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Doud encourages livestock producers to make the most of current opportunities

By Donna Sullivan, Editor

Greg Doud's message to livestock producers at the 2023 Kansas Livestock Association annual convention was brief and to the point. "Get your backsides in gear. Let's go. We are in a place on earth that can make more pigs, chickens, cattle, dairy... animal-based protein. We've got all the tools here, all the opportunity. Let's go."

Doud served as the chief agricultural negotiator under Bob Lighthizer in the office of the U.S. Trade Representatives during the Trump administration and participated in 33 negotiation sessions with the Chinese in 2019, working to finalize the Phase One agreement with China.

"What we did with China in this deal was absolutely historic, for beef in particular," he said, recalling how at the signing ceremony, Henry Kissinger had shaken his hand and praised the work of Lighthizer and his deputies. Just moments before taking the stage in Wichita that night, Doud had learned of Kissinger's death. "It was unbelievable that he was that happy with what we did with that agreement," Doud reflected.



Greg Doud spoke at the Kansas Livestock Association Cattleman's Banquet in Wichita on November 29.

Illustrating the effect China has on trade, he pointed out that last year total U.S. ag exports were a record \$196 billion, while at the same time China imported from the world \$236 billion worth of food. "Why we spend so much time talking about China and agricultural trade is that

you live in a world today where total U.S. ag exports to the world are the same as China's total ag imports from the world," he said.

Along with how Brazil's weather will affect their corn and soybean crop, and the influence of Brazil, Russia, India and China on fertilizer prices,

Doud said another topic that needs to be discussed among those in the cattle feeding business is renewable diesel. "Renewable diesel is a new technology about six or seven years old where you can turn soybean oil and vegetable oil into diesel fuel, 100%, and pour it straight

into the fuel tank," he explained. "It does not need to be blended and we are going gangbusters in this country." He said that last year the U.S. began producing more renewable diesel than biodiesel. "We are expanding capacity and production of soybean crushing in the U.S.," he continued. "They are making serious money making soybean meal and soybean oil out of soybeans. What does this mean? We're not going to be exporting soybean oil any more, it means that we are going to be crushing soybeans for the oil in terms of we're going to have almost 50% of the value of a soybean coming from the oil versus historically about 30%. If we're crushing soybeans for oil, what does that mean? It means we are going to have a mountain of soybean meal." He went on to say that he's heard many conversations from major companies saying we need to export that soybean meal, a position he disagrees with strongly. "Why?" he asked. "Because what are pigs and chickens? They are little walking piles of corn and soybean meal. What we need to be doing in this country is not exporting soybeans to China. We

need to be making renewable diesel and feeding that soybean meal to pigs, chickens and dairy cows, and maybe a few of you guys can use it, too."

"This is where it's at," he asserted. "We are going to have an opportunity to have a cheap plant-based protein in that ration because of what's going on in the renewable diesel side of the equation and we need to get with it."

Looking at things going on in European countries, where farmers are told how many animals they can have and hog farms are being shut down because of climate change and greenhouse gases, Doud pointed out that while European farmers are livid about it, they're livestock production is decreasing. As per capita incomes continue to climb, the demand for animal protein also goes up. "If you look out over the next ten years, the supply of animal protein in the world comes nowhere near to meeting the demand," he said. "If you look around the world at what we're doing, who can make more of this stuff? There's really only one place in the world today where we can make more animal protein. Right here."

KFB honors members, friends at 105th annual meeting

Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) recognized members and supporters at its 105th annual meeting, Dec. 2-4 in Manhattan.

KFB presented Rich Felts with its Distinguished Service award for his exemplary contributions to agriculture in the state.

Rich Felts, Montgomery County, is the former president of Kansas Farm Bureau and his career of community service and involvement in Farm Bureau spans decades and includes serving on the Montgomery County Farm Bureau board, as a county 4-H leader, the Montgomery and Kansas State Extension Council, helping start their local volunteer fire department and serving as chairman of SEK Grain. Under his leadership, Kansas Farm Bureau Health Plans was created, providing affordable healthcare coverage for Kansans; more than \$150,000 was raised and shared across the state to end hunger in Kansas communities; support for and expansion of mental



Glenn Brunkow was elected Kansas Farm Bureau vice president at their annual meeting. "I am extremely excited to serve the farmers and ranchers of Kansas Farm Bureau as Vice President and humbled by their support. I can't wait to get to work for agriculture and I am excited about the future of Kansas's largest and most influential general farm organization," he said.

Photo by Donna Sullivan

health resources was created; consumers were educated about sustainable agriculture; and innovation and entrepreneurship were improved in rural communities.

The organization also presented Friends of Agriculture awards recognizing

individuals who have made significant contributions to Kansas Farm Bureau and agriculture. They are:

Gerald and Linda Franklin, Sherman County, have served Kansas Farm Bureau for more than 20 years. Linda represented

the 10th District as a board member from 2005-2014, and Gerald took a position on the board from 2015-2016. Through the years, the Franklins have fought challenges on the political forefront, specifically advocating for water quality. The Franklin family manages a diversified operation, which includes irrigated and dryland wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans and sunflowers.

Bud Stumpff, Miami County, has served agriculture for more than 70 years and is well known across the state as a vocal advocate for agriculture and Farm Bureau. From 1997 to 2004, he served on the Kansas Farm Bureau board of directors. He's also served on the Johnson County Farm Bureau board and currently serves on the Miami County Farm Bureau board. After spending 31 years in education, Bud now raises cattle and hay.

Former KFB employees Ron Betzen, Holly Higgins, Dale Maneth, Mike Matson, Donna Mosburg, Carol Sherley-Days and

Cindy Sink also were honored with the designation for their years of dedicated service to the organization and industry.

Pleasantview Farms, Ellis County, received the Kansas Farm Bureau Natural Resources Award, which goes to the farm family who exemplifies good land stewardship. Originally a dairy and small grain crop operation, brothers Ernie, Steve and Tom recently began the process of transitioning the remaining crop ground to pasture to increase their cattle herd. The Binders have actively worked to protect Big Creek, which flows through their farm. They've installed more than 3,000 feet of pipe for an alternative water supply for their cattle herd and built nearly 7,000 linear feet of fence to create a buffer strip protecting the creek from erosion and nutrient runoff, among other conservation efforts.

Members of the media were honored for telling the stories of Kansas farmers and ranchers across

four categories. In the broadcast feature category, Pilar Pedraza and Andy Duffy of KAKE received first place. Samantha Boring, KSN, took second and Kellan Hevican, Brownfield, was third. For broadcast news, Boring received first followed by Nick Gosnell, *Hutch Post*, and Hevican. In the print feature category, Faye Smith, *Angus Journal*, received first-place honors. Emily Zahurones, *Farm Talk*, placed second and Macey Mueller, *Kansas Stockman*, was third. For print news, Mueller took top honors followed by Donna Sullivan's entries from the *Riley Countian* and *Grass & Grain*, respectively.

Bill Shipley, Atchinson and Doniphan County, received KFB's Partnership Award. This award recognizes someone from Farm Bureau Financial Services who has gone above and beyond for the state's largest farm organization. In his role as an agent, Shipley embodies the Farm Bureau brand every day in all aspects of his life.

Weltmer, Sander elected to lead Kansas Livestock Association

Smith County rancher Philip Weltmer is the new president of the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA). He began his one-year term in the volunteer position during the group's annual membership meeting December 1 in Wichita. Members chose Victoria-native Troy Sander, a cattle feeder now based in Oklahoma City, as the new KLA president-elect. Weltmer and Sander will lead the 5,400-member organization during the next year.

Weltmer represents the third generation of his family in the ranching business. His grandparents founded what is now W&S Ranch near Smith Center in the 1950s. Weltmer and his wife, Jessica, joined his granddad, dad and uncle on the ranch full time almost 20 years ago. Over the years, the family operation has grown to encompass a commercial cow-calf herd, small registered Angus herd, feedyard and farming business.

Weltmer has been extensively involved in leadership in both KLA and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). He served as vice chair of the KLA Animal Health & ID Committee and is a member of the Kansas Beef Council (KBC) executive committee. Nationally, Weltmer currently serves on the Federation of State Beef Councils board of directors and is co-chair of the Checkoff Nutrition and Health Committee. He also is



Philip Weltmer, right, is the new president-elect of KLA. Troy Sander, left, is president-elect.

the Region 7 Federation representative on the NCBA Nominating Committee. Weltmer is a past chair of KBC and served on the KLA board of directors from 2016 to 2018. He was a member of the 2008 KLA Young Stockmen's Academy, serving as class chair, and participated in the NCBA Young Cattlemen's Conference in 2013. He also is a graduate of the King Ranch Leadership Studies Program and serves as president of the Smith County Fair Board.

Weltmer graduated from K-State in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in animal sciences and industry. He and Jessica have three children, Kaden, Corey and Kaylee.

Sander is the chief operations manager for Heritage Beef, which operates feedyards in Haskell and Labette counties. His interest in the cattle feeding industry began early in life as he worked alongside his father, Vernon, who was the assistant manager at the former Hays Land and Cattle near Hays. Sander graduated

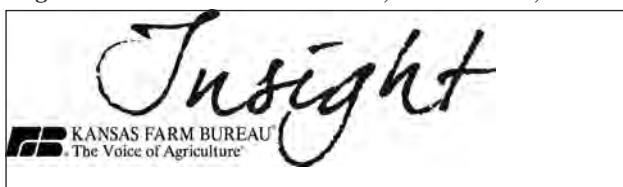
from Fort Hays State University with a degree in animal science in 1991 and took a job as a management trainee with Continental Grain Company's XIT Feeders near Dalhart, Texas.

After completing the training program, he continued gaining experience, first as the animal health manager at Grant County Feeders in 1995, then as assistant manager at Colorado Beef in 1999. After 12 years with Continental Grain Company, he moved to Heritage Beef, where he served as general manager at Heritage Feeders in Wheeler, Texas, and eventually was promoted to his current role as operations manager. For nearly 20 years, he has been responsible for buying feeder cattle and overseeing marketing, operations and commodity procurement.

Sander has been a KLA member for 25 years and has served the organization in varying capacities. He currently is a member of the board of directors and has served on the KLA Executive Committee and Policy and Resolutions Committee. Sander was chairman of the KLA Cattle Feeders Council in 2020. He also is active on the national level, serving on the NCBA board of directors and as chairman of the NCBA Live Cattle Marketing Committee from 2022-2023. Sander was a member of the NCBA Live Cattle Marketing Working Group as well.

He and his wife, Lisa, have four sons. Travis and his wife, Carli, have two children, Rory and Kasen. Colten and wife, Hayley, have one son, Owen. Caden and his wife, Mikayla, are expecting a son. Kyle and wife Becca have a son, Jennings.

KLA is a 5,700-member trade organization representing the state's livestock business on legislative, regulatory and industry issues at both the state and federal levels. The association's work is funded through voluntary dues dollars paid by its members.



Making Fundraising Fun

By Jackie Mundt, Pratt County farmer and rancher
Recently Kansas Farm Bureau leaders from across the state gathered for our annual meeting. It is great to catch up with friends, gain new insights and take part in the grassroots policy process that makes our organization so unique.

A highlight of the weekend was a fundraising dinner with a Cousin Eddie theme from *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. The event, hosted by the Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, was in support of the End Hunger Campaign that aims to address and eliminate food insecurity

across the state.

This was no black-tie affair. There were moose mugs, people in bathrobes and all kinds of fun accessories. Donations were taken for holiday punch, bingo cards for the movie, and a dessert dash after the traditional Christmas dinner. The after dinner entertainment was an interactive movie experience complete with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance as "grace" and wrapping it up with a sing-along of the *Star-Spangled Banner*. One of the highlights of the evening was the best dressed contest, where the crowd voted on people who had done the best job of dressing like

characters from the movie.

If you have no idea what I am talking about, do yourself a favor and watch the movie; it really is a true Christmas classic.

It was one of the more enjoyable fundraising dinners I have attended. This wasn't a fancy event for high-dollar donors but it also wasn't a home-cooked meal type held in small towns almost every weekend. I was impressed to learn that the night of festivities raised close to \$20,000 with only a few hundred people in attendance. Caught up in the experience, I found myself giving more than I normally would.

In the last few years, giving money to organizations has become a higher priority for me. It makes sense that as a more established professional, I am in the financial position to start giving money. But it is more than that. A few years ago an experienced philanthropist shared ad-

vice with me to "give just a little bit more than is comfortable." He went on to say that giving can teach us what we are capable of, and he has never known anyone to regret giving to good causes.

I had never thought about giving as a stretch goal before. Giving back to organizations I have benefited from has always been on the future to-do list. It always felt far off like someday when I make lots of money, I will give back. The idea that I can and should be giving now, as

much or as little as I can, was an eye-opener. Generosity in a moment of need and giving what you can is more meaningful than giving what you don't need, when it is convenient for you.

The foundation's dinner was the kind of event that empowered people to give money at whatever level they could and made it fun to join in the giving.

Start today and build the habit of giving what you can, when you can. Give a few bucks to the Salvation Army bell-ring-

er, buy a toy for a tot or help stock your local food bank to spread holiday cheer. Send your favorite nonprofit an end of the year donation whether it's \$5, \$50 or \$500.

It's time to stop imagining and see all that you can do.

"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.

Kansas Farmers Union delegates elect leadership, set policy at state convention in Salina

Kansas Farmers Union (KFU) hosted the organization's 116th annual state convention at the Hilton Garden Inn-Salina November 29-30. The event featured educational and informative speakers, the annual business meeting of Kansas Farmers Union, discussion and adoption of KFU's 2024 legislative policy, officer elections, and the presentation of annual awards.

This year's convention theme was "Let Us Reason Together," harkening back to the early days of Farmers Union and efforts to work across the political and urban-rural divides to find common ground.

