

# Incentive program told

March 4, has been set as the cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Organic Initiative, according to State Conservationist Eric B. Banks of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Kansas farmers who are transitioning to organic agriculture or who are currently certified organic may apply for financial assistance through the program to meet their conservation goals. They can receive up to \$20,000 per year or \$80,000 over six years. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service in Kansas, which administers the program, is setting aside a separate pool of \$1.4 million Environment Quality Incentives Program money to help Kansas organic farmers and those that are transitioning to organic production.

"The Environment Quality Incentive Program has always been available for organic producers to treat resource concerns on their land," said Mr. Banks, "but the 2008 Farm Bill allows for dedicated funds to be set aside to assist organic producers. Hopefully, with the specific program's funding for the Organic Initiative, Kansas will have more organic crop acres enrolled across the state."

Applications for the program's Organic Initiative are taken continuously throughout the year, but to be considered for Fiscal Year 2011 funding with the Initiative, producers need to have an application signed and returned to their local Natural Resources Conservation Service office by March 4.

A number of conservation practices may be funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program organic ranking category, including cover crops, crop rotations, fencing and watering for rotational grazing, pest management, and field borders. A conservation practice added in Fiscal Year 2010 was for the establishment of a high tunnel. Producers who qualify could receive financial assistance for one high tunnel.

A fact sheet on Environmental Quality Incentives Program Organic is available at [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs).

Some participants are eligible to receive a higher payment rate; those are limited resource farmers, beginning farmers, and socially disadvantaged groups. For more

information go to [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SLB\\_Farmer/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SLB_Farmer/). Visit your local Department of Agriculture Service Center and talk to the Natural Resources Conservation Service office staff about the details the Environmental Quality Incentives

Program Organic Initiative, conservation planning, and other programs to help you protect your farm. For more information about the program, go to <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/> and click on Kansas 2011 EQIP information.

# Girl Scout cookie sales begins soon

Girl Scouts across 80 Kansas counties including those in St. Francis are gearing up for the cookie sale that begins Jan. 22, and runs through March 13. The cookie sale is a highly anticipated community event, with Girl Scouts attempting to reach sales goals to attend camps/events and the public eagerly awaiting their favorite sweets.

Eight varieties of cookies are available. New this year are the Shout Outs, a caramelized shortbread cookie with inspirational phrases such as Believe, Create and Lead.

Another change customers may notice is a new package for Thanks-A-Lot cookies. By eliminating the carton, more than 150 tons of paperboard will be kept out of the waste stream enough to fill 14 garbage trucks!

Proceeds from the cookie sale are used to benefit local girls, helping them pay for summer camp experiences, purchase uniforms and much more. The sale also funds programs and services throughout the year and ensures that Girl Scouting will be available in the future.

For more than 90 years the Girl Scout Cookie Program has helped

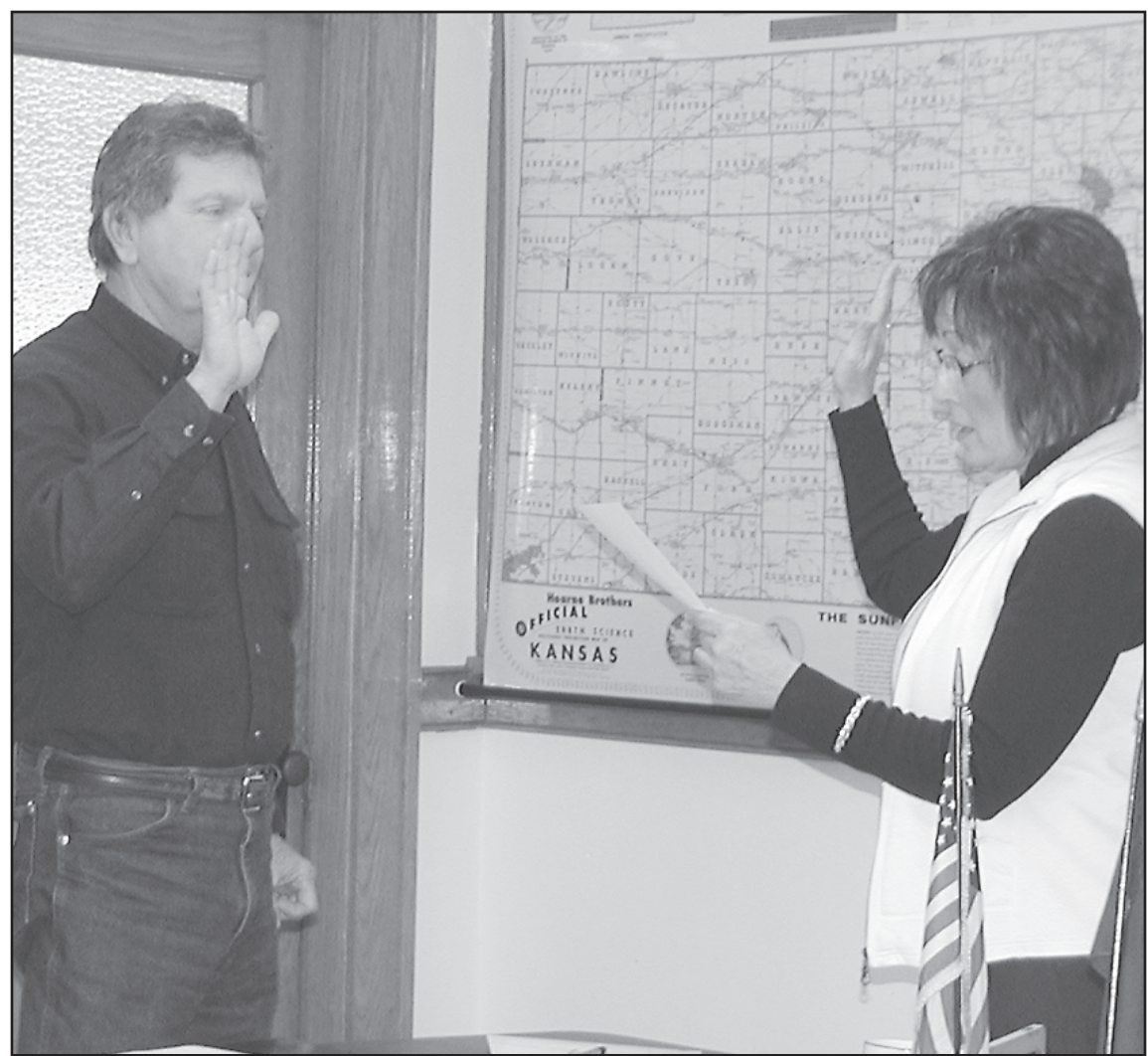
girls foster a sense of personal and collective empowerment by promoting skills they will use throughout their lives. Through this annual activity, girls ages 5 to 17 learn how to set goals, develop action plans, work as a team and cultivate a sense of business ethics and most of all, have fun!

