

# How does agriculture affect us?

Research has shown that most Americans know very little about agriculture and its social and economic significance in the United States.

Agriculture is a multi-billion dollar industry that touches the lives of every American. It supplies the U.S. and many other countries with a wide variety of products and remains one of the top industries in terms of total employment.

But how does agriculture affect you? Look at everything around you, what you are wearing, and think about what you have eaten today. It is likely that many of the things were produced or processed in Kansas. Agriculture plays a major part in our lives: from what we eat and wear to what we use in our classrooms, homes and workplaces.

Most daily essentials can be traced to an agricultural source. The sheets we sleep on and the jeans we wear are made of cotton. The cereal, milk and sausage we eat for breakfast, pencils, crayons and paper that we use; and the baseballs and gloves that we use for pleasure all originate from raw agricultural products. You are surrounded by and reliant on many agricultural products everyday.

Agriculture is the largest industry in Kansas. Kansas has 65,531 farms with an average farm size of 705 acres. These farms produce wheat, corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, dairy and beef



**Clint Milliman**

## • Knowledge for Life

cattle, hogs, cotton, sunflowers, alfalfa, pecans, grapes, melons, broilers, eggs and many other agriculture products. Agriculture and agribusiness also contribute to the total economy of Kansas, directly and indirectly. Nearly 20 percent of all Kansans, rural and urban are employed in jobs related to agriculture.

In 2009, Kansas was number one in wheat flour milling capacity and sorghum grain produced. It ranked second in all wheat produced. It ranked third in sorghum silage produced, cattle slaughtered, acres of cropland and prime farmland, cattle and calves on farms, red meat production, cattle and calves on grain feed, sunflowers produced, commercial grain storage capacity and acres of land in farm land. Kansas ranked sixth in agricultural exports.

### Did you know?

- One Kansas farmer produces enough food to feed 145 people.
- An acre of farmland, which is about the size of a football field, can produce 14,000

ears of sweet corn, 36,000 pounds of potatoes, 24,000 heads of lettuce, 2,800 loaves of bread or 266 pairs of blue jeans.

• Kansas State University's Grain Science and Industry program is world-renowned and is the only place in the United States that offers college degrees in baking, feed and milling science and management.

• In an average year, Kansas wheat farmers produce enough wheat to make over 36 billion loaves of bread, or enough to provide each person on earth with six loaves of bread.

• One beef steer can equal 720 pounds of beef patties. That's enough to feed you and the person sitting beside you a hamburger every day for a year.

Agriculture is a major part of our lives, especially here in Northwest Kansas. We produce it and we use it.

Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. I hope you are able to enjoy a bountiful meal with family and friends. Keep in mind where the food came from and those who produced it.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and remember, "If you ate a meal today, thank a farmer!"

*Clint Milliman is the Thomas County agriculture and natural resources agent with Kansas State Research and Extension. A native of Illinois, Milliman works with area 4-H clubs, farmers and ranchers.*

# Explore orphan trains at December meeting

A program on "Orphan Trains in Kansas," by Marilyn J. Holt, will be held by the Butterfield Trail Association in Russell Springs at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at St. Francis Chapel, 525 Hilts, Russell Springs.

Members of the community are invited to attend the free presentation and discussion. Contact Mike Baughn at 462-9061 for information.

The afternoon will begin with a potluck Christmas dinner at 1 p.m. at the chapel. Turkey and drinks are provided and the general public is invited. Please bring your choice of dish and table service.

The "orphan trains" brought poor children from the eastern cities to rural Kansas from 1867 until the 1920s. Holt will share firsthand accounts of orphan train riders that challenge the picture of childhood in the "good old days."

Marilyn J. Holt is an independent historian who consults on Kansas history. Her publications include books on the orphan trains, rural women, Kansas teenagers, Indian orphan-ages, and children in the American West.

"People often think that I became interested in the orphan trains because someone in my family was an orphan train rider. Not so," said Holt. "I have researched and written about the subject because it fascinates me, as it does many others - whether or not there is a family connection."

