: CHOCOLATE

CRANBERRY CAKE
2/3 cup semisweet chocolate chips
1/2 cup butter
1 ounce unsweetened baking chocolate

14-ounce can of jellied cranberry sauce
1/2 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/4 cup flour

1/2 teaspoon baking powder
Grease and flour an 8-inch cake pan. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Microwave chocolate chips, butter and unsweetened baking chocolate in a large glass bowl for 1 minute on high. Stir until smooth. Microwave 30 more seconds to melt chocolate, if necessary. Add cranberry sauce and sugar (with a whisk) after moving chocolate mixture to a bigger bowl, if needed. Mix chocolate mixture and cranberry sauce and sugar together well. Add eggs, vanilla, flour and baking powder. Mix well. Pour batter into pan. Bake about 40 minutes. Let cool then frost with chocolate frosting recipe below.

Chocolate Frosting:
1/2 cup butter
2/3 cup cocoa powder
3 cups powdered sugar
1/3 cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla

Melt butter then stir in cocoa. Alternately add powdered sugar and milk, beating with a mixer to spreading consistency. Add more milk if needed. Add vanilla.

Ireta Schwant, Blaine: CAMEL PUFFCORN

1 cup butter
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup light corn syrup
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 bag Puffed corn

In a 2-quart saucepan, cook the butter, brown sugar, vanilla and syrup for 2 minutes. Add baking soda to the mixture. This will cause caramel mixture to foam. Pour this mixture over the puffed corn and place in oven. Bake at 200 degrees for 45 minutes. Stir every 10 minutes. When done, place on waxed paper and break apart.

Loretta Shepard, Helena, Oklahoma: OLD-FASHIONED

SOUR CREAM RAISIN PIE
1 cup raisins
1 1/2 cups water
1 cup sugar
2 egg yolks, beaten
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup sour cream
2 tablespoons cornstarch
Baked pie shell

Boil raisins, sugar and water together for 20 minutes. Mix egg yolks, sour

cream, salt and cornstarch together and add to raisin mixture; cook stirring constantly until thick. Pour into baked pie shell. Cover with meringue made from 2 egg whites and 4 teaspoons sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.

Shirley Deiser, Ellsworth: CAKE MIX COOKIE BARS

1 butter pecan cake mix
1/2 cup oil
2 tablespoons water
2 eggs
1 cup oatmeal
1 package chocolate chips
1/2 package toffee bits

Mix cake mix, oil, water, eggs and oatmeal in a bowl. Stir in chocolate chips and toffee bits. Pour into a 9-by-13-inch pan and bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes.

Pat Gretencord, Olathe: "This recipe is so easy and yet it is an excellent tasting dip."

BRENDA'S DIP
8 ounces cream cheese
7 ounces marshmallow fluff
1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix together the ingredients and use as a dip for fruit or over angel food cake.

Lois Kusmaul, Allen: NUTJAMMER COOKIES

1/2 cup butter
8-ounce package cream cheese
2 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder

Cream butter and cream cheese. Sift flour and baking powder then add to creamed mixture. Chill dough 2 to 3 hours.

Filling:
2 cups finely chopped walnuts
12-ounce jar apricot jam
2 teaspoons sugar

Mix walnuts, apricot jam and sugar. Divide dough into 4 equal parts. Roll dough very thin on floured surface. Cut into 2-inch squares. Place on slightly greased cookie sheet. Put 1 teaspoon of filling mixture in center of square then top with another square of dough. Press edges of each square with floured fork. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. When completely cooled, sprinkle with powdered sugar. Yields: about 5 dozen.

Bernadetta McCollum, Clay Center: EASY COFFEE CAKE

1 yellow cake mix
3 eggs
1 can cherry pie filling

Mix eggs and cake mix together (will be stiff). Then add pie filling and blend thoroughly. Spread in a 9-by-13-inch pan that has been sprayed.

Topping:
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1-2 tablespoons melted butter
1/2-1 cup chopped pecans

Stir all topping ingredients together. Sprinkle over cake and bake at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes.

Amy Feigley, Enterprise: "This recipe comes from my sister's mother-in-law. It is a great addition to almost any meal and is easy to make!"

CORN BREAD CASSEROLE

1 can of cream corn
1 can regular corn, drained
1 stick butter, melted
1 egg
1 box cornbread mix

Mix the above ingredients together and place into a casserole dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Jackie Doud, Topeka: "Great with crackers and vegetables."

BACON & CHEDDAR
CHEESE BALL
16 ounces cream cheese
1 cup bacon, cooked, chopped in small pieces
1 package dry Ranch dressing mix

1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
2 green onions, chopped
1 cup pecans, chopped

Combine all ingredients except pecans. Mix really well. Form into a ball. Put pecans on plate and roll ball around in the pecans. You can press them in some. Refrigerate.

Mary Hedberg, Clifton: RICE KRISPIES TREATS CUPCAKES

WITH SPRINKLES
3 tablespoons butter
10 ounces miniature marshmallows
6 cups Rice Krispies cereal
2 tablespoons sprinkles

Microwave the butter in a large bowl on high or until melted. Add the marshmallows; toss to coat evenly. Microwave for 1 1/2 minutes until marshmallows are melted. Add the cereal and sprinkles. Use wet hands to shape cereal mixture into balls. Press 1 ball into each of muffin pan cups that have been sprayed with cooking spray. Cool completely.

Topping:
4-ounce package semisweet chocolate
1 tablespoon butter
Sprinkles
3/4 cup Cool Whip

Microwave the semisweet chocolate and butter. Dip tops of treats into chocolate mixture. Sprinkle with sprinkles. Serve with Cool Whip topping on top.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh: CRANBERRY COLESLAW

14-ounces bag 3-color coleslaw mix
1 large apple, chopped
1/2 cup dried cranberries
1/2 cup chopped walnuts
4 green onions, sliced

Dressing:
3/4 cup mayonnaise
3/4 cup sour cream
6 tablespoons honey

Combine coleslaw, apple, cranberries, walnuts and onions. Combine dressing ingredients and mix well. Pour dressing over salad and mix evenly to coat.

Kellee George, Shawnee: CHRISTMAS MORNING BREAKFAST

8-inch frozen pie crust (deep dish kind)
5 eggs
1 cup chopped ham
1/2 cup heavy cream
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

1/4 cup green onions
1/2 teaspoons pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt

Set oven to 400 degrees. Poke a few holes in crust and bake 10 minutes then set aside. Mix all ingredients for filling. Pour into pie crust and place on baking sheet before putting in oven. Cover with tented foil and bake 50 minutes or until eggs are set. Remove foil and bake 5 more minutes. Let sit about 10 minutes before serving.

Marcile Shippy, Woodbine: "Nice in a punch bowl or pitcher. Makes approximately 1 gallon."

HOLIDAY PUNCH
Combine:
12 ounces frozen lemonade concentrate (thawed)
6 ounces frozen orange juice concentrate (thawed)
2 cups cranberry juice cocktail
2 cups water
1/4 cup sugar

Stir to dissolve. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours or overnight.

Ready to serve? Add:
2 liters of ginger ale
NOTE: Garnish with accouterments, optional.

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma: CROCK-POT POTATO BAR

4 pounds Russet potatoes, washed, peeled & cut into quarters
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon onion powder
1 teaspoon seasoning salt
1 teaspoon pepper
1 cup water
4 tablespoons butter

Put all of above in crock-pot and cook on high 4 hours or until potatoes are tender. In the crock-pot add:
4 ounces cream cheese
1/3 cup milk

Mash up. Stir well. Have toppings ready such as bacon, onions, cheese etc. Everyone serves themselves.

Claire Martin, Salina: "Every Christmas I make this decadent treat."

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

Line an 8-by-8-inch pan with foil. In a large saucepan combine milk, Kahlua and coffee over medium

heat. Bring to a simmer; cook for 2 minutes, stirring constantly until mix thickens slightly. Remove from heat and stir in chocolate morsels until melted and smooth. Stir in nuts and vanilla. Spread into pan and chill 2 hours. Remove from pan using foil as handles. Cut into squares. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma: CRANBERRY SAUCE

1 bag fresh cranberries
1 cup orange juice
1 cup sugar
Dash cinnamon

Cook all ingredients over medium heat until cranberries pop. Reduce heat and cook until thickened.

Arnelda Kepka, Dorrance: SALAD

Small marshmallows
Cool Whip
Big carton cottage cheese
Dry gelatin (your choice)
Any fruit, coconut, nuts, etc.

Mix all together and put in a bowl.

Joy Ferdinand, Reading: UNCLE LARRY'S DRESSING

2 cornbread mixes, baked as directed, then cubed
2 sandwich loaves of white bread, oven toasted & cubed
2 sticks margarine or butter
2 stalks celery
2 onions
4 chicken bouillon cubes
1/2 teaspoon ground thyme
1 1/2 teaspoons poultry seasoning
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
5-6 cans chicken broth

Do ahead of time, even the day before. Make and bake cornbread mixes and cube. Toast sandwich bread in oven at 375 degrees for 8 minutes, each side. Cube when cool.

Day of: Melt butter in skillet. Cook chopped celery and onion, bouillon cubes and spices along with 2 cans of chicken broth for about 45 minutes until tender. Mix with cornbread and bread cubes. Let sit a couple of minutes. Add more broth as needed. Bake at 350 degrees in 2 greased 9-by-13-inch pans or one large foil roaster.

NOTE: Recipe can be halved.

Evie Puckett, Stillwater, Oklahoma: SUGAR COOKIE FUDGE

(2) 12-ounce packages white chocolate chips
1 1/4 cups sugar cookie mix
14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
Christmas sprinkles

Line a 9-by-9-inch pan with parchment paper and lightly spray with cooking spray. Set aside. In saucepan melt chocolate chips, sugar cookie mix and milk. Melt stirring frequently. Once melted add 1/2 cup sprinkles. Pour into pan and top with remaining sprinkles. Refrigerate for several hours then cut and enjoy.

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Where Were You?

By Lou Ann Thomas

We all have dates of demarcation that become marks that delineate “before” and “after” those events. “Before I married,” or “After I had cancer,” or “Before I learned the Watts,” become stakes in the ground that divide our life into what went before and what happened after.

But a few events have been so big, so significant, and unfortunately, so horrible that they become a national before and after. For those times we acknowledge our past shared experience by asking “Where were you when...?”

