

Ford scholarship available to kids

Yost Ford is joining Ford Motor Company in its ongoing commitment to the National FFA.

Ford has committed to a 15th year of the Built Ford Tough – FFA collegiate scholarship program, said Scott Knebel, Yost Ford sales manager. The program will award \$1,000 scholarships to hundreds of FFA members, each co-sponsored by Ford dealers like Yost Ford.

The Ford company has supported the National FFA since the first F-Series truck was introduced in 1948 and has sponsored the Built Ford Tough collegiate scholarship program since 1997. The program, equally funded by Ford Motor Company and Ford dealers, has awarded almost \$6.5 million in scholarships to FFA members.

Yost Ford is sponsoring the Built Ford Tough collegiate scholarship program for the St. Francis Community High School and Cheylin High School. This school year, they will be helping two local students attend the college of

their choice.

To be eligible, FFA members must submit an online 2012 scholarship application at www.ffa.org and take the required signature page to Yost Ford for the dealer's endorsement and official dealer code; thus providing FFA members the opportunity to meet and thank the dealer for their support of continuing education.

"We're pleased to be able to support the local chapters and Ford Motor Company in its strong commitment to the National FFA," said Mr. Knebel.

Those receiving Built Ford Tough scholarships last year were Tyler Lauer, St. Francis, and Craig Busse, Bird City. "Visit any local farm and see that trucks – particularly the F-Series – plays an integral role in the ag industry," Mr. Knebel said. We want to help these future leaders succeed and become our customers from the start of their careers to the end – just like many of their parents and grandparents.

Board accepts gift offer from group

By Karen Krien
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The St. Francis Board of Education, at their Thursday meeting, accepted a gift offer from the Knights of Columbus.

Rob Schiltz, superintendent, reported that the Cheyenne County Knights of Columbus, through their Tootsie Roll Drive, had given the school \$808 to be used in the Title I department.

School budget

Mr. Schiltz talked about the Governor's proposed budget and how it would affect the St. Francis schools. Dale Dennis, deputy commissioner of education, had a printout of figures showing the base state aid per pupil in the 2012-2013 year would be a \$66.75 increase (\$3,780 to \$3,846). In the 2013-2014 school year, there would be an addition \$66.75 base state aid per pupil. In 2014-2015, the estimated base per pupil increase (excluding special education) would be \$133.50.

Mr. Schiltz was unsure how the budget would really work and he would wait until the state legislator made their decision.

Meet and Confer Committee

Mr. Schiltz said there would be no need for the board's Meet and Confer Committee members, Dr. Mary Beth Miller and Ed Marin, to meet with the teachers. The teacher committee had met earlier and had turned in a proposed 2012-2013 school calendar and that was the only business they had.

The board and administration reviewed the proposed calendar noting that the first day for students would be Aug. 21 and the

last day would be May 21. Christmas vacation would start on Dec. 22 and end on Jan. 3. Mr. Schiltz said the calendar was OK with him and the board had no suggestions. The final approval of the calendar will be made at a later date.

In other business

- Mr. Schiltz mentioned the high school stage lighting project which the school had paid Stanion Wholesale Electric Co., Great Bend, \$6,545 for lighting equipment. The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce had donated part of the money.

- The board reviewed policies concerning the high school activities director, counselor, contracting of teachers and staff employment. Only minor changes were made and the board will approve the policies at the February meeting.

- Scott Carmichael, principal, briefly discussed the Northwest Kansas League, noting that there were several schools wanting to join the league. He said they would be a good addition to the league and there would be benefits in holding different tournaments.

Executive session

The board went into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel. The first session called was for 20 minutes, but when they came back out of the session, they called for another 20 minutes. No decisions were made.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9, in the board room at the high school.



DAIRY COWS eating at the feed bunk. The Bird City Dairy is close to completing a multi-million dollar expansion to become a supplier for the nation's largest producers of yogurt and dairy drinks. Herald staff photo by Norma Martinez

Dairy close to finishing expansion

By Vera Sloan
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While most of the country is fighting to stay alive in a recession that has gripped the country for more than three years, the McCarty Dairy in Thomas County is near finishing a multi-million-dollar expansion which will make it a supplier of one of the nation's largest producers of yogurt and dairy drinks.

The dairy, southwest of Rexford, is building a plant slated to supply condensed milk to the Dannon Yogurt plant in Fort Worth beginning April 1.

"Never in our wildest dreams did we ever imagine anything like this would happen," said Judy McCarty, who owns the expanding dairy operation together with her husband Tom and four sons, David, Mike, Clay and Ken.

It was the wide open plains of Thomas County that lured the family from a land-locked area in Pennsylvania. The expansion happened. The family has been happy here, and after nearly 12 years, still expanding.

From the McCarty's beginnings in Kansas, the original herd of 750 cows near Rexford was soon expanded to include a facility near Bird City in Cheyenne County that houses an additional 2,200 head.

This past summer, the family leased a dairy north of Scott City. They began operations there with 500 head during the fourth week of November. And now there's more.

"It just sort of happened," said Judy, "The boys were talking to a consultant who works for Cargill. Cargill has a dairy division, and it was the consultant's dream to put something like this together because it had never been done before, and that's how

it all started.

"Dannon is a huge corporation which produces yogurt and dairy drinks for shipment from three plants scattered across the country ... in Fort Worth, Jordan, Utah, and Minster, Ohio. The Ohio location is the largest, producing 230,000 cups of yogurt hourly."

