

Pilot program gives drought assistance

In response to the drought faced by Kansas farmers and ranchers, the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide financial and technical assistance in a new Water Quantity and Drought pilot program through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Eric B. Banks, state conservationist in charge of the service in Kansas, said the agency will use two application cutoff dates for this pilot, Fridays May 17 and June 21.

"NRCS will work with producers to address water quantity-related natural resource concerns using the conservation planning process," Banks said.

Under this new pilot, he said, the agency will conduct a site assessment with the landowner or operator, identify options to meet natural resource concerns, develop a conservation plan, and if priority criteria are met, cost-share

money may be available.

Assistance may be provided for costs directly related to removal of accumulated sediment from a pond, provided that is the best and least cost alternative. Additional conservation practices which may be covered, as they relate to structures approved for sediment removal, include cover crops, critical area planting, fences, mulching, pipelines, prescribed grazing and watering facility.

"I would encourage producers who are impacted by the drought to visit their county field office to learn more about the assistance available," Banks said, adding that applicants who do not qualify for these new programs may be eligible through alternate sources, including the Drought Recovery Initiative.

For information, stop by the county office at 915 E. Walnut, call 462-7671 or go to .

Cattle Feeders College coming to Scott City

Kansas State University will hold its K-State Cattle Feeders College Thursday, May 9, at the Scott County Fairgrounds William Carpenter 4-H Building in Scott City.

The educational event, focused on the cattle feeding industry, begins with registration at 5 p.m. and a sponsored dinner at 5:30 p.m.

The evening, free for the public to attend, features the "Top Hand Cattle Feeding Industry Employee Awards," designed to recognize outstanding feedlot employees. Registration and nominations for the "Top Hand" awards (100 words or less) are due by Wednesday via e-mail to Justin Waggoner, K-State Extension beef systems specialist at jwaggon@ksu.edu or by phone at (620) 275-9164.

Presentations include an "Economic Outlook - The Current Feeder Situation; Indicators and Implications" by Glynn Tonsor, K-State extension agricultural economist.

Attendees can participate in either the cattle crew session or the mill and maintenance crew ses-

sion.

The cattle crew session offers presentations by Vince Vesely, American Farriers Association examiner and certified journeyman farrier, Silver City, N.M., and Dan Thomson, Jones Professor of Production Medicine, K-State College of Veterinary Medicine, Manhattan.

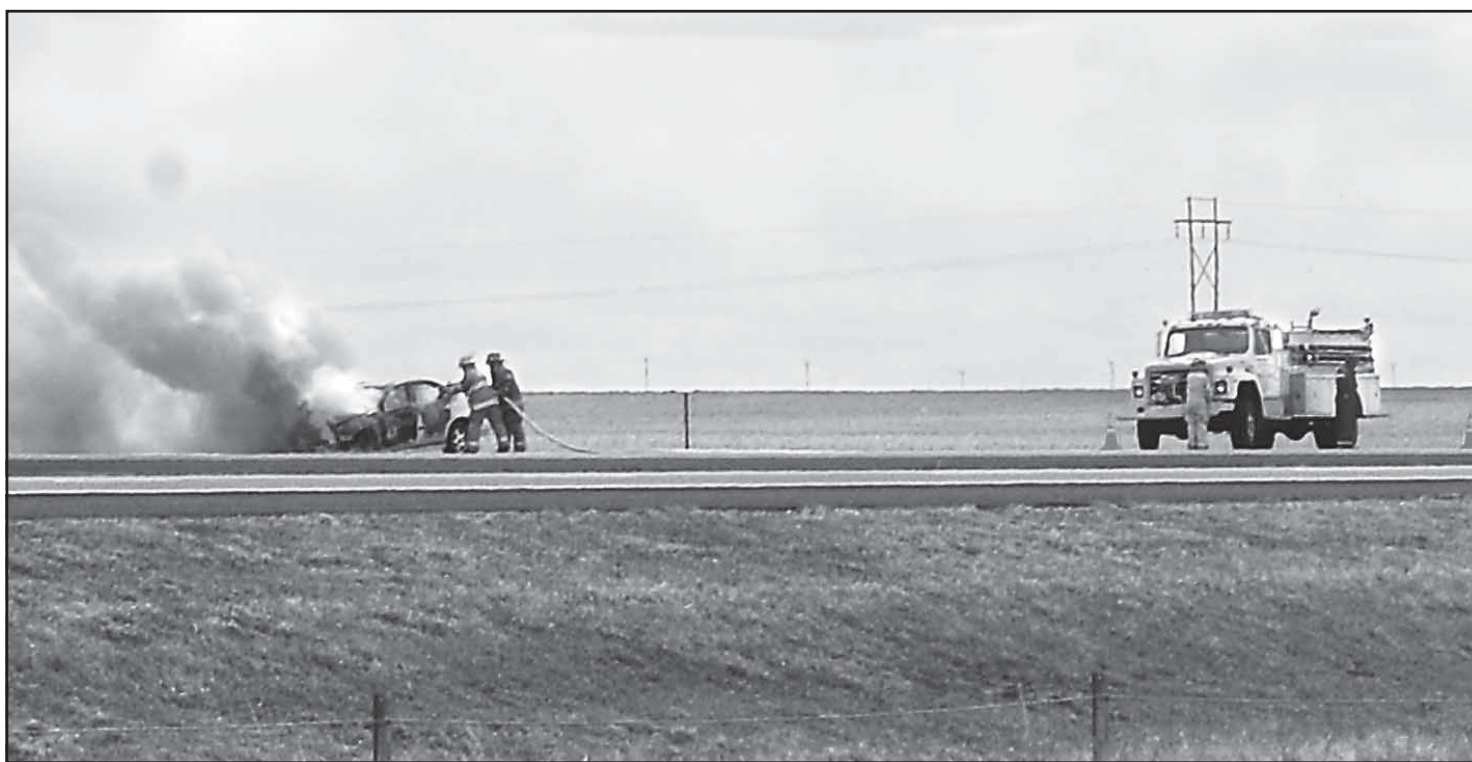
The mill and maintenance crew session features speakers Mark Cooksey, Roto-Mix, Dodge City, and Mark Holderness, Dodge City International.

Information about the event and how to submit nominations for awards is available at www.southwest.ksu.edu.



Even if you don't feel like getting out, you can still "go shopping" in the Classifieds!

One car, well roasted



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

A car caught fire Sunday afternoon on Interstate 70 about halfway between Brewster and Levant. The call came in at 4:08 p.m., and firefighters quickly extinguished the flames when

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