Three seats on the KFU Board of Directors – vice president, north district director, and South District director – were up for re-election.

Matt Ubel, Wheaton, was elected vice president and will serve a two-year term. Ubel recently served as a North District director for the past seven years.

Amanda Lindahl, Kansas City, was elected North District director and will serve a three-year term. Lindahl has been growing food and community in the Kansas City metro for more than a decade and is currently transitioning efforts from urban food production back to her rural roots in Dickinson County where she is working to take over stewardship of the fifth generation family farm.

Ryan Goertzen-Regier, Hesston, was elected South District director and will serve a three-year term. Goertzen-Regier grew up on and continues to work part-time on his family's fifth generation Kansas farm in Marion County that raises row crops, hogs, and cattle. He most recently served as KFU's vice president.

Former South District board member Jason Schmidt, Newton, was also appointed to an at-large position on the

board. More information about the KFU board can be found at <https://www.kansasfarmersunion.org/board>

Eight members were elected to represent KFU as delegates at the National Farmers Union Convention, March 10-12 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Kansas delegates will join others from Farmers Union organizations from across the nation to set policy during the convention.

Delegates who will represent Kansas:

1. Andrea Clark, Kansas City
2. Donna Pearson-McClish, Wichita
3. Jill Elmers, Lawrence
4. Amanda Lindahl, Kansas City
5. Scott Kohl, St. George
6. Kate Giessel, Kansas City
7. James Bowden, Salina
8. Tom Giessel, Larned

In addition to a live-auction that raised over \$3,000 to benefit the KFU Foundation, the organization honored Greg Stephens, Salina with the organization's Ruth Hirsh Award for his lifelong service and dedication to family farmers and secondary education. Richard Boxum, Downs, was honored with the Farmers Union Midwest Agent of the Year Award. Former Kansas Governor John Carlin was honored with the Linda Hessman Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifetime service and dedication to Kansas, preserving American history, and to defending civics and democracy.

KFU also debuted an underwriting promo which will air before and after each new episode of Smoky Hills Public Television's Season 12 of *Real Ag* and showed videos from U.S. representatives Tracey Mann and Sharice Davids sharing their thoughts on the next Farm Bill and

thanking KFU leadership and members for their advocacy efforts.

Through grassroots policy and local involvement, KFU members and staff play a key role in bringing concerns, issues, and needs to the attention of local, state, and national decision makers. KFU's state and national policy document is proposed, discussed, and ratified each year at our state convention.

Highlights from this year's policy discussion included a call for publicly subsidized crop insurance for specialty food crops. Longtime supporters of the cooperative business model, convention delegates reiterated their support for the Rochdale Principles and re-emphasized support of one member, one vote. Along those same lines, delegates added language opposing the use of a proportional voting system, or voting power based on member's use of the cooperative or on the amount of stock ownership. Delegates also added language supporting adequate access to water resources for all Kansans.

Delegates passed five Special Orders of Business:

- Support for Kansas County Health Departments
- Support for Medicaid Expansion
- Discontinuation of the Medicare Advantage Program
- Priorities for the Next Farm Bill
- United States Postal Service

KFU's Special Orders of Business are the organization's main legislative priorities for the upcoming year. They are a timely message to policymakers about what Farmers Union members want them to act on in the near term. KFU's 2024 Policy Statement and Special Orders of Business can be found online at <https://www.kansasfarmersunion.org/policy>

Senator Marshall, Representative Arrington lead letter requesting new Emergency Relief Program

U.S. Senator Roger Marshall, M.D. led a letter with Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX-19) to the United States Department of Agriculture expressing their concerns about the USDA's requirements for the Emergency Relief Program (ERP).

The legislators believe USDA's 2022 ERP requirements are misguided and losing sight of the relief program's intent outlined by Congress when it was created. They say the Biden administration's USDA made requirements that have nothing to do with helping farmers deal with natural disasters. In fact, by the USDA attaching excessive conditions to receive aid, this federal relief program could force farmers to wait even longer for assistance or completely jeopardize their ability to access the program.

"American producers have experienced significant losses, and the administration has taken an approach that does

not reflect Congressional intent. The current program does not provide needed assistance to full-time farm families that suffered the deepest losses, and in short, it misallocates limited but badly needed assistance," the members said in their letter.

"While this program is already unnecessarily delayed, it is still imperative that USDA depart from its current path because of the major problems raised by producers and Congress. USDA needs to follow the law and Congressional intent to address the crop losses of our farm families without the pay limits and without preferences that are not authorized by the statute," the members continued.

"We strongly request the USDA abandon this current program and implement the framework of 2021 ERP Phase 1 as quickly as possible," the members concluded.



My daughter saved me from what could have been a very bad day with one single act of kindness the day before. I got back home this afternoon after four days away. It was so nice to pull into the driveway and see the horse grazing. Well, it was until I realized he was not grazing where he was supposed to be. I had a lot of chores to do and wrangling the horse was not on my list. The one redeeming thing was that he seemed to be happy and wasn't going anywhere. I unpacked, changed clothes, and went out to deal with him.

One thing that was on my list was putting the tire back on the side-by-side. Tatum had come back home and done chores for me and Monday morning, as she finished chores, she heard air coming out of a front tire. Being the good daughter she is, she changed the tire and took it into the tire shop. That should have been the first indication that my bad luck was not so bad. If she had not noticed the tire or had been too busy to change it, I would have come home to a horse out and a flat tire. As it was, I came home to a horse out and a tire that just needed to be put back on.

Dusty the horse and I do not always see eye-to-eye. He is Jennifer's horse, and I am merely the one who feeds him most days. He can be difficult to recapture when he gets out. I admit it, I cheated. Instead of trying to halter him, I just got a bucket of grain and walked up to him. He followed me up to the fence but would not cross over it to go back in. We had him behind a single hot wire and apparently it did not bother him to cross it to get out but going back over it was out of the question.

I undid the fence at the corner and poured his grain out. He still would not cross. I walked back to the hayshed and pretended to not pay attention. The lure of the grain got to be too much for him, and he crossed the fence. By the time he looked up from his grain I had the fence stretched back up and he was caught. It really didn't take too much time. That was good because I still needed to feed the weaned spring calves.

I drove over with their grain and the gate to the alley was open and hoof-

prints were going out. Most of the calves appeared to be still in the pen and a quick look around revealed five heifer calves enjoying their freedom. I forgot to mention that I was selling the calves in three days and really did not want to have to round them up. I eased around the calves in the side-by-side; they were not far from the gate and should not be hard to get in.

I had Roo, the cow dog, with me. She had been penned up the better part of the past four days and was a bundle of energy. Therefore, I decided not to unleash her on the calves. This was an easy touch type of maneuver and she had way too much energy for easy. I got the heifers lined out and headed to the gate. That was when Roo decided they were not moving fast enough and launched herself from the side-by-side and into the middle of the heifers.

You can imagine how that went. They turned and went right past the gate and out into the larger pasture. Roo and I had a heart-to-heart talk about the finer points of listening and waiting her turn. I tried one more time to ease them in but at that point Roo was reduced to a whining ball of goo in the back and the heifers were not going to cooperate. I needed to put hay out for the calves, so I went back to the house, put Roo in solitary confinement and got the tractor. When I got back to the pen, the heifers were laying by the gate. I opened the gate and eased around the heifers. Without Roo speeding them up, the heifers found the gate and went back in. I finished chores and life was good. That was when it hit me; this could have been a much worse day. If Tatum had not taken the initiative to fix the tire, I would have been in a bigger rush and a bad mood. If I had rushed and been in a bad mood, Dusty would not have cooperated. If Dusty had not cooperated, I would not have been as patient with the heifers and if the heifers had not gone back in, it would have been a bad day. That was when I had a proud Dad moment, realizing that my kid had just saved my day and taken care of me and turned what would have been a bad day into a really good one.



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Farmer sentiment improves, producers credit stronger financial conditions

Agricultural producers' sentiment increased for the second consecutive month, as the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer index rose five points to a reading of 115, a 12% increase compared to the previous year. The sentiment growth is largely attributed to farmers' improved perceptions of their farms' financial conditions and prospects. This month's Ag Economy Barometer survey was conducted from Nov. 13-17.

The Index of Current Conditions rose 12 points to 113 while the Index of Future Expectations improved by 2 points to 116. The Farm Financial Performance Index also rose in November to a reading of 95, which is up 3 points from October. The financial index reached its low point back in the spring. The November reading was 25% higher than in May and 10% higher than at the start of fall harvest in September.

"Farmers' expectations regarding financial performance have improved, with fewer producers' expecting worse performance than a year ago," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

The Farm Capital Investment Index has fluctuated

throughout 2023 but rebounded this month to a reading of 42, up seven points from October. Over the last several months, producers who view the investment climate as favorable were asked why they feel that way. The percentage of respondents choosing "strong cash flows" has been drifting lower since summer when approximately 40% of respondents chose that as their primary reason. This month just 22% of respondents chose "strong cash flows" with "higher dealer inventories," chosen by 29% of respondents, claiming the top spot as to why now is a good time to make large investments, implying a potential change in market conditions.

"This shift suggests that farmers might be seeing a moderation in farm equipment price rises, making it a more favorable time for large investments," Mintert said.

In November, perspectives on farmland values changed little compared to October. The Short-Term Farmland Values Expectations Index maintained its position at 125, while the long-term index fell five points. Among respondents who expect farmland values to rise over the next five years, they overwhelmingly attribute their optimism to non-farm investor demand, followed by inflation.

Top concerns for the upcoming year include higher input costs (32%), rising interest rates (26%) and lower crop and/or livestock prices (20%). Notably, there has been a shift in concern throughout the year, with fewer producers expressing worry over higher input costs compared to the beginning of the year. Instead, more producers are now concerned about rising interest rates and lower crop and livestock prices.

This month's survey was conducted the same week that Congress voted to extend the 2018 Farm Bill's provisions to Sept. 30, 2024. Anticipating the extension by Congress, the November survey gauged the preferences of corn and soybean producers regarding farm safety net programs for 2024. Over two-thirds of respondents expressed a preference for the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) farm program, while nearly one-third leaned toward enrolling in the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program, assuming the extension of the current Farm Bill's provisions. Despite preferences emerging, uncertainty prevails, particularly for soybean (52% declining to choose) and corn (43% declining to choose) producers when deciding to choose between programs.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza presumptive positive in Pottawatomie County

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is awaiting confirmation on a presumptive positive case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a backyard flock in Pottawatomie County. If confirmed, it would be the first case of HPAI in Kansas this fall.

Industrial Hemp Advisory Board virtual meeting to be held Dec. 20

The Kansas Department of Agriculture's Industrial Hemp Advisory Board will hold its annual board meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20, 2023. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. The meeting will provide an update on hemp production in Kansas.

The meeting is a scheduled board meeting and is open to the public. Anyone desiring to attend via video conference must pre-register to be provided with a video link. For information about the meeting, including how to listen to the meeting via Zoom, please go to the Industrial Hemp page of the KDA website at <https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/plant-protect-weed-control/industrial-hemp>.

Persons who require special accommodations must make their needs known at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

that the spread has been primarily from wild migratory waterfowl, which makes free-range backyard flocks at high risk because of the potential of exposure to the wild birds. Anyone involved with poultry production from the small backyard chicken owner to the large commercial producer should review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of their birds. Find guidance on biosecurity on the KDA Division of Animal Health webpage at agriculture.ks.gov/Avian-Influenza.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza is a highly contagious viral disease that can infect chickens, game birds, turkeys, and other birds and can cause severe illness and/or sudden death in infected birds. This outbreak has seen illness and mortality in a wider scope of bird species than past outbreaks, including wild and domestic waterfowl. Attentively monitor your birds for symptoms of HPAI which include: coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, and other signs of respiratory distress; lack of energy and appetite; decreased water consumption; decreased egg production

and/or soft-shelled, misshapen eggs; incoordination; and diarrhea. Avian influenza can also cause sudden death in birds even if they aren't showing other symptoms.

If these symptoms are observed in your birds, immediately contact your veterinarian. If you don't have a regular veterinarian, contact KDA's Division of Animal Health office toll-free at 833-765-2006.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the recent HPAI detections do not present an immediate public health concern. Birds and eggs from the infected flock will not enter the food system. As a reminder, the proper handling and cooking of all poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165°F is recommended as a general food safety precaution.

For more information about HPAI, including current status of the confirmed cases in other states as well as more information about biosecurity for your flock, go to KDA's avian influenza webpage at agriculture.ks.gov/AvianInfluenza or call KDA at 833-765-2006.

Ag Risk Solutions is an equal opportunity provider.

GRASS & GRAIN HOLIDAY HOURS:

We will be CLOSED:

MONDAY, Dec. 25th;
TUESDAY, Dec. 26th

AND

MONDAY, Jan. 1st;
TUESDAY, Jan. 2nd

Thank you for your cooperation, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's!!

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

2023 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Margaret Dacus, Junction City, Wins Weekly Holiday Recipe Contest

Winner Margaret Dacus, Junction City:
PEANUT BUTTER PIE

Crust:
1 1/4 cups chocolate cookie crumbs (20 cookies)
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted

Filling:
8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
1 cup creamy peanut butter
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon butter or margarine, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup heavy cream, whipped
Grated chocolate or chocolate cookie crumbs, optional

Combine crust ingredients and press into a 9-inch pie plate. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes. Cool. In a mixing bowl beat cream cheese, peanut butter, sugar, butter and vanilla until smooth. Fold in whipped cream. Gently spoon into crust. Garnish with grated chocolate or chocolate cookie crumbs if using. Refrigerate. Yield: 8-10 servings.