We recently passed the 60th anniversary of such an event. And if you were of school age or older on November 22, 1963, you most likely remember exactly where you were when you heard that President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated in Dallas.

I was eleven years old and in my sixth-grade gym class. Our classroom teach-

er, Mrs. Balon, suddenly appeared and told us to return to our classroom; to not shower or change, but just go - NOW. We quietly did what she asked and walked back to our room. Once there, Mrs. Balon reappeared and told us to put our heads on our desks and pray. However, she left again before telling us for what to pray. As she left, we all looked at each other lost and wondering what was happening. Then we bowed our heads and prayed - for something, although we had no idea what. I chose to pray that whatever was happening it would not result in me dying - in my ugly white gym suit.

Eventually Mrs. Balon returned and told us President Kennedy had been shot and we'd be going home soon. Then she left us once more. We quietly began speculating about what this might mean. We were in the heat of the Cold War with relations

between the U.S. and, the then, USSR very tense. Every few weeks we had Bomb Drills and were either herded into a basement room marked “Bomb Shelter” or told to hide under our desks. That's right. The same desk that tipped over if I put my geography and math books on the same side was going to protect me from Atomic Annihilation. Is it any wonder my generation grew up questioning authority?

The doubt that the adults in charge didn't know what they were doing is probably why some of us concluded we were now at war with Russia and feared our school was somehow a target. I now understand that, if the Russians were attacking us, Maple Hill Grade School would not likely be a high priority target, but to an eleven-year-old brain scrambled by an unknown trauma, it seemed plausible.

We kids had no idea what any of this meant and the adults were of no help. They too were traumatized and trying to figure out those same things. Everyone was reeling from the news. Stores closed; people stayed in, and the entire country was in mourning. The assassination and all that happened after was all that was on the television. We watched the events play out again and again, waiting for good news.

But good news didn't come, and I experienced horrible nightmares and deep anxiety from the

never-ending loop of coverage. My parents limited the amount of time I was allowed to watch, but I was there, glued to our old black and white television, the morning Lee Harvey Oswald was being transferred from the Dallas jail. I witnessed Jack Ruby stepping forward and shooting him. That was the first time I ever saw someone being shot and killed in real time.

In my life before November 22, 1963 I knew little about assassinations, death or deep grief. I, along with other kids who experienced this time in our history, lost a big portion of our innocence. Before this we thought our lives would play out relatively safely. After this we knew, that in a blink of the eye, life can go from a rousing game of kickball to everyone thrust deeply into mourning, death and loss.

Sixty years later, that 11-year-old girl can still feel the fear and confusion of that time. I have accumulated several Dates of Demarcation in my life since, but this one, my first, provided me with a strong dose of reality:

Life can change on a dime. Grief can be shared but everyone must find their own path through it. Nothing lasts forever, so enjoy the good stuff thoroughly. And white gym suits should be outlawed.

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



By Kelsey Pagel

A Clean-ish House

I had an epiphany this week. I've been married to the same man for ten years. We have never figured out how to keep our house clean. At first I think I was waiting for my mom to come clean it for me. When that didn't happen, I learned what I was willing to deal with and what I wasn't and for how long. As you might expect, I was doing the lion's share of the “house” work even though I was working as many hours outside as he was.

Then we had the talk of how we were going to divide the household chores because he wasn't in favor of hiring a housekeeper, but wanted me working all the hours on the farm. There are only so many hours in the day. And then we woke up and it's ten years later.

I developed a cleaning schedule where we could spend 10-15 minutes a day cleaning a specific room. That way our house is never fully cleaned at one time, but it is also not a complete disaster. It worked all right, except the things that I expected to be taken care of in the 10-15 minutes of cleaning weren't the same things he did. So we broke down each room of the tasks to do in those few minutes.

Which led to my epiphany this week. My version of clean is everything has a place and everything is in its place and a large majority of those places are behind closed doors so there aren't a lot of things on counters and such. His version of cleaning is everything he needs/wants is visible on the counter within reach.

Our version of clean is different. Surprise, surprise, we think differently about yet another topic.

I don't claim to be a marriage expert. I don't claim to have a great marriage. But I am married to someone that I think wants to try. I fluctuate between being bitter at him and trying to think the best of him. I know he's overworked, overstressed, has a lot to manage with thousands upon thousands of dollars dependent on decisions. I know that I'm blessed to be married to a man that wants to work and provide for us.

Life is hard. Our community lost a hard-working member much too young, in his sixties. I don't know the full story, but I know it was unexpected. I always hear about these people wishing their loved one was back; they wouldn't complain about different cleaning styles or the silly stuff. They would simply be glad to have them back.

It's a tightrope that I haven't figured out how to walk yet. On one hand I understand simply wanting your loved one and enjoying the time you have. On the other hand, I'd really like to have a partner in all the things. One that cherishes me enough to know how I like the house cleaned and does it, just as I know how he likes farm work done and I do it that way. I don't know that we'll ever figure it out. But we keep trying and maybe that's the key.

With that said, happy holiday season. It means so many things to all of us. It's a season of feeling all the feelings sometimes all at the same time. We never know when it's going to be game over for us. Again I tell myself, approach all the things with grace, patience and love.

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

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

Shopping And Gift-Giving Tips: Memories Over Materials

Monica Thayer, Family Resource Management Extension Agent, River Valley Extension District

December is here and for many, that means shopping and gift-giving. As you are shopping, consider giving a memory instead of more materials as there seems to be a cultural shift to minimalism.

Everywhere you look and listen, there are commercials and advertisements of the hottest toys, electronics, and even vehicles to purchase for a loved one. It is the season of giving. Even though retailers want us to believe

that the holidays are all about materials, give the gift of time and memories to those you love.

Instead of more materials to be tossed aside after the newness wears off, consider giving an experience that will create memories. A gift of an experience can be tailored exactly to the person. Purchase admission to a local zoo, amusement park, movie theater, or museum. Find lessons to further a person's skills, such as horseback riding, a musical instrument, or painting. For those really adventurous people in your life, send them sky-

diving or zip-lining. These are just a few examples as the possibilities are endless.

Being a parent of young children, I understand that having something to open may be important, so I am not saying to scrap every gift. Consider following the adage “Something they want, something they need, something they wear, and something they read.”

Iowa State Extension's “Science of Parenting” Blog has lots of great information, including this post about gift-giving to children:

<https://blogs.extension.iastate.edu/scienceofparenting/2016/12/21/consider-giving-kids-less-stuff-more-time-during-holidays/>

For educational information on family resources, including budgeting, child development, relationships, and more, contact Monica Thayer, River Valley Extension District Family Resource Extension agent, at 785-527-5084 and mthayer@ksu.edu

More information can also be found on her website at https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/family_resources/index.html.

Keep Your Poinsettia Thriving Into New Year

Kelsey Hatesohl, River Valley Extension Agent-Horticulture

Poinsettia varieties will stay attractive long into the new year if given proper care. Here are some important tips for keeping your poinsettia thriving long after the holiday season.

Place your poinsettia in a sunny window or the brightest area of the room, but be sure to not let it touch any cold window pane. The day temperature of the room should be 65 to 75 degrees F with 60 to 65 degrees F at night. When temperatures get above 75 degrees it will shorten the bloom life, and below 60 degrees may cause root rot. You will want to move plants away from drafty windows at night or close the drapes to avoid damage from the cold.

Poinsettias are somewhat finicky in regard to soil moisture. You want to avoid overwatering because poinsettias do not like “wet

feet,” which means they don't like to sit in water. On the other hand, if the plant is allowed to wilt, it will drop some leaves.

So how do you maintain the proper moisture? You should examine the potting soil daily by sticking your finger about one-half inch deep into the soil. If it is dry to this depth, the plant needs to be watered.

When it becomes dry to the touch, water the plant

with lukewarm water until some water runs out of the drainage holes in the bottom of the pot, then discard the drainage water.

Hopefully these tips will help keep your poinsettia thriving into the new year.

If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the in the Washington office by calling 785-325-2121 or emailing khatesohl@ksu.edu.

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Trace Genomics and EarthOptics introduce new accuracy for Carbon Measurement

Trace Genomics, the industry leader in DNA-based soil intelligence, and EarthOptics, the pioneering next-generation soil mapping company, are collaborating to introduce a new level of accuracy in carbon measurement, with fast-track turnaround of results to customers.

The multi-year agreement combines the power of soil carbon insights from both companies to offer farmers and ranchers research grade C-Mapper. This new hyper-accurate C-Mapper product from EarthOptics, combines Trace Genomics' unmatched TraceCARBON data with GroundOwl Sensor data to power a new carbon measurement and

mapping in its SoilMapper™ platform.

EarthOptics uses sensing power from multiple sensors in the field to scan the entire field. The data is then analyzed by artificial Intelligence combined with ground truth samples to deliver information to farmers and ranchers through the EarthOptics SoilMapper platform. This web-based platform gives farmers and ranchers a view of real carbon maps and measurement in their fields.

"Given the increasing importance of carbon and sustainable farming, this collaboration to improve the accuracy we quantify and verify soil carbon storage from field all the way

through to the ones and zeros," according to Lars Dyrud, CEO of EarthOptics. "EarthOptics' ability to measure soil carbon combined with Trace Genomics' TraceCARBON is setting a new standard for accuracy."

Trace Genomics incorporates cutting-edge soil science, machine learning, and genomic sequencing technologies into an

unparalleled, comprehensive soil diagnostic platform. This enables the delivery of targeted insights and actions at cost-speed-scale-accuracy for partners who are advancing modern, sustainable farming solutions. Trace's carbon offering (TraceCARBON) includes an advanced high-accuracy soil carbon evaluation pipeline to measure total

organic carbon (TOC), total inorganic carbon (TIC), bulk density of soil, as well as active carbon (POxC).

"By combining our high-resolution TraceCARBON data with EarthOptics' spectral imaging capabilities, we can offer unprecedented insights to help the agriculture industry measurably increase soil carbon

sequestration and build more sustainable, regenerative supply chains. We are thrilled to partner with EarthOptics to bring the power of soil carbon intelligence today, and soil microbial intelligence in the future, to more growers around the world," said Poonima Parameswaran, CEO and Co-founder of Trace Genomics.

Don't forget the P and K after harvest

With grain bins filled, farmers should be turning their attention to field fertility. While nitrogen may be the most important nutrient for crop production, phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) are two elements that shouldn't be forgotten when creating a fall fertility program.

Regular soil testing is the foundation of sound fertility. Soil samples should be collected every two to four years to provide the best diagnostic information.

