

Kids basketball begins –



HOLLY HINGST teaches basketball fundamentals to students in the grade school gym on Saturday, Oct. 20.
Herald staff photos by Nathan Fiala

Nominations for awards needed in office by Nov. 5

Announcement that the Conservation Awards Program will again be held in this county was received today by Marty Fear, county Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent, who has been asked to serve as chairman of a committee to select candidates for awards.

The program is being sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association, Mr. Fear said.

The purpose of the program is to stimulate a greater interest in the conservation of the agricultural

and natural resources of Kansas by giving recognition to those farmers and landowners who have made outstanding progress in practicing conservation on their farms. Each year over 200 Kansas producers and landowners are recognized through this program.

This year the Kansas Bankers Association, K-State Research and Extension, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism are announcing six award categories including Energy Conservation, Water

Quality, Water Conservation, Soil Conservation, Windbreaks, and Wildlife Habitat.”

Nominations can be made by any person in the county. They should be sent to the County Extension Agricultural Agent or the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism District Biologist by Nov. 5. Visit the following K-State Research and Extension website for more information: <http://www.agronomy.k-state.edu/extension>

Across the County

By **Marty Fear**



County Extension Agent

Continuing to mow grass throughout the fall in preparation for cold weather yields healthier grass in the spring.

While rumors claim that allowing grass to grow tall will insulate it against the cold winter weather, K-State Research and Extension horticulturalist Ward Upham said tall grass will provide little protection against winter. In fact, canopies that are too tall may even cause damage if they become matted down and harbor snow mold.

“The lawn will benefit more from continuing to mow at the recommended height than from trying to gain some insulation against winter cold by allowing it to grow tall,” Upham said.

He said the recommended heights for grasses in Kansas is as follows:

- Tall fescue 2.5 -3.5 inches
 - Kentucky bluegrass 2-3 inches
 - Perennial ryegrass 2-3 inches
 - Buffalograss 2-3 inches
 - Bermudagrass 1-2 inches
 - Zoysiagrass 1-2 inches
- Mowing grass at the higher end of these ranges during early fall helps the grass store more carbohydrates for the winter, Upham said.

Soil preparation now will help with spring planting

We’re barely into fall, but gardeners should begin working their soil now in order to improve the health of their soil for spring planting.

Fall is the best time to prepare garden soil, according to K-State Research and Extension horticulturalist Ward Upham. The soil is often too wet in the spring to work without forming clods that will be present the rest of the growing season.

“Even if you work wet soil in the fall and form clods, the freezing and thawing that takes place in the winter will break them down, leaving a mellow soil the following spring,” Upham said.

He also recommended working leftover garden debris into the soil, which reduces the chances of insects surviving the winter and decreases the risk of diseases overwintering.

Tilling old plant materials into the soil increases the organic matter content, although it is usually a good idea to add in additional organic materials as well, such as leaves, grass clippings or rotten hay. Adding these materials in the

fall allows more time for them to be broken down before spring planting. Adding two inches of organic matter to the soil surface before tilling is recommended.

Be careful not to over-till the soil. You should end up with particles the size of grape nuts or larger. If you work garden soil into the consistency of dust, you have destroyed the soil structure.

For more information contact the extension office at 785-332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu. Till next week - Marty

Nutritional Information

Studying what people eat and how much helps organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Department of Agriculture learn more about the diet of the American public. One problem with these studies, is that they rely on the ability of the participant to remember not only what they ate, but also how much. A Kansas State University professor has developed aids to help people remember so they can provide more accurate information.

Edgar Chambers, professor of foods and nutrition, and a colleague from Tennessee State University, received a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a grant from the Centers for Disease Control to develop these tools.

Chambers said finding standardized measures that people recognize can be a problem. Often, for example, people don’t

drink out of the same sized glass. “So we’re trying to develop standardized coffee cups and standardized glasses that we can show people and say, ‘Do any of these glasses look like the size glass you used?’”

One of the tools Chambers developed looks like a clock and is used to help participants remember the portion size of wedge-shaped food, like pie or pizza.

“One of the aids we’ve developed we call the bull’s eye. It sort of looks like a clock and it is going to be used in the next national nutrition survey for the Centers for Disease Control. It’s used to help people measure things like pie, or anything you would eat in a wedge, a piece of cake, a piece of pie, a piece of pizza. It looks like a clock or a bull’s-eye, and people move the hands to tell us how much they actually ate.”

New legislation aims to change property tax on watercraft

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, Kansans will have an opportunity to vote on a constitutional amendment that would allow the Kansas Legislature to change the way watercraft are taxed for property tax purposes. For tax purposes, a watercraft is any boat powered by gasoline, diesel, electric, oars or sail, including sailboards, personal watercraft (jet skis), kayaks, and canoes.

The amendment would allow lawmakers to classify and tax watercraft on a basis different from other property. The amendment would not directly change how watercraft are taxed; rather, it is a required first step before legislators can make changes in the future, if they choose to do so.

A vote for the proposition would allow the legislature to separately classify and tax watercraft or to exempt watercraft from property taxes and impose another form of tax.

Watercraft property taxes vary by county and value of the watercraft. For county property tax purposes, watercraft are taxed at a rate of 30 percent of a vessel’s value multiplied by the county mill levy. This rate is

higher than many other states, and is set by the Kansas constitution, which is why an amendment is necessary to allow lawmakers to consider classification and tax rate changes. Three neighboring states – Oklahoma, Nebraska and Missouri – do not have a property tax on watercraft, and neither do Texas and Iowa.

Boats powered by gasoline, diesel, electric, or sail must be registered with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. The department annually sends its list of watercraft registrations to each county so appraisers will know who has registered their watercraft. Registrations and renewals cost \$32.50 each, and are valid for three years from the registration date.

To lower their property tax burden, some owners unlawfully register their vessels in a neighboring state. The only way county appraisers know if a resident owns a watercraft is for the owner to declare it for property tax purposes or to use the watercraft registration records. An estimated 10,000 Kansas residents register their boats in other states to avoid

paying higher property taxes in Kansas. Kansas has about 85,000 registered watercraft.

The department uses registration revenues along with matching federal funds – the amount of which is determined by the number of registered watercraft – to support boating-related programs such as developing, improving, and maintaining docks, boat ramps, toilet facilities; inspecting marinas; enforcing vessel operation, sanitation, sound muffling and boating under the influence laws; investigating accidents and thefts; officer training; search and rescue operations; administering boating education and water safety programs; publishing boating information; and appearing at fairs and boat shows.

The department does not receive the property tax revenues. Each county is responsible for how it uses its portion of the property tax receipts.

Boating registration information is available at ksoutdoors.com/Boating.



Vote Jeanne Dunn for Register of Deeds

I have the skills, knowledge and years of experience working for the citizens of Cheyenne County in the Conservation District office. I will bring the same quality of service to the Register of Deeds office.

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Dr. Ahmed Awais

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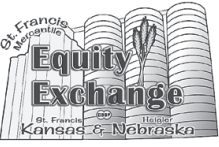
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Hurry — Sale ends Nov. 6th



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- Interested bidders will submit references to Rick Johnson of Farmers National Company by November 1, 2012.
- Qualified bidders will be invited to a Multi Parcel Lease Auction to be held on Monday, December 3, 2012 at the Community Building in Benkelman, Nebraska at 1:30 PM.

For a complete property information packet and auction process details, contact:

A-19904

Farmers National Company
Rick Johnson, AFM/Agent McCook, Nebraska
(308) 345-1240 • (308) 340-0306
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