Karen Henke, Cuba:
EGGNOG CRANBERRY SALAD

3-ounce package regular vanilla pudding
3-ounce package lemon gelatin
2 tablespoons lemon juice
3-ounce package raspberry gelatin
16-ounce can whole cranberry sauce
1/2 cup celery, finely chopped
1/4 cup pecans, finely chopped
1 carton Cool Whip
1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

In a saucepan combine pudding mix, lemon gelatin and 2 cups water. Cook and stir until mixture boils. Stir in lemon juice. Chill until partially set. Dissolve raspberry gelatin in 1 cup boiling water. Stir until dissolved. Beat in cranberry sauce. Fold in celery and nuts. Chill until partially set. Add nutmeg to Cool Whip. Fold into pudding mix. Pour half of the pudding mixture into an 8-by-8-by-2-inch pan. Carefully pour cranberry layer over top. Top with remaining pudding mix. Chill 6 hours or overnight.

NOTE: I use a glass bowl and only use 1 shake nutmeg.

Norma Kittle, Garnett:
GRANDMA'S PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

1 cup brown sugar
1 cup white sugar
1 cup oleo or lard
1 cup peanut butter
2 eggs, well beaten
2 teaspoons baking powder
2 to 2 1/2 cups flour

Cream sugars and oleo together. Add eggs and peanut butter. Add sifted dry ingredients. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto cookie sheets (I flatten with a fork dipped in water). Bake in a 350-degree oven until done (6-10 minutes or until edges are golden and the centers have set).

Amy Feigley, Enterprise:
WHEAT SALAD

1 1/2 cups wheat
8 ounces cream cheese
2 packages instant vanilla pudding
15 ounces crushed pineapple & juice
3 tablespoons lemon juice
12-ounce container Cool Whip

Rinse and soak wheat overnight; drain. Cover with water and cook for 2 hours (you may have to add additional water to keep it from boiling dry). Drain, rinse, and cool. Soften

cream cheese and mix in pudding mix. Stir in pineapple and juice and lemon juice. Add the cooked wheat and then fold in the Cool Whip. Refrigerate and enjoy!

Lois Kusmaul, Allen:
CROCK-POT CRISP

3 cups fruit or 1 can pie filling
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup quick oatmeal
1/3 cup butter

Place fruit in a greased crock-pot. Combine dry ingredients then cut in butter. Sprinkle over fruit. Cook on HIGH for 2 hours with lid or cook on HIGH for 1 hour without lid.

Jackie Doud, Topeka:
CHERRY DESSERT

1 large angel food cake, torn into pieces
1 box instant cheesecake pudding mix
1 1/2 cups milk
1 cup sour cream
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 large can cherry pie filling
8 ounces Cool Whip

In a bowl combine pudding mix, milk, sour cream and vanilla. In a 9-by-13-inch pan place half of cake pieces in the bottom. Spoon half of the pudding mix on top of cake. Repeat with other half of cake and other half of pudding mix. Spread Cool Whip on top and then spread with cherry pie filling. Refrigerate.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
CRAN-ORANGE CHEESECAKE

3 cups gingersnap cookies, finely ground
5 tablespoons butter
(4) 8-ounce packages cream cheese
1 2/3 cups plus 1/2 cup sugar
5 eggs
1 cup sour cream
2 tablespoons flour
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
12 ounces fresh cranberries
1/2 cup orange marmalade

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 9-by-3-inch springform pan. Mix cookie crumbs and butter; press into pan. Bake until set, about 8 minutes. Let cool. On high beat cream cheese and 1 2/3 cups sugar until fluffy. On low beat in eggs.

On medium beat in sour cream, flour and vanilla. Pour into pan. Bake until set, 1 hour and 15 minutes. Let cool on rack. Chill 8 hours then remove side of pan. In a pan over medium heat cook cranberries, marmalade and remaining sugar, stirring until berries burst, about 7 minutes (will be thick). Let cool and spread over cake.

Donna Geritz, Atchison:
DOUBLE-LAYER PUMPKIN PIE

1 package cream cheese, softened
1 tablespoon sugar
1 cup + 1 tablespoon milk
1 tub Cool Whip, thawed
1 graham cracker crust
15-ounce can pumpkin (2) 3.4-ounce packages vanilla instant pudding
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ginger
1/4 teaspoon cloves (For the above three spices, I use 1 1/2 teaspoons McCormick pumpkin spice mix)

Beat cream cheese, sugar and 1 tablespoon milk until blended. Add half of the Cool Whip and blend; spread onto crust. Whisk pumpkin, pudding, spices and remaining milk in a medium bowl about 2 minutes (it will be thick). Spread over cream cheese layer. Refrigerate 4 hours or until firm. Serve with Cool Whip.

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:
PUNCH BOWL CAKE

1 yellow cake mix (and ingredients to prepare cake)
6-ounce package instant vanilla pudding (and ingredients to prepare pudding)
1 large can crushed pineapple, drained
(2) 10-ounce packages frozen strawberries
2 bananas
16 ounces Cool Whip

Bake cake in 2 round pans. Set aside to cool. Make pudding according to package. Cut one layer of the cake into small chunks and put in a punch bowl. Spread half the pudding over cake. Next put one package of strawberries over pudding mix. Spread half of the Cool Whip on. Slice bananas and put on next. Start layers over again. End with Cool Whip (the bananas only go on once). Let set in refrigerator overnight.

Claire Martin, Salina:
GINGERBREAD SCONES

2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 cup plus 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into pieces
1/3 cup molasses
1/3 cup milk

Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, ginger and cinnamon; cut in butter with a pastry blender or 2 knives until mixture is crumbly. Combine molasses and milk; add to flour mixture, stirring just until dry ingredients are moistened. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead lightly 4 or 5 times. Divide dough in half; shape each portion into a ball. Pat each ball into a 5-inch circle on an ungreased baking sheet. Cut each circle into 6 wedges, using a sharp knife; do not separate wedges. Bake at 425 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve warm. Makes one dozen.

Bernadetta McCollum, Clay Center:
CHOCOLATE COCONUT DROPS

1 1/2 cups coconut
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 pint marshmallow creme
Dash of salt
4-ounce chocolate Hershey's bar

Toast coconut in a 350-degree oven until golden, about 8 minutes. Cool. Combine marshmallow creme, vanilla, salt and coconut. Stir until well blended. Roll into balls and chill them. Melt chocolate bar. Dip balls in chocolate. Place onto waxed paper. Chill until chocolate firms. Store in a cool place. Makes about 4 dozen.

Pat Gretencord, Olathe:

"This cookie treat is great for young people but also tasty for the senior group. An oldie, but goodie!"

HONEYCOMB HASH

9 ounces Honeycomb cereal
1 can mixed nuts
1 1/2 pounds almond bark (white)
1/2 cup peanut butter

Melt the almond bark and peanut butter. Pour over the cereal and nuts to coat. Enjoy!

Loretta Shepard, Helena, Oklahoma:
DUMP CAKE

1 can cherry pie filling
15 1/2-ounce can crushed pineapple, undrained
1 yellow cake mix
1 cup chopped nuts
1 cup coconut, flaked
2 sticks butter, melted

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spread pie filling and pineapple into ungreased 9-by-13-inch pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix over fruit. Top

evenly with nuts and coconut. Drizzle melted butter over all. Bake 70 minutes. Cool completely before cutting. Makes 12 servings.

Ireta Schwant, Blaine:

"This potato dish is great to make ahead when you are hosting a family dinner."

MAKE-AHEAD MASHED POTATOES

5 pounds potatoes, peeled & quartered
6 ounces cream cheese
1 cup sour cream
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
Onion powder (optional)
2 egg whites, slightly beaten
2 tablespoons butter

Cook potatoes in boiling water until tender. Drain and mash until there are no lumps; add cream cheese, sour cream, onion powder, salt, pepper and egg whites. Blend well. Spray a 9-by-13-inch pan with cooking spray. Add potato mixture. Dot with butter. Cool slightly and place in refrigerator for up to 3 days. Take out and bake covered in a 350-degree oven for 40 minutes or until steaming hot in the center.

Arnelda Kepka, Dorrance:
PINEAPPLE FLUFF

1 pound marshmallows
2 cups milk
1 cup crushed pineapple
A few maraschino cherries
1 teaspoon vanilla
Graham crackers

Dissolve marshmallows in milk. Let cool. Add crushed pineapple, a few maraschino cherries and vanilla. Put a layer of rolled graham crackers in the bottom of a pan. Spoon in filling and sprinkle top with more rolled graham crackers. Chill and serve.

Linda Kepka, Dorrance:
M&M BARS

1 stick of unsalted butter, melted
14 chocolate graham crackers
14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
12-ounce bag chocolate chips
1 cup peanuts, chopped into small pieces
2 cups mini marshmallows
3/4 cup M&Ms

Line a 9-by-13-inch pan with foil, leaving an overhang on both sides to lift bars out after baking, and butter the foil or spray with Pam. Crush the graham crackers into crumbs. Add the melted butter and combine until mixture holds together. Transfer this into the pan and press firmly. Pour the condensed milk over the crumbs. Sprinkle the chocolate chips, peanuts, marshmallows, and M&Ms on top of the condensed milk. Bake at 350 degrees (on middle oven rack) for 30-35 minutes. Cool completely, then remove from pan and cut into bars.

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2023 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Joy Ferdinand, Reading:

BASIC CHRISTMAS COOKIE DOUGH RECIPE

1 1/4 cups butter or margarine, softened
3/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 eggs, separated
3 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt

Mix butter, sugar, vanilla and egg yolks thoroughly. Mix in remaining ingredients. Can use dough for cut-out cookies. Roll out to 1/4-inch thickness. Bake at 350 degrees for about 8 minutes. Do not let get brown.

DATE PINWHEEL COOKIES

1/4 of Basic Dough recipe
1/3 cup cut-up dates
3 tablespoons finely chopped nuts
3 tablespoons brown sugar
3 tablespoons water
1/4 teaspoon orange zest

Refrigerate dough about 1 hour. Mix remaining ingredients in a saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally until thickened, about 2 to 3 minutes. Cool. Roll out dough between 2 pieces of waxed paper into 10-by-8-inch rectangle (moisten surface to keep waxed paper from slipping). Spread with date mixture. Roll up tightly beginning at wide side. Wrap in waxed paper and refrigerate until firm enough to slice, about 2 hours. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Cut into slices about 1/4-inch thick (if dough crumbles, let it stand at room temperature until slightly softened). Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake until light brown, 10-12 minutes. Yield: 2 1/2 dozen.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

CROCK-POT SPIRAL HAM

5-7 pound spiral ham
12 ounces Dr. Pepper
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

1/4 cup pineapple juice
Put ham in crock-pot. Mix other ingredients in a microwave-safe bowl and heat in the microwave for 1 minute. Pour over ham. Cook on high for 3 or 4 hours.

Shirley Deiser, Ellsworth:

EASY PEACH COBLER

1 yellow cake mix
2 large cans of peaches with syrup
1 stick butter or oleo

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Melt butter or oleo and set aside. Pour peaches into a 9-by-13-inch greased pan. Evenly sprinkle dry cake mix over peaches. Pour melted butter or oleo on top. Bake 30 to 45 minutes or until golden brown.

Kellee George, Shawnee:
WHITE CHOCOLATE
FUDGE

4 tablespoons butter
4 cups marshmallows
1 cup heavy cream
2 cups sugar
Pinch salt
3 cups white chocolate chips
Red sprinkles

Melt butter, marshmallows, cream, sugar and salt in a saucepan. Cook, stirring 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in white chips. Spread in an even layer in a foil-lined 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Top with red sprinkles. Let cool then cut into squares.

Claire Martin, Salina:
"Beautiful for the holidays - and so delicious!"

HONEY BERRY COMPOTE

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 cup honey
4 tablespoons butter
4 cups mixed berries (blackberries, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, etc.)

In a saucepan combine spices, honey and butter. Bring to a boil then on low for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in the berries. Serve warm over whipped cream and pound cake.

Joy Ferdinand, Reading:

HEALTHY CRANBERRY SAUCE

24 ounces cranberries
3/4 cup pineapple or orange juice
1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
1/2 cup water
Zest & juice of 1 orange
4 tablespoons honey

Place cranberries, juice, applesauce and water in a large pan. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and stir in zest and orange juice. Cook until cranberries pop and sauce thickens a little. Remove from heat and stir in honey to taste. If not sweet enough, add additional honey or sweetener of your choice.

The following recipes are being shared from the 14 Hands Ranch November Newsletter, Jada Sharp, Leonardville. Check out her website at:

www.14handsranchks.com
No holiday would be complete in our family without my Great-Grandma Kessler's Pumpkin Cookies with caramel icing or my Grandma Biel's Pumpkin Pie!

PUMPKIN COOKIES WITH CARAMEL ICING

(Great-Grandma Kessler's Recipe)

1 cup shortening
1 cup sugar
1 cup pumpkin puree
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ginger
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup pecans (optional)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Combine shortening and sugar. Mix until smooth. Add pumpkin, vanilla and egg. Mix well. Add dry ingredients. Mix until well combined, then add nuts if using. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto cookie sheets. Bake 10-12 minutes or until done.

NOTE: I have made these with Bob's Red Mill 1:1 gluten-free flour and they still come out perfectly.

CARAMEL ICING FOR COOKIES

3 tablespoons butter
1/4 teaspoon vanilla
4 tablespoons milk
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 cup powdered sugar

Combine butter, vanilla, milk and brown sugar in a pot on the stove. Bring to a rolling boil, stirring constantly. When it is at a rolling boil, remove from the heat and stir to cool. Add powdered sugar. Whisk until all sugar lumps are gone. You can frost the cookies while they are warm for a glaze or cooled for a frosting.

PUMPKIN PIE

(Grandma Biel's Recipe)
My Grandpa always said Grandma's pumpkin pie was the best because it was simple and didn't have a lot of extra spices. He would tell us not to trust the pumpkin pie anywhere else, especially at the auctions because it wouldn't be as good as Grandma's ... and he was right. This will make one deep-dish pie or two smaller pies.