"One of the most important investments you can make is finding out what your soil pH is," said Matt Montgomery, Pioneer field agronomist. "Once pH is determined, managing it accordingly is paramount."

Soil test results can be used in conjunction with P and K removal rates to develop fertilizer recommendations that best fit fertilizer price, management style and risk position. Rate recommendations can be developed to maximize short-term returns following a nutrient sufficiency approach, or to provide consistent, long-term profitability following a build-and-maintain approach.

Biannual P and K applications can be equally as ef-

fective as annual applications, as long as biannual application rates account for the nutrient needs of two crops.

Additionally, various banded and starter application methods have been evaluated for increasing P and K efficiency. Specific cases where banded and starter P and K applications may be beneficial include:

- Heavy or wet soils that are slow to warm in the spring
- Soils that have a high degree of P and/or K variability
- No-till, when there is evidence of P and/or K stratification at the soil surface
- Strip-till and zone-till, for which P and K are typically banded at planting
- Calcareous and high pH soils

Farmers should consult state Extension guidelines or local Pioneer sales professionals for region-specific rate recommendations. Precision soil sampling and variable rate technology can help match P and K inputs to crop needs and improve return on fertilizer investment.

Recycled phosphorus fertilizer reduces nutrient leaching and maintains yield

A promising new form of ammonium phosphate fertilizer has been field-tested by University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign researchers. The fertilizer, struvite, offers a triple win for sustainability and crop production, as it recycles nutrients from wastewater streams, reduces leaching of phosphorus and nitrogen in agricultural soils, and maintains or improves soybean yield compared to conventional phosphorus fertilizers.

"There have been some lab and greenhouse projects showing the potential of struvite, but this is the first field-scale assessment of nutrient loss and yield benefits together," said principal investigator Andrew Margenot, associate professor and faculty Extension specialist in the Department of Crop Sci-

ences, part of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at U. of I. "We found that struvite can be a full substitute for monoammonium phosphate (MAP) or diammonium phosphate (DAP) for soybeans yield-wise, and it reduces nonpoint source nutrient losses relative to conventional fertilizer options."

His team's results are published in the Journal of Environmental Quality.

Applying MAP or DAP in the fall as a source of phosphorus for crops is common practice for corn and soybean production in much of the Midwest. But because the phosphorus in MAP and DAP is highly water soluble, much of the nutrient is lost during the ensuing winter and early spring months. Not only can this contribute to downstream nutrient pollution, it also means there may be less phosphorus available in the soil by the time crops are planted in spring.

Importantly, MAP and DAP also contain soluble

forms of nitrogen, an overlooked fact that Margenot says is contributing to the problem of nitrate loss across the Midwest.

"There is a major blind spot in the nitrogen cycle," Margenot said. "In the U.S. and the Midwest specifically, the overwhelming majority of our phosphorus fertilizers are ammoniated. When farmers buy a phosphorus source to apply in the fall, their options are generally limited to MAP or DAP, so they can't avoid co-applying nitrogen."

He did the math in a companion paper and found DAP applied at the typical rate (200 pounds per acre) adds 36 pounds of nitrogen per acre that most farmers — and land grant recommendations — don't account for. Adding it up across Illinois, Margenot estimated that 198 million pounds of nitrogen are added every fall in the form of MAP or DAP.

"That number is 11% more than our statewide nitrate loss reduction target of 178 million pounds," he said. "Managing this

overlooked fall-applied nitrogen is low-hanging fruit that could make a large dent in nitrate losses in Illinois and other Mississippi River Basin states, and we could do it without changing phosphorus application rates."

Struvite also contains nitrogen, but struvite is less water-soluble than MAP. That explains why Margenot's team found phosphorus and nitrogen leaching were significantly lower under struvite than MAP, comparable to natural leaching measured in unfertilized soils.

But if the nutrients are less soluble, does that mean plants have a harder time accessing them? Not according to the Journal of Environmental Quality study. Soybean yields weren't significantly different under either fertilizer. And in the study's southern Illinois site, struvite — but not MAP — actually increased soybean yield compared to no-fertilizer control plots. Margenot thinks the yield bump could have resulted from the magnesium in struvite.

Struvite (magnesium ammonium phosphate, a 5-28-0 [10 Mg] source) forms when magnesium is added to wastewater, where it reacts with phosphorus and nitrogen and pulls those nutrients out of the waste stream. Chicago and St. Louis have leased portions of their wastewater streams to a company to manufacture the recycled fertilizer, but Margenot says the struvite manufacturing industry is currently too small to satisfy the phosphorus needs of the entire Corn Belt.

"Struvite isn't scalable right now, but we're prov-

• Cont. on page 7



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The Tree of Light

My neighbor Nick called.

I have known Nick for many years, and he recently built a house on property across the road from several of my pastures. Since he has moved in I have another set of eyes on the place from a different location, and on a road that has several other new homes along that stretch. Usually, when Nick calls it's to inform me of a calf out, a bunch of heifers in the brome, or some kind of strange phenomena, such as a 21-foot ski boat (no trailer) sitting in the grad-er ditch outside one of my gates. I have a picture.

This call came just after full dark and was definitely in the last order of "strange phenomena..."

The phone rang just as I'd sat down in my recliner after supper. "Nick, am I going to have to put my boots back on?"

"Kirk, you're going to think I'm crazy, but I think you're going to want to see this. There is a light out in your Bull Corner pasture that is like nothing I've ever seen!"

The light he went on to describe as a white, throbbing light. He then sent me a video of it, and I had to go check this thing out!

Boots back on, my adult

daughter had just walked in the door from work. I call her my "hippie daughter," as she is a free spirit, likes spooky movies and is always looking for something new and exciting. So I invited her to "see something weird" and, of course, she jumped at the chance. I grabbed my shotgun and a few rounds of buckshot, you know, "just in case."

As we arrived on scene, Nick and his boys were parked on the road, continuing to watch the strange light. There is an old white-trunked elm tree standing with a hedge tree, and this old tree is pulsing with white light! It's about 150 yards off the road out in the middle of a pasture, no buildings, vehicles or anything man-made except a few remnants of the original homestead outbuildings just to the west of it.

We'd had some good rain within the last 24 hours, but there was zero lightning to create a fire. Besides, I've seen plenty of burning trees and this light was totally unnatu-

ral! The consistent, perfectly timed pulsing of this light, decreasing to almost nothing, but increasing to showing detail on the tree trunk, definitely allowed the mind to race to possibilities of... who knows what!

"What do you think it is?" Nick offered.

"I don't know, but I'm going to find out," as I held the wires apart for my spotlight-bearing daughter to crawl through. (Hey, she wouldn't have stayed behind if ET himself was sitting in that tree!) Once across the fence, I racked the slide, loading my shotgun for...who knows what!

As we approached, I took the lead toward the pulsing light, half circling around to where we were coming in seemingly square with the glowing side of the tree. It seemed to be coming from the ground behind a log about a foot in diameter that was lying cross-wise about six feet from the "white tree."

From this angle it lit up the tree clear to, and including the branches that came

off the trunk eight feet off the ground. The light continued its rhythmic pulsing, fading to faint, then glowing brighter to a near-blinding white brightness, the cycle lasting about five seconds each; bright... faint... bright... faint. That was the truly strange part of this whole thing!

We got within twenty feet of the tree and suddenly a fluttering of leaves above and a large bird, an owl or a hawk maybe, flew out from the branches and off into the darkness, giving us both about two less available heartbeats!

The pulsing light continued, unabated, as we approached, cautiously, both shotgun and spotlight at the ready. As I peered over the log, still not sure what to expect, but too curious to quit now, I gave my daughter the "Light 'em up!" cue and it still took several seconds to process the scene.

There was a gray and black snake-like thing coiled behind that log with a brilliant white light emanating from its cen-

ter. I continued to study it and as the pulsing light dimmed, the spotlight revealed an elastic band attached to an LED headlamp! I reached down and picked it up wondering how this thing got out here. It had obviously been here long enough to be rain-soaked and mud-spattered, and no matter what I did to the switch it continued its eerie pulsating glow. The only way to shut it off was by removing a battery, which revealed that water had penetrated the battery compartment, possibly shorting past the switch, and perhaps creating the pulsating action. Nonetheless, even after it dried out, I could never get it to repeat that pulse.

As to the question of how it got there under that tree, I suspect that the ghostly bird that flew off into the night, disturbed from his roosting tree, had something to do with that!

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



Trent Winter (left) is pictured with KACD Area IV director, Bevin Law.

Trent Winter receives the Don Rezac Memorial Award

Don Rezac was a lifelong Kansas farmer and rancher. He started his career with only six sows and one boar and went on to become president of Rezac Land and Livestock near Emmett. He was a passionate conservationist who served as a supervisor of the Pottawatomie County Conservation District for 41 years, from 1969 to 2010, and served as director of Area IV for the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) from 1995 to 2007.

Don has been described as a man of integrity, intelligence, and humor. He will be remembered for his lifelong commitment to public service to his state and community, and to our good fortune, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.

The KACD Don Rezac Memorial Award, since 2010, is presented annually to one conservation district supervisor in Kansas who has served on their county conservation district board while also taking an active role in KACD activities to honor the memory of former Pottawatomie County Conservation District Supervisor and KACD Director of Area IV Don Rezac. Candidates must meet criteria of being a conservation district supervisor for at least six years and regularly attends the KACD Convention.

The award winner was announced at the KACD Annual Convention on November 20, 2023. This year's winner was Trent Winter of Clifton in Washington County. Trent has been a board member for the Washington County Conservation District for 30 years and is involved in the Education and Youth Committee for KACD.

Recycled phosphorus fertilizer reduces nutrient leaching, maintains yield

• Cont. from page 6

proving the efficacy of a solution that will be on the shelf one day. Our results point to the benefits of scaling up struvite production and use on the farm," he said.

Although struvite decreased nutrient losses relative to MAP, Margenot notes that nutrient loss happens even without added fertilizer, and recommends cover crops to mitigate these "background" losses that occur regardless of fertilization.

"When we added no fertilizer, be it MAP or struvite, we still saw substantial losses, especially in the higher organic matter Mollisols (black prairie soils) of our Central Illinois site," he said. "Our soils are so rich; they hold a lot of organic nitrogen and phosphorus. If it's warm enough, these nutrients will mineralize and become nitrate and phosphate. If there's no crop there to grab it, like a cover crop or wheat, then those nutrients will be leached."

