

Wool and mohair deadline extended to end of March

Wool and mohair producers are now eligible to apply for non-recourse marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) from the Farm Service Agency, but they must apply by March 31 for their 2002-year crop.

"The 2002 Farm Bill puts wool and mohair producers on par with grain and oilseed producers in that they now have the option of applying for marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments," said Angie Berens, executive director of the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency.

Producers have until March 31 to apply for a nine-month marketing assistance loan or loan deficiency payments on wool or mohair sheared in 2002.

Producers placing their wool and mohair under loan with the Farm Service Agency receive an estab-

lished loan rate. National per pound loan rates are set at \$1 for graded wool, 40 cents for ungraded wool and \$4.20 for mohair.

Mrs. Berens said producers can forego putting their wool and mohair under loan and receive a loan deficiency payment instead.

In order to qualify for loans or loan deficiency payments, producers must meet program eligibility requirements. Producers must have owned the sheep or goats for at least 30 days before shearing, and they must retain beneficial interest from the time of shearing through either repayment of the loan or, in the case of a loan deficiency payments, the date the payment is requested.

A special exception to the beneficial interest rule is in effect for the 2002-year crop. Eligible producers who lost beneficial interest before Oct. 11, 2002, are eligible to request

a loan deficiency payment on the date beneficial interest was lost. Requests for this special exception must be submitted no later than March 31.

The wool or mohair must be produced and shorn from live animals of domestic origin in the United States and be of merchantable quality.

Graded wool will be converted from a greasy basis to a clean basis to determine the quantity eligible for loan or loan deficiency payment. The net quantity of wool will be converted using the Schlumberger Estimated Commercial Top and Noil Yield obtained from the core test.

Producers can contact the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency office in St. Francis for more information.



PHEASANT HUNTING has not been as good as in years past in Cheyenne County.

Biologist talks about best time to stock pheasants for hunting

By Leonard Hooper, District Wildlife Biologist

In the middle ages it was believed that bloodletting, or draining some of your blood, could cure many illnesses. If you had a fever, for example, you could go to the barber, sometimes called barber-surgeon, and you held on to a pole as he cut the veins in your arms to let blood for curing your illness. This is where the red and white stripes of the barber pole originated. We look at this today and think how ridiculous that people could believe that.

You are probably asking what does this have to do with anything. Well nothing, except that this ancient practice came to mind when someone said to me: "We need to stock pheasants in the springtime so they will have time to nest and grow before next fall. Then we will have pheasants to hunt." This is a very common suggestion when pheasant numbers are low.

In the early 1900s it was believed that if you didn't have pheasants and quail all you need to do is to stock them. We have learned through years of stocking, and many scientific studies that if you

don't have the habitat for them they will not survive and you will only feed the predators. If you have wild birds already there then putting pen-reared birds into existing habitat does not add to the numbers in the fall.

It should be no revelation to anyone that the past three years of drought has been hard on everyone, including pheasants, and the pheasant numbers have taken a nose dive. We are at the mercy of Mother Nature. If she doesn't let us have rain to grow crops, and pheasant habitat, then pheasant numbers will continue to be low. If you want to stock pheasants, then immediately go hunt them. Stocking pheasants into non-existing habitat with the hopes of improving wild numbers, well, you would be better off saving your money.

Some people say we need to close the season. This would do nothing to improve the numbers in the fall. Again studies have shown that closing the season would do little if anything to improve pheasant numbers. Many pheasant hunters did not even go out hunting this fall because they knew there weren't many pheasants

to hunt. Many who did go out found they had to walk too far to shoot a pheasant and went home. I know there are a few diehards that will be out there many days of the season, but the vast majority of hunters will give it up early. Pheasants only live in the wild for about a year, some longer, many a lot less but the average is 8-12 months, so the pheasants we have today will not be the same pheasants this time next year. They cannot be stockpiled.

What can we do about pheasant numbers? In the short run, pray for rain. In the long run, keep focused on improving habitat, work to provide winter cover, nesting and brood rearing cover. Planting trees and shrubs is good but it does not effect the overall population like large scale programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program. I wonder what the pheasant population would be without Conservation Reserve Program. Continue to support programs and lobbying efforts to expand and improve Conservation Reserve Program. Support education and information efforts to get the word out on new research about farming practices that are beneficial to the farmer and wildlife. There are many things that can be done. Let's not waste time and money on practices that have proven over many years to be ineffective.