Orphan Trains in Kansas is part of the Kansas Humanities Council's Kansas 150 Speakers Bureau commemorating the Kansas sesquicentennial. For information about programs contact the council at [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).



**Marilyn Holt**

# Victorian Christmas planned for Fort Hays Site

The Fort Hays State Historic Site will hold a Victorian "Christmas Past" from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3, at the site. Admission fee is \$5 for adults and \$1 for students. Kansas Historical Foundation members and children five and under are admitted free. Visitors are requested to begin at the Fort Hays Visitor Center, 1472 U.S. 183 Alt, Hays.

The walkways will be lined with luminaries and the officers' homes will be decorated in the Victorian style. Visitors can also sample homemade cookies, courtesy of area Girl Scout troops, and children will receive a bag of goodies from Father Christmas. Fort Hays volunteers, dressed in period clothing, will provide music. The Fort Hays String Academy will perform in the guardhouse on Friday evening. Also Friday Fort Hays

State University's Sigma Alpha Iota music sorority will sing carols in the Visitor Center. On Saturday Gary Hicks will demonstrate a spinning wheel in the officers' quarters. Kansas Pacific Model Railroaders will display trains in the blockhouse both nights.

Outside, visitors can board a horse-drawn wagon for a leisurely trip around the grounds.

Behind the officers' home, hot, spiced cider from over a campfire will warm up the riders. Near the guardhouse, soldiers will be making hot fried apples over another campfire.

Fort Hays State Historic Site is located four miles south of I-70 exit 157 at Hays. For information contact (785) 625-6812 or [thfort@kshs.org](mailto:thfort@kshs.org).

# Oysters pricey this year

By Stacey Plaisance

Associated Press  
NEW ORLEANS (AP) - As Thanksgiving nears, consumers with a taste for oyster soup and oyster dressing are discovering the shellfish are in short supply and expensive since the Gulf oil spill last year, but not enough to keep

them off Thanksgiving tables. Oyster harvesters took a bashing during the Gulf oil spill when much of the crop was killed off in coastal waters. Now the crop is more depressed because of freshwater from the Mississippi River flooding this summer.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
<b>Hi-Plains Co-op</b>	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.06
Corn (bushel)	\$5.92
Milo (hundredweight)	\$9.98
Soybeans (bushel)	\$10.23

## Sister Kenneth Struckhoff, CSA

Sister Kenneth (Esther Marie) Struckhoff, CSA died peacefully on Saturday evening, November 19, 2011, at Nazareth Center where she resided. She was surrounded by sisters who sang Spanish and English songs to her, recalling her years of ministry in Nicaragua.

Born in Grinnell, Kansas on August 20, 1923, to Aloys and Regina (Ballman), Sister's family included 4 brothers and 3 sisters. She professed her vows on August 15, 1942, and began a teaching career in Fond du Lac, WI, Nanty Glo, PA and Monterey, IN. She answered the call to ministry in Nicaragua from 1953 until 1982. Upon her return to the United States, Sister served as pastoral associate in Kansas before coming back to Fond du Lac in 2006. She continued ministry at St. Agnes Hospital, translator for Taycheedah and Fox Lake Correctional Institutions, and distributing bread to the needy. In December 2010, Sister moved to Nazareth Center when her health declined; she remained connected with family and former students, through letters, visits and phone calls. Sister's passion for sharing the gospel, especially the Beatitudes, was obvious to all she encountered.

Preceding her death were her parents, Aloys and Regina and two brothers, Ray and Fred. She is survived by her sisters Alfrieda Ostmeier, Berniece Hansen, Rita Hitt, and her brothers Charles and Kenneth, many nieces and nephews, and the Sisters of St. Agnes, with whom she lived, prayed and ministered.

Visitation: Visitation for Sister Kenneth Struckhoff will be held on Friday, November 25, at 2 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac. A prayer service will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 25.

Services: A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, November 26 at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac. Bishop Paul Schmitz, OFM Cap., and Father Ken Smits, OFM Cap. will preside. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the Sisters of St. Agnes Development Office, 320 County Road, Fond du Lac, WI 54937.