### Cookie kickoff

For Girl Scouts who want to start their cookie sale off with a bang, Girl Scout of Kansas Heartland will be hosting cookie kickoff events around the council. The kickoffs are not only a fun way to celebrate cookie time; they're also a great way to increase sales. Girl Scouts who attend a kickoff event have been shown to sell more boxes of cookies than those who don't.

The St. Francis cookie kickoff will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 21, at the Scout Hut.

Girl Scouts will soon be making their way around the community. People can also call the Cookie Hotline at 888-686-MINT to get in touch with Girl Scout troops in their neighborhoods to buy cookies or visit [kansasgirlscouts.org](http://kansasgirlscouts.org) for more information.



**SWEARING IN — Deb Lindsten (r) swears in Ernie Ketzner, county commissioner District 1, for another term.**  
*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

# Department heads commended

By Karen Krien

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"Some of the department heads were present at the Monday Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Dale Patton said he wanted to personally thank them for their efforts in difficult times.

You ratched your budgets back and it was appreciated, he said. The coming year may not look any better than last year and there will be challenges.

He asked them to think about what their priorities are for this year and how the commissioners can help them. He also asked them to think about how they can help the commissioners make better decisions.

"We are starting the new year off on a positive note — we are a

team," he said. "Think about how we will be able to help you in your department and you will be called back one on one to discuss your plans.

"We will try to let you know what direction the county is headed and, if things get worse, how can we save money. If there is money, we will need to know what to prioritize."

"You have been patient with us," said Commissioner Ernie Ketzner. "It was a tough year and I'm sure things will turn around. We need to keep our cool and communicate — we will get through this!"

They will be thanking all department heads personally.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, reported that the new Computer Information Concepts program is terrible — hard to read.

Mary Morrow, register of deeds, agreed that felt like more training was needed. Deb Lindsten, deputy clerk, said that now that they have been working in the new system, there are a few questions and it would be good to know how the different offices work and how the transitions need to be done.

### In other business

In other business:

- Justin Lohr, noxious weed supervisor, had a contract for treating noxious weeds on state highway right of ways. The commissioners signed the contract. Mr. Lohr talked about the treatment of prairie dogs and some the regulations.

He was approved to go to several meetings.

- Deputy clerk Lindsten administered the oath of office to Ernie Ketzner, who was re-elected to another four-year term. He was also re-elected as the chairman of the board.

### Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 31, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

# University to host sessions for students

Colby is one of the stops where the Fort Hays State University's Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science will host an information sessions for potential students. This program offers high school juniors and seniors, who excel in science and math, the

opportunity to get a head start on their college education.

The stop in Colby will be at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 24, at the Pioneer Memorial Library.

To register for the sessions, go to [www.fhsu.edu/kams](http://www.fhsu.edu/kams) or call (785) 628-4690.



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**NO sale Tuesday, Jan. 11 due to snow, ice and weather. All cattle consigned for Jan. 11 special sale will be here next week, Jan. 18. Expecting 1500 hd. plus. To consign, call 1970-332-4873**

**Tuesday, Jan. 26: Special Bred Heifer and Stock Cow Sale with regular sale.**

**SOUP SUPPER**


*Sponsored by the Free Style Wrestling Club*

**Friday, Jan. 14**  
Serving from 5:30 - 8 p.m.

During the St. Francis vs. Oakley Basketball game



Fifth Street Apartments in Bird City, Kansas, have 2-bedroom duplex apartments for rent. We are offering free cable television for one year to new tenants. Applicants must income qualify for this property. For more information and an application you may contact N.W. Kansas Housing, Inc. at 785-421-2151 or pick up an application at Century II in Bird City.



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**Wray Community District Hospital**

is proud to continue our work with Dr. Thomas Lininger since July of 1990. Dr. Lininger is active in outreach programs across Northeastern Colorado and visits Wray every third Monday evening. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1972. Dr. Lininger completed his Residency in Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota with a Fellow in Medical Oncology. He established his private practice in 1990, specializing in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology at The Greeley Medical Clinic, PC. Dr. Lininger is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Internal Medicine Medical Oncology. Appointments for his visits in Wray can be scheduled by calling Liz Gillham, Outpatient Clinic Coordinator at Wray Community District Hospital (970) 332-2225.



**Dr. Lininger**