

## Fun Shoot draws shooters from all over



BOB HANZLICK/Citizens Medical Center

Tim Hansen sent a skeet for Avery Schultz at the Citizens Foundation Fun Shoot on Sunday. Thirty-five shooters tried their hand at shooting blue rock at the Colby Trap Club west of town. Shooters came from as far away as Garden City and Sterling, Colo. The Kansas State University Trap Squad came

from Manhattan. Citizens Foundation director Tama Unger described the shoot as more of a goodwill event than a fund raiser, a day foundation members could work with people from the area.

## Online training helps beef producers keep up with change

A series of online videos sponsored by Kansas State University can help beef producers and processors keep pace with changes in most every step of the production cycle.

As part of its Beef Quality Assurance Program, K-State's Beef Cattle Institute has expanded to an additional website, [www.animal-caretraining.org](http://www.animal-caretraining.org). The program is a training system for beef producers, handlers and processors.

Dan Thomson, an associate professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences in K-State's College of Veterinary Medicine, as well as the director of the institute, said the program's roots are in K-State's Targeted Excellence Program.

"Of all the things done at Kansas State University," Thomson said, "What should the university really focus on? What should the university really achieve national, or even international leadership in?"

"When it comes right down to it, if we aren't doing a great job with the beef industry, or serving the beef industry, that's probably something that would be considered 'inadequate' at Kansas State University."

Thomson said the program educates workers in all sectors of the beef industry, from new hires to the seasoned veteran, and fills in the gaps created by dwindling resources.

"We're running low on people, time and opportunities for face-to-face meetings to actually carry out some of this training," he said, "so to augment or supplement some of this ... we have produced a series of online training modules."

The program is entirely self-paced, he said. Participants can log in and watch videos as many times as they like, 24 hours a day. The topics covered in the training modules continue to evolve, as participants return to the site, seeking further training.

The program includes 150 train-

ing modules, ranging between five and 10 minutes in length.

To access the training, a user should go to [beefcattleinstitute.org](http://beefcattleinstitute.org) and select "Animal Care Training" in the lower right corner. Payment for the modules can be made with a credit card, or an invoice can be mailed to the subscriber.

Each module ends with a short quiz. At least 80 percent of the questions must be answered correctly for a passing grade. The subscriber will then be e-mailed a certificate with his or her name on it, to document completion of that module.

"Not only do we maintain that diploma for them electronically," said Thomson, "but we also develop a transcript for each employee or producer who wants to take part in this."

He added that the online modules convey ideas and techniques that books and other printed materials can't adequately demonstrate.

"I'm not a very good learner from just reading a book," Thomson said. "Audio/visual, to me - if I can not only hear it, but see it - that is the most effective way to train. And with today's media, it's just a no-brainer."

But perhaps the biggest reason for the online approach? Convenience.

"We've seen producers doing this during the noon hour," Thomson said. "We've seen them doing this at midnight. We've seen them participating at all times during the day."

He said he's noticed feed yards setting up virtual training centers for their employees, complete with workstations and satellite or high-speed Internet connections. This allows employees to schedule training into their workdays.

While the focus of the program is beef cattle, he said, the site also includes training modules for dairy cattle and horse care.

## Ag lenders to meet in Garden City

Kansas State University will host Agricultural Lenders Conferences on Tuesday, Oct. 12, in Garden City and Wednesday, Oct. 13, in Manhattan.

Attendees will hear updates on agriculture policy, crop insurance and the outlook for grain and livestock supplies and markets, presented by K-State Research and Extension agricultural economists.

The Oct. 12 conference will be held at the

K-State Southwest Research and Extension Center at 4500 E. Mary St. in Garden City. The Manhattan session will be at the International Grains Program Conference Center at 1980 Kimball Ave., across from the football stadium.

Both begin with registration at 8 a.m., with the program starting at 8:55 a.m. The presentations at both locations will include grain market outlook and risk management strategies,

livestock outlook for 2010-2011, policy for agriculture, factors impacting cattle net returns and basis risk and crop insurance.

The fee to attend is \$85 per person if paid by Oct. 6, and \$95 after that date. Lunch is included.

Information and online registration are available at [www.agmanager.info](http://www.agmanager.info) or by contacting Rich Llewellyn at [rvl@ksu.edu](mailto:rvl@ksu.edu) or (785) 532-1504.

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