

Auction means pay day for working youth

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkansas.com

Kids who show their animals at the Thomas County Fair get a chance to make a little money as well – or a lot of money – to reinvest in future projects.

The fair livestock auction will be at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the sale barn on the fairgrounds.

Jody McCain, secretary at the Thomas County Extension office, said a child in an area 4-H club who brought entries for cattle, swine, lambs or goats can sell one animal from each species at auction during the fair.

Poultry and bucket calves cannot be sold, she added.

McCain said area kids have expressed an interest in exhibiting 144 animals at latest report, including 35 cattle, 59 pigs, 18 lambs and 32 goats.

She said the sale barn had beginning weigh-ins for beef cattle in February and other animals in May.

A total of 265 animals were weighed.

The final weigh-in for all livestock in the fair is the Tuesday before the sale.

“There might be one kid, but they could sell up to four animals,” Clint Milliman, a former agriculture extension agent, pointed out, “so it might be more animals than kids.”

From his experience working with the 4-H

clubs, Milliman said there are usually between 75 and 100 buyers.

Most bidders represent area businesses related to agriculture: banks, co-ops and agriculture supply wholesalers, he said.

Those customers usually do business with the 4-H kids’ families, and go to the auction as a favor to their parents.

Generally, he said, the animals go for more than market price, since that is about where the bidding starts.

That way, customers can sell the animals back to the sale barn right at market price, and the kids will still have turned a profit.

In Milliman’s experience, around 15 to 20 percent of the buyers opt for a barbecue and send their purchases to a locker plant.

With ranchers helping them, he said, the kids’ animals are as big as the ones grownups raise.

“Usually their folks, they are already like on a ranch or farm,” he said.

After the sale, there will be a buyers appreciation barbecue, which usually includes steak sandwiches, beans, chips and cookies.

Different 4-H clubs take turns serving the food, and the meat is donated by Crop Production Services.

“And (manager) Bill Shields and his crew do a wonderful job of preparing that all day,” Milliman said.

Watch for Thomas County Fair coverage in upcoming editions of the *Free Press*.



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

A young Thomas County Fair participant showed some determination as he got ready to display his livestock during last year’s auction. Nearly 150 animals are expected to be shown on Thursday, including 35 cattle.

Good luck to all
4-hers at the
Thomas County Fair!

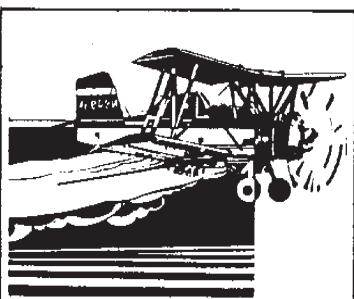


Inlow Interiors

“THE BEAUTIFUL STORE THAT OFFERS YOU MORE!”

445 N. Franklin • Colby • 785-462-6000

Welcome to the Fair!



Call us for all of
your spraying needs:
785-462-7333

Ken Bixenman, Owner/Operator
Colby Airport • East Hangar

GREAT PLAINS SPRAYING

CHS

2122 US Hwy. Center
Colby, KS 67701
785-462-3546

181 Hwy. 24
Brewster, KS 67732
785-694-2420