

Jury awards \$1.3 billion to cattlemen in Pickett lawsuit

ST. FRANCIS — The Organization for Competitive Markets praised Tuesday’s jury verdict that awarded nearly \$1.3 billion to the class of cattlemen suing Tyson/IBP for using captive supplies to manipulate prices downward.

“This is a great day! Justice has finally been served to cattlemen,”

said Mike Callicrate, St. Francis feedyard owner and one of the plaintiffs. “This is the first step in restoring competitive markets and a fair level of income to all cattle producers and their communities.”

“This is the greatest day for cattlemen since the passage of the Packers & Stockyards Act in 1921

and the break up of the big five packers one year earlier,” said Fred Stokes, Organization president. “Finally, America’s cattlemen were able to present their case before an unbiased jury to determine once and for all whether captive supplies manipulate prices.

The jury found that Tyson did

manipulate prices unfairly with captive supply cattle.”

“You just don’t ordinarily beat these big guys,” said Swede Calnon, father-in-law of Mr. Callicrate. Mr. Calnon had spent the last three weeks at the trial.

The case was filed in 1996 against IBP. The named plaintiffs

are Lee Pickett, Alabama, Mike Callicrate, Kansas, Chris Abbot, Nebraska, Robert Rothwell, Nebraska, Johnny Smith, South Dakota, and Pat Goggins, Montana.

They represent a class of approximately 30,000 cattlemen who sold to IBP exclusively on the cash market from 1994 to 2002. IBP was purchased by Tyson in 2002, and thus the case is now entitled Pickett v. Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc.

“The plaintiffs experts showed that Tyson depressed prices by an average of 5.1 percent over the 8 year class period,” said Michael Stumo, Organization for Competitive Markets general counsel, who assisted plaintiff’s counsel throughout the trial.

“This means that Tyson received one out of every 20 cattle free due to their manipulation of inventories

that allowed them to depress prices.”

“Tyson argued that they needed to use captive cattle to procure quality cattle, keep their plants full, and reduce transaction costs,” continued Mr. Stumo.

“Tyson’s experts, including Professor Ted Schroeder of Kansas State, said that beef quality would go down without captive supply. The jury found that those alleged business justifications were contrived and not true.”

“This is an historic day that will be remembered for generations as the beginning of a turnaround for competition in the cattle industry,” Mr. Stokes said.

The judge ruled that the \$2.3 billion will be split among 32,000 ranchers and farmers.

The opposition will appeal.

Western Farm Show planned this weekend

The 2004 edition of the Western Farm Show, Saturday, Sunday and Monday at the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo., is featuring two seminars on non-traditional topics that promise to generate more farm revenue. The first, “Alternative Fuels for Transportation - enhancing Rural Economics and Energy Security,” reviews the opportunities offered by the increased use of ethanol and other alternative engine fuels. The second, “Farming the Wind,” gives an overview on wind turbine designs to generate electricity.

Continuing to expand its emphasis on farm life and equipment for both traditional farmers and a growing segment, the part-time farmer, the Western Farm Show again

showcases the latest in equipment and farm resources, from large farm equipment, implements and other products produced for full-time traditional and corporate farmers, as well as compact tractors and equipment geared for part-time, “lifestyle” farmers.

With more than 700 exhibits, the 2004 Western Farm show includes the major lines of tractors and farm equipment, along with tools, seed, feed, buildings, chemicals, irrigation systems and a full range of other agribusiness goods and services. The expanded Family Living Center offers crafts, safety information and rural lifestyle resources for the whole farm family.

The Western Farm Show is housed in the American Royal

Complex, 1800 Genessee, in Kansas city, Mo., Amenities of the American Roy include ample parking, wide aisles, a heated interior and plenty of fully equipped rest rooms an concession stands, to better create an engaging rural atmosphere near downtown Kansas City. The Western Farm show is open

to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday.

The SouthWestern Association, formerly the Western Association, is the sponsor of the Western Farm show. Information about the Western Farm Show is available online at www.westernfarmshow.com.

Airplane crash kills three near Dodge City

DODGE CITY (AP) — Three crew members aboard an air ambulance died early Tuesday morning when their plane crashed near this western Kansas community, authorities said.

Wichita-based air ambulance service EagleMed identified the crew members as pilot Brandon Bow, of Dallas, Texas; and medical crew members Jonathan Dye, of Meade, and Jennifer Hauptman, of Coldwater.

No patients were aboard the air ambulance, which crashed just before 3 a.m. about 10 miles west of

Dodge City Regional Airport, the Kansas Highway Patrol said. There were no survivors.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the plane, a 1968 Beech King Air 90, departed from Wichita Mid-Continent Airport and crashed on private land short of its destination.

