

Beef council, K-state plan training session on cattle care

The Beef Cattle Institute at Kansas State University and the Kansas Beef Council are holding an advanced beef cattle care and health training session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20, at the Oakley Livestock Commission Co., 208 South Freeman Ave., Oakley.

The beef checkoff-funded event will provide beef producers and veterinarians with up-to-date standards and technologies to improve animal welfare and food safety. The training session will be led by veterinarians Dan Thomson and Dave Rethorst and Dr. Chris Reinhardt, all of the Beef Cattle Institute.

Producers and veterinarians will receive Beef Quality Assurance training and information relevant to the cow-calf, stocker and feedlot industry segments; animal husbandry best management practices; and downed animal care and humane euthanasia training. In addition, stockmanship principles and low-stress cattle-handling techniques will be studied. All producers and veterinarians who attend will earn Beef Quality Assurance certification, valid for three years.

The workshop is free and includes a meal. Pre-registration one week or more before the event is

requested by calling the institute at (785) 532-4844 or e-mailing kjoliver@vet.ksu.edu. Walk-in attendees are welcome.

The institute was founded in 2007 to provide beef industry stakeholders with the most current education, research and outreach available in the beef industry, and offers certificates and tools to aid producers in managing a successful beef business.

The Kansas Beef Council administers the \$1-per-head beef checkoff in Kansas. Funds are used for research, educational activities and promotion of beef and beef products.

Council provides help with health

The Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council and Kansas Project Launch have awarded \$40,000 in mini-grants to communities, including Thomas County and other counties statewide, to promote technology designed to provide mothers quick access to essential health information.

Communities will use the funding to develop public awareness strategies to increase enrollment in Text4baby, a free mobile information service designed to promote mother and child health.

Women who sign up for the service by texting BABY to 511411

(or BEBE in Spanish) receive free text messages each week, timed to their due date or baby's date of birth.

Thirty-two programs serving 54 Kansas counties received funding from the grants. Public awareness strategies implemented with the funds may include local radio or television public service announcements, printed materials, movie advertisements, promotional materials, community baby showers or health fairs.

Text4baby, an educational program of the National Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coal-

ition, provides pregnant women and new moms with information to help them care for their health and give their babies the best possible start in life.

Proponents say Text4baby is effective because it gets essential health information to mothers in need quickly and easily using a technology they use regularly.

Kansas is participating in the 2013 national Text4baby State Enrollment Contest. Organizers hope to get as many Kansas women as possible to sign up for the service. For information about the campaign, go to text4baby.org/.

Many-toed cat bringing in cash for shelter

By Carrie Antfingher
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE – A Milwaukee area animal shelter that turned a cat's near-record 26 toes into a fundraising windfall is closing.

In 2011, the Milwaukee Animal Rescue Center started asking for \$26 donations – a dollar for each toe – for a new building after finding out their rent was doubling at a Greendale mall.

Normal cats have 18 toes, but the orange and white tabby named Daniel has two extra on each foot due to a genetic mutation called polydactylism.

Center owner Amy Rowell found Daniel at animal control when she went to pick up another cat in fall 2011. As she bent down to that cat's cage, Daniel stuck his paw out and poked her head. Rowell said she couldn't help but take him to the shelter, which took in animals that might otherwise be euthanized. He has served as the shelter's mascot since then, greeting visitors and making public appearances.

He helped raised more than \$120,000 through the promotion and Rowell bought and remodeled a Greenfield building. It opened in April 2012, but fundraising has

since dried up and they were losing too much money in property maintenance and overhead, Rowell said.

She said Monday all her time went toward the shelter, which she started 8 years ago.

"This has been by 24-7 for eight years," she said. "I don't think a lot of people recognize or appreciate just how much time and energy is put into small businesses."

The shelter is cutting adoption fees in half to \$50, in order to find homes for the remaining 24 cats and four dogs by the end of July.

"We'll adore him for the rest of his life," she said.

Hamburger time



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press
Radonda Buford sat with her son Dakota, 3, at the Joyful Blessings Lunch Saturday in the basement of the First Baptist Church.



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Bluegrass and Folk Festival

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BRONZE

Active Balance Chiropractic & Acupuncture Clinic-Atwood, Dr. Thomas Barlow, CB Heating & Air Conditioning, Colby Automotive-Car Quest, Colby Glass, Colby Women's League, Donelan Jewelry, Edward Jones-Darryl Henry, Farm & Ranch Realty, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Final Finish Auto Body & Repair-Atwood, Great Plains Spraying, Inlow Interiors, Jim's Electric, Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, Kiwanis Club of Thomas County, Lobo Retail Liquor, Bob Luck/Mobil Oil, McKee Inc., P & D Auto Repair, Prairie Land Insurance of Winona, Someplace Special, State Farm Insurance, Tina Harris Physical Therapy, Thunder Chord Guitars, Waddell & Reed, Western Sprinklers, Inc., The Great Outdoors Gun Shop-Atwood, Timmerman Feeders, Vision Source, Sunflower Bank, Wayne & Linda Bossert, Western Appraisal

Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival is over for another year, and it was a huge success! We were blessed with many volunteers throughout the year and weekend who helped in the planning, called on sponsors, put up posters, provided youth activities, helped set up and tear down, shuttled people back and forth in golf carts loaned to us for the weekend, worked at the ticket booth and gates, cleaned up after it was over, and helped at the festival to keep things running smoothly.

We appreciate the help and encouragement of the girls at the Colby Convention & Visitors Bureau/ Colby Thomas County Chamber of Commerce office. They devoted a lot of hours to Pickin' on the Plains.

We owe a lot to the Thomas County Fair Board, who allowed us to have the festival on their grounds, to Leland Jones who