

Corn database needs farmer input

With the advent of yield monitors in the field, many farmers are doing their own side-by-side comparisons of plant populations, fertilizer treatments, planting dates or many other agronomic factors. These comparisons are useful to the farmer, but farmers have been unable to look at what another farmer in the area is doing.

For that reason, Kansas State University extension agronomists have developed a Farmer Crop Database, with a first-year goal to evaluate corn populations across Kansas.

If a farmer is planting a comparison for himself or for a seed company, he or she can also enter the information into the database, said Brian Olson, agronomist with K-State Research and Extension. This will allow everyone to view the results of population comparisons that happened in his or her area.

"If the pilot is successful this first year, we hopefully will be able to expand the database to all crops with some outside support and make the database more interactive," Olson said. "However this first year, the goal is to simplify the focus and look at corn populations."

Interested producers can register and log into www.agronomy.ksu.edu/cropsdatabase.

"All planting information for the sites will need to be entered into the system by the end of June," Olson said. "Yield information will be entered in by the end of December. At the end of the year, everyone will be able to view all of the planting and yield information from each site."

"If this project is successful, it will help Kansas crop producers gain more information to make more informed decisions," he said.

Fort Hays awards scholarships

Several area students accepted Fort Hays State University scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year at a recent Student Recognition Program in Colby.

Colby High School seniors:

Andrew Flanagan, son of Jay and Luetta Flanagan, \$700 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award and \$500 Academic Opportunity Award in biology.

Bailey Koerperich, daughter of Cris and Buzzy Koerperich, \$900 Academic Opportunity Award in chemistry and \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award.

Caitlyn Wark, daughter of Kevin and Susan Wark, \$900 Academic Opportunity Award in health and human performance and \$700 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award.

Rawlins County Junior-Senior High School seniors:

Ashleigh Peterson, daughter of Greg and Brenda Peterson, Atwood, \$700 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award and \$500 Academic Opportunity Award in communication disorders.

Megan Van Laeys, daughter of Dave Van Laeys, Ludell, \$900 Academic Opportunity Award in social work and \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award.

Levi Wolters, son of Tim and Barb Wolters, Ludell, \$900 Academic Opportunity Award from the College of Business and Leadership and \$700 Bronze Academic Award.

Hoxie High School seniors:

Dylan Bainter, son of Janet Bainter, Hoxie, \$900 Academic Opportunity Award in health and human performance and an \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award.

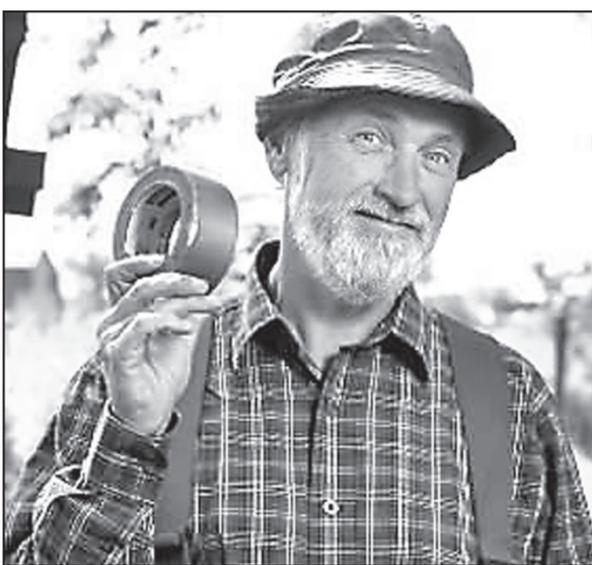
Danny Baker, son of J.D. and Janet Baker, Hoxie, \$900 Academic Opportunity Award in agriculture and \$700 Bronze Academic Award.

Troy Ostmeier, son of Charlie and Cindy Ostmeier, Hoxie, \$500 Academic Opportunity Award in technology studies.

Colby Community College:

Tyson Miller, 2009 Colby High School graduate and Colby Community College transfer student, son of Mark and Kelly Miller, \$1,000 Transfer Student Award.

Helena Harmison, a 2009 Dighton High School graduate and a Colby College transfer student, daughter of Chuck and Donna Harmison, Dighton, \$1,000 Transfer Student Award.



Red Green shows off his duct tape.

Comedian to appear at Hays building center

Red Green, comedian, author and star of "The Red Green Show," will make a special appearance in Hays next week.

The "handyman," whose favorite "tool" is duct tape, will be available for autographs and pictures from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at the Heartland Building Center, 2510 General Hays Road.

Green will be in Hays for his sold-out Wit and Wisdom Tour, scheduled for later that evening. The event is being put on by Smoky Hills Public Television, which broadcasts the program.

"The Red Green Show is easily

one of our most well-liked programs, and we are very excited his fans will get a chance to meet him," said Mary Pat Waymaster, program director for the station.