Pheasants Forever Chapters that enter into a stocking program would be in jeopardy of losing their charter or recognition as a Pheasants Forever Chapter. Stocking to improve wild bird population numbers should be relegated to history with practices and beliefs like bloodletting, the earth is flat, and the sun revolves around the earth. We know better now.

lated practices; and, delegating Environmental Quality Incentives Program administration to the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

"Conservation incentive programs for working lands, in combination with technical assistance, help reduce the regulatory burden on farmers and ranchers," State Conservationist Klaege said. "We hope potential Environmental Quality Incentives Program participants will take time to comment on the proposed rules to ensure they are producer-friendly and will achieve the intended results of these programs."

Comments on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program proposal will be accepted for 30 days after publication or until March 12. Additional information on Environmental Quality Incentives Program is on the Web <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/index.html> then scroll down to "http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/%20" (Proposed Rule for Environmental Quality Incentives Program Available for Public Comment) and click on the links listed for more information.

Environmental proposed program rule needs comments

The proposed rule for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), reauthorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, was published in the Federal Register for comment on Feb. 10, according to Harold L. Klaege, state conservationist for the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This will allow farmers and ranchers to use program funding in the coming year.

Highlights of the revised Environmental Quality Incentives Program proposal include:

- reducing in the amount of planning requirements needed to develop a contract;
- providing up to 90 percent cost share for limited resource and beginning producers;
- providing livestock producers with cost-share assistance for waste storage facilities regardless of size, but must develop and implement a comprehensive nutrient management plan;
- allowing producers to have more than one contract per tract at any given time;
- allocating 60 percent of Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds toward livestock re-



Grace Lauren Wilson

Introducing

Loren and Malinda Wilson of rural Pottawatomie County are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Grace Lauren Elise Wilson on June 21, 2002, in Manhattan. The little miss weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. She was welcomed home by brothers Garret and Stuart and sister Madeline.

Grace is the granddaughter of Gene and Christine Wilson of Harper and L.A. and Kay Bunjes of St. Francis.

Bird City News

Sharon King, Marsha Batt and Doug and Walde Hempler were Saturday evening dinner guests of Keith and Hilda Dorsch.



Honor Roll

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Tonya Gienger, Bird City; Don Cress, Bird City

Lady Cougars play like they're going to regionals

Cheylin 55 - Healy 23

The Lady Cougars played just like a team cruising into the Regionals should. Amanda Banister scored a season high 18 points as each team mate seemed to make baskets at will.

"We had really good defense," said Coach Dennis Hengen. The Healy girls had to fight for points scoring in the double digits only one

period. Hollie Louderbaugh led with 14 takeaways.

Going into the Regionals this team looks solid.

Coach Hengen said, "I'm really pleased with how the season is coming together. The girls are showing good timing to get their act together."

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South of McDonald By Sandy Binning

Cheryl and Jim Banister visited Ty and Teryn Carmichael in Bird City Saturday afternoon.

Aaron and Lacy Sramek and children were Saturday afternoon and supper guests of Lee and Pam Vyzourek.

Jerry, Sandy and John Binning traveled to Lakin Saturday morning to watch Robert participate in the 3-2-1A Wrestling Tournament.

John Simmonds was a Saturday overnight guest of David Banister.

Lavern and Bethel Golt traveled to Wichita last Saturday and stayed until Thursday. Going and coming, they stopped in Haviland to visit with the Waters family. Lavern and Bethel had a pleasant surprise when they arrived in Wichita. Their sons, David and Alan of New York had flown in for

a family visit. The Waters family joined them all at the Matt Golt home. David and Alan flew back to New York Sunday.

Bowling News

Ladies Nite Out 2/13

Team standings: First National Bank 17-6; Great Plains Co-op 16-7; Wright Carpet 16-8; Jake's 15-8; Troy's Alley Cat 12-12; Cheyenne Bowl 7-16; Jersey Maids 6-18; Dundy Ag 5-19.

High game (scratch): Nancy Vernon 196, Alberta Peterson 194, Jenny Wright 192

High series (scratch): Vernon 527, Theresa Livingston 515, Jenny Wright 513

Congratulations Queen Of Courts



Back row, left to right: Annie Hengen, Andy Smith, Kelly Garner, Jason Williams, Queen of Courts: Stephanie Snyder and Matt Wilson, Hollie Louderbaugh, Michael Sager, Samantha Jensen and Zachery Linin; front row: Shayla Hubbard, Shayna Johnson, Eddie Frisbie, Jeffrey Richmeier, Casey Vandike and Connor Hazuka.

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