

County looks at recycling

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

If Norton County ever gets its landfill the commissioners want to make sure it's used as little as possible.

At their meeting Monday, commissioners talked to Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald about recycling. The county has a program for cardboard, paper, plastic, glass and aluminum and tin cans.

Mr. Archibald said that the county has a volunteer recycling program using blue bags which are left at the curbside. If people can't find blue bags, he said, clear bags are also acceptable.

However, he said, trash gets mixed with the recyclables.

"We don't want any contaminated stuff," he said. "If a bag has trash in it, it goes in the back of the truck."

Some cities, he said, give residents a 33 gallon bag for each week's trash plus all the recycling bags they want. If a resident needs more trash bags they have to go buy more at the city office. Those bags are marked "paid," and the trash crews will only pick up one free bag a week plus paid bags.

County Attorney Doug Sebelius disagreed with Mr. Archibald saying that the county passed a resolution requiring its citizens to recycle.

The rule was passed, he said, when the county had an incinerator.

The commissioners asked Mr. Archibald to come up with a workable program. Commissioner John Miller suggested that the county may need to buy the recycling bags and give them to people.

"Figure out how you are going to protect what you have (a landfill)," Mr. Miller said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Alvin Mapes is planning to hold a meeting with cattlemen at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 1, at the Norton 4-H Building to talk about what is required if there is a large, unexpected die-off of cattle or hogs.

- Learned that Mr. Mapes is planning to hold a tornado drill sometimes around the end of March. Before that he hopes to get together with the heads of the agencies involved to plan the exercise.

- Talked to Gene Schemper, a farmer and rancher from near Densmore, about thistles growing in pastures near his property.

Mr. Schemper brought in pictures he took at the end of July of thistles in pastures.

"I've got 130 acres of CRP grass," Mr. Schemper said. "If I get spot checked and lose my contract, who am I going to sue, because I'm going to sue someone."

- Asked Noxious Weed Supervisor Reggie Beckman about Mr. Schemper's problem. Mr. Beckman said that although many landowners spray they don't do a good job and they don't keep with the program.

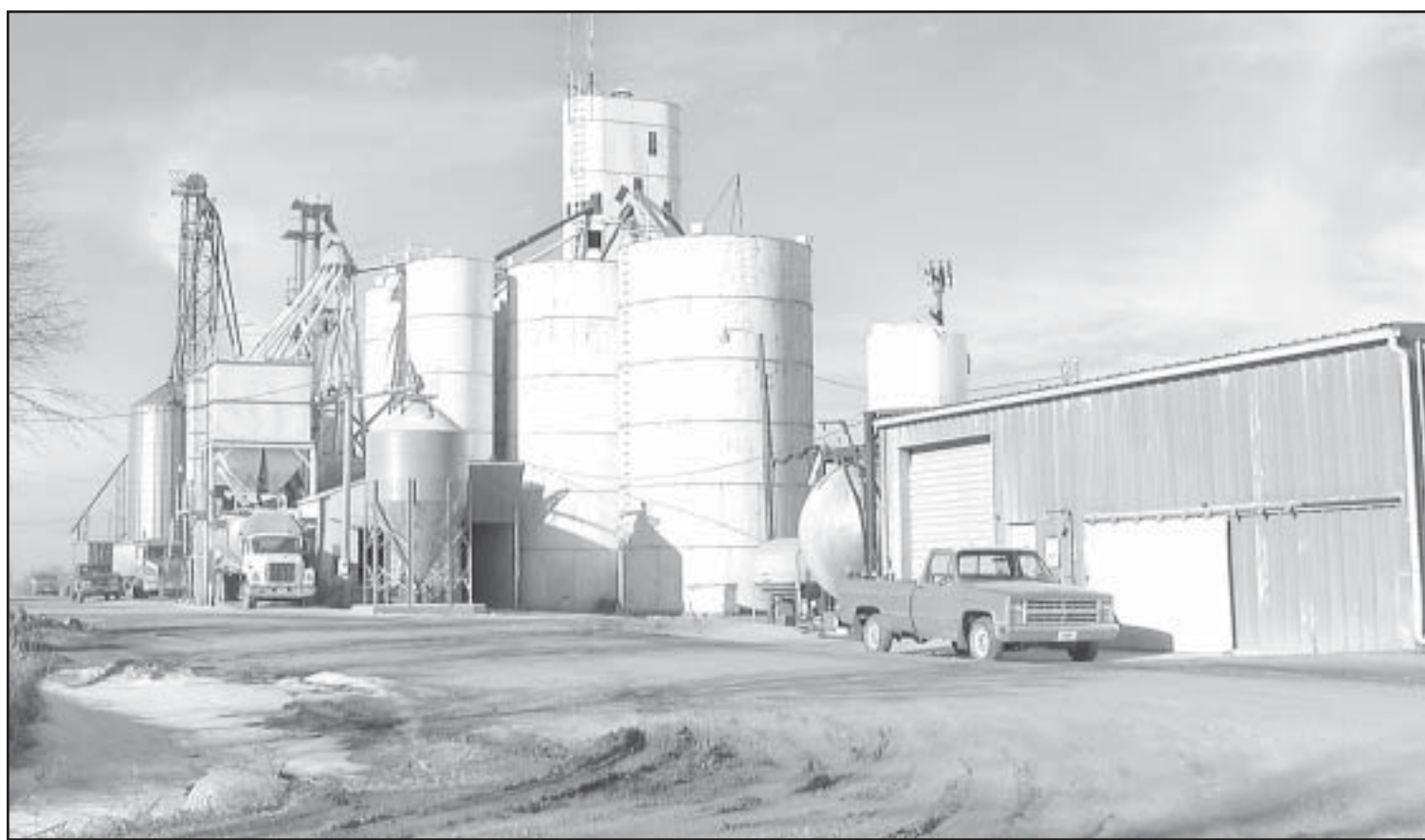
- Discussed how the county could pay for an economic development director and whether the county should find someone by itself or go in with another group, such as the City of Norton.