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Crystalized Snowflakes Craft (parental supervision recommended)

Full craft found at: littlebinsforlittlehands.com/crystal-snowflake-ornament-science-activity-kids/



MATERIALS

- Craft sticks (pencils)
- String or Ribbon
- Pipe cleaners
- Water
- Borax (found with laundry detergent)
- Jars or Vases (glass is preferred)

BEFORE YOU START:

Double-check the opening of the jar with the size of your snowflake! It's easy to push the pipe cleaner in to start but difficult to pull it out once all the crystals have formed!



Step 1: FORM SNOWFLAKE FROM PIPECLEANER

Cut a pipe cleaner into thirds, place the pieces together, then twist the center to hold them together. Cut 6, 1.5" pieces of matching pipe cleaner and twist one onto each arm of the snowflake.



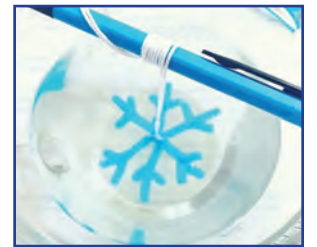
Step 2: ADD STRING

Tie a long piece of string to the center of the pipe cleaner snowflake and wrap the other end around a pencil.



Step 3: MAKE THE BORAX SOLUTION

Bring water to a boil, then add 3 tablespoons of borax per cup of water. Stir until dissolved and pour into glass containers.



Step 4: GROW THE CRYSTALS

Once the jars are filled with the borax solution, hang your snowflakes down inside the jar. Make sure they are fully emerged but not touching the bottom or sides of the jars.

STEP 5: PLACE THE JARS IN A QUIET PLACE WHERE THEY WON'T BE DISTURBED. No tugging on the string, stirring the solution, or moving the jar around! They need to sit still to work their magic. After a couple of hours, you will start to see some changes. Leave the solution alone for 24 hours.

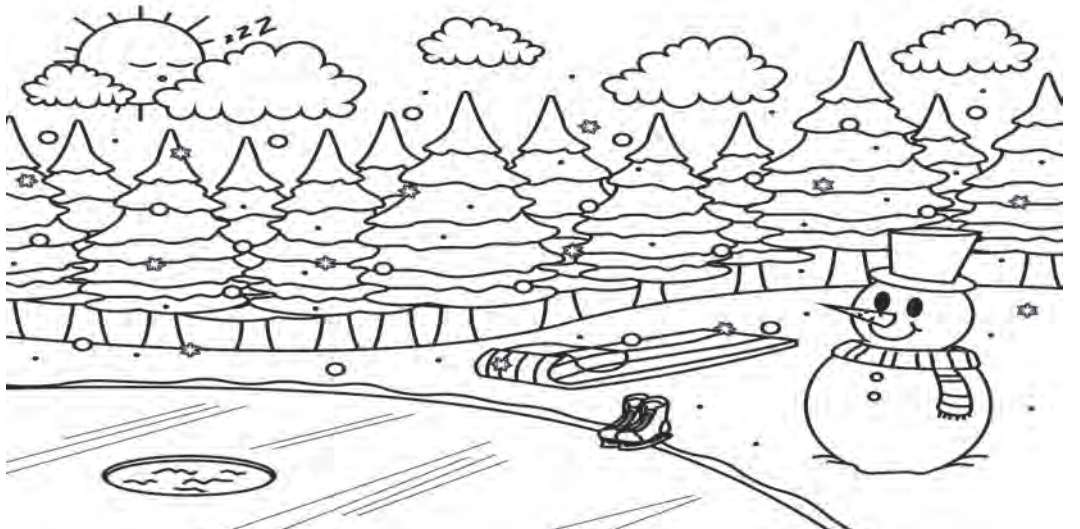
STEP 6: DRY OUT THE ORNAMENTS. The next day, gently lift out your crystal snowflake ornaments and let them dry on paper towels for an hour or so. Hang them on the Christmas tree, or in the window like a suncatcher!

Color the winter scene.

Try one of these jokes to break the ice!

What kind of ball doesn't bounce?
A SNOWBALL!

What do snowmen eat for lunch?
ICEBERGERS!





I just finished Zooming with Ms. Tricia North's Fairfield District 310 class about making films.

Monday, I spoke to Ms. Carol Johnson's classes here at the Oakley High School. I rambled on about the connections between the American Revolution and the Civil War, being the token Virginian in town.

God bless these teachers and these students!

Through my position as the Garvey Texas Foundation Historian in Residence at the Fort Wallace Museum, I get to do outreach.

I get to talk to folks.

Fortunately, there is so much to talk about.

My ultimate goal, of course, is to motivate people to visit the Fort Wallace Museum (mile marker 26 on US-40 west of Oakley). Some people are just naturally curious and other people need to have their curiosity nudged a little bit so that they realize they are interested. That's where my background as the daughter of a man who was a preacher, a salesman, and a politi-

cian - in the South, no less - really comes in handy. I can lift them up, cast them down, dangle the historic carrot and jerk it away. It is when I am at my highest and best: converting the unsuspecting to a history lover.

Woe unto the stranger that asks a question for he shall be informed.

So, let me pass the offering plate: the Guardians of the Fort Wallace Museum is a bargain at \$25 a year for a single person. Since we did the math on expenses, we are forced to raise our prices at the beginning of the year, BUT, if you act now, you can get into this esteemed organization for the 2024 year at 2023 rates. Find us on Facebook or email me and I'll forward you to a competent person.

Operators are standing by, and I have to go talk to people.

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

Baking with heart — Home Baking Association celebrates 100 years, Careers of Charlene Patton and Sharon Davis

By Julia Debes

If baking is a work of the heart, then Charlene Patton and Sharon Davis have been the heartbeat of the Home Baking Association (HBA) for more than two decades. The pair were honored for their work to bring baking into the homes of families during the HBA's recent annual meeting in Sunriver, Oregon, where the association also celebrated 100 years as an organization.

"It's hard to imagine how many home bakers have been inspired or helped by Sharon Davis, Charlene Patton and the Home Baking Association," said Cindy Falk, Kansas Wheat nutrition educator. "I've worked alongside these talented women since I joined Kansas Wheat in 1988, and we have shared our passion for baking with countless youth, educators and home bakers. Together we've provided baking demonstrations at the Kansas State Fair, test-baked and judged entries for the National Festival of Breads, promoted wheat products at national meetings, created baking videos and so much more. Thank you both for your years of dedication and vision."

The HBA was started in 1923, originally as a group of soft wheat millers that produced self-rising flour and recognized they could



Pictured above are Charlene Patton, Cindy Falk and Sharon Davis.

make advancements better together. Today, the organization promotes increased home baking by providing tools and knowledge to perpetuate the love of baking by offering resources and curriculum to anyone who teaches or fosters baking skills. In 2023, the non-profit reached 8.7 million educators and consumers through the resources on its website and social media channels as well as virtual and hands-on workshops at state and national conferences.

"The HBA has a rich library of resources for anyone who is learning or teaching others to bake at school or home," Falk said. "Staying true to the mission of sharing those resources with others for more than a century has instilled a love of baking in countless classrooms and homes — and Charlene Patton and Sharon Davis have been integral to that continued success."

Davis joined the HBA in 1995 as a family and consumer science educator. Since then, she has made more than 500 presentations and written or co-written a substantial

amount of printed and online teaching materials. Ranging from quick five-minute lessons to multi-week lesson plans, her lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations and videos have brought baking skills to homes, communities and classrooms from coast to coast.

"Sharon embodies the joy of baking," Falk said. "She has a talent for making every presentation a celebration of everything that home baking is about — passing down baking skills from parents to children, creating memories and teaching useful life skills. It has been rewarding to watch her create memorable experiences while emphasizing the significant role baking plays in families."

Patton started as the HBA executive director in 1997, leading the organization's annual meetings, outside events, finances and other operations. She is also a regular presenter on home baking, appearing in-person, virtually, on video, in person and on television. Together with Davis, she authored the book, "Baking with

Friends," a staple for recipes, tips and fun facts for teaching kids to bake.

"Like Sharon, when the name 'Charlene Patton' appears on a program, it is standing room only for the presentation," said Robert Harper, HBA President, in his "President's Message." "She has always done a remarkable job at finding good value for us."

With the retirement of Patton and Davis at the end of October, HBA leadership turns to new executive director Chris Kirby. Kirby has more than 25 years of experience in marketing, agriculture, nutrition, leadership and program development, thanks to past work with the Oklahoma Wheat Commission, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University.

Also at the HBA annual meeting, the organization elected new leadership and members of the board of directors, including:

- President: Robert Harper, president of Hopkinsville Milling Company, Kentucky

- First Vice President: Paula LaBine, marketing director with ADM Milling & Baking Solutions, Illinois

- Second Vice President: Ileana Durand, senior manager with ASR Group, American Sugar Refining, Inc., Florida

Falk will continue to serve on the Educator Award Committee and was elected to serve on the Board of Directors.

Learn more about the Home Baking Association and check out the fantastic resources developed by Patton and Davis at homebaking.org.

Midwest Crops Conference to be held January 17-18

Registration is open for the 2024 Midwest Crops Conference, Jan. 17-18, 2024, in St. Joseph, Mo. The annual event offers two days of updates from agricultural leaders, university Extension specialists and industry experts from four states.

University of Missouri Extension agricultural business specialist Denice Ferguson says Certified Crop Advisers can receive up to 15.5 con-

tinuing education credits for attending.

During the two days, attendees will hear updates on drought, soils, nutrient management, weed control and pests, among other timely topics, says Ferguson. Ben Brown, senior research associate with the MU Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, will give an update on the U.S. farm bill. Economist Scott Brown will provide

an outlook for corn and soybean crops in 2024.

MU Extension, University of Nebraska Extension, Kansas State University and Iowa State University sponsor the event at the Stoney Creek Hotel in St. Joseph.

Register online at <https://extension.missouri.edu/events/2024-midwest-crops-conference>, or call Ferguson at 816-279-1691.

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Farm Building - Weds., February 21st, before Noon

Bring on Spring - Fri., February 23rd, before Noon

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K-State students participate in Taiwan Agricultural Youth Exchange

Six Kansas State University students traveled to Taiwan in November 2023 to represent the state as part of the Taiwan Agricultural Youth Exchange Program, a bilateral student exchange program to learn about Taiwan's agricultural industry and how Kansas agriculture exports benefit both Kansas and Taiwan. The students were selected by the Kansas Department of Agriculture based on their exceptional leadership and communication skills, an interest in cultural exchange, and passion for Kansas agriculture.