Waymaster said the "meet and greet" is free, but items available for purchase will include T-shirts, hats, mugs, video discs, duct tape and Green's latest books, "Duct Tape is Not Enough" and "How to do Everything." In addition, red and green suspenders, a staple in Red Green's personal wardrobe, will also be on sale.

For information, call (800) 337-4788 or go to www.smokyhillstv.org.

New York turtle sparks blaze

NEW YORK (AP) — Fire officials say a lumbering pet turtle sparked a fast-moving fire in a New York City apartment after crawling out of its tank and knocking over the terrarium's heat lamp.

Giovani, a 6-year-old African tortoise about the size of a basketball, survived. But officials say one firefighter and three police officers suffered smoke inhalation in Monday's fire in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

Another turtle that lived in a water tank was killed.

The *New York Post* says both reptiles resided in their owner's bedroom. Eighteen-year-old Mohamed Salem and his family were not home at the time.

Fire officials say the heat lamp crashed to the floor, igniting a pile of art supplies, including thinner and paint. Within minutes, the Post reports, the fire spread through the third floor apartment.

Cattlemen to meet in Topeka next week

Kansas Cattlemen's Association is holding its Spring Production Seminar and Trade Show Saturday at the Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel.

"This year, KCA wanted to focus on production issues," said Executive Director Brandy Carter. "We have a great line up of speakers... We encourage everyone to come out, and get a few tips before pasture season starts."

Cost for the daylong event is \$100 and includes both the luncheon and the evening banquet along with the sessions.

To register, call (785) 238-1483

or go to www.kansascattlem.com. The event is open to the public and registration at the door is also welcome.

The day's schedule begins with registration at 8 a.m., which is also when the trade show opens. Speakers for the day, from 9 a.m. on, include Chad Villwok from Tall Grass Commodities and Nathan Rewerts from Agvisors, Dr. Larry Hollis, Marvin Kohlmeier and Dr. Tom Noffsinger. Secretary of State Kris Kobach will be the keynote speaker for the banquet which begins at 6 p.m.

On the Beat

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Monday

2:20 a.m. — Caller reported someone yelling by his trailer. Turned over to police.

9:25 a.m. — Rawlins County Sheriff's Office reported a 911 call of a slide of on southbound K-25 at mile 206. Found at mile 209 in Rawlins County; information gathered for Rawlins County.

11:22 a.m. — Caller reported forged check. Reporting party is not a victim; occurred out of county. Information provided.

12:08 p.m. — Transported juvenile from North-Central Kansas Juvenile Detention Facility in Junction City to Topeka.

4:04 p.m. — Caller reported dog loose. Provided information.

5:27 p.m. — Civil stand-by.

6:20 p.m. — Arrested Rhonda Flinn on warrant.

8:40 p.m. — Caller reported someone harassing her through text message.

Tuesday
8:10 a.m. — Helped with traffic control because electricity was out in Colby.

12:05 p.m. — Released Joseph Edward Dimas.

2:20 p.m. — Vehicle identification number inspection.

Wednesday
11:17 a.m. — Booked Anthony Eugene Aurandt.

2:01 p.m. — Caller reported dead dog in roadway. Moved animal, left message for owner.

4:10 p.m. — Two reports filed on forfeiture vehicle.

The Colby Free Press is looking for Carriers!

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American RED CROSS month

The American Red Cross helps people affected by disasters like floods, fires, tornadoes and hurricanes, as well as countless crises at home and around the world, by making a donation to support American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance in response to disasters. Visit <http://www.redcross.org> or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Contributions may also be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243,

Washington, DC 20013

Want to be a volunteer? Volunteer recruitment, coordination and recognition are major components of the Red Cross. We are always looking for volunteers in a variety of positions. Volunteers must fill out an application and be interviewed. After a reference check volunteers can begin putting their compassion into action in our local community.

In addition, a speaker's bureau is available to make free presentations to the community about Red Cross programs, services and volunteer opportunities. If you have a school, church, civic group, neighborhood association or employee group who is interested in learning more about Red Cross programs, volunteer programs or emergency preparedness give us a call today.

Red Cross responds to disasters

Each year, the American Red Cross responds immediately to more than 70,000 disasters, including house or apartment fires (the majority of disaster responses), hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hazardous materials spills, transportation accidents, explosions, and other natural and man-made disasters.

Although the American Red Cross is not a government agency, its authority to provide disaster relief was formalized when, in 1905, the Red Cross was chartered by Congress to "carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same." The Charter is not only a grant of power, but also an imposition of duties and obligations to the nation, to disaster victims, and to the people who generously support its work with their donations.

Red Cross disaster relief focuses on meeting people's immediate emergency disaster-caused needs. When a disaster threatens or strikes, the Red Cross provides

shelter, food, and health and mental health services to address basic human needs. In addition to these services, the core of Red Cross disaster relief is the assistance given to individuals and families affected by disaster to enable them to resume their normal daily activities independently.

The Red Cross also feeds emergency workers, handles inquiries from concerned family members outside the disaster area, provides blood and blood products to disaster victims, and helps those affected by disaster to access other available resources.

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