1 can pureed pumpkin
2 cups sugar
2 cups milk
4 eggs
1 teaspoon cinnamon
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 tablespoons cornstarch
2 pinches of salt

Use a whisk or hand-held beater to combine well. Pour into prepared pie crust(s) and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. A deep dish pie will take longer - bake until the pie is completely set and a toothpick comes out clean.

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Prairie Gal Cookin'

Recipes and Ramblings from the Farm

Merry Christmas!

By Ashleigh Krispense

As I write this, we're sitting in a cozy cabin surrounded by tall trees near Branson, Missouri. In what has become a family tradition, we make the trek down to Branson usually around Christmas time each year and spend our days eating food, playing games, driving through the hills, watching some shows, wandering through flea markets, and eating more food. Before we know it, the trip will have flown by and we'll be back at home with shop projects, house projects, and piles of laundry to be washed.

Just a few weeks ago, it was a true winter wonderland outside at home. Over a foot of snow had fallen down gently and built up on everything in sight. A cold, fluffy blanket of it lay across the yard, causing cats to grumpily tip-toe or jump around it and chickens to refuse to leave their coop. One day, I looked up into an oak tree outside the back door and found one of my hens, perched high on a branch and looking around bewildered at the cold, white stuff beneath her.

Around the area, occasional snowmen sprang up and people could be seen tubing down hills and making the most of our biggest snow in years. At the farm, snowball fights even took place and led to me chickening out and ducking inside my car. Of course with the

snow comes the after-snow-mud and muck, but the moisture was such a blessing that we will be just fine with it. Our floors are clean-able!

Now that Thanksgiving has passed (and you hopefully stuffed yourself full before waddling over to the living room to visit with family!), our attention can be focused on one of my favorite holidays: Christmas.

For these next few weeks before Christmas, I've decided to commit to reading through the account of Jesus's life in the book of Luke. Some days I read more than others, but it will help keep my focus on the truth. Growing up, we used to gather together in the evenings and listen to my dad read from the old, blue-covered Bible story book. Afterwards, we would each go around and say a prayer before going to bed.

Maybe this Christmas you look for a special way for your family to serve others. Awhile back some of our family had an opportunity to fill in for a morning at a local food bank. Perhaps you can look for another way to volunteer and serve your community together, whether at a rescue mission, local soup kitchen, or (if you're handy with a sewing machine) even by making various needed items and passing them out to those that could use them.

If you do have gifts

to give others later this month and would like to do something a little different, a friend told me in the past about one way that her family was exchanging gifts: Rather than buying new items, people gave something that was special to them or used a particular skill of theirs, such as making homemade loaves of sourdough bread, giving beef or venison meat, special teas, homemade freezer enchiladas, etc.

For those who aren't interested in making their own gifts, an alternative would be the gift of an experience. This could be a gift card for rock climbing, roller skating (and ice cream afterwards), a theatre performance, a special museum or attraction (such as an aquarium!), a zoo, or some other memorable event that wouldn't take up space on their shelf.

Maybe when Christmas dinner rolls around, it would be a good chance to pause and go around the room, each sharing about a blessing that God has given you in your life this past year. However you choose to approach the holiday season, may you have a wonderful Christmas with those you love and remember the reason for why we even have this season.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (KJV)

Ashleigh is a freelance writer and the gal behind the website, Prairie Gal Cookin' (www.prairiegalcookin.com), where she shares step-by-step recipes and stories from around the farm in Kansas.

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Heifers on Ice

I calve a lot of heifers. We've been developing and selling a lot of replacement quality commercial bred heifers for decades now, and it's something we've managed to build a decent reputation at.

Our cow herd culling regime requires a fairly high rate of retention of replacements for our own operation in order to maintain an optimum production level. I'll generally calve 60-70 home-raised heifers, and some years, depending on the market and demand, we've calved up to 200. Heifers.

Just the idea of calving heifers is enough to give some folks the willies,

but we've worked long and hard to find, procure, develop and breed for as problem-free and efficient first calving females with 'stayability,' as we can. But regardless of how much management you put into these girls, they are still heifers, and anyone who has experience raising, developing, breeding or just working heifers, knows what that means.

If they can't attract enough strange and inconvenient circumstances, they will make up some of their own!

My permanent heifer calving pasture is a 50-acre tract in front of my house that doubles

as a hay meadow in the summer. I feed half a ration of hay to these girls in the evening right about dusk, and the rest about 10 p.m., and then cube them in the morning, with regular checks during the day. Depending on if there is nothing happening at the ten o'clock check, and no extreme weather, I may not see them again until five or six a.m. (Of course, extreme cold, wet or snow will intensify that schedule considerably).

This particular March evening it was cold, the ground was snow-covered and frozen, and we were chopping ice on the ponds to keep water open. I had fed hay, tagged a couple new calves from earlier that day, and went back along the feedline to count heifers. We were about 10 days into calving this group. I came up three head short, went back and counted again. Same; three short. I can see much of this trap from my position but there are a few spots that are out

of sight, in trees, or low spots, where they like to go to calve out.

Expecting to find three new mommas as I checked these areas I found nothing, so headed to the other end of the pasture where there is a hidden spot. Doing so, I passed by one of the two ponds and saw them; three cow headed water beasts standing in the center of the frozen pond in water up to their backs! The ice was about six to seven inches thick where I'd been keeping it open, but there was a spot in the center that obviously wasn't thick enough to hold three cows who attempted to walk straight across instead of going around. My first instinct wasn't the smartest move I'd ever made, which was to walk out over the shallow end near enough to get a rope on one of them. This heifer pulled back, ducked her head under the ice-covered pond and began walking toward the deeper end, pulling my rope through my hands

like a giant catfish as I tried to stop her! Just as I was about to run out of rope she stopped, turned and began coming back toward me and the hole she had gone under, so I reeled her back in until her head popped out and after her 90-second submarine tour under the polar ice pack, she blew a water spout like a humpback whale!

Realizing this is more than I can handle myself I called my assistant. By the time he got there, I had backed my truck down to the edge of the ice and run my bale bed arms back to tie a rope onto in order to get some higher point of leverage to try and pull these girls up and over the ice ledge in order to pull them out. I was working on that idea when my rear truck wheels settled into the mud as the ice cracked from under them when I added the cow's weight as I ran the bale arm forward.

Studying the situation, we both determined that

the water was too deep where the cows were standing for them to get up and over the ledge of the thicker ice. I called my wife and told her our situation and that we needed her to come watch in case something went terribly wrong here.

In order to get the cows to shallower water we needed to go out and chop ice in front of them, at least enough they could break it. Brett and I both took our ice-breaking axes and walked out toward the hole where the three cows were standing. We had loosed the rope from the bale bed that was on the submarine cow, and threw another couple ropes out where we could get hold of them if needed. We started chopping, both of us, shoulder to shoulder, a channel from the hole and worked our way backwards. (To be continued)

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

Regenerative agriculture – they're not bad words

By Burt Rutherford

The words regenerative and sustainable often aren't well received by beef producers. Hugh Aljoe gets that. But then he points to beef producers that the Nobel Research Institute has worked with over the past ten, 20, or 30 years who implemented regenerative and sustainable practices and suggests that a peek over the fence isn't a bad idea. Speaking at the recent World Wagyu Conference in San Antonio, the director of ranches,

outreach and partnerships with the Nobel Research Institute told Wagyu enthusiasts that long before Europeans settled this country, Mother Nature somehow continued to operate without us. "How do we take those practices or the ecosystem process and enhance those through our management? That's what we want to achieve," he said.

Thus, Aljoe defines regenerative agriculture, or specifically regenerative grazing, like this: "It is

farming and ranching in synchrony with nature and the four ecosystem processes to repair, rebuild, revitalize, and restore the ecosystem function, starting with life beneath the surface of the soil and expanding to life above the soil." In other words, regenerative ranching is simply the process of restoring degraded grazing lands using practices based on ecological principles. "We want our management practices to mimic what nature does on its own in a natural ecosystem. We want to pay attention to the four ecosystem processes — the energy cycle, the water cycle, the nutrient cycle, and community dynamics." He delineated seven points that comprise the principles of regenerative ranching:

1. "If we can stock a little more conservatively, then when we manage proactively for improves soil health, you'll be right back where you were (in times

of drought) and have a lot more flexibility."

2. By stocking conservatively, you'll leave some grass residue in the pasture. "If we leave excess post-graze residual, our soil biology gets kickstarted. We have to begin feeding the organisms in the soil intentionally, not accidentally."

3. Rest about 15-20 percent of the grazing land before the growing season begins. "This is something everyone can do, but you've got to be plan for it and you've got to be intentional about it and allow it to grow."

4. Allow full recovery before each grazing event. "You're not going to be able to do that unless you have allowed enough grass and forage in reserve coming out of winter for 30 days of grazing." That

means long recovery periods of 60 to 120 days on native pastures. For drier pastures in the west, that could be as long as two years.

5. Increase the number of pastures to at least ten and more is better. "If you can get it closer to 30 and you're using high stock density, you truly begin to have more rapid improvement in soil health."

6. The old saw about graze half and leave half is well-rooted. "If you take more than 50 percent of the leaf area, the roots stop growing. There's no longer enough leaf area to capture energy, grow roots and grow plant leaf material again." So, graze the top third of the plant.

7. Apply high stock density so hoof action can incorporate the residual grass into the soil. "High

stock density increases herd impact and we can lay more of the material down and really begin to feed the soil organisms." It's important to remember, however, that you can't do all these principles at one time. And consider that some of them will require more time and labor. "If you can only do one thing, adjust your stocking rate; build some flexibility into your stocking rate so when you get to the dry years, you won't have to destock quite so rapidly," he said. And maintain plenty of residual grass and other plants. "Always have soil cover and allow full recovery before re-grazing." For templates of different grazing plans, go to www.ursb.org, the website for the U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef.

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Second season of 'Farm Stress Real Talk' podcast now available

Season two of a Penn State Extension podcast — "Farm Stress Real Talk" — is now available. The podcast focuses on supporting farmers, farm families and workers in the commercial agriculture industry who are experiencing stress. Listeners now can stream or download the podcast's second set of episodes.

In the podcast, the Extension farm stress team conducts informal educational conversations with a diverse range of educators, Penn State faculty members and agricultural professionals. These interviews give farmers practical strategies to balance farm responsibilities with their own well-being.

Ginger Fenton, dairy Extension educator, noted that podcasts are a convenient resource for farmers.

"We know farmers are busy, so we thought a podcast with targeted, practical

information would be a good way to reach them," she said. "Farmers can listen to the podcast while doing chores or operating machinery."

Episodes range from around ten to 30 minutes. Last season looked at stressors that are beyond the farmer's control, such as the weather, regulations, accidents, disease outbreaks and financial challenges.

Season two focuses on strategies to address stress proactively. The episodes offer tips for planning ahead to reduce financial stress, farm succession planning, and advance care planning with documents such as living wills and powers of attorney.

The podcast features educators and faculty from across disciplines and program areas. For example, season two introduces guests with expertise in so-

cial work, agricultural law and financial planning.

"The objectives of this podcast are to increase awareness, provide constructive suggestions and share real-life experiences," Fenton said.

She explained that mental health awareness and resources are particularly important for individuals in the farming community.

"Because of their occupation and the demands that accompany it, farmers face challenges that those outside of agriculture may not understand," she said. "Their jobs can be stressful at times and taxing both physically and mentally. Penn State Extension, along with many other organizations, is aware of these challenges and has worked to develop resources to support the agricultural community."

The second season is available on the Penn State Extension website. Podcast team members include extension educators Chi Catalone, Amber Hughes, Sonya Nace, Jill Varner and Ginger Fenton.

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I happened to be in Abilene, and I happened to get an invitation to the private reception for the Declaration of Independence tour. The famed television producer, Norman Lear (*All in the Family*, *Sanford and Son*, etc., etc.), had purchased a copy of the founding document and had created a film and an historic tour that would bring the words to the people. One of those tour stops was the Eisenhower Library and Museum in Abilene.

At that time, I was hosting a radio talk show in Topeka and often featured news of events or new exhibits. On that particular day, I was researching in the Eisenhower Library – the interstate highway system – and was going through the minutes from Ike's cabinet meetings. I joined staff members for lunch and they invited me to the evening's reception.

I have considered the "chance" circumstances many times. When I awoke

that morning, I anticipated an ordinary, if not revealing, day of research. Instead, the day became extraordinary, a fixed harbor in my mind where I often anchor while navigating the troubled waters of life.

I do not recall that I had any particular preconceived notions of Norman Lear beyond that of one of those Hollywood types – limousines and cocktail parties, a cigar-smoking mogul behind a mahogany desk. I watched the sitcoms and admired the genius behind them, but gave no thought to the actual man.

After appropriate welcomes and the very well-done film about the history of this incredible document (narrated by Reese Witherspoon, if I recall correctly), Norman Lear spoke. He was emotional not only about the purpose of his visit, but about this place. Lear had

been a soldier serving in World War II and Ike had been a very real hero. Ike had given them hope.

Also speaking that evening was Ike's granddaughter, Ann.

My maternal grandfather served under Ike at Camp Colt, Gettysburg, during World War I. A coal miner, Grandpa had lung issues and received a medical discharge right there in his commander's office. They made small talk, Grandpa said, and Grandpa went home to the hills to farm and mine coal, and Ike went on to be Supreme Allied Commander and President. Nothing in my career would have meant more to Grandpa than knowing I was there with Ike's granddaughter and I told her so.

Ann was gracious. Despite hearing thousands of similar stories all her life, she hugged me and thanked me for sharing.