"During their time in Taiwan, these students gained new perspectives, learned how to navigate a different culture, and communicated across a language barrier," said Suzanne Ryan-Numrich, international trade director at KDA. "As future leaders, these are skills that will prepare them to solve the world's toughest challenges, make them more competitive in the job market, and help transform them into more responsible, engaged citizens."

The six Kansas State University students who participated were: Jack Arender, Overland Park, a sophomore in agribusiness; Corley Becker, Seneca, a senior in agricultural education and animal science; Katie Cummings, Spencer, West Virginia, a sophomore in agricultur-



education; Alex Scovill, Laingsburg, Michigan, a junior in agricultural education and animal science; Rachel Sebesta, Wilson, a junior in agricultural education and global food systems leadership, agronomy and anthropology; and Annika Wiebers, Wamego, a junior in agricultural communications.

While in Taiwan, the students visited the National Chung Hsing University, interacted with Taiwanese students, met with the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and visited local farms and research institutes across Taiwan.

"The trip to Taiwan was fascinating," said Becker. "Traveling with the Taiwanese students allowed us to immerse ourselves in the culture more thoroughly, especially with traditions, food, and talking about life experiences. Taiwan is a very diverse agricultural country with farmers who strive for success and sustainability. It was very interesting to learn about their farming and business practices. This experience was once in a lifetime, and I was so glad that I was able to visit."

Scovill added, "From eating our way through crowded night markets to harvesting wide open passion fruit fields, and up and down mountain roads, the Kansas delegates saw the true beauty of Taiwan.

And beyond the sights, traveling with us up and down the coast of the island nation was a set of new friends who showed us all how to appreciate our surroundings. The trip was a blessing of an experience, and I cannot wait for the Taiwanese students to come experience agriculture in Kansas in the spring."

The trip is coordinated by KDA and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Denver, Colorado. The trip is sponsored by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, the K-State College of Agriculture and KDA.

Opportunities such as the Taiwan Agricultural Youth Exchange Program provide tremendous knowledge and networking to the delegates. In 2022, Kansas exported \$225 million in agricultural products to Taiwan and Taiwan was our sixth-largest trading partner. Exports to Taiwan have been steadily increasing for the last five years. International relationships with countries such as Taiwan help open opportunities for more exports in the future.

Each fall, KDA coordinates the Taiwan Agricultural Youth Exchange Program application process which is open to college students. For more information, please contact Dana Ladner at KDA, at 785-564-6660 or Dana.Ladner@ks.gov.

The patented Calf Hutch Latch: a booming success for MJE Livestock Equipment

MJE Livestock Equipment, a pioneer in innovative livestock equipment solutions, is thrilled to announce that their patented and award-winning product, the Calf Hutch Latch, has continued to soar in popularity with sales surpassing a remarkable 153,200 latches nationwide.

Introduced to the market in 2020, the Calf Hutch Latch quickly gained recognition for its game-changing approach to securing calf hutches during adverse weather conditions. This innovative system, designed by MJE Livestock Equipment's lead product designer, Steve Deges, has revolutionized calf hutch security and plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the well-being of animals and ranchers alike.

The journey to success began in April 2019 when MJE Livestock Equipment started the process to se-

cure a patent for the Calf Hutch Latch and Tethering System. After years of dedicated effort, their commitment to excellence was rewarded when they were awarded a United States patent on September 13, 2022.

Steve Deges, the visionary behind the Calf Hutch Latch, expressed his enthusiasm, saying, "This has been a long process but an exciting one. When Aaron (Jantz) and I applied for the patent, we had no idea it would be so intense, but this idea is unique enough to put in the work to get the patent."

One of the significant milestones for the Calf Hutch Latch was its recognition as a top ten Product of the Year at the 2020 World Ag Expo. This accolade catapulted its popularity among dairy and calf ranchers, leading to over 100,000 latches sold quickly.

Calf hutches serve as

critical shelters for newborn calves, protecting them from diseases and harsh weather conditions in large-scale calf ranches. Before the Calf Hutch Latches were invented, securing these hutches was labor-intensive, often requiring substantial effort from ranch staff. Material costs were also high; many parts were needed to secure the hutches. The patented system from MJE Livestock Equipment simplified this process, allowing for quick and secure tethering with minimal manpower.

With the Calf Hutch Latch in place, ranchers know their investments are protected, even during storms, straight-line winds, or other adverse weather events. The system's durability, ease of use, and effectiveness have won over the trust of dairy and calf ranchers nationwide.

As demand for the Calf Hutch Latch continues to surge, MJE Livestock Equipment remains committed to providing livestock owners with safe, reliable, and efficient solutions for safeguarding their animals and opera-

tions. For more information about how the Calf Hutch Latch and Tethering System can enhance livestock

protection, please visit www.mjelivestockequipment.com or find them on any major social media platform.



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Derek Sawyer champions Kansas wheat farming at USW crop quality seminars in South America

Like many wheat producers, Derek Sawyer, who farms near McPherson and serves as a Kansas Wheat Commissioner, used not to think too much past the bushels and protein levels of the wheat he delivered the elevator. After joining U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) on their November crop quality seminars in South America, he now understands that end-use markets want not just data on protein quality and milling and baking test results, but also a direct connection back to the farmers who grow the wheat they purchase.

"These customers really wanted to hear about quality, and they all had something different they were looking for," Sawyer said. "It's a lot more than being able to take bushels of wheat to the elevator and delivering what we think will be shipped and turned into bread — we have to continue working domestically to improve genetics and inputs to grow a high-quality crop that the end-user wants."

As the export market development organization for the U.S. wheat industry, USW conducts crop quality seminars around



Derek Sawyer traveled with U.S. Wheat Associates to South America recently, where he had the opportunity to provide information at a crop quality seminar.

the world each fall and winter to provide transparent information to customers and facilitate dialogue about the U.S. wheat supply chain from start to finish. In addition to the series Sawyer attended in South America, USW also held seminars this year in Central America/Caribbean, South Asia, the European Union and North Asia.

Far from a leisurely tourist trip, Sawyer explained the U.S. team, who

represented each of the six classes of U.S. wheat, had a whirlwind itinerary from one seminar to the next, flying from city to city and country to country to present to customers in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile. According to USW, the seminars in Quito (Ecuador), Lima (Peru) and Santiago (Chile) drew attendees that represented more than 90 percent of wheat purchases. In addition to these long-time, loyal customers,

other end-users came to listen to the U.S. team, including a set of shrimp and salmon farmers who need tight specifications of hard red winter (HRW) wheat to make their feed pellets sink to maintain the exact right depth for longer feeding periods.

Sawyer served as the "friendly farmer" during these seminars, providing information on Kansas wheat farming operations and how they have changed over time — easy

to do since his family's operation has grown wheat for more than 70 years. In turn, customers asked Sawyer questions about profitability, drought, volatile prices, the future of wheat breeding and more.

"They wanted to meet the farmer that raises the crop they are buying and hear stories they could turn around and tell their customers," Sawyer said. "A lot of them centered around sustainability or regenerative agriculture, so they wanted to be able to tell their customers that the farmer who grew the wheat cared about the land. As it turns out, wheat is a pretty easy crop to be able to tell that story."

Transparency is a major advantage for selling U.S. wheat to international customers compared to other competing countries, including taking a deep dive into the data in USW's crop quality reports and sharing personal perspectives from wheat farmers. Combined with personal relationships established and maintained by USW employees and clearly defined grain grading standards and export procedures, Sawyer explained that these customers know that when they buy a load

of wheat from the United States, they know exactly what they will receive.

"Our buyers have stuck with us over the last three years, and it's only because of the personal relationships we've formed," Sawyer said. "It was truly amazing to see the reception that USW employees got from all the businesses; it showed the trust those buyers have in U.S. wheat. Our markets are truly open around the world because of their efforts."

Now home and recovered from the jet lag, Sawyer reflected on his role — and the role of Kansas wheat farmers — in promoting not only a crop, but also a way of life.

"It was really satisfying for me to meet customers halfway around the world that really appreciated the value of the wheat I grow," he said. "And I know it was satisfying for them to meet the farmer that truly cared about growing a valuable commodity and caring for the land my family has farmed for generations."

Learn more about the entire set of USW's crop quality seminars and read the full 2023 USW Crop Quality Report at uswheat.org.

Mann pushes for five-year Farm Bill

Recently, U.S. Representative Tracey Mann (KS-01) called Congress' attention to the importance of reauthorizing a five-year Farm Bill.

"Many people in Washington have forgotten about the importance of a five-year Farm Bill," said Mann. "A five-year Farm Bill is long enough to provide certainty to producers, and short enough for Congress to respond to market changes and strengthen the farm safety net. The last Farm Bill was signed on December 20, 2018, and a lot has changed since then. We have seen a global pandemic devastate the supply chain, war between Russia and Ukraine, the Biden administration's failed trade agenda, inflation hit a record high, and some of the worst drought

conditions in decades. We need a five-year Farm Bill to address these changes. American farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers deserve it, America's food and national security depend on it, and Congress must deliver it."

Mann believes that a five-year Farm Bill must:

- Strengthen and maintain crop insurance
- Promote trade programs that help America remain competitive and secure
- Conduct rigorous oversight of the executive branch to fight big government overreach
- Invest in agricultural research at America's land-grant universities

"If you think about a safety net, the higher the risk, the higher the fall, and the stronger the safety net you need to survive," said Mann. "Producers' risk levels are at an all-time high because of inflation, input costs, and other market changes. The livelihoods of American producers and consumers are on the line right now, and that means our food security and national security are on the line, too. American farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers need certainty like never before — and Congress must deliver for them with a five-year Farm Bill."

Foreign investors who hold agricultural land must register

Foreign investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct or indirect interest in land must report their holdings to the local County USDA Farm Service Agency office by completing the form FSA-153.

The following individuals must report within 90 days of conducting a land transaction:

- Individuals who are not U.S. citizens or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
- Individuals who are not lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence or who are not paroled into the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act.
- Any organization created under the laws of a foreign government, or which has located its principal place of business outside the U.S.
- Any U.S. organization in which a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations, or governments.

