

Antique picker used for harvest

Monday brought the sun and less wind in the afternoon, so Ken Beougher and Norm Dorsch decided they should take advantage of the better weather. They fired up the Thresher show's Ford 4000 tractor and the Allis Chalmers 35 corn harvester, and drove out to Ken's old homestead to harvest a wagon load of ear corn the old fashioned way.

When the Thresher Show first started, they snapped the corn by hand and tossed it into the wagon. That old fashioned way of harvesting corn not only took a lot of time, it took a lot of hand labor. The time it takes to fill a wagon

has been shortened using this corn harvester, built in the 1940s, and they did the job in less than an hour.

On Tuesday, Norm brought the wagon in to the Thresher show grounds for storage until the 2014 show, when they will use the ear corn for the corn shelling demonstration.

PICKING CORN the old fashioned way. Norm Dorsch, driving the tractor, and Ken Beougher spent part of a day picking ears with an old corn picker.

Staff photo by Norma Martinez



New health reform scams include internet customers

A Kansas State University professor is warning consumers that fraudsters are now using the Internet to target Americans who may be confused about the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

Roberta Riportella, the Kansas Health Foundation professor of community health at Kansas State, said there are recent reports that fake, confusing websites pretending to offer new health care benefits are trying to trick people into giving personal information.

"There is no legitimate reason for anyone to contact you before Oct. 1 to sell you health insurance coverage as part of the Affordable Care Act," said Ms. Riportella, who is providing training to help Kansas extension agents answer residents' questions.

The most reliable source of information regarding the new law and how to enroll in the marketplace, she said, is at www.healthcare.gov.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth Kiss, a Kansas State Research and

Extension family resource management specialist, said consumers should report suspected fraud to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP.

Additional tips to protect yourself include:

- Know who you are dealing with. Telemarketers must tell you it is a sales call, the name of the seller, and what they are selling before they make their pitch. Hang up if you do not hear this information.
- Protect your personal information. Do not share your bank account, credit card, or Social Security numbers in response to a phone call, email message, text message or an ad.
- Do not send cash. If you send cash by messenger, overnight mail, or money transfer and

later discover the charge was fraudulent, the money will be gone and you may lose your right to dispute the transaction.

• Resist pressure to make an immediate decision. Ask to have all information in writing before you agree to buy. If it is an unsolicited offer, research it with the state attorney general's office, the Federal Trade Commission, or someone you trust.

Ms. Kiss noted that consumers can call (800) 318-2596, 24 hours a day, seven days a week with questions about the insurance marketplace.

Ms. Riportella maintains a blog to help people educate themselves about the Affordable Care Act. It's at <https://blogs.ksre.ksu.edu/issuesinhealthreform/>.



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