

Rural leadership website redesigned

The Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership program has launched a completely redesigned website at www.karlprogram.com. The new website is designed to better serve current class members, alumni, investors and potential candidates of the program, as well as individuals seeking more information about the program.

"The new site offers a fresh and dynamic new design, improved navigation, and more features and functionality, the website is more user-friendly

and serves as a useful and timely resource for KARL news and information," said Marisa Larson, vice president of the Kansas program.

In October, the program will also begin distributing quarterly e-newsletters, which will be available on the website as well, Larson said.

The program is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to developing leaders for agriculture, business and rural communities.

Disaster list lengthens

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued a disaster declaration for 20 additional counties in Kansas because of drought, excessive heat and high winds.

"I am pleased Secretary Vilsack recognizes the growing seriousness of the drought in our state and the devastating impact it is having on Kansas farmers and ranchers," Gov. Brownback said.

The declaration also applies to 19 contiguous counties.

An agricultural disaster declaration makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible for emergency loans administered by the Farm Service

Agency, as well as any other aid that may be available through the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program. Those in eligible counties have eight months to apply for emergency loan assistance.

Previous declaration apply to 46 Kansas counties, including Logan, Norton, Phillips, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas and Wallace counties.

Kansas farmers living in the counties under federal declarations who believe they may qualify for assistance should contact their local Farm Service Agency office for further information.

Zap bindweed while green

Gardeners have yet to take field bindweed as seriously as rural landowners do. So, the plant-strangling, perennial vine is making real inroads into urban landscapes.

"In Kansas, bindweed is a non-native, invasive plant and official noxious weed, said Ward Upham, K-State Research and Extension horticulturist. "It already had destroyed millions of acres of crops before it first made its way into town."

While the weed is still actively growing, however, fall can be a good time for urban dwellers to start fighting back, Upham added. Then they'll need to remain vigilant for years.

Bindweed produces an almost delicate-looking vine. It has heart- or shield-shaped leaves and small trumpet-like flowers in pink or white.

"Until it flowers, bindweed can do an amazing job of blending in. It can look like another lawn weed. It can wrap so tightly around stems that it seems like part of a shrub or perennial," Upham said.

Bindweed sends roots both down and out. Unchecked, they can eventually reach 30 feet long. Each bud on the sideways roots can produce a new plant or send out more roots.

To curb that growth now, Upham recommends unwinding several feet of the vine, laying them out flat and spraying with a glyphosate herbicide (Round-up, Kleen-up, Killzall, etc.), following label directions.

"This is a non-selective product, so choose a still day. Also protect nearby plants from spray drift, perhaps using a big piece of corrugated cardboard," he advised. "If you spot spray your lawn, try a cardboard tube."

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October's busy across the state

It is officially fall! It is time for many conferences and fall activities. I will be attending the Tourism Conference Oct. 17-20 in Lawrence. This is always a very informative meeting with good speakers and updates from the Kansas Tourism office regarding marketing plans for the coming year. Governor Brownback will be addressing the group at breakfast on Tuesday, Oct. 19.

We will also be going to Wichita for Kansas' 125th Birthday Celebration Oct. 8. A parade with communities marching to represent an icon of their town will be held in downtown Wichita. The parade will be followed by the Home On the Range Concert. Finally we will be going to Liberal on Oct. 28 for the Sampler Foundation orientation. A busy month in the Convention and Visitor's Bureau office.

Leadership Thomas County will again have a youth program for sophomores of all Thomas County Schools. Information and applications will go to the schools in December. The program will run during January and February. Classes will be Wednesday, Jan. 11, 18 and Feb. 1 and 15 with locations to be announced later. Class project is to be finished by April 15.

Several members of the Leadership Thomas County board of directors will be attending the Leadership Summit in Wichita in November. The summit is sponsored by the Kansas Health Foundation. Civic Leadership will be the focus of the summit.

Those of us who have been working with Colby Take Charge Challenge are deeply appreciative of all who have been attending our events. We do not know yet if we have won or not, but we thank each of you for your support. The community and leadership team gave it a



Leilani Thomas

• **On the Road Again!**

great shot. Thank you, Thank you!

It is also a busy month in the community. Colby Community College has two major two-day events this weekend.

The Intercollegiate Horse Show will begin at 9 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday at the college farm. Colby is the only two-year college in Kansas to have an equestrian team. Teams will be competing from Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado as well as Kansas.

The softball team will hold their annual Fall Softball Tournament. Games will begin at noon on Saturday and 10 a.m. on Sunday. Six teams will be competing at the college diamonds and the city fields.

Other events taking place the first weekend include the Second Annual Home-Based Business and Craft Show beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday at the 4-H Building.

An exhibit is being held at Prairie Museum of Art and History of art by college students and instructor Rebel Jay. There will be a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the museum where you may meet the artists as you view their work. The exhibit will be in place through Oct. 31.

At 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, the Special Olympics Bowling event will be held at Colby Bowl and Arcade. You're encouraged to attend and root for these athletes.

Area farm dealer recognized by company

Simpson Farm Enterprises of Ransom, Great Bend, Hays and Beloit, has been named among the top volume sales dealers by Spra Coupe for the previous sales year.

The award is given to the top three dealers in sales in North America. Spra Coupe is part

of the application division of AGCO, a manufacturer of agricultural equipment based in Duluth, Ga.

Simpson has been a dealer for the company since 1982.

Drunk on tractor charged

OHIOVILLE, Pa. (AP) — A western Pennsylvania man faces charges that he assaulted a police officer after he was arrested on drunken driving charges — aboard a lawn tractor.

Online court records don't list an attorney for 44-year-old Mark Grove, of Ohioville, who did not immediately return a call for comment after the *Beaver County Times* (<http://bit.ly/qsj0KL>) reported his arrest.

Police say they were responding to a 911 call reporting an "out of control male" when they encountered Grove on the tractor driving down the middle of the road Thursday afternoon.

Police say a coffee mug sitting on the tractor contained beer and say Grove told them, "I'm drunk. Just take me home."

Instead, police arrested Grove and that's when they say he kicked an officer and head-butted a partition in the squad car's back seat.

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