Mike Klein, manager of the Dodge City Regional Airport, said the plane was flying to the airport and “they had the airport in sight.”

“The weather was clear at that time,” he said. “It didn’t seem to be a weather-related incident, but still,

it’s still too early in the game.”

EagleMed said it will continue to provide air ambulance service in its six-state coverage area. This crash is the first in EagleMed’s 22-year history, according to the company’s Web site.

The crash was one of three involving small planes in the region in the past two days.

Two people from Kansas died Tuesday morning when their plane crashed four miles east of Rich Hill, Mo., near the Missouri-Kansas border.

On Monday, a 60-year-old Pratt man was killed when his single-engine Cessna 182Q crashed into a western Pawnee County wheat field along Kansas 156, near Rozel.

Senator hopeful about state’s base closing process

TOPEKA (AP)—The state is “in great shape” when it comes to protecting its military installations from the next round of base closings, Sen. Pat Roberts said earlier this week.

“I think Kansas is in great shape,” Roberts told reporters. “We have a good story to tell.”

The Department of Defense is scheduled to announce base closings or realignments in late 2005.

The Kansas Republican did not take issue with the criteria published recently by the Defense Department for determining which bases will be closed or restructured. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said last week those criteria did not place enough emphasis on a base’s importance to the economy of its community or state.

State and military officials estimate the economic impact of the installations and reserve units in Kansas at more than \$2 billion a year, including more than \$800 million alone from Fort Riley.

In December, a Pentagon official and a consultant said Forbes Field, located south of Topeka and home to the Kansas National Guard’s 190th Air Refueling Wing, could be expendable because McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita also is a major air refueling site.

But Roberts said keeping Forbes open represents “a very positive challenge.”

“I think Kansas is in great shape. We have a good story to tell.”

Sen Pat Roberts on military installations

“I think we can add missions,” he said.

He also said Forbes’ chances would be improved if the Army decides to move the 1st Infantry Division’s headquarters back to Fort Riley from Germany.

He said a decision on moving the division’s headquarters is not likely until later this year.

Roberts made his remarks at a downtown news conference, where he was honored by Topeka officials. Later, he was at the Statehouse, where it was Armed Forces Appreciation Day.

Events included displays by representatives from each military installation in Kansas and the governor’s commission formed to advocate for the state’s military assets.

Outside the Statehouse, soldiers of the Fort Riley Honor Guard were on horseback, representing the post’s cavalry heritage.


OPEN HOUSE

Ada Hudson will be celebrating her 96th birthday Tuesday, February 24, 2004, with an open house at the Medow Lark Manor Senior Center.

From 2:30pm-4:00pm

Please no gifts.

Cards may be sent to her at 600 S. Chick Apt. 18, Colby, Kansas


Got blood? Please Give it!

American Red Cross 1-800-GIVE-LIFE



Even if you don't feel like getting out, you can still "go shopping" in the



"Living alone was horrible. Being at Fairview is wonderful!"

— Dorothy Crabb

If you are a senior citizen and want to learn more about Fairview Estates, call for a tour and free meal.

FAIRVIEW ESTATES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY 1630 Sewell Ave. Colby, Kansas Telephone: (785) 462-2154


Taylor Motors

• Southwind Plaza, Colby, KS ~ 460-3317 •

GM Certified Program Car Specials!


ALL HAVE REMAINING FACTORY WARRANTY! ALL COME WITH FIRST YESARS OIL CHANGES FREE!!

2004 Dodge Durango 4x4




Leather, 700 miles ~ \$559 month

2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee




Laredo, 4x4, 19K ~ \$379 month

2003 Dodge Durango SLT




Leather, 4x4, 22K ~ \$413 month

2002 Olds Bravada AWD




Loaded, 27K, 60K mile warranty ~ \$389 month

2003 Olds Silhouette




24K, quad buckets ~ \$319 month

2003 Chevy Venture LS




Cloth, 11K ~ \$285 month

2003 Dodge Grand Caravan Sport




Quad buckets, 4K ~ \$309 month

2003 Dodge Grand Caravan Sport




Quad buckets, 15K ~ \$299 month

2003 Pontiac Bonneville SE




13K ~ \$285 month

2003 Chevy Suburban LS




17K ~ \$525 month

2003 Buick Regal LS




Leather, 23K ~ \$239 month

2003 Buick LeSabre Custom




20K ~ \$293 month

2003 Buick Century Custom




31K ~ \$199 month

2003 Buick Rendezvous CX




AWD, 18K ~ \$309 month

2003 chevy Impala LS



Loaded, 12K ~ \$289 month

2003 Chevy Malibu



16K ~ \$199 month

"Used Car Headquarters of Northwest Kansas!"

Wesleyan Church 100% GSN ad ran Thurs 2/19 CFP aswell. 3x8