Grass & Grain, December 12, 2023

At that moment, Norman Lear turned around and saw the tears running down my cheeks.

"Oh, look at you," he said, so tenderly. He took my face in his hands, and kissed my cheeks, again and again, and wiped my tears away.

I was speechless, totally blown away by his kindness and the emotion of the entire evening – such an outpouring of love for our country, for people long gone, for one another.

Norman Lear has passed away at the age of 101 and the statement from his family is not only a tribute to a gifted man but a reminder of how to find joy in the midst of the chaotic world. From his Facebook page:

It is with profound sadness and love that we announce the passing of Norman Lear, our beloved husband, father, and grandfather. Norman

Page 7

passed away peacefully on December 5, 2023, surrounded by his family as we told stories and sang songs until the very end.

Norman lived a life in awe of the world around him. He marveled at his cup of coffee every morning, the shape of the tree outside his window, and the sounds of beautiful music. But it was people—those he just met and those he knew for decades—who kept his mind and heart forever young.

Godspeed, Norman.

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, marked through 2025. She is writing the biography of Vice President Charles Curtis which is due to be published in 2024. Contact her at author.debgoodrich@gmail.com.

How important is seed selection in managing tar spot?

Tar spot continues to be a growing concern to corn acres across the Midwest. Research has found that tar spot can overwinter on infested corn residue, increasing crop infection risks and leading to questions on managing the newer corn disease.

Several foliar fungicides are labeled for controlling tar spot in corn. While research is limited and still developing, fungicides can reduce tar spot symptoms and help protect yield. Two applications in a season may be needed due to the rapid reinfection cycle, particularly in irrigated corn.

The varying success of fungicides is why hybrids selection is important.

"Fungicide won't save a susceptible hybrid from tar spot," said Matt Vandelaar, Pioneer field agronomist. "You can't fungicide your way out of tar spot."

Growers should prioritize hybrids with genetic tar spot tolerance, as it appears to have a greater impact on symptoms and retaining yield than either cultural or chemical management practices.

It is important to work with a seed representative and agronomist to examine local trials and select hybrids

with tar spot tolerance.

Managing residue may also decrease the risk of tar spot. Tilling fields buries infected residue and increases the rate of decomposition, which may help reduce the amount of tar spot overwintering. But tillage will not reduce the risk of infection from locally dispersed inoculum.

If tar spot remains an issue in 2024, rotating crops may be the best course of action. Rotation can allow residue to decompose and reduce the primary inoculum.

CFTC issues proposed guidance regarding the listing of voluntary carbon credit derivative contracts

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission has approved a proposed guidance and request for public comment regarding the listing for trading of voluntary carbon credit derivative contracts. The proposed guidance outlines certain factors a CFTC-regulated exchange, or designated contract

market, should consider when addressing requirements of the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA) and CFTC regulations that are relevant to the contract design and listing process.

The action by the CFTC is the culmination of a two-year examination of carbon markets, and many more years of in-depth

work regarding the impacts of climate on financial markets.

The proposed guidance recognizes that outlining factors for an exchange to consider in connection with contract design and listing may help to advance the standardization of voluntary carbon credit derivative contracts in a

manner that fosters transparency and liquidity, accurate pricing, and market integrity.

Taking into account certain unique attributes of voluntary carbon credit derivatives, the proposed guidance outlines factors that an exchange should consider in connection with the specification and

monitoring of contract terms and conditions, in order to help ensure compliance with existing Core Principle requirements under the CEA. The proposed guidance also addresses certain requirements under the CFTC's Part 40 Regulations relating to the submission of new derivative contracts,

and contract amendments, to the CFTC.

The comment period for the proposed guidance will be open for 75 days, and will end on February 16, 2024. Comments may be submitted electronically through the CFTC Comments online process.

Topeka Farm Show to be held Jan. 9-11

The 35th annual Topeka Farm Show will be held January 9, 10 and 11 at the Kansas Expo Centre. Show hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday. Admission and parking are free.

The Topeka Farm Show has established itself as one of the most respected farm shows in the upper Midwest, featuring the latest technology the industry has to offer. Over 12,000 farmers/ranchers attend the show annually to view the area's largest variety of farm equipment and services in one location. Producers, families and distributors come together for three days of education and entertainment at the Kansas Expocentre. The

2024 Show is once again a complete sellout with over 200 companies and over 550 display booths. The 2024 Show will use three buildings: Domer Arena, Landon Arena and Exhibition Hall. Domer Arena has additional exhibits including tools, welding equipment, antique tractors and horsemanship demonstrations.

Scott Daily's free Horse Training clinics are located in the Domer Livestock Arena and will be held twice daily. See the best in the business as Scott incorporates his unique training techniques.

Those attending the 2024 Topeka Farm Show are encouraged to visit Mustang Seeds at booth 905 to register for 40 units

(\$2,520 value) of Mustang® Soybean seeds sponsored by your local Mustang Seed dealer. Stop by Domer Arena at the Grand

Prize booth to register for a Milwaukee drill/driver with a 3/8" ratchet. The drawings will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday.

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Broomsedge bluestem – fertility management considerations

By David Hallauer, Meadowlark District Extension Agent, Crops & Soils

There's a statement in a USDA Plant Fact Sheet on broomsedge bluestem stating: On infertile soils, broomsedge is a long-lived competitor. If your end of year forage management includes pricing or applying fertilizer to a cool-season grass stand, keep broomsedge bluestem management in the back of your mind.

Why? Broomsedge continues to be an increasing species of interest in cool season grass stands, and fertility management plays a big role in whether it gets a foothold or not. Other factors contribute as well (harvest management comes to mind...), but because the competitive nature of cool season grasses depends heavily on fertilizer, fertility management, particularly lime and phosphorous, can be a great way to help manage broomsedge to a degree. One example comes from the results of a 2008 study at the University of Missouri evaluating the response of cool-season grass (fescue) stands with broom-

sedge in them to fertilizer applications. Their research showed the addition of fifty pounds of phosphorous per acre plus lime increased fescue stand composition from less than 15 percent to over 35 percent, while slightly reducing the broomsedge composition of the stand. Bottom line: it's a slow process, but fertilizer can help.

This research does not suggest potassium and nitrogen fertilizers aren't important. In fact, potassium levels in many forage stand soil tests continue to decline, warranting a second look at K applications. As in this study, we know pH and phosphorous levels have long been a concern and are contributors to the broomsedge issues we currently have.

If 50 pounds per acre of phosphorous fertilizer makes you cringe a little, a second look at actual soil fertility levels versus a 'blanket' approach to application might be in order, and that's best done with a soil test. Conditions can make it tricky this time of year, but if you can get a probe in the ground (to a six-inch depth) and

don't mind variable weather during sampling, a good soil sample can provide a lot of information to guide fertilizer applications. We have good numbers for N/P/K removal in cool season grasses, but soil testing becomes particularly important when determining the need for lime applications.

If soil testing isn't in the cards, keep this P number in mind: 12. That's the phosphorous removal number we use for every ton of cool season grass. For example: if a hay field yields two tons per acre, the amount of phosphorous needed to 'replenish' that removed P would be 24 pounds per acre. In the absence of a soil test, consideration should at least be given to application of a crop removal rate to keep soil test levels from falling further.

The acres taken over by broomsedge bluestem continue to increase. Plan now for a fertility management program to keep it from getting worse. If you want to discuss fertility (or other management) programs further, feel free to drop me a line.

Public comment sought on FDA, USDA and EPA proposal to reduce food loss and waste

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a national strategy that will drive progress toward the national goal to reduce food loss and waste in the U.S. by 50% by 2030. This action is a continuation of the three agencies' collaborative efforts to build a more sustainable future.

In the U.S., food is the single most common material found in landfills. More than one-third, nearly 100 million tons, of municipal waste stream is

organic waste and food comprises sixty-six million tons of that waste. The draft National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics identifies opportunities to reduce food loss and waste across the entire supply chain.

"The FDA supports the mission to reduce food loss and waste. While we look forward to our continued partnership with USDA and EPA, we also want Americans to feel empowered and confident in their ability to play a part in that mission," said FDA commissioner Robert

M. Califf, M.D. "We encourage the public to comment on practical ways everyone can play a role in reducing food waste."

This Strategy is a deliverable in the Biden-Harris administration's National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health, released in conjunction with the historic White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health in September 2022.

The draft strategy features four objectives:

- Prevent the loss of food where possible.
- Prevent the waste of food where possible.
- Increase the recycling rate for all organic

waste.

- Support policies that incentivize and encourage food loss and waste prevention and organics recycling.

For each objective, the draft strategy highlights actions that the FDA, USDA or EPA could take. Examples of specific FDA actions include:

- FDA and USDA will contribute date labeling and food safety advice to inform EPA's national consumer education campaign.

- FDA will continue working with the food industry to advance the goals under the FDA New Era of Smarter Food Safety initiative to support and

encourage supply chain stakeholders to adopt and leverage tech-enabled digital tracing technologies to remove contaminated foods more rapidly and accurately from the marketplace, while simultaneously reducing food loss and food waste associated with contamination events.

- FDA will continue to encourage uniform adoption of food donation practices updated in the Food Code, which provide consistency and uniformity for public health officials.

This effort will also provide social and economic benefits, including the potential to:

- Increase food

access for food-insecure Americans and increase the recovery rate and donation of wholesome food, such as through the emergency food system.

- Create new jobs, industries, and sectors of the economy.

- Increase supply chain resiliency.
- Deliver financial savings to households, which can also help address the needs of underserved communities.

The public comment will begin on December 5 and will remain open for 30 days. Share comments through Regulations.gov, Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2022-0415.

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SCAN ME

By Ross Mosteller, Meadowlark District Extension Agent, Livestock & Natural Resources

Coming out of the Thanksgiving holiday and heading into Christmas candy season, you might think this is a human healthy eating article; believe me, I'm the last person who needs to discuss healthy eating! I'll leave that topic for my co-workers to discuss and focus on ruminant nutrition feeding today. Limit-feeding is not a new concept; however the current forage prices relative to grain or by/co-products may make this practice an attractive alternative to feeding high roughage growing diets to calves, or even utilized to dry lot cow herds through winter.

Cattle producers who

have the equipment and facilities to feed in a bunk, would be likely candidates for limit-feeding a high energy diet as a cost-effective option for growing calves this late fall and winter. Even if a ration worked in the past, it may not be the most economical today. The current situation is mostly due to a short national forage supply and declining commodity grain prices. For example, hay priced at \$175/ton with a total digestible nutrients (TDN) value of 52% equates to approximately \$0.17 per pound of TDN. However, \$4.75/bu corn (88% TDN) calculates out to about \$0.10 per pound of TDN. This scenario only looks at the energy values, but protein has a big impact on this discussion as well.

Research at Kansas State University has looked at limit-feeding calves a high energy diet at 2.2% of body weight compared to a full-fed high roughage diet (2.8% of body weight) for a 90 day backgrounding period. Both diets included 40% wet corn gluten feed (dry matter basis) and varying

amounts of corn, alfalfa, prairie hay, and a supplement. Stockers limit fed the high energy diet were more efficient and gained 2.5 lb/d whereas stockers full-fed the high-roughage diet gained 2.9 lb/d. Backgrounding system had little to no effect on finishing performance or carcass characteristics.

What are the advantages of high energy, limit-fed diets? There can be the direct ration cost reduction, but here are a few of the additional benefits that feeders need to evaluate when looking at this type of feeding approach.

- Reduced mixing time and loads of feed due to less forage in the diet.
- Less feed falling out of bunks and being wasted, reducing rodent issues.

- More efficient use of bunk space, as the feed delivered is typically cleaned up faster.

- Improved health management of calves. Healthy calves will be eager to get to the bunk at feeding time, making lethargic, sick calves easier to spot.

- Improved pen conditions and maintenance due to less manure. Research from Kansas State University has shown a 40-45% reduction in manure output when limit feeding.

When getting calves started on feed, place long stemmed hay in bunks prior to arrival. Start calves at an intake of approximately 0.75% of body weight (dry matter basis) and work up to 2.2% of body weight within a two-week window. Consistent daily feeding time and adequate bunk space, at least 15 inches per head, are critical components of this approach that can help prevent digestive upsets and set calves up for success.

Focus on this article has been on growing calves, but as stated earlier, a limit feeding approach can be utilized for cow herds as well. The cow herd discussion can be an article all on its own. To learn more about this work, recorded informational zooms can be found at: www.ksubeef.org



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\$16 million grant increases crop yields, improves sustainability and profitability

Increasing crop yields while improving soil and watershed health requires understanding how agriculture management interacts with local environmental conditions. To date, this research remains fragmented and limited in scope. To tackle these knowledge gaps and improve precision agriculture, the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) is awarding a \$7,657,633 grant to Kansas State University. Funding will support an expansive study across the U.S. Corn Belt and Great Plains exploring how crop, soil and water management affect the soil microbial communities that drive

agroecosystem functions.

Bayer Crop Science provided \$4,601,244 in matching funds, and Iowa State University, K-State, LandScan, LI-COR, Mississippi State University, The Ohio State University and The University of Kansas also provided funds for a total investment of \$16,362,948.

Led by Dr. Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, professor of Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management, and Dr. Brian Olson, professor and head of Western Kansas Research Extension Centers, both at K-State, and Dr. Sotirios Archontoulis, professor of Integrated Cropping Systems Lab at Iowa State University,

the project is implementing field research across a wide range of environments while measuring indicators of cropping systems' performance and sustainability. Over an initial five-year period, this project will investigate how combinations of cover crops, nitrogen, crop rotation and tillage, and water management under variable soil water conditions influence soil microbial communities that drive nutrient availability and loss. Because past projects often have been constrained by short-term support, the matching funders committed to extending the project for five years beyond the grant

period to strengthen our understanding of plant genetics, environmental conditions and agriculture management interactions across space, time and changing climate conditions.