Dairying is more than just milking cows. There're newborn calves to tend to, heifers to be fed and prepared for breeding, manure to haul, feeding various rations to the various ages of animals, machinery and equipment to keep in working order, plus making sure it's all done by the clock. And there's never a day off when there are cows to be milked.

This all goes on daily while construction crews are busy with the expansion.

McCarty said many area businesses and agencies, including Midwest Energy, Jim's Electric, the Thomas County commissioners, Foley Equipment, Colby Implement, Colby Canvas and the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, to name a few, have been good to work with. She said the family workers on the project have given a boost to the area's economy with added business for restaurants and service stations and renting 80 to 90 motel rooms.

The Rexford dairy, she said, will add from 13 to 17 jobs for the new project, with the first product to be approved to go out April 1.

To fulfill the dairy's commitment to the Fort Worth plant, she said, the family needs to be milking 7,500 cows, so each dairy will have around 2,500 cows.

The Bird City dairy completed a new free-stall barn this year. Crews now are enlarging the milking parlor and maternity

area at the Rexford dairy.

Milk from Scott City and Bird City will be hauled to the condensing plant near Rexford, McCarty said. They expect to ship out 3 1/2 loads of condensed product daily. And since milk is 87 percent water, the dairy will be able to reuse the water that comes off the condensing process, enabling it to use even less ground water than before.

"Dannon expects everything to be immaculate," McCarty said. "They are dedicated to meeting or exceeding all state and federal regulatory standards.... It's all about what's good for the environment, the employees and what's good for the business."

"The Dannon Company is very concerned about communities. They're especially concerned about their carbon footprint and about keeping the environment safe, and although they're really big, they are people just like us. The first time we all met, there was an instant connection, and we're really comfortable with it all. In fact, with no conference room here at the dairy. Everyone, including the environmental people overseeing that end of the project, ended up using my kitchen for meetings."

"This," she said, making a

sweep with her arm indicating the temporary modular buildings set up to house offices, project manager and environmentalists, "will all be gone and we'll actually have a real office."

McCarty said since they are a family dairy, the project manager encouraged them to incorporate a family theme into their office decor. They will be using some of the rock from a rock quarry at the old Pennsylvania dairy and possibly some wood from Pennsylvania in parts of the new office area.

The lab and processing area will be headed up by Dr. Joe Gillespie of McCook, Neb. He will be responsible for all lab work, which will be under sterile conditions to comply with regulations. Ashley Sherman, a Colby native, will stay on to handle tracking operations. Bill Adams, a certified public accountant from Colby, will be in charge of the day-to-day finance.

"We owe many people a lot of gratitude for stepping up to the plate," McCarty said, "and for that we are so very appreciative."

She said the family plans an open house sometime after everything is ready.

Student News

Fort Hays State University

Several area students are included on Fort Hays State University's Deans Honor Roll for the fall 2011 semester.

Christopher Walden is a freshman majoring in pre-education. Walden is a 2011 graduate of Cheylin High School.

Katherine Jones is a senior majoring in English (writing). Jones is a 2007 graduate of St. Francis

Community High School.

Kimberly Voeller is a junior majoring in English (teaching). Voeller is a 2009 graduate of St. Francis Community High School.

The roll includes only full-time (12 credit hours or more) undergraduate students who earned at least a 3.60 grade-point average for the semester.



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1997 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer Loaded, #43765B	\$3,850
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2004 Ford F250, S/C, 141K, #T2049B	\$12,500
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2005 Ford F-250 Lariat, L. Box, 133K miles, #T9945A	\$17,500
2006 Ford 250, R/C, L. box, Local Trade, 100K, #T4374A	\$19,000
2007 Ford Focus, Happy Yellow, #54444A, Ask for Scott	\$9,000
2007 Ford F150 Lariat Crew Cab, Leather, 91K, #T0005A	\$25,500
2007 Ford F-150 King Ranch, Crew Cab, 69K, #T6497B	\$27,400
2008 Mercedes C300 Sport, 56K, loaded, #4538VA	\$28,995
2008 Ford Fusion 3.0 V-6, 102K SEL pkg., #T8153A	\$12,500
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2008 Ford F-150 Lariat, Crew Cab, 59K, #T7342A	\$28,000
2008 Toyota Tundra, 2 WD, SRS, #T1028C	\$26,000
2008 Mercury Mariner Premier AWD, V-6, 98K, #27020A	\$16,495
2008 GMC Acadia, SLT pkg., Loaded, Dual DVD, #T0869B	\$20,400
2009 Ford Expedition, Eddie Bauer, DVD, 59K, #T0510A	\$29,900
2009 Lincoln MKZ, Super low miles, 16K, #85233A	\$28,495
2009 Ford F150 XLT, low miles 13K, #T6529	\$30,500
2010 Ford F250 XLT, Crew Cab, 6.8L gas, 45K, #7973A	\$34,000
2010 Ford F-150 XLT, 11,500 miles, #T4951A	\$31,950
2010 Ford F-150 4x4, Blue, Crew Cab, 34K, #T1028A	\$33,500
2010 Ford F-150 XLT, Crew Cab, Blue/silver, 5K, #T0244A	\$32,900
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2011 Ford Edge Limited, #T8768A Was \$35,700 Now \$31,300	

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