Land to be reported includes:

- Each tract of agricultural land in the United States, its territories, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands owned by persons required to report.
- Leaseholds of ten years or more.
- Under the law, the term agricultural land means land used for forestry production and land currently used for farming, ranching or timber production if tracts are more than ten acres in size in the aggregate.
- Land used for forestry production means land exceeding ten acres in which 10 percent is stocked by trees of any size including land that formerly had such tree cover and will be naturally or artificially regenerated.
- Ownership of tracts totaling ten acres or less in the aggregate which produce annual gross receipts in excess of \$1,000 from the sale of the farm, ranch, or timber products must also be reported.

Investors should report land transactions and leaseholds for each tract. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the land. Form FSA-153 can be completed and submitted at the local FSA Office in Westmoreland for Pottawatomie County and Alma for Wabaunsee County.

MORRIS COUNTY LAND AUCTION!

Vaughn-Roth Land Brokers presents this highly productive tract of cropland to the public on behalf of Jacobsen, LLC. Located east of Council Grove just off Highway 56, this is a long-envied parcel of 281+/- total acres with 219.33 acres of cropland featuring ultra-fertile Class 1 soil along Rock Creek, abundant recreational appeal and a great location. This is a once-in-a-lifetime type of opportunity to add greatness to your real estate holdings.

Location: 1/2 mile north of Hwy 56 on 100 Rd. east of Council Grove, KS

Online Land Auction to begin on December 18th, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. CST. with a dynamic closing starting at 12:00 p.m. on December 21st, 2023.

For more information, please visit our website or call Cameron Roth at 785-917-0867.

SELLER: Jacobsen, LLC

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Grass & Grain Area Auctions and Sales

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

Hundreds of auctions, online and in-person. www.kansasauctions.net/gg/

Online Unreserved Auction (bidding closes Dec. 7) — Including 2009 JD 8530 tractor, 2008 JD 8530 tractor, 1996 JD 7200 tractor, 2004 JD 9660 combine & other Farm Equipment selling for Douglas & Evelyn Matson. Bidding online: www.BigIron.com. Auctioneers: Big Iron, Kaid Baumann, sales rep.

December 5 — Land Auction consisting of an Irrigated Quarter of Rice County Land selling for Donald G. Dressler & Linda M. Dressler Trust held at Bushton. Auctioneers: Hollinger Real Estate & Online Auction, Jim Hollinger, broker/auctioneer.

December 7 — Real Estate Auction consisting of 3 Tracts in Ramona: T1: 22.3 acres of native and mixed grass in city

limits with rural water & electricity; T2: 1.44-acre lot; T3: Bungalow-style home built in 1903 with 3BR, 1 BA held live at Ramona for property of Ben Calvert. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction.

December 9 — Derksen 8x12 portable building, furniture, household, collectibles (Roseville pottery, head vases, Fenton, dolls & more) & more held at Newton for Earl & Doris Stubby Estate. Auctioneers: Van Schmidt Auction.

December 9 — Live Auction including 2011 Hillsboro Tuffloader flatbed Trailer, Lots of Tools & Equipment, Lumber, fishing & outdoor items, Old Town Outdoorsman Auto Pilot 136 Kayak, Antiques & more held at Marion for property of Janice Davis. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction.

December 9 — Large Coin Auction including American Silver Eagles, Silver Buffalo Rounds, 1878 US Silver Trade Dollar, 45+ Morgan silver dollars, 35+ Silver Peace dollars, 1892 US Columbian Exposition Silver half dollar, Kennedy halves, Barber & Mercury dimes,

Indian Head pennies, coins in books, coin sets, framed coin sets, silver proof quarter sets, proof quarter sets, silver proof sets, mint sets, proof sets & much more held at Beattie for Robert "Bob" Pache with some coins selling for the Thelma L. Gaddis Estate. Auctioneers: Olmsted & Sandstrom.

December 9 — Wheeler Angus annual production sale selling 40+ breeding age bulls. Heavily influenced with Baldrige Genetics. Spring Bred cows, fall open heifers, fall pairs, embryos & more held at Wheeler Angus Sale Barn Paris, Missouri.

December 14 — Land Auction consisting of 153.99 acres m/l of cropland, pasture & hay in Marion County including 83.31 dryland acres with waterways & terraces, 70.68 grass acres, 2 ponds held live at Florence for the Estate of Lyle D. Jones. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction.

December 14 (11 AM) — Special Bred Heifer & Cow Sale including bred heifers, bred cows, cow/calf families held at Beatrice Livestock Sales, Beatrice, Nebraska.

December 16 — Huge Live Consignment auction including Tractors (John Deere, Case IH, McCormick, New Holland, Ford, Kubota, Massey Ferguson, Challenger, Allis, AGCO & others), Tractor Loaders, Stelzer Retirement items, combines, platforms, corn heads, head trailers, planters, drills, augers, conveyors, grain vacs, grain cart, gravity wagons, manure spreaders, applicators, hay equipment, 3 point & misc. equipment, brush cutters, finish mowers, disks, vertical tillage, field cultivators, forage & feeding equipment, construction (skid steers, excavators, dozers, backhoes, wheel loaders, telehandlers & more), vehicles, grain trucks, trailers, ATVs, lawn mowers, boats, livestock equipment, skid loader attachments & MORE held at Gallatin, Missouri with online bidding available at EquipmentFacts.com. Auctioneers: B&S Equipment Sales.

December 16 (1:30 pm) — Land auction with 150 acres m/l of Jackson County farmland, pasture & wildlife habitat (land located 2 mi. East of Soldier) held at Soldier for Raymond A. Droge Living Trust. Cline Realty & Auction, LLC.

December 16 — Live Auction including farm equipment, tools, household, 1998 Dodge Ram 1500, Ford 8N, IH 606 tractor, trailers, welders,

Grass & Grain, December 5, 2023 tack, furniture, antiques & more held at El Dorado for Estate of Charlie Flores, Charlotte Flore seller. Auctioneers: Sundgren Realty Inc., Land Brokers.

Online Land Auction (bidding opens December 18, 12 p.m. with a dynamic closing starting at 12 p.m. on December 21) — 281 acres m/l of Morris County land with 219.33 acres of highly productive cropland (land located east of Council Grove), recreational appeal, great location selling for Jacobsen, LLC. Bidding at VaughnRoth.com. Auctioneers: Vaughn-Roth Land Brokers, Cameron Roth.

Online Land Auction (bidding opens January 4, 12 p.m. with a dynamic closing starting at 12 p.m. on January 9) — 730 Acres m/l of Wabaunsee County land (land located near Eskridge), T1: 252 ac. m/l, T2: 478 ac. m/l, T3: 730 ac. m/l (T1 & T2 combined). In the heart of the Flint Hills, 3 creeks, former bottomland cropland, wildlife sanctuary selling for Stuart R. Collier Rev. Trust. Bidding at VaughnRoth.com. Auctioneers: Vaughn-Roth Land Brokers, Henry Ott.

January 6, 2024 — Estate Auction #3 selling Ethnic carved folk masks, head-dresses, 100s of collectibles including musical, sculptures, Folk Art, Religion, Indigenous, Native American pots, glass paperweights, Wedge-

wood, tobacco items, book jacks, table lamps, glassware & more held at Lawrence for William P. Bishop Estate. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

January 14, 2024 — Estate Auction #2: Firearms including 75+ outstanding firearms, ammo, hunting & miscellaneous held at Ottawa for Mrs. Karon "John" Stevens. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

January 19 (Friday), 2024 — 160 acres of Marshall County & 80 acres of Nemaha County cropland Farm Auction held in Centralia for Delores Harries Trust. Auctioneers: Olmsted Real Estate & Auctions.

January 20, 2024 — Household goods, doll collection & miscellaneous held at Clay Center for Larry & Dee Mosburg and Geraldine Bushell. Auctioneers: Kretz Auction Service.

January 27, 2024 — John Wayne Collection, collectibles & miscellaneous held at Lawrence for Robert "Bob" Lemon Estate Auction #1. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

March 16, 2024 — Springhill Herefords - On Target Bull sale: Our 2024 offering will include bulls sired by Houston, Wall Street, Defiance, Long Haul, Perfecto, Leader 182F and KCF Trust B279. Visit our website for more details about the sale, private treaty offerings.

Kansas Community Empowerment names 2023 Communities of Excellence

By Cianna DeLeon, K-State Research and Extension news service

Nine Kansas communities have received the 2023 Community of Excellence award from the Kansas Community Empowerment program, located at Kansas State University.

Jaime Menon, co-coordinator of the program, said the Community of Excellence award is recognition for those communities that have completed a community assessment, address opportunities for community improvement and continuously work to identify and meet needs of their community.

The award is provided through a partnership with Kansas PRIDE Inc.

Those named a 2023 Community of Excellence are:

- Delia
- Grainfield
- Highland
- Lakin
- Leonardville
- Olsburg
- Russell
- Vermillion
- Wakefield

Menon said the Kansas Community Empowerment program has helped Kansas communities grow and prosper for 53 years. Through the program, communities identify what they want to preserve, create or improve for the future.

Volunteers form a local PRIDE organization that works with K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Department of Commerce to accomplish its goals. "There are some communities that go above and beyond with their workload and the Kansas Community Empowerment office would like to give them recognition," Menon said.

Communities of Excellence are designated for a three-year period in which they can apply for multiple grants from the Kansas Community Empowerment program to address community needs.

The awards are given by the Kansas Community Empowerment program, a partnership of K-State Research and Extension, the Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Masons, and Kansas PRIDE, Inc.

"Local Kansas Community Empowerment/PRIDE groups work hard to make their community a better place to live and work," Menon said. "They all deserve recognition for the beneficial projects they bring to their communities."

More information about Kansas Community Empowerment is available at <https://kce.k-state.edu/> or by calling 785-532-5840 or emailing KSCE@ksu.edu.

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack comments on the 2023 Farm Sector Farm Income Forecast

Last Thursday the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Economic Research Service released its annual Farm Sector Farm Income Forecast report for 2023. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack issued the following statement:

"Today's farm income forecast for 2023 shows that, while net farm income is expected to drop below the 2022 record high, it is still one of the best years on record for the overall farm sector at \$151.1 billion. In fact, net cash farm income for 2023 is 15 percent above average for the last two decades, and farm income over the 2021-2023 period represents the highest level of farm income in the last 50 years. U.S. agriculture exports have also seen the three highest years on record in 2021-2023, which is reflected in overall cash receipts, while 2024 is projected to be the fourth highest year on record despite potential declines.

