

Plans made for repairs needed at fairgrounds

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

The Thursday Cheyenne County Fair Board meeting found members making plans for repairs at the fairgrounds.

The Cleveland Run township had given \$6,200 and it will be used for running cement, repairing the livestock scale and replacing some doors. Mark Mills said Mills Ranch would donate the bars and head unit.

There was a great deal of discussion concerning the garage door by the sale ring. Water has a tendency to leak in that area. They discussed different ways of solving the problem including taking out the garage door and replacing it with a walk-in door. The final decision was to let board members, Drew Flemming and Clay Zimbleman, use their best judgement to fix the problem.

While the fair is several months away, Marty Fear, county agent, reminded them that the Spring Livestock Show was May 28.

Dick Bursch, board president, said he would like to see turbine ventilation on top of the livestock barns. Board member, John Finley, reported repairs needed to be made on the cap of the furnace on the outside of the exhibit building. He also said that the cap is off the Lawn Ridge grill vent. He will take care of getting someone to make the repairs.

Mr. Bursch reported that Ed Marin said he had checked the water shut off for the 4-H kitchen and, twice, he had found the

water had been turned on. Once, he found the lock had been cut off with bolt cutters. He said the kitchen had been winterized in the fall but he would still take care of any damage.

Mr. Finley said he would try to check the shut offs after it is winterized in the fall. Mr. Bursch said the 4-H'ers and parents needed to be responsible for winterizing the kitchens.

Karol Lohman, board member, said she had received complaints about not having a light switch in the main room of the fair building. Members agreed that this is a problem and it would be good to have a more convenient switch. Mr. Bursch suggested that a plug in with an emergency light also be installed in the north end of the building. Mr. Flemming will talk to someone about getting the work done.

At the last meeting, Mr. Fear reported that more pen room is needed for the goats. The board discussed moving the poultry and rabbits into Jenkins Hall but, they decided that the poultry and rabbits could be moved on one side and the goat pens could be built on the other side. Mr. Fear said that he would check the number of goats enrolled but he thought that this arrangement would work.

Agent's report

Agent Fear said the 4-H horse leaders have asked to use the arena for practice on June 5, 12 and 26. The 4-H horse show will be held July 17.

In year's past, photos have

been taken of the 4-H'ers with their premium sale livestock and/or items. There had been complaints that it was holding up the sale, even though the place where the photos were taken was right beside the sale arena.

The board had suggested that the photos be taken earlier in the day. However, those working the sale along with parents did not think this could be organized enough to get all the photos. They asked that the photos be taken before the show on the north side of the livestock barn, starting with the hogs. Anything is worth a try, said Brian Hobrock, board member.

The agent reported that the 4-H Council was not happy about having to pay \$11 for gas to run the furnace during the ATV training. It was pointed out that they were not charged any rent and, earlier, the commissioners had agreed that entities receiving tax dollars would not be charged rent but they did need to pay for gas they used.

Marty had brought samples of the fair books and posters. He had a few questions including what the price would be for the Variety Show. The board agreed tickets would be \$5 for those over 5 years old. He noted that Mr. Flemming and Ashley Lang had sold ads to help pay for the fair book.

Next meeting

The next fair board meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 2, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.



SHELBY CASSAW was a semi-finalist of the 2010-2011 Kansas Letters and Literature essay contest. She was in the top 10 percent of almost 70,000 students nationwide who participated in the contest. She is pictured with teacher, Lisa Gibson.

Field day planned at Manhattan

"The Manhattan Plant Materials Center (PMC) has been 'Delivering Plants with a Purpose' for 75 years, since 1936," said Eric B. Banks, State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"A field day with a tour and breakout sessions is planned to bring awareness of the outstanding Plant Materials Program and its accomplishments."

"To celebrate this anniversary, the center's staff is hosting a field day on Tuesday, June 7," said Richard Wynia, the center's manager. The center is located at 3800 South 20th Street, south of Manhattan.

Mr. Banks and Mr. Wynia invite the public to join Natural Resources Conservation Service in recognizing the center's 75 years of service. The Plant Materials Center is a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"I encourage people to attend so they can see how the center develops plants for a wide range of conservation purposes," said Mr. Wynia. "Those who come to the field day will get to tour the grounds and attend breakout sessions on various plant-related subjects."

The June 7 activities include: 8 to 9 a.m. registration; 9 to 10 a.m. welcome and center overview; 10 a.m. to noon tour; noon to 1 p.m., lunch; 1 to 3 p.m. breakout sessions including Native Grasses, Tree/Shrub Issues, Soils, Forbs/Medicinal Uses and Pollinators.

Reservations for the field day are needed by May 20 and can be made by calling the Plant Materials Center at 785-539-8761. Those wanting to eat the catered lunch

need to indicate that when making reservation. There is a charge. Also, if someone needs special accommodations, that needs to be requested when a reservation is made.

This field day will be conducted outdoors so dress appropriately. Hat, sunscreen, walking shoes, and a lawn chair (if desired) are encouraged.

Established in 1936, the center develops plants and new plant technologies for America's heartland. They offer services to a diverse region of the heartland including northeastern Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and northern Oklahoma. The center is located on sandy loam soil in the Kansas River Valley, southwest of Manhattan. The primary objective of the center is to develop plant

materials for conservation purposes.

