Achieve organic certification with available cost-share funds

use organic production practices or would like to pursue organic certification are encouraged to apply for cost share funds from the Kansas Department of Agri-

The program, funded by the 2014 Farm Bill, is administered through the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. The program is intended to assist Kansas farmers by offsetting costs associated with organic certificastate's agreement with USDA, they are eligible for up to 75 percent of the cost of their organic certification, up to \$750,

2014, as long as funds remain.

for farmers to achieve this certification at a reduced cost," said Annarose Hart, marketing spe- documents, the department will cialist with the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

To receive cost share funds, Kansas organic farmers and handlers must complete the Organic Certification Cost Share Program Application, and submit it along with a copy of the tion or recertification. Under the organic certification document, posted on the Kansas Departan invoice showing the amount ment of Agriculture's website, paid for that certification and a

The Kansas Department of for program updates. for certification occurring be- Agriculture was allocated near-

written in Kansas for the previ-

ous calendar year. It is collected

fighters Relief Associations, as

Also, the Kansas State Fire-

fighters Association is receiving

and research purposes and to

death benefit fund. These funds

also come from the insurance

company premium assessment.

cational purposes and research

into fire prevention and fire-

fighting, and \$100,000 is used

to replenish the death benefit

fighters as a result of firefight-

ing-related injuries or disability,

and nearly \$237,000 went to de-

Nearly \$1.26 million in ben-

Of the state association total, \$379,095 is earmarked for edu-

set in Kansas law.

Fire departments receive funds to help in case of tragedy

Kansas Insurance Commis- a two percent tax paid by insioner Sandy Praeger is cur- surance companies on fire and rently making the annual funds lightning insurance premiums distribution to state and local firefighter relief organizations.

Nearly \$12 million will be by the department, on behalf of distributed among 569 local the Kansas Firefighter Relief Firefighters Relief Associations Act, and passed on to the Fireacross the state. That is nearly \$342,000 more than the 2013

Cheyenne County, \$20,285.48 will be distributed. \$479,095 this year for education Some other local county distributions include Rawlins county, help fund the state association's that will receive \$17,670.57, and Sherman county, that will receive \$27,899.47.

"This fund assists firefighters and their families when an accident or death occurs in the line of duty," Commissioner Praeger said. "We in the Kansas Insurance Department are honored to assist in its distribution."

The local association funds are used for purchasing accident efits was paid in 2013 to fireand health, disability, and life insurance premiums to assist firefighters and their families.

The money is generated by pendents of firefighters.

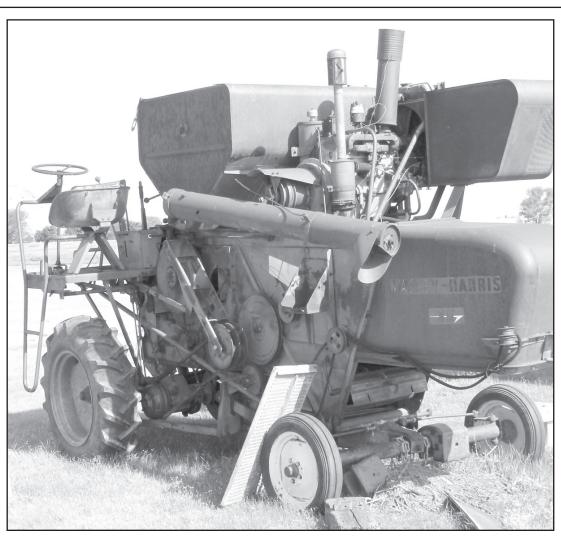
Kansas farmers who currently tween Oct. 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, ly \$73,000 in funds for the cost share program for farms certi-"This is a great opportunity fied between Oct. 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2014.

> Upon receipt of cost share confirm certification and then provide reimbursement. Based on the receipt of the completed application packet, reimbursements will be on a first-come, first-served basis until the limited program funds are exhausted.

The program application is Organic Cost Share Program. The site is also a great resource

Questions about cost-share funds for organic certification may be directed to Josh Roe at (785) 564-6707 or Annarose Hart at (785) 564-6755 or by email to Annarose.Hart@kda.

Information is also available from the National Organic Program website at http://www. ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/nop.



THRESHER COMBINE sitting out. Antique steam engines and tractors have begun to show up in preparation for the Antique Steam Engine and Thresher Show.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Cheylin summer programs coming to an end!



Cheylin Swim Team (I to r): Swim Team Coach, Mary Anne Orten; Brooke Porubsky; Briana Vandike; John Serrano; Isabelle Gabaldon; Emily Serrano.



Cheylin C-Team Baseball (Front row - 1 to r) - Mitchell Howard, Ty Sabatka, Keigan Taylor, Logan McCarty, John Serrano, Dylan Ketzner; middle row - Andrew Schields, Luis Reynoso, Miguel Gonzalez, Jake DeLaRosa, Grace Sabatka, Colton McCarty; back row - Head coach Kale Schields, assistant coaches: Kasey Sabatka, Harvey DeLaRosa, Mike McCarty. Photos courtesy of Darci Schields

ing the piano during the July senior birthday celebra-Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

SHARON SCHURICHT entertained everyone by play-

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