"Even so, the data shows a majority of farm households rely on off-farm jobs to make ends meet, indicating that the income is not evenly distributed across the farm spectrum. USDA will continue our efforts to bolster a complementary system that makes it possible for small- and mid-sized farms to benefit from more, new and better markets and climate smart agriculture opportunities so they can thrive. The change in net farm income this year is reflective of overall lower prices for farmers, higher production costs and higher interest rates, and declining government payments since their 2020 record levels.

"A bright spot for farmers is that some production costs, including feed, fertilizer and pesticides, have declined. USDA is taking all of these factors into account as we design and implement our programs, and as we work with Congress on the next Farm Bill into 2024."

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LAND AUCTION

153.99+/- Acres of Cropland, Pasture & Hay in Marion Co.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023 - 6:00 PM

AUCTION LOCATION: The American Legion, 401 Main St., FLORENCE, KANSAS 66851

SELLER: The ESTATE of LYLE D. JONES

DESC: It is a privilege to represent the Jones Family in the sale of this multi-use tract in southeast Marion Co. This 153.99-acre tract has 83.31 dryland acres that consist primarily of class 3 soils with waterways and terraces in place and currently planted to wheat. There are 70.68 grass acres, with an approx. 62 acre pasture with nice elevation change and is watered by 2 ponds, both have been dry with the current drought. Fences are below average with some electrical fence being used in places. The balance of the grass is in waterways, most of which has been hayed. **Whether you are an investor or an ag producer, come and see how this can work with your current operation!** BRIEF LEGAL: NE/4 in S03-T22-R04E in Marion County, KS. DIRECTIONS: From the north, at Turkey Creek Rd & US-50 (4 mi west of Florence), go south on Turkey Creek for 1.4 mi to 80th, go east for 1.5 mi to Vista, go south for 1.0 mi to the NE corner of the property.

See website for more info & photos GriffinRealEstateAuction.com

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Nebraska Extension to host new Drones in Ag Workshop Dec. 12

Drone pilots and businesses utilizing drones in southwest Nebraska will converge on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, for the inaugural Drones in Ag Workshop, organized by Nebraska Extension. The workshop is a one-day event held at the Stumpf International Wheat Center in Grant, Nebraska.

This workshop serves as a platform to exchange knowledge and experiences among participants, given the growing nature of this industry. The widespread adoption of drones in agriculture offers significant prospects for enhancing resource management and operational efficiency in farming practices.

"The number of applications of drone technology for agriculture has increased significantly in the last few years," according to Dr. Dirk Charlson, statewide Extension educator of digital agriculture at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "I am excited that Nebraska Extension is able to offer drone ed-

ucation at the local level in the western part of the state."

The workshop will feature presentations on a variety of topics, including an overview of drone use in agriculture, licensing requirements and regulations, aviation safety, drone imaging and spraying with drones. In addition, there will be drone demos and the opportunity for attendees to fly a small drone.

The Drones in Ag Workshop starts at 10 a.m. Central time on Dec. 12 and will wrap up at 3 p.m. located at Stumpf International Wheat Center, 76025 Rd. 329, Grant, Neb. 69140.

Registration is \$20 with lunch provided. Please register online.

Certified crop advisors will receive continuing education credits for attending this workshop.

Contact Samantha Daniel at 308-352-4340 for further information.

Ask Grass & Grain to SHARE your Auction on the Official Grass & Grain Facebook Page
(Small surcharge will apply. Ad must also run in the paper.)
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LIVE AUCTION

(Trailer, Tools, Lumber, Fishing Kayak, Antiques)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023 - 10:00 AM

(Trailer & Kayak sell at 1:00 PM)

SELLER: Property of JANICE DAVIS

AUCTION LOCATION: 2193 Pawnee, MARION, KANSAS 66861

KAYAK: Old Town Outdoorsman Auto Pilot 136, LED Lights, Minn Kota i-Pilot Integrated GPS System Trolling Motor, Lowrance Fish Finder; **TRAILER:** 2011 Hillsboro Tuffloader Flatbed Bumper Pull HD Trailer, Tandem 9,000-lb Axles, 6'6"x18"; **LARGE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT:** Woodmaster Model W-725 Planer w/Side Molding System, Milwaukee Router, 220v, 25", 7.5-hp; Powermatic 6" Jointer/Planer HD; Lincoln Welder; Craftsman Scroll Saw; Craftsman Belt & Disc Sander; SpeeCo Split Master 22-Ton Wood Splitter; Bannon 3-in-1 Convertible Logging Wagon 1800-lb Capacity; Pacific Equipment 8-gal Air Compressor; Craftsman 24" Electric Start Gas Snow Blower; Best Flex Roller Table; 100-gal Transfer Tank w/GPI Pump; Rixon 8" Bench Grinder; 2-hp Dust Collector System; Graco Magnum X5 Paint Sprayer; Wooden Shop Bench w/Vise; Band Saw; Wood Clamps x35; **TOOLS:** DeWalt Plate Jointer; Bosch GET75-6 Sander w/Dust Collection; Craftsman Belt Sander; Bosch Jig Saw; DeWalt Hand Planer; Antique Hand Planers; Ryobi Router Bit Set; Router Bit Set 35pcs; Babco 160 Shop Vise; Worm Drive Skillsaw; Misc Air Tools; Forstner Bit Sets; **LUMBER:** Tons of Rough-Cut Lumber (Walnut, Oak, Hedge, Cedar), Sizes (1/2"-6" in Thickness, Many Slabs are 10'-20' Long, Some 2"x4", 2"x6", 2"x8"), All Lumber Has Been Stored Inside; **FISHING & OUTDOOR:** Bass Pro 35 Auto Life Preserver; Rod Sleeves; Fishing; Reels (Abu Garcia Black Max, Rival, Daiwa); Fishing Lures; Jennings Carbon Extreme Compound Bow; Lead Jig Molds; **ANTIQUES & MISC:** Herrick Ice Box Antique; Double Wash Tub; Red Vintage Metal Glider; Round Washtub w/Stand; Vintage Metal Chair; White & Blue Enamel Top Table; Concrete Fisherman; **This a partial listing.**
See full listing, terms & photos GriffinRealEstateAuction.com

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In Office: Heidi Maggard

Tell them you saw it in Grass & Grain!

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

3 Tracts in Ramona, KS (22.3 ac., 1.44 ac., Home)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023 - 6:00 PM

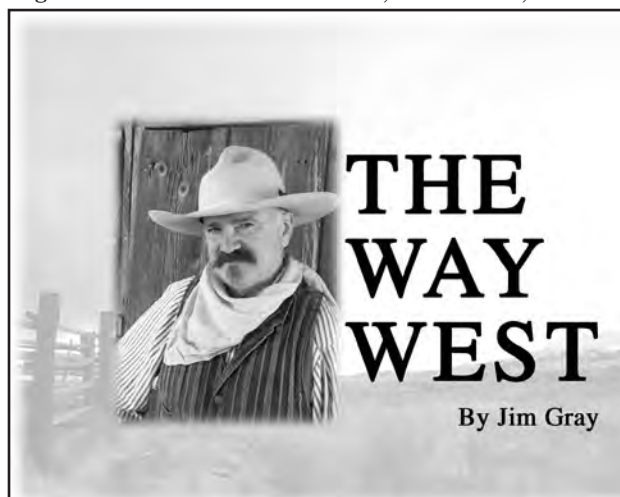
AUCTION LOCATION: Ramona City Hall, 212 D Street, RAMONA, KANSAS 67475

SELLER: Property of BEN CALVERT

Here is a unique opportunity if you have been looking for that place to have a couple of horses or some livestock, or even a potential building site. You will enjoy the country setting and appreciate the benefits of being in the city limits with paved roads and rural water. Plus, a house that would make a great starter home or rental property. **TRACT #1 - 00000 1st, Ramona, KS:** 22.3 acres of native and mixed grass in the city limits of Ramona, with rural water and electricity. **TRACT #2 - 00000 4th, Ramona, KS:** 1.44 acre lot, measures 180x350 feet. **TRACT #3 - 211 N B, Ramona, KS:** Bungalow style home built in 1903 with 1,305 sq ft, 3 beds and 1 bath. **Give us a call to schedule a showing prior to the auction, all inspections and financing need done prior to bidding.**
See website for more info & photos GriffinRealEstateAuction.com

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A Promising Valley

A fascinating window into the past was published December 14, 1901, in the *Topeka State Journal*. The story features the reminiscences of John Armstrong, an anti-slavery activist who had been in Topeka since its founding in 1854.

Armstrong spoke of the efforts of Cyrus Kurtz (C. K.) Holliday, Dr. Charles Robinson, and himself to select a new townsite in Kansas Territory. Robinson was an agent for the New England Immigrant Aid Society. Holliday had come to Kansas Territory to build upon the railroad fortune he had launched in his home state of Pennsylvania. The men were

inspired by a newspaper article published in the Parkville, Missouri *Luminary*. The story described the region along the Kansas River going west to Junction City. The report gave the location of the town of Tecumseh, already thriving, as a favorable townsite for the Capital of the future State of Kansas.

Additional information was found in Armstrong's obituary, published in the December 20, 1911, *Topeka Daily Capital*. At the age of thirty, Armstrong was stirred to come to Kansas to help make Kansas a free state, arriving in November of 1854. At Lawrence he found Holliday and Robinson preparing for a

journey west to locate an acceptable townsite for a permanent capital.

Armstrong persuaded the group to include him in their survey. Six additional men joined the party. They represented a cross-section of New Englanders. Rev. S. Y. Lum, a Congregationalist minister, had come from Massachusetts. Frank Billings was from Vermont. Captain Eoles was from Providence, Rhode Island, and Rev. Mr. Clough was a Methodist minister from Maine. Two men remained unidentified. "All had been strangers to each other before becoming acquainted at Lawrence. Six of the men made the trip in Dr. Robinson's two seated spring wagon while three others rode horseback.

The travelers found the Tecumseh site inadequate for the development of a large city. Five miles farther west along the Kansas River they crossed over Shunganunga Creek on a split-log bridge built by Joseph and Louis Pappan. The Pappans operated a ferry over the Kansas River.

The date was November 23, 1854, a beautiful Indian summer day. Passing through dense brush and high weeds, the party sud-

denly emerged from the brush to find a promising valley of rolling prairie. To the right the Kansas River flowed on its perpetual course eastward. As Robinson seemed entranced by the scene Armstrong walked down to examine the river bank for a possible landing site for boats navigating the river. Holliday could barely contain himself, bursting forth with the lilting strains of *My Old Kentucky Home*.