Plant and technology-development conservation objectives of the Plant Material Center include water quality improvement, erosion control, range and pasture improvement, Native American outreach, and plant development and production.

For more information about the center, go to the Web site <http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/kspmc/>. A flier about the Field Day Activities at the center is available at <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/news/events.html>. The center's story is told in a short video "Plants with a Purpose" on YouTube.com.

Please plan to attend the Plant Materials Center field day June 7.

Across the County

Beware of 'creeping stocking rates'

By Marty Fear



County Extension Agent

The number of cow-calf pairs placed on a pasture is often determined based on previous experience and/or conventional wisdom.

One of the factors that easily can be overlooked in establishing stocking rates is cow weight. Range scientists typically use a 1,000-pound cow with calf as the base definition of one animal unit and cattlemen often use 1,200 pounds to describe the mature body weight of their cows. However, the average mature weight of cows in the U.S. has changed in the last 20 years. The estimated mature weight of the 1990 U.S. cowherd was 1,228 pounds compared to 1,386 pounds in 2010.

Therefore, using 1,200 pounds for a cow in 1990 was accurate, but today using a weight of 1,350

or 1,400 pounds would be more appropriate. If the total number of animals per unit of land, per month has not been adjusted, then the pounds of animal per unit of land may have increased by about 150 to 200 pounds per animal. This scenario can be referred to as "creeping stocking rate."

For example, a particular pasture supporting 200-cow-calf pairs in 1990, with the cows weighing about 1,200 pounds each, equals a total stocking number of 240,000 pounds. If the number of pairs turned out every spring has not been changed, the actual stocking number today would be 270,000 pounds, an increase of 12.5 percent!

This could have serious implications on long-term forage quality and quantity. To get a comparable stocking rate today

versus 1990, using 1,350-pound cows, only about 178 pairs should be placed on the pasture.

As many producers make plans for the upcoming grazing season, they should weigh a few cows and give this some thought. It may lead to some difficult decisions, but the long-term sustainability of the forage base may depend on it.

Next week I will describe how to figure stocking rates. Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu with questions or comments.

Until next week - Marty

Students compete

Thomas Douthit, Gavin Cooper, Laura Brunk and Allison Grice, members of the St. Francis FFA judging team placed seventh in the state horse judging contest held at the FFA State Contest in Manhattan on Monday, May 2, through Wednesday, May 4.

The same judging team also participated in the livestock judging contest where they placed 31st.

Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library

Miracle on the 17th Green

By James Patterson

Travis McKinley's life has drifted sideways. His job, his marriage, even his children all feel disconnected and distant. Has he really accomplished nothing of consequence in his life? One Christmas Day, Travis plays a

round of golf and finds himself for the first time in the zone—playing like a pro. In astonishingly short order, Travis is catapulted into the PGA Senior Open at Pebble Beach, where he advances to the final round. And while his wife, his children, and a live television audience watch, a miracle takes place that changes Travis, and his family, forever.

Upcoming Land Auction

Thursday, May 26, 2011 * 10 a.m.

Sellers: William W. Cahoj Estate

Sale Location:

Atwood American Legion Hall

Selling 320+ acres

Cropland and Grassland

Legal: North 1/2 of 6-2-33, Rawlins County

Glad Real Estate

Rocky Hayes, Auctioneer

For a sale bill go to our web site @

www.gladrealestate.com

Details call: 785-626-2039 Cell#785-626-4022

Machinery Auction

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 @ 10:30 a.m. CT

Western Auction & Real Estate Auction Lot

W. Hwy 36, St. Francis, Ks

George and Deb Ballinger, Sellers

View our website for recently added items!

Commercial Real Estate Auction

Tues., June 21, 2011

St. Francis Sale Barn, Inc.

Approx. 15 ac. HWY 36 frontage. Details online!

Licensed in Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska for your Real Estate needs!



Skip Petersen, Sales Agent & Auctioneer - 785.332.8221
Robin A. Petersen, Assoc. Broker, Auctioneer - 785.332.5586
Brett Petersen, KS Sales Agent & Auctioneer
Gary L. Wickwar, Ks Sales Agent
W. Hwy. 36 ~ P.O. Box 928
St. Francis, Kansas 67756 ~ 785.332.8990
Betty L. Petersen, Broker

BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

To list your business drop us a card!
Call 785-332-3162 today.

Stafford's Electric & More

Small Electric, Small Plumbing



Lawn Sprinkler Repair & Maintenance

Over 15 years experience

Call Mike Stafford 785-332-3314

The Saint Francis Herald Bird City Times

Advertising Manager

Anita Schmid

aschmid@nwkansas.com

Phone 719-761-6238

785-332-3162

PO Box 1050

785-332-3001 (fax)

St. Francis, KS 67756

sf.herald@nwkansas.com

Howards Tri State Construction

>Drywall >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



THE CLASSIC ROSE FLORIST

116 W. Washington Street

Saint Francis, Kansas 67756

Phone: 785-332-2200

Toll Free: 855-700-ROSE (7673)

We are here to help with all your floral needs!

www.TheClassicRose.com

RoseMary@TheClassicRose.com