"This project will generate much-needed knowledge on the synergies and trade-offs of multi-level management factors improving agricultural productivity with conservation management across soils and environments, including water, nutrient cycling, soil carbon and soil health," said Ruiz Diaz.

In addition to improving outcomes from current soil health management

practices, understanding the links between crop yields, soil properties and soil water content is crucial to informing agricultural water management, which is essential to ensuring food security and reducing environmental impacts.

"With climate change, there is an urgent need to unravel the interactions between genetics, environmental conditions and agriculture management if we want to produce more while preserving the environment," said Dr. Kathleen Boomer, FFAR scientific program director. "This integrated field research and modeling effort will provide insights

critical to improving field operations and sustaining vibrant agroecosystems across diverse landscapes."

"Today's announcement represents a very important step in continuing the growth of Regenerative Ag Technology and Innovation," said Leo Bastos, senior vice president of Global Ecosystems at Bayer Crop Science. "We're very pleased to welcome Kansas State as a partner. Their commitment to supporting education and sustainability will expand our capacity to provide customers with sustainable long-term on-field and off-field solutions."

USGC 2023/24 Corn Harvest Quality Report shows largest crop, lowest broken corn ratio on record

According to the U.S. Grains Council's (USGC's) 2023/2024 Corn Harvest Quality Report, the 13th such annual survey published globally, the 2023 U.S. corn crop is the largest on record with the lowest percentage of broken corn and foreign material (BCFM) to date.

Warm and dry weather conditions in April and May let producers plant ahead of schedule, and despite concerns about continued dryness in June, healthy rainfall returned

later in the summer. This allowed the crop to properly mature and resulted in the timely harvest of 386.97 million metric tons (15,234 million bushels) of corn.

The average aggregate quality of the representative samples tested was better than the grade factor requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade. The report also showed that 88.0 percent of the samples met the grade factor requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade and 96.7 percent met the

grade factor requirements for U.S. No. 2.

"The Council is proud to produce this annual report that proves the quality and abundance of U.S. corn year over year. The transparency it provides to buyers helps them make informed decisions and takes another step towards developing markets, enabling trade and improving lives," said Brent Boydston, USGC chairman. "This crop's incredible volume allows the United States to remain

the world's leading corn exporter, accounting for an estimated 26.4 percent of global corn exports."

The report is based on 611 yellow corn samples taken from defined areas within 12 of the top corn-producing and exporting states. Inbound samples were collected from local grain elevators to measure and analyze quality at the point of origin and provide representative information about the variability of the quality characteristics across

the diverse geographic regions.

This year's corn protein concentration registered at 8.8 percent, an improvement on the five-year average of 8.5 percent. The crop also showed lower average total damage and average moisture content when compared to the five-year average.

The chemical composition of the crop remained in a healthy range, as 99.5 percent of the samples tested below the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) action level for aflatoxins and 100 percent of the samples tested below the 5.0 parts per million FDA advisory level for deoxynivalenol. Additionally, 98.3 percent tested below the FDA's strictest

guidance level of 5.0 parts per million for fumonisin.

The Council will present its findings to buyers around the world in a series of roll-out events, beginning in China on Dec. 12. Presentations will continue in India, Korea, Panama and Taiwan through the first quarter of 2024 and aim to offer participants clear expectations regarding the quality of corn for this marketing year. During these events, crop quality information is accompanied by updates on U.S. corn grading and handling, which provides importers and end-users with a better understanding of how U.S. corn is moved and controlled through export channels.

USDA and RMA announce continued improvements to sorghum crop insurance

The United States Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency (USDA RMA) released several important updates to sorghum crop insurance that will continue to expand sorghum production and empower farmers across the nation. Effective in 2024, the price election factor for sorghum will be at its highest level ever relative to corn; simplifications made to the sorghum silage policy will offer more support to sorghum farmers; and a key barrier to insuring irrigated double crop sorghum was removed in certain areas.

The sorghum price election is determined by applying a multiplier to the corn crop insurance price. For 2024, this multiplier is 100.2%, the highest level ever for sorghum and surpassing corn for the first time in history.

"As sorghum prices

continue to strengthen, this development is poised to bring substantial benefits to sorghum farmers by enhancing the financial protection of their sorghum crop," NSP CEO Tim Lust said. "The higher sorghum crop insurance price will serve as a significant incentive for growers to expand grain sorghum production, ultimately boosting the sorghum industry's vitality and profitability."

Recognizing the substantial growth in irrigated sorghum silage and forage acreage on the High Plains and around the U.S., RMA is simplifying the process for insuring irrigated sorghum silage. The previous requirement of having two years of history growing irrigated silage as a condition of insuring irrigated sorghum silage under the sorghum silage policy has been eliminated in New Mexi-

co, Oklahoma and Texas.

This change streamlines the transition for farmers who primarily have a history of growing and insuring irrigated grain. It allows them to immediately access crop insurance for irrigated sorghum silage under the sorghum silage policy, eliminating unnecessary barriers and ensuring they have the coverage they need. Similarly, the arduous written agreement process for irrigated double crop sorghum where it was required in 2023 has been removed for 2024, eliminating more barriers to growing sorghum following wheat.

"These updates to sorghum crop insurance represent continued improvements for the sorghum industry," NSP chairman Craig Meeker said, "and while we recognize they are significant, we will continue to work with

RMA to improve sorghum insurance for our members."

Farmers are encouraged to reach out to their local crop insurance agents for further details on these exciting updates and how they can benefit from the improved sorghum crop insurance options.

For more information, please visit USDA RMA or contact the National Sorghum Producers at 806-749-3478.



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Day Trip Destinations Insert - May 7th

DEADLINES:

Topeka Farm Show - Weds., Dec. 27th, before Noon

Spring Full of Bullz - Fri., Dec. 29th, before Noon

Crop Prod. & Prot. - Weds., Feb. 7th, before Noon

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

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

Salina Farm Show - Weds., March 6th, before Noon

Equine - Weds., March 13th, before Noon

Hay & Grazing - Weds., April 3rd, before Noon

Ag Tech - Weds., April 17th, before Noon

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Reps. Mann, Costa, and colleagues defend American beef producers

U.S. representatives Tracey Mann (KS-01) and Jim Costa (D-CA), chairman and ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry, recently led 19 of their colleagues in sending a letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack opposing a new rule that would allow for the importation of beef from Paraguay.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Paraguay is currently affected with foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), a highly contagious viral disease affecting cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, and other cloven-hooved animals. USDA's new rule relies on decade- and nearly decade-old site visits to Paraguay in 2008 and 2014 to overcome the prohibition of importing beef from

the country.

"USDA relied on outdated site visits, irrelevant inspections, and inadequate data to overcome these prohibitions," the members wrote. "Paraguay knows what we all know – the U.S. is the largest, most reliable consumer of beef in the world. We have that reputation because of the tireless work of beef producers to provide the safest and most efficient beef production system in the world. The U.S. should not expand our market to unsafe actors at the risk of the health and livelihood of U.S. agricultural producers and consumers."

The members urge USDA to halt the implementation of the rule until a more reliable risk assessment may be completed based on modern site visits in Paraguay.

"The United States has the highest food safety and

animal health standards in the world, and any country who wishes to trade with the United States must demonstrate that they can meet those standards," said Ethan Lane, vice president of government affairs, National Cattlemen's Beef Association. "Paraguay's long history of foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks, and the lack of recent site visits, makes importing beef from Paraguay too risky. All our trade partners need to have inspection systems that can clearly provide an equivalent level of safety for animal health to prevent a possible foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the United States. Cattle producers thank representatives Tracey Mann and Jim Costa for holding USDA accountable and helping to protect cattle from foreign animal disease."

Kansas Livestock Foundation scholarship winners recognized

Twenty-eight scholarship winners for the 2023-24 school year were recognized during the annual Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) Convention November 29 in Wichita. A total of \$31,000 was presented by the Kansas Livestock Foundation (KLF) and its partners.

Five students attending the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University each have been awarded a \$1,500 Cartridges for Cash (CFC) scholarship from Merck Animal Health and KLF. Mallory Beltz of Sterling is the daughter of Daren and Shawna Beltz. Mackenzie Birney, the daughter of Kevin and Bev Birney, is from Bucklin. Laura Carpenter of Wamego is the daughter of Joe Carpenter and Barb Downey. Caleb Hildebrand, the son of Jason and Carrie Hildebrand, is from Stafford. Jerilyn Nelson of Soldier is the daughter of Jerry and Jo Ann Nelson. This award recognizes K-State veterinary school students with a career goal of being a large animal veterinarian.

Regan Ast from Ingalls, Rayleigh Wittman of Garnett and Adison George from Holcomb each received \$1,000 CFC schol-

arships through KLF. Ast is the daughter of Tom and Karla Ast. She is a senior at K-State majoring in animal sciences and industry (ASI). Wittman, daughter of Rod and Kim Wittman, is a junior at K-State majoring in ASI. George is a sophomore at Garden City Community College majoring in agribusiness. She is the daughter of Darren and Jill George. This scholarship is presented to students entering or returning to a Kansas community or senior college and pursuing degrees in agriculture or a related field. CFC scholarships are funded by Merck's donation of 25¢ for each used Ralgro wheel and Revalor cartridge turned in to KLA.

Two students were awarded \$1,500 Douglas A. Laue Memorial Scholarships. Caleb Eilert is the son of Joe and Kari Eilert from Jewell. He is a junior majoring in agricultural technology management at K-State. Logan Ohlde, son of Curtis and Winda Ohlde from Winchester, is a junior majoring in ASI at K-State. This scholarship is awarded to students entering their junior or senior year at K-State or Fort Hays State University and pursuing degrees in

agriculture.

Saul Vargas Rojas of Goodland has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from GoBob America's Ranch Equipment and KLF. Rojas is the son of Manuel Vargas and Ofeilia Rojas. He is a sophomore at Northwest Kansas Technical College majoring in precision agriculture. This scholarship is awarded to a student entering or returning to a Kansas community or senior college and pursuing a degree in agriculture or a related field.

Two \$1,000 Hampel Oil Scholarships have been presented to K-State students. Courtney Cline-Smith, daughter of Bill and Stephanie Clinesmith of Cimarron, is a junior majoring in agribusiness. Jarek Meyer is the son of Jeffrey and Dawn Meyer from Athol. He is a senior majoring in agricultural economics. This scholarship is awarded to students entering their junior or senior year at K-State or Fort Hays State University and pursuing degrees in agronomy, agribusiness or agricultural economics. Preference is given to applicants with a career goal of being actively engaged in a farming or feedyard enterprise.

The \$1,000 Scott Johnson and Family Scholarship was awarded to Ava Perrier of Eureka. She is the daughter of Matt and Amy Perrier, and is a junior majoring in ASI at K-State. This scholarship is awarded to any student attending K-State and pursuing a degree in ASI, agricultural communications and journalism, agribusiness or agricultural economics.

Dylon Harris was awarded the \$500 Fred H. Woodbury Memorial Scholarship through KLF. Harris is the son of Delvin and Keri Harris from Overbrook. He is a freshman at K-State majoring in agricultural technology management. This scholarship is presented to a student attending a Kansas junior or senior college and pursuing a degree in agriculture. Preference is given to students residing within Chase, Franklin, Lyon, Osage or Wabaunsee counties.

Six students from across the state have received \$1,000 "Youth in Agriculture" scholarships from KLF. Jade Chambers is the son of Wade and Angie Chambers from Centerville. He is a freshman majoring in ASI at K-State. Preston Dunn of

St. John is the son of Brian and Carolyn Dunn. He is a sophomore at K-State majoring in ASI and agricultural economics. Bryce Hoeltzel, Olsburg, is the son of Hans and Jenny Hoeltzel. He is a freshman majoring in animal science and natural resource management at Allen Community College. Cally Miller is the daughter of Cory and Charlene Miller of El Dorado. She is a freshman majoring in animal science and agribusiness at Butler Community College (BCC). Coy Stamm, son of Curtis and Marlene Stamm from Washington, is a sophomore at K-State majoring in agronomy. Calley Stubbs of Wallace is the daughter of Becky Vandike and Adam Stubbs. She is a sophomore majoring in agriculture at BCC. Funded by the KLF Club Calf Sale held during the Kansas Junior Livestock Show, these scholarships recognize students entering or returning to a Kansas junior or senior college and pursuing degrees in agriculture or a related field.

The Kansas Cattle Women (KCW) awarded seven \$1,000 scholarships. Katherine Bruning from Geneseo is the daughter

of Wade Bruning and Ginger Webb. She is a freshman majoring in animal science and veterinary science at Barton Community College. Rachel Donaldson, the daughter of Stephanie Donaldson of Berryton, is a freshman majoring in ASI at K-State. Carly Dreher is the daughter of Jerry and Cathy Dreher from Iola. She is a freshman majoring in agribusiness at BCC. Riley Showalter, daughter of Troy and Mary Beth Showalter of Wakarusa, is a freshman majoring in agribusiness at K-State. Carissa Sohm from Rolla is the daughter of Gregory and Rebecca Sohm. She is a freshman at K-State majoring in agronomy. Kena Sterling, daughter of Sam and Shannon Sterling of Pratt, is a freshman at K-State majoring in agribusiness. Sage Toews from Canton is the daughter of Flint and Alice Toews. She is a freshman majoring in agricultural economics at K-State. This scholarship, funded by the KCW silent auction, is awarded to students entering or returning to a Kansas community or senior college and pursuing degrees in dietetics, food safety, agriculture or a related field.

Don't let cold weather freeze cattle performance this winter

Maybe you can't tell the difference between 15 and 32 degrees F after spending a few minutes outside, but your cattle can.