They were soon at the crossroads of the California Road and the New Mexico Road, today's Topeka intersection of 6th Avenue and Clay Street. Pausing for a moment to look about, Holliday voiced a prediction, "Here where we stand two great highways cross, one going to New Mexico and the other to California and I predict that at this spot there will be the junction of the two great railway systems going in the same directions." Armstrong noted in his 1901 interview that Holliday lived long enough to see his prediction realized though we laughed at him then."

The party crossed the river a short distance from the crossroad at Sydney Smith's ferry over the Kansas River. At Silver Lake,

the California Road joined the Fort Leavenworth-Fort Riley Military Road. Joseph Lafrombosie, chief of the Pottawatomies, provided bread and milk for the travelers and feed for the horses.

St. Marys was a Catholic enclave with a log cathedral, a five-room log quarters for the nuns with a girl's classroom, and another building for the boys. Armstrong recalled staying overnight at St. Marys. A day later they stayed with Robert Wilson at his log cabin "hotel" at the junction of Rock Creek and Vermillion Creek (the present site of Louisville, Kansas).

At the crossing of the Big Blue River the government had constructed a bridge on the military trail. Kentuckian S. L. Dyer kept a house at the Big Blue crossing providing hospitality for the travelers for two nights as they examined the country all around including the site of the future Manhattan, Kansas. Dyer undoubtedly provided stimulating conversation for his visitors as he was chairman of a collection of Big Blue settlers calling for a "Great Pacific Rail-way" through the Kansas River valley. They were boosting for the

development of a "Commercial, Natural and Geographical center" near the confluence of the Big Blue with the Kansas River.

Monday, November 27th, they bid Mr. Dyer adieu and started back to Lawrence. On their return trip the men made a final decision to found the new town in the promising valley west of Tecumseh at the crossroads of the New Mexico/California trails.

Holliday and Robinson returned to the site with men new to the enterprise: F. W. Giles, Daniel H. Horne, George Davis, Enoch Chase, J. B. Chase, M. C. Dickey, and L. G. Cleveland. The land was surveyed, and stock was allocated between the investors on December 5, 1854. Recognizing the deep, fertile soil of the Kansas River valley, Rev. S. Y. Lum suggested Topeka, taken from the Omaha language. Topeka, "A good place to dig potatoes," provided an ideal description for the proposed capital city of the fertile prairie state of Kansas, on The Way West.

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

Farmers & Ranchers

AUCTIONS EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY

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

TOTAL FOR THE WEEK: CATTLE - 2,355. HOGS - 39.

BULLS: \$115.00-\$127.50	4	Blk	Council Grove	483@	\$245.00
COWS: \$105.00-\$116.00	3	Blk	Hillsboro	438@	\$242.50
	9	Blk	Brookville	553@	\$241.00
	28	Blk	Beverly	550@	\$240.50
STEERS	5	Blk	Aurora	546@	\$240.00
300-400					\$263.00 - \$275.00
400-500					\$290.00 - \$300.00
500-600					\$274.00 - \$285.00
600-700					\$230.00 - \$241.00
700-800					\$215.00 - \$227.50
800-900					\$209.00 - \$219.25
900-1,000					\$217.00 - \$227.50
HEIFERS	8	Mix	Windom	561@	\$231.00
300-400					\$240.00 - \$252.00
400-500					\$255.00 - \$267.50
500-600					\$236.00 - \$247.50
600-700					NO TEST
700-800					\$190.00 - \$201.00
800-900					\$180.00 - \$190.00
900-1,000					NO TEST

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023

HOGS

3	Fats	Abilene	287@	\$70.50
3	Fats	Abilene	285@	\$68.00
2	Sows	Benton	577@	\$35.00
12	Pigs	Clay Center	55@	\$31.00

CALVES

1	Blk	Minneapolis	250@	\$585.00
1	Blk	Lincoln	240@	\$500.00
1	Blk	Beloit	205@	\$450.00
1	Blk	Brookville	120@	\$350.00
1	Bwf	Solomon	150@	\$350.00
1	Blk	Salina	95@	\$260.00

BULLS

1	Blk	Wilsey	2020@	\$127.50
1	Blk	Wilsey	1875@	\$126.50
1	Blk	Salina	1795@	\$117.00
1	Blk	Ellsworth	1680@	\$116.50
1	Blk	Salina	1980@	\$116.50
1	Red	Bennington	2020@	\$114.00

COWS

1	Blk	Marquette	1710@	\$116.00
3	Bwf	Lindsborg	1697@	\$113.50
4	Blk	Dwight	1646@	\$111.00
1	Bwf	Lindsborg	1790@	\$110.00
1	Blk	Minneapolis	1625@	\$107.00
5	Blk	McPherson	1379@	\$105.00
1	Red	Wilsey	1520@	\$105.00
3	Mix	McPherson	1635@	\$104.50
5	Blk	Durham	1594@	\$104.00
1	Bwf	Lindsborg	1795@	\$103.00
3	Blk	Dwight	1605@	\$103.00
1	Brown	Abilene	1465@	\$102.00
2	Blk	Lincoln	1420@	\$100.50
1	Blk	Salina	1310@	\$100.00
1	Red	Clay Center	1425@	\$100.00
1	Blk	Lincoln	1590@	\$99.00
6	Blk	Durham	1310@	\$99.00
1	Blk	Salina	1415@	\$98.00
1	Blk	Salina	1360@	\$98.00
2	Blk	Marquette	1353@	\$98.00
2	Blk	Salina	1550@	\$96.00
1	Red	Clay Center	1205@	\$95.50

Livestock Commission Co., Inc. Salina, KANSAS

SALE BARN PHONE: 785-825-0211

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

THURSDAY — CATTLE ONLY

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

AUCTIONEERS: KYLE ELWOOD, BRANDON HAMEL & GARREN WALROD

For a complete list of cattle for all sales check out our website www.fandrive.com

CATTLE USA.com LIVE CATTLE AUCTIONS

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

Early Consignments For THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

75 CharX/blk s&h, 600-750, home raised, weaned 90 days, 2 round fall vaccinations; 52 blk steers, 600-800, home raised, weaned 55 days; 25 black heifers, 500-700, Cow Camp sired, spring/fall; 20 Hereford steers & heifers, home raised, weaned 80 days, 500-600; 45 steers & heifers, home raised, weaned 75 days, vaccinated, 550-750; 30 blk/red steers & heifers, 500-700, wean 45+ days, 2 round vaccinations, open; 44 blk steers & heifers, 450-600, wean 30 days, fall vaccinations, open; 140 blk steers & heifers, 600-700, wean October 30, fall vaccinations; Don Johnson, Ferguson, Stucky sired; 35 mostly blk steers & heifers, 500-700, weaned 30 days, spring vaccinations, open; 40 CharX steers & heifers, 500-600, home raised, weaned 45 days, fall vaccinations; 50 blk/red steers & heifers, 500-600, spring vaccinations; 90 blk steers & heifers, 650-850, home raised, 2 round vaccinations, weaned 45+ days, open, no implants; 40 blk/CharX steers & heifers, 550-700, home raised, weaned 60+ DAYS, 3 round vaccinations, open, no implants; 60 mix steers, 875#s, no sort; 120 steers & heifers, 550-700, weaned 2 month, 2 round vaccinations; **PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME.**

SPECIAL COW SALE! TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

(11 AM Start) Get Your Cattle CONSIGNED!!

REPLACEMENT HEIFERS: 20 Angus heifers, Schaff Angus sired, all vaccs, pelvic exam, registration papers available; **PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME.**

BULLS: 8 blk bulls, 2-3 years, semen & trich tested; **PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME.**

BRED HEIFERS: 100 Angus heifers, home raised, or Doyle Creek Angus origin, AI bred, 45 day clean up Angus; 45 blk, AI bred for 2-20 to ABS Patriarch- all AI bred; 100 blk/bwf AI bred, AI to Deer Valley "Optimum 9246" "Growth Fund Son" cleaned up with Growth Fund Son, starting Jan 14; 100 blk heifers, SD origin, 1000#s bred blk Angus, start Feb. 1 for 45 days; 126 Angus heifers, bred to blk bulls, Jan/Feb calvers; **PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME.**

COWS: 100 blk cows, 50% young, 50% solid mouth, all home raised, Cow Camp genetics, bred to blk Cow Camp bulls, 5/8 Sim, 3/8 Angus, COMPLETE DISPERSAL; 45 blk, 3 years, 2nd calvers; 10 young blk & red, spring cows; 200 blk cows, 3-6 years, mostly 3-5 years, bred Angus bulls, bulls in May 1; 30 running age cows, mostly 6-8 years, bred blk or Char, home raised, calving March; 10 young bred cows; 60 blk, running age, spring bred, bred BJ Angus; 23 red Angus cows, solid to older, home raised, bred red Angus, third period; 80 mostly blk, 4-older, spring calvers, bred to registered Sim/Angus bulls; 25 blk pairs & breds, DISPERSAL; 100 blk or red cows, bred registered Angus bulls; 60 Angus/bwf, 5-9 years, bred to Char & Sim/Angus bulls, bulls in May 1; 60 blk, 2nd calf, 3 years, bred blk, calving Feb/March; 21 running age, blk/red cows, bred to wf or blk Angus bulls; 120 blk cows, 5-7 years, bred to Durbin Hereford or 44 Angus, Feb/March calvers; 25 blk cows, 4-8 years, bred Sim/Angus, calving Jan 1-March 1; **PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME.**

UPCOMING SPECIAL SALES

SPECIAL COW SALES: Tuesday, December 19 * Tuesday, January 16 * Tuesday, February 20 * Tuesday, March 19 * Tuesday, April 16 * Tuesday, May 7

WEANED/VACC SALES: Tuesday, January 2 * Tuesday, January 9 * Tuesday, February 6

IN STOCK TODAY:

- Heavy Duty Round Bale Feeders
- Heavy Duty Feed Bunks

For Information or estimates, contact:

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

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

Jim Crowther
785-254-7385
Roxbury, KS

Lisa Long
620-553-2351
Ellsworth, KS

Cody Schafer
620-381-1050
Durham, KS

Kenny Briscoe
785-658-7386
Lincoln, KS

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

Austin Rathbun
785-531-0042
Ellsworth, KS