The Sisters of St. Agnes are grateful to the nurses and staff of Nazareth Court and Center for their care of Sister Kenneth in her last year and of the staff of Hospice Hope for their support in these last weeks.

Zacherl Funeral Home is serving the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Agnes.

**Southwind Plaza - Colby, KS**  
**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**  
 Saturday, Dec. 3rd  
 \* \* \* 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**Under the Red Roofs**

## Corrections

The story "City council gets the ball rolling on oil and gas lease agreement" in the Thursday, Nov. 17, edition of the *Colby Free Press* incorrectly said that Manhattan Energy One is a New York-based company. The company is based in Denver. This was

a reporting error.  
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*The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.*

**Pride of the Prairie**  
**ORCHESTRA**  
 PRESENTS  
  
**A COZY CHRISTMAS**  
 Sunday, Dec. 4th at 3:30 p.m.  
**Colby Community College**  
 Cultural Arts Center Frahm Theatre  
**Andrew Salvador, Conductor**  
 Admission Cost: Adults \$10, Seniors \$5, Students \$3  
 Christmas cookies will be served during intermission.



**LOCAL TV Listings** Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Saturday Evening		November 26, 2011									
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	College Football							Local			
KBSL/CBS	Rules	Rules	Unforgettable		48 Hours Mystery		Local				
KSNK/NBC	Macy's-Parade		Bee Movie				Local	Saturday Night Live			
KSAS/FOX	Cops	Cops	Terra Nova		Local		Hell's Kitchen	30S	Local		
<b>Cable Channels</b>											
A & E	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	
AMC	Outlaw Josey				Hell on Wheels		Outlaw Josey				
ANIM	America's Cutest Cat	America's Cutest Pet		Pit Bulls-Parole	America's Cutest Pet		Pit Bulls-Parole				
BRAVO	The School of Rock	Meet the Parents			Meet the Parents						
CMT	CMA Awards 2011				Unlikely Angel						
CNN	Gerry-Rigged	Piers Morgan Tonight		CNN Newsroom	Gerry-Rigged		Piers Morgan Tonight				
COMEDY	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0		Fanboys				
DISC	Deadiest Catch	Gold Rush		Gold Rush			Gold Rush				
DISN	Geek Charming		Good Luck	Jessie	Shake It	Shake It	Phineas	Fish Hook			
E!	Knocked Up			Kendra	The Soup	Chelsea	Knocked Up				
ESPN	College Football					SportsCenter	Football Final				
ESPN2	College Football		Score	College Basketball			Roll Tide				
FAM	Home Alone 2			Love Actually							
FOOD	Unwrapped		Unwrapped		Iron Chef America		Unwrapped				
FX	27 Dresses	Bride Wars			Sunny	Archer					
HGTV	Holiday Block Party	Celebrity Holiday		Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Celebrity Holiday			
<p>THE LONG-AWAITED NEW ALBUM FROM VINCE GILL GUITAR SINGER FEATURING A DUET WITH AMY GRANT AND "THREATEN ME WITH HEAVEN" Available on iTunes</p>											
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Big Shrimpin'	Pawn	Pawn		
LIFE	Dear Santa			Accidental-Chr.			Dear Santa				
MTV	Get Rich or Die			Wild/Out	How High						
NICK	Kung Fu	Kung Fu	Kung Fu	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends		
SCI	Stonehenge	Storm War			Meteor Storm						
SPIKE	Star Wars Ep 2				Star Wars: Ep. III						
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang		Pretty Woman				Wedding		
TCM	Dodsworth				Life of Blimp						
TLC	48 Hours: Left	48 Hours: Hard Evid.		48 Hours: Hard Evid.		48 Hours: Left	48 Hours: Hard Evid.				
TNT	A Time to Kill				The Da Vinci Code						
TOON	Open Season 3	Oblongs	King/Hill	King/Hill	Fam. Guy	Boondocks	Boondocks	Bleach	Durarara		
TRAV	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures				
TV LAND	Cleveland	Cleveland	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King	King	King		
USA	Elf				Land of the Lost		Semi-Pro				
VH1	Love & Hip Hop	Love & Hip Hop		Basketball Wives LA	Celeb Rehab		National-Van Wilder				
WGN	Funniest Home Videos	Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine	30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Sunny			
<b>Premium Channels</b>											
HBO	Unknown			24/7	Boxing						
MAX	Vampires Suck	Strike Back		Big Mommas							
SHOW	Twilight: New Moon			Twil: Eclipse				Homeland			

