

Program approves grazing/haying

Cheyenne County has been approved for emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage by the Kansas Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Committee, beginning July 16, with a 25-percent payment reduction on acres hayed or grazed.

"Due to multiple years of drought and concerns for long term negative impacts to the sustainability of grass, all 2013 emergency activity shall be limited to specific acreage that was NOT utilized for emergency or managed Conservation Reserve Program haying or grazing in 2011 and 2012," said Alicia Davison, county executive director.

- Obtain a modified conservation plan (CPO) from the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office.
- Before grazing is approved obtain a 'forage management plan' from Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

Emergency haying is restricted to 50 percent of each field or contiguous field. Haying must be completed by Aug. 15, with hay bales removed from the acreage by Sept. 15.

Emergency grazing requests end the earlier of: 1) Sept. 30, or 2) when the minimum average height of the grass reaches 5 inches.

Program acres planted to practice CP25 'Rare and Declining Habitat' has not been released for either emergency haying or grazing. The Kansas Farm Service Agency State Committee does not have authority to release CP25 acreage, but they have requested release from the Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs in Washington, D.C.

Before emergency haying or grazing begins:

- All participants on the Conservation Reserve Program contract must sign the "Terms and Conditions for Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program Acreage" at the local Farm Service Agency office.

Program participants who do not own or lease livestock, may rent or lease the emergency haying or grazing privilege to an eligible livestock producer. Anyone leasing Conservation Reserve Program haying and grazing rights must sign a statement at the Farm Service Agency office before haying and grazing occurs. A copy of the Farm Service Agency approval will be given to the program contract holder and to the person leasing the rights.

Whether it's the Conservation Reserve Program participant, or someone leasing the haying rights, any hay harvested from these acres cannot be sold, but must be used only by the livestock producer harvesting it.



ROAD WORK has started on Highway 36 between St. Francis and Bird City.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Across the County

By **Marty Fear**
County Extension Agent

Take Steps to Reduce Heat Stress in Cattle

Hollis, veterinarian, Kansas State University, citing the quick wide temperature and humidity swings that can happen in the central High Plains.

"United States Department of Agriculture has information including forecast maps that show geographically, where it expects the heat to cause problems," said Hollis, who is a beef cattle veterinarian.

"United States Department of Agriculture has information including forecast maps that show geographically, where it expects the heat to cause problems."

See the maps at <http://1.usa.gov/14KSLg2>. The website takes into account weather parameters that influence livestock comfort or stress, including temperature, wind speed, humidity and solar radiation. The site also includes a breathing equation that producers, feedlot managers and others can use to evaluate their animals.

"Cattle don't have the ability to sweat like we do," Hollis said. "Instead they'll start panting."

The site has information to help producers gauge cattle heat

stress by how many breaths an animal will take per minute. If an animal is taking less than 90 breaths per minute, the rate is considered "normal." A rate of 90-110 breaths per minute indicates "alert," 110-130 indicates "danger," and above 130 breaths per minute indicates "emergency."

"If you see them in the morning and they're already over 100 breaths/minute, you know it will likely get worse as the day goes on," Hollis said. "We can't control the temperature or humidity, but we can control some things."

- He outlined several steps.
- Provide cool drinking water. There is a difference between water heated by the sun all day and cool water.
- Make sure there is ample space around the drinking source, so cattle don't bunch up as they are accessing the water.
- Provide shade – whether it is moving animals to a different pasture with more trees or stretching a screen over pens.
- Remove anything that impedes airflow. Do not pen

cattle near windbreaks. Mow weeds if they are tall enough to function as a windbreak. If there are mounds, cattle will use them to try to catch a breeze.

• Control flies. Cattle will come together to help each other deflect flies but air circulation is impeded when they bunch up, so controlling flies helps with controlling heat stress.

• If handling cattle, do it early in the day. Have all work done by 10 a.m.

• Where possible, use sprinklers, but do not use mist. Mist raises humidity, which adds to stress. Instead, use a system that dispenses large droplets.

"At the end of the day, cattle that are not alive don't do us much good. When we have performance losses, that's one thing, but when your animals don't survive, that's not a good situation at all," Hollis said.

Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu with questions or comments. Till next week - Marty

Energy assistance is available

Kansans with low income will have a little extra help paying their utility bills this summer, thanks to the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP).

"The summer heat can take a dangerous toll on our most vulnerable populations," Secretary Phyllis Gilmore said. "This extra assistance will help keep Kansans safe from extreme heat."

The program provides an annual benefit to help qualifying households pay winter heating bills. People with disabilities,

older adults and families with children are the primary groups assisted. In the winter of 2013, nearly 48,000 households received an average benefit of \$386.

This year, funding is available to provide an additional benefit to those households for energy costs. This is not a new application period. Households that applied and received a benefit during the regular application period will automatically be issued a supplemental benefit of approximately \$103, bringing the average benefit for the year to

almost \$490. The supplemental funds are in the process of being dispersed.

Funding for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program is provided by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Service through the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

For more information on the assistance program, call 1-800-432-0043 or 1-800-432-0043 toll free.

Swim team travels to meet

On Saturday, July 13, swimmers traveled to Lexington, Neb., for the week seven, championship swim meet. Swimmers who qualified for this meet were Andrew Schields, John Serrano, and Jacob Serrano.

Andrew Schields placed fifth in the 100m freestyle with a time of 1:16.18 seconds, fifth in the 25m butterfly with a time of 27.03 seconds, ninth in the 50m freestyle with a time of 48.18 seconds, and 10th in the 25m freestyle with a time of 21.69 seconds.

John Serrano placed third in the 50m freestyle with a time of 48.94 seconds, third in the 25m backstroke with a time of 28.32 seconds and fourth in the 25m freestyle with a time of 22.19 seconds.

Jacob Serrano placed sixth in the 50m backstroke with a time of 55.12 seconds.

Congratulations to these swimmers who worked so hard and placed well at the League Meet.



A Tribute to Rex Smith
37 years as owner of B's Pump & Well Service

B's Pump and Well Service would like to thank you for your continued business! Rex Smith has invested over 37 years, making B's Pump and Well Service the place to go for your irrigation, domestic, windmill, and stock wells, along with turbine pump repairs, municipalities, gear heads & cooling coil needs.

We want to assure all of our customers B's Pump and Well Service will continue with the same great service, as Rex's brother Dale Smith will manage the day to day operations and Colleen will continue to run the office.

B's Pump & Well Service
6410 Road 16, Goodland, KS • Phone: 785-899-6302

Thank you for your business, and your continued support!

It's Almost That Time Again —

Booster Sponsors

Your name or business will be acknowledged every time we run a Booster Ad, and by being a Booster Sponsor you will be helping to promote school activities & feature team photos throughout the school year!

Kids —

You take care of the grades — and we'll take care of the memories!



*For more details, contact
Tim Burr
at 785-332-3162*

**The Saint Francis Herald
Bird City Times**

<h3>Business Directory</h3> <p>To list your business, call 785-332-3162.</p>	
<p>The Saint Francis Herald Bird City Times Advertising Manager Tim Burr tburr@nwkansan.com</p> <p>Phone 719-761-6238 785-332-3162 PO Box 1050 785-332-3001 (fax) St. Francis, KS 67756 sf.herald@nwkansan.com</p>	<p>Jensen's</p> <p>Kay Jensen – Owner 785-332-2317</p> <p>Pete Jensen – Salesperson 785-332-8215</p> <p>Box 281 - St. Francis, KS <i>Call us for monuments to honor your loved one</i></p>
<p>Howards Tri State Construction</p> <p>• Dry wall • Painting • Carpentry • Roofing • Tile Work • Insulation • Garages • Additions • Basements New or remodel. We do it all! Free estimates! Jason 1-970-630-9051 Travis 1-970-630-5122</p>	<p>St. Francis Mercantile Equity Exchange</p> <p>Doug Ross Grain Originator-Sales Cell-785-332-4976 rossdoug83@gmail.com</p> <p>1-800-295-2113 Toll Free 785-332-2113 Main Office & Grain 785-332-2421 Station, Bulk Fuels, LP 785-332-2129 Fertilizer, Feed, Chemicals, Seed 308-297-3223 Halgler Branch 785-332-3450 Fax</p> <p>123 N. River St. • St. Francis, Kansas 67756</p>