"Slight changes in temperature can have a considerable impact on energy and cow nutritional requirements," says Elizabeth Belew, Ph.D., cattle

nutritionist with Purina Animal Nutrition.

Cold stress occurs when cattle require more energy to sustain basic bodily functions at a specific temperature, called the lower critical temperature (LCT). The LCT helps us understand when cows start experiencing cold

stress.

"As temperatures decrease, cow nutritional requirements increase. Add in precipitation or wind and requirements increase even more," says Belew.

If cows are shorted on nutrition during cold stress, it can have a domino effect on performance.

"Nutritional deficiency resulting from cold stress can lead to cows producing lighter and weaker calves," says Belew. "Low-quality colostrum and later return to estrus in the breeding season can also result, compromising conception rates and weaning weights."

Strategies for managing and feeding cattle in the winter can help alleviate cold stress and support cow nutritional requirements.

How can you mitigate cold stress?

Cold stress mitigation should start with keeping cattle warm. Offering pro-

tection from the elements like bedding, windbreaks, snow breaks and a place to get out of the mud can all help keep cattle warm and dry. Protecting cattle from wind, rain and snow isn't always enough, however.

"Snow often reminds us to think about cow nutritional requirements and supplementation options. But what if the snow never falls? Temperature is the underlying factor in cold stress," says Belew.

When feeding cattle in winter, provide them with nutrition to meet their needs during cold stress. Plan out feeding strategies early, before cow body condition scores start to slip, to help your cows weather cold temperatures.

Know your forages

Feeding cattle stored forage can be challenging. Testing forages gives you a better understanding of what you're feeding cattle in winter when temperatures drop.

Testing total digestible

nutrients (TDN) will provide an estimate of the total amount of nutrients that could be digested by the animal. The greater the TDN value, the more energy cattle get from forages.

"Forage intake is another consideration," says Belew. "Cows will likely spend less time grazing as temperatures decline. Less grazing time results in reduced forage intake which makes it challenging to meet cow energy requirements. Feeding cattle in winter with low-quality hay might not be enough to offset reduced forage intake."

Once you know forage nutritional value and assess intake levels, monitor cow body condition score (BCS) and temperature to identify cow energy requirements.

Evaluate cow nutritional requirements

A cow's energy requirement, or TDN, increases by 1% for every degree below the LCT as a rule of thumb.

"Cow body condition scores impact nutrition-

al requirements," says Belew. "A cow in a BCS 5 needs 30% more energy to maintain body condition than a cow in a BCS 6 at 32 degrees F. The same principle holds true as BCS decreases below 5."

A third-trimester 1,300-pound cow requires 13 pounds of TDN at 32 degrees F. However, at 0 degrees F the same cow needs an additional four pounds, or roughly 17 pounds of TDN. For comparison, the temperature drop means the same cow now requires eight more pounds of 50% TDN hay.

"When feeding cattle in winter, consider a high-quality supplement to help fill a cow's energy gap while helping cows get the most out of existing forages," says Belew. "The ideal supplement should provide additional energy, balance forage nutrient deficiencies and support performance."

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LAND AUCTION
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024 — 10:00 AM
 Beattie Community Center — BEATTIE, KANSAS
320± ACRES MARSHALL COUNTY, KS LAND

TRACT 1: Legal Description: (Per Marshall County Appraiser) S10, T02, R09, ACRES 157.6, W2 NE4 & E2 NW4 LESS R/W FSA Information: (Per Marshall County FSA Office)
 • FSA Farmland = 157.16 acres with 126.24 DCP Cropland Acres
 • Base Acres = 122.25 acres (62.30 ac Soybeans, 59.95 Corn)
 • PLC Yield (Soybeans 33 bu, Corn 113 bu)
 2022 Property Taxes: \$3140.50
TRACT 2: Legal Description: (Per Marshall County Appraiser) S08, T02, R09, ACRES 158.7, NE4 LESS R/W FSA Information: (Per Marshall County FSA Office)
 • FSA Farmland = 158.99 acres with 120.23 DCP Cropland Acres
 • Base Acres = 111.30 acres (60.10ac Soybeans, 51.20ac Corn)
 • PLC Yield (Soybeans 33bu, Corn 113bu)
 Property Taxes: \$2774.06
PROPERTY LOCATIONS:
Tract 1 & 2: From US Hwy 36 & Hwy 99 Intersection (Beattie Corner) travel 1.5 miles North on Highway 99 to Stop Sign at the intersection of Hwy 99 & Ironstone Road/Elm Street. Turn West on Ironstone Road/Elm Street and travel .5 miles to 21st Road. Turn North on 21st Road and travel 2 miles. **Tract 2** is located on the West side of Granite Road for .5 miles until you reach the 21st Road & Granite Road intersection. **Tract 1:** From 21st Road & Granite Road intersection travel 1.25 miles East on Granite Road. Tract 1 is located on the south side of Granite Road for .5 miles.
Terms & Possession: 10% down day of sale, balance due at closing on or before 2/15/2024. Possession at closing subject to tenants rights. Verbal tenant has possession till March 1, 2024 and Seller will properly notify tenant of termination according to Kansas lease law if buyer is wanting full possession March 1, 2024. Seller to pay 2023 and prior years taxes. Sellers interest in mineral rights shall transfer to buyer. Title insurance, escrow and closing costs to be split equally between buyer and seller. Property to be sold AS-IS, WHERE-IS. All inspections should be made prior to the day of the auction. This is a cash sale and is not subject to financing, have your financing arrangements made prior to auction. **Midwest Land and Home is acting as a Seller's Agent and represents the seller's interest.** All information has come from reliable sources; however, potential buyers are encouraged to verify all information independently. Seller expressly disclaims any liability for errors, omissions or changes regarding any information provided for these sales. Potential purchasers are strongly urged to rely solely upon their own inspections and opinions in preparing to purchase property and are expressly advised to not rely on any representations made by the seller or their agents. Statements made the day of sale take precedence over all other printed materials. Aerials are representations and not guaranteed to be actual property lines.

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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.
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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.

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2-Day Online Only Auction (OPEN NOW; Day 1 begins closing 2 pm Dec. 18; Day 2 begins closing 2 pm Dec. 19) — Selling 650+ lots including 120+ lots of Fiesta, Antiques, 90+ lots Vintage Toys, GI Joe, Star Wars, Barbie, Comic Books, Precious Moments, Coins & Stamps, Belt Buckles, Sports Items, Holiday, Dolls & more for property of the Late Dennis & Ellen DeLay held online at www.GriffinRealEstateAuction.com. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction.

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 Heif-

er & 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, 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.

December 28 & 29 — 2-day Antique auction: Selling Dec. 28: Approximately 400 lots (live only), 100s of collectible toys, pedal tractors, collectible coins, coin proof sets, knives, cast iron, crocks, Depression glass, Maytag motors & more; Dec. 29: 500+ lots (live & online), Lots of toys, approx. 100 pcs cast iron Griswold, Wagner, collectible knives, primitive farm collectibles,

butter churns, goat wagon, anvils, signs & much more held at Hutchinson with online bidding available (AuctionZip.com ID#6612). Auctioneers: Morris Yoder Auctions.

December 30 — Estate auction including 1982 Ranger Chief 380 w/Evinrude motor, striper mount, fishing gear, JC Higgins cooler, Lawn Chief 46" riding mower, Craftsman riding mower, power tools, hand tools, antique wood cabinet & more held at Hedville. Auctioneers: Wilson Realty & Auction Service.

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, headdresses, 100s of collectibles including musical, sculptures, Folk Art, Religion, Indigenous, Native American pots, glass paperweights, Wedgewood, tobacco items, book jacks, table lamps, glassware & more held at Lawrence for William P. Bishop Estate. Auc-

tioneers: Elston Auctions.

January 10-12, 2024 — Superior Livestock Auction Bellringer Video Auction at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. SuperiorLivestock.com

January 12, 2024 — Land Auction consisting of 320 acres m/l of Marshall County land; T1: FSA Farmland = 157.16 ac. w/126.24 DCP acres; T2: FSA Farmland = 158.99 acres w/120.23 DCP acres held at Beattie for Harley & M. Elaine Keller Trust. Online bidding available (opens December 29, 2023): www.MidwestLandandHome.com. Auctioneers: Midwest Land & Home, Mark Dankenbring, listing broker.

January 13, 2024 — Land Auction consisting of 440 acres m/l of Dickinson & Ottawa County Pastureland sold in 4 tracts held at Abilene for Mills Sibling Trust. Auctioneers: Reynolds RE & Auction, Dan Reynolds, auction manager.

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 DeLore Harries Trust. Auctioneers: Olmsted Real Estate & Auctions.

January 20, 2024 — Real Estate auction with a

5200 sq. ft. Executive home on .8-acre lot, 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3 fireplaces, garages, sunroom, 2 decks, storage shed & much more held at McPherson. Auctioneers: Wilson Realty & Auction Service, Lonnie Wil-

son, broker.
January 20, 2024 — New Strawn Consignment Auction by S&S Sales, LLC. including Farm & Construction Equip., tools, vehicles, tractors, trucks, trailers, ATVs, skid loader attachments, cattle equip. & more held at New Strawn.

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.

February 17, 2024 — Farm auction including 20+ IH Tractors, IH parts tractors/equipment, IH parts & memorabilia, hit & miss engines, tools, collectibles & more held at Tecumseh for Wayne Anderson. 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.

Study: How farmers decide to store or sell their grain

URBANA, Ill. —When farmers harvest their grain, they can choose to sell it right away or store it to obtain better prices later in the season. A new study from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign explores how Illinois corn and soybean producers make those decisions and why the cost-benefit evaluation of storage may differ across farms.

Agricultural commodity prices fluctuate in response to changes in supply and demand, which depends on the stockpile of grain inventories around the country — but economists don't really know how farmers decide to sell versus store their grain.

"Economic theory provides guidance that Extension economists have long shared with farmers, but we always say that these decisions depend on the specifics of the farm operation. We haven't tested the theory against real-world farmer behavior before now. That's what our paper provides," said study co-author Joe

Janzen, Illinois Extension specialist and assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, part of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at U. of I. Janzen is also a frequent contributor to the Illinois farmdoc project.

"Our data show farmers how their peers make marketing decisions and provide useful benchmarking for profitability to help them in their own decision-making. There is great year-to-year variability, and just because a decision is right in general, doesn't mean it's right in specific circumstances, so farmers need to be adaptable," Janzen said.

The researchers plan to develop calculators that farmers can use to understand the costs and benefits of their grain marketing decisions. These tools will also be helpful for business and marketing consultants, extension personnel, and others who serve as advisors for farmers.

For this study, the re-

searchers had access to a large database of farm records from the Illinois Farm Business Farm Management Association (FBFM). Their analysis focused on corn and soybean producers in Illinois who may hold physical inventories of those commodities on their farm. They collected comprehensive financial statements from nearly 3,000 farms over 18 years.

Agricultural producers put their grain in storage hoping for prices to be higher later in the season. Grain prices usually increase after harvest, but that isn't always the case. There is a risk to waiting, and the decision to sell or store needs to be weighed against the cost of storage.

"This includes the physical costs of storing and maintaining the grain in good condition, but the bigger cost is that the farm doesn't have the revenue

from selling the commodity," Janzen stated. "They can't make new investments as quickly in things that might make their business more profitable — that foregone revenue is a hidden cost that doesn't necessarily show up as a line item in farm records."

Economic theory suggests farms that are less capital constrained are more likely to store their grain. In other words, the choice depends on how much they need cash at harvest to cover their expenses.

"Overall, our results indicate that storage costs influence the storage decision, but we find they matter more for some farms than others," Janzen noted. "When the capital cost for storage increases, the share of production held in inventory decreases. But these findings cover a wide range of behaviors that vary for

different farms and economic conditions."

Some farms are market responsive and make significant adjustments to storage levels based on cost-benefit evaluations. Yet other farms ignore changes in cost and continue to store.

The main determinant for which group they belong to is their overall financial position, which is correlated with size and age. Farms that are bigger and have been in operation for a longer time have more assets and a more stable financial position, and they tend to have lower storage costs, while younger farms are typically in a more precarious financial position, Janzen explained.

The study findings also have broader implications for the role of agricultural commodity storage in the global supply chains.

"For example, last

year the water levels on the Mississippi River dropped very low, which constrained shipping and affected agricultural exports. Farmers have to think about whether they are going to change their marketing behavior in response to big supply chain disruptions like that," Janzen said. "Ultimately, we want to give farmers the tools to become more profitable and more resilient in the face of uncertain markets."

Ask Grass & Grain to SHARE your Auction on the Official Grass & Grain Facebook Page
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Reach a Larger Bidding Audience with over 5,000 followers!

LAND AUCTION! WABAUNSEE COUNTY

Vaughn-Roth Land Brokers is honored to represent the Stuart Collier family with the sale of this premium acreage via online auction. These are highly attractive recreational tracts located in Wabaunsee County and are some of the most attractive deer hunting parcels we've set foot on. Located in the heart of the Flint Hills along Rock Creek with features including 120' of topography change, thick bedding cover and oak ridges, three creeks, and former bottomland cropland that could be put back into production if desired. This property is a true wildlife sanctuary.

Location: 28720 Chalk Ln., Eskridge, KS

Tract 1: 252 +/- Acres

Tract 2: 478 +/- Acres

Tract 3: 730 +/- Acres (Tracts 1 & 2 combined)

These properties are being offered via online auction beginning at 12:00 p.m. on 1/4/2024 with a dynamic closing to start at 12:00 p.m. on 1/9/2024.

For more information, please visit our website or call Henry Ott at 620-437-7340.