- Received an estimate of \$1,803.40 to repair the hospital's ambulance bay entrance door after the ambulance backed into it last Monday while delivering a patient. A second estimate of \$532 was given for a door on the ambulance barn, which was damaged by a unit being delivered back from a service job.

- Heard from Emergency Medical Technician and acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen that the crews had had two bad accidents to cover last Tuesday.

The first was a vehicle accident at U.S. 36 and U.S. 383.

The second was when a Colby High basketball player went through a window at the Norton High School gym. The young man cut an artery in his arm and ambulance attendants had to transport him to Kearney with workers keeping pressure on the wound to staunch the flow of blood and keeping track of his blood pressure, temperature and heart rate.



The Norcatur Grain elevator can be seen for miles across the prairie. The company and elevator has been sold recently but is still open for business.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Norcatur elevator is sold

A group of area farmers purchased stock in Norcatur Grain from long-time owner Bob Rapp recently, but the elevator is still open for business.

Glenn Strevey, one of the investors, said that some of the stockholders for the business have changed.

He said the business has been around for 100 years and it is going to stay open. It is business as it has always been, he said, although there is reorganization going on. Mr. Strevey would only say that there haven't been any major shake ups.

He said the former owner, Mr. Rapp, has moved to Manhattan.

Radon kits available for homes

A radon awareness grant, which allows for the purchase of 50 test kits, has been awarded to the Norton County Extension Council.

The grant was made possible by the Kansas Radon Program, which is administered by Kansas State University.

The test kits are designed to give home owners knowledge of the presence of radon in their residences. The kits will be available through the Extension Office for \$2 each until the 50 grant-provided ones are all gone. Then the price of the test kits will go back to the regular price.

Radon is an invisible, colorless, tasteless, and odorless naturally occurring radioactive gas. It occurs from the natural breakdown

Home ed
Tranda Watts,
Extension
specialist



of uranium in the soil. It gets into homes, schools and other buildings because of the difference in air pressure in the soil compared to the pressure inside buildings.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in Americans after tobacco smoke. About 14,000 deaths from lung cancer caused by radon occur each year. The combined effect of radon and tobacco smoke is particularly

harmful.

High radon test level have been found in homes all across the country. In Northwest Kansas there have been numerous reports of homes with unsafe levels of radon.

The only way home owners can know whether the radon level in their home is dangerous or safe is to test.

If you are interested in testing your home, contact the Norton County Extension Council. Stop by the office at the courthouse and pick up your test kit and the instructions for its use. If you have further questions, you may e-mail me at twatts@ozonet.ksu.edu or phone me at (785) 443-3663.

Norton County Land for Sale:

320 Acres Pasture, located from Norton, 11 miles west, 6 miles north, and 1/2 mile east to the northwest corner of the property. Legal: E1/2, 1-2-25. This pasture has 2 wells (1 solar pump, and 1 electric cattle waterer) and 1 pit. It has good 4 wire fence and has been well maintained.

For More Information or a Tour of this Property, Contact Monte Jessup at—

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