Sunday Evening		November 27, 2011									
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	Once Upon a Time		Have a Little Faith				Local				
KBSL/CBS	The Amazing Race		Person of Interest		Person of Interest		Local				
KSNK/NBC	Football	NFL Football						Local	Dateline NBC		
KSAS/FOX	Simpsons	Allen	Fam. Guy	Amer. Dad	Local						
<b>Cable Channels</b>											
A & E	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds				
AMC	The Walking Dead	The Walking Dead	Hell on Wheels		The Walking Dead	Talk Dead	Walk:Dead				
ANIM	Ned Bruha	Ned Bruha	Swamp Wars	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Swamp Wars			
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.	Housewives/Atl.	Housewives/Atl.	Happens	Housewives/Atl.		Atlanta				
CMT	Makeover	Extreme Makeover	Extreme-Home	Cowboys	Cheerleaders						
CNN	CNN Presents	Piers Morgan Tonight	CNN Newsroom	CNN Presents	Piers Morgan Tonight						
COMEDY	Dunham	Dunham	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	Futurama			
DISC	I, Caveman	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush		Gold Rush				
DISN	Good Luck	Shake It	A.N.T. Farm	Good Luck	Good Luck	Random	Wizards	Wizards			
E!	Sex and the City	Kourtney and Kim	After Lat	Chelsea	Kourtney and Kim						
ESPN	SportsCtr	Countdown	World Series Special	SEC Storied		SportsCenter		SportsCtr			
ESPN2	College Basketball	College Basketball			World, Poker		World, Poker				
FAM	Desperately		Desperately		J. Osteen	Ed Young					
FOOD	Challenge	Next Iron Chef	Iron Chef America		Chef Hunter		Next Iron Chef				
FX	Transformers				Transformers						
HGTV	Holmes on Homes	Holmes Inspection	House	Hunters	House	Hunters	Holmes Inspection				
HIST	American Pickers	Real Deal	Real Deal	IRT Deadiest Roads	Around		American Pickers				
LIFE	Comfort and Joy				Comfort and Joy						
MTV	Ridic.	Ridic.	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Get Rich or Die		Ridic.				
NICK	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends		
SCI	American Werewolf	Drag Me to Hell			American Werewolf						
SPIKE	Star Wars IV: A New Hope		Star Wars V								
TBS	The Wedding Date		Four Christmases								
TCM	There's No Business		Strike Me Pink				The Mysterious Lady				
TLC	19 Kids and Counting	Sister Wives	All-American Muslim	Sister Wives	All-American Muslim						
TNT	Transformers	Leverage	Double Jeopardy		Leverage						
TOON	Gumball	Looney	Chicken	Aqua Teen	King/Hill	Family Guy	Robot Chicken				
TRAV	When Vacations	Smithsonian	Mysteries-Museum	Untouched America	Smithsonian						
TV LAND	Cleveland	Hot in Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland	King	King	King	King	King		
USA	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS		NCIS				
VH1	Tough Love: Miami	Celeb Rehab	Tough Love: Miami	Still Single?	Celeb Rehab						
WGN	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	News/Nine	Replay	The Unit	Monk			
<b>Premium Channels</b>											
HBO	Unknown	Boardwalk Empire	Hung	Enlighten	Boardwalk Empire	Hung	24/7				
MAX	Big Mommas		Coming to America		Life-Top	Co-Ed					
SHOW	Homeland	Dexter	Homeland	Dexter	Homeland						