SELLER: Stuart R. Collier Rev. Trust

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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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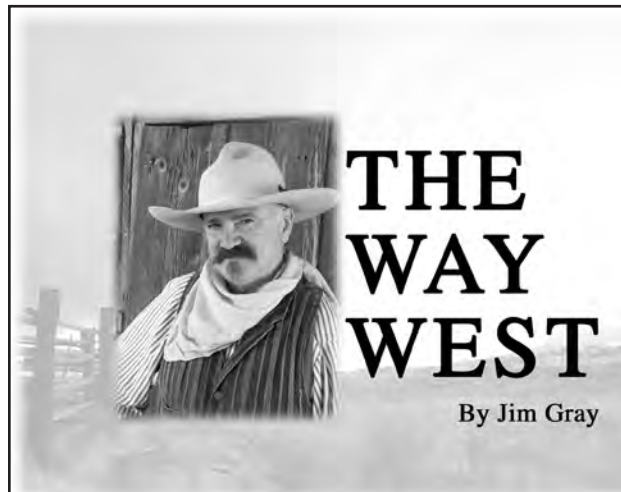
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See Last Week's Grass & Grain for listings & check our website:

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THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

One Slippery Character

Curly Marshall has found his way into The Way West more than once with his infamous approach to life. He had a habit of hanging out with the most notorious characters on the southern Kansas plains, some going as far as to say that he rode at the head of a gang of horse thieves. The December 5, 1872, *Ellsworth Reporter* recalled that he had killed at least one man in Ellsworth's wild end-of-track days of 1867-68.

He moved to the southern border of Kansas to establish the First Chance/Last Chance saloon along the Chisholm Trail. The "Last Chance" consisted of a double log house where whiskies, provisions, and feed for horses was sold.

The place was popular with Texans and countless notorious characters passing to and from Indian Territory. Marshall hired a manager to operate the Last Chance, splitting his time between the isolated saloon and Wichita, at the time a budding frontier town.

At Wichita's Buckhorn Tavern and Hotel boarders included cattlemen, merchants, gamblers, and Curly Marshall's friends. At dinner, the boys especially enjoyed throwing dishes in the air and shooting at them with blazing six-shooters, all without leaving their place at the table.

In spite of his nefarious ways Curly Marshall was appointed Wichita City

Marshal in July of 1870. One of Marshall's ignoble friends was a known horse thief by the name of Jack Ledford. Like Curly Marshall, Ledford had an Ellsworth history. He and Jake Black had once waylaid Deputy United States Marshal Jack Bridges and left him for dead in a dark Ellsworth alley. That was 1869. Two years later Jack Ledford was a respectable Wichita businessman presiding over the Harris House Hotel with the former Alice Harris, his newlywed spouse.

Meanwhile Jake Black, Ledford's Ellsworth accomplice in beating Marshal Bridges, was arrested near Fort Wallace in the company of a man identified only as "Williams." They had been seen with John "Pony" Donovan, a horse thief with a widely known reputation, but Donovan had escaped capture. Deputy U. S. Marshal Jack Bridges took charge of Black and Williams and through them learned of the presence of Ledford in Wichita.

When Marshal Bridges entered Wichita on February 28, 1871, supported by twenty-five soldiers from Fort Harker, Wichita City Marshal Curly Marshall was not inclined to help capture Ledford. Instead Curly had two horses saddled in hopes of getting

Ledford out of town. He was too late. Bridges and his posse discovered Ledford hiding in an outhouse and shot him down as charged from his hiding place with guns blazing.

At Topeka Jake Black was fined three hundred dollars and costs for his part in the theft of the mules in western Kansas. He was supposed to be transported by officers to Arkansas to stand trial for the theft of one hundred thirty-seven government mules but jumped bail and eluded that consequence. Black next appeared at Newton, Kansas where in October, 1871, he reportedly set fire to a man's house, stole several horses, and fled for parts unknown.

Enter Curly Marshall, who appeared at Newton with the report that Jake Black had been killed in a wild saloon shootout. "A woman was the cause of the difficulty." The report was carried in several papers across the state. By December, 1871, the *Atchison Daily Champion* reported that Black had been shot, "...the shot entering the mouth and coming out the back of the head." He was not immediately killed but it is thought that he could not recover.

Perhaps not surprising the report of Black's death was apparently another attempt by Curly Marshall to

protect a friend. Black was certainly not suffering a mortal wound in the backroom of an out-of-the-way saloon. By July, 1872, Black was back riding the owl hoot trail with his old comrade, Pony Donovan, at the head of a large gang of thieves. Thirty miles from Dodge City they raided a work camp building the Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe Railroad. Donovan had led a charmed life up until then, having escaped all attempts to rein him in. That sense of invincibility ultimately led to his undoing. Boldly appearing on the streets of Hays City, Donovan was captured. With no official jail in the frontier town Donovan was placed in the cellar of the Ellis County Court House. There he was chained to a supporting post with

William B. McClelland, a suspected murderer. That night the vigilantes shot through a window to kill McClelland. Hot lead filled the air, but when the smoke cleared McClelland stood unharmed over Donovan's dead body.

Whether Jake Black was ever apprehended is uncertain. No mention of him was found after the raid on the railroad camp. Perhaps the thought of dying in an isolated frontier town caused him to change his ways. Jake Black seemingly disappeared, never again to ride deadly trails 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.

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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 - 6,012.

STEERS		65	Mix	Leonardville	789	@\$194.75
300-400	\$300.00 - \$312.00	66	Mix	Abilene	816	@\$192.25
400-500	\$309.00 - \$320.00	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023				
500-600	\$300.00 - \$312.00	SPECIAL WEAN/VACC SALE				
600-700	\$269.00 - \$280.00	STEERS				
700-800	\$217.00 - \$229.00	13	Blk	Inman	468	@\$320.00
800-900	\$232.00 - \$244.00	18	Blk	Holyrood	461	@\$320.00
900-1,000	\$182.00 - \$194.00	6	Blk	Hillsboro	473	@\$319.00

HEIFERS		5 <th>Blk <td>Hutchinson</td> <td>474</td> <td>@\$319.00</td> </th>	Blk <td>Hutchinson</td> <td>474</td> <td>@\$319.00</td>	Hutchinson	474	@\$319.00
300-400	\$273.00 - \$285.00	10	Blk	Ellsworth	472	@\$317.00
400-500	\$279.00 - \$290.00	12	Blk	Newton	488	@\$315.00
500-600	\$268.00 - \$278.00	5	Blk	Kingman	418	@\$314.00
600-700	\$235.00 - \$247.50	5	Blk	Geneseo	508	@\$312.00
700-800	\$213.00 - \$224.00	10	Blk	Assaria	518	@\$312.00
800-900	\$180.00 - \$192.25	12	Blk	Kingman	522	@\$312.00
900-1,000	NO TEST	6	Blk	Cabot, AR	471	@\$310.00

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

STEERS		3 <th>Char <td>Longford</td> <td>382</td> <td>@\$312.00</td> </th>	Char <td>Longford</td> <td>382</td> <td>@\$312.00</td>	Longford	382	@\$312.00			
5	Blk	Bennington	429	@\$302.00	4	Mix	Kanopolis	445	@\$306.00
2	Blk	Barnard	400	@\$300.00	4	Mix	Kanopolis	445	@\$306.00
4	Blk	Barnard	333	@\$295.00	8	Blk	Bunkerhill	436	@\$306.00
11	Blk	Ciaflin	493	@\$292.00	5	Char	Hillsboro	486	@\$302.00
2	Char	Moundridge	448	@\$292.00	2	Blk	Bunkerhill	440	@\$298.00
10	Blk	Russell	469	@\$289.00	4	Blk	Clay Center	514	@\$297.00
8	Blk	Beloit	488	@\$288.00	4	Blk	Randall	520	@\$297.00
12	Blk	Ciaflin	555	@\$286.00	38	Blk	Holyrood	537	@\$295.50
11	Blk	Falun	540	@\$283.00	16	Char	Ellsworth	537	@\$294.00
9	Blk	Ellsworth	566	@\$282.00	5	Blk	Culver	491	@\$293.00
9	Char	Moundridge	581	@\$277.00	31	Blk	Waldo	543	@\$292.00
4	Blk	Salina	565	@\$276.00	18	Blk	Smolan	549	@\$291.00
15	Blk	Russell	567	@\$276.00	11	Blk	Hutchinson	545	@\$290.00
16	Mix	Longford	591	@\$273.50	4	Blk	Ellsworth	454	@\$290.00
4	Blk	Salina	575	@\$273.00	8	Blk	Ellsworth	538	@\$290.00
7	Blk	Ciaflin	621	@\$270.00	27	Blk	Newton	555	@\$287.00
23	Blk	Bennington	628	@\$270.00	13	Blk	Hillsboro	571	@\$285.00
8	Blk	Salina	623	@\$265.00	15	Blk	Geneseo	588	@\$281.00
4	Blk	Burton	606	@\$265.00	22	Blk	Inman	590	@\$280.00
30	Blk	Beloit	618	@\$265.00	25	Blk	Kingman	608	@\$280.00
5	Blk	Salina	592	@\$258.00	5	Blk	Salina	541	@\$280.00
12	Blk	Wilson	598	@\$258.00	8	Blk	McPherson	558	@\$275.00
28	Blk	Ellsworth	639	@\$253.00	36	Mix	Ellsworth	588	@\$272.00
31	Blk	Falun	633	@\$250.50	13	Blk	Lost Springs	580	@\$272.00
16	Blk	Lehigh	642	@\$241.25	26	Blk	Assaria	606	@\$269.00
44	Blk	Lehigh	737	@\$229.00	10	Char	Bennington	581	@\$269.00
11	Blk	Bennington	691	@\$228.00	13	Blk	Geneseo	638	@\$268.00
30	Mix	Salina	710	@\$227.00	13	Blk	Kanopolis	580	@\$268.00
34	Blk	Ellsworth	736	@\$226.50	19	Blk	Johnson	658	@\$266.00
20	Blk	Falun	749	@\$222.00	24	Char	Ellsworth	614	@\$266.00
11	Blk	Burton	793	@\$220.00	6	Blk	Ellsworth	604	@\$262.00
29	Blk	Little River	832	@\$213.50	13	Blk	Smolan	648	@\$258.00
56	Blk	Wakefield	961	@\$194.00	4	Blk	Culver	611	@\$256.00
HEIFERS		6	Blk	Culver	643	@\$256.00			
5	Blk	Bennington	445	@\$276.00	11	Mix	Clay Center	682	@\$254.50
3	Blk	Lehigh	430	@\$266.00	70	Blk	Ellsworth	670	@\$254.25
3	Blk	Ciaflin	505	@\$265.00	6	Blk	Oakley	597	@\$254.00
8	Mix	Longford	491	@\$254.00	45	Blk	Inman	691	@\$246.75
2	Wf	Enterprise	465	@\$250.00	43	Blk	Assaria	747	@\$244.00
12	Blk	Russell	509	@\$250.00	28	Blk	Kingman	707	@\$242.00
17	Blk	Bennington	524	@\$249.00	9	Blk	Ellsworth	739	@\$239.50
2	Mix	Partridge	518	@\$247.00	37	Blk	Inman	760	@\$237.00
13	Blk	Lehigh	556	@\$244.00	14	Blk	Smolan	710	@\$237.00
15	Blk	Falun	585	@\$234.00	66	Blk	Ciaflin	786	@\$236.50
7	Char	Lindsborg	589	@\$233.00	19	Mix	Galva	702	@\$235.50
8	Mix	Marion	576	@\$232.00	15	Blk	Johnson	743	@\$235.00
12	Blk	Salina	617	@\$231.00	11	Blk	Clay Center	705	@\$234.50
5	Mix	Hillsboro	556	@\$229.00	8	Blk	Salina	724	@\$233.00
10	Char	Lindsborg	653	@\$228.00	7	Blk	McPherson	658	@\$232.00
30	Blk	Falun	625	@\$227.00	14	Mix	Salina	795	@\$230.50
19	Blk	Ellsworth	600	@\$227.00	11	Blk	Delphos	701	@\$230.00
22	Mix	Minneapolis	595	@\$225.50	13	Mix	Lost Springs	725	@\$230.00
11	Mix	Salina	615	@\$225.00	29	Blk	Ciaflin	854	@\$220.25
HEIFERS		4	Blk	Raymond	443	@\$290.00			
9	Mix	Marion	684	@\$224.00	3	Mix	Assaria	398	@\$285.00
6	Blk	Tescott	659	@\$222.00	3	Mix	Kingman	436	@\$284.00
36	Blk	Ellsworth	681	@\$218.50	10	Blk	Holyrood	445	@\$284.00
8	Blk	McPherson	693	@\$216.00	22	Blk	Hutchinson	405	@\$281.00
15	Mix	Lindsborg	691	@\$216.00	2	Blk	Bunkerhill	425	@\$279.00
3	Blk	Abilene	702	@\$211.00	7	Blk	Lost Springs	461	@\$279.00
10	Char	Lindsborg	711	@\$203.00	12	Blk	Hillsboro	441	@\$278.00
12	Blk	Ciaflin	735	@\$200.00	8	Mix	Hutchinson	507	@\$278.00
11	Mix	Salina	705	@\$199.00	10	Blk	Russell	468	@\$276.00
64	Mix	Assaria	747	@\$195.25	4	Blk	Russell	468	@\$276.00

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

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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.

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

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4	Blk	Smolan	479	@\$276.00	6	Blk	Geneseo	613	@\$247.50
18	Blk	Newton	501	@\$275.50	12	Mix	Galva	580	@\$246.50
10	Blk	Ellsworth	461	@\$274.00	21	Char	Ellsworth	600	@\$242.00
10	Blk	Newton	459	@\$274.00	43	Blk	Assaria	642	@\$240.00
13	Blk	Lost Springs	515	@\$273.00	16	Blk	Hillsboro	655	@\$239.50
5	Mix	Waldo	476	@\$270.00	4	Blk	Salina	606	@\$238.00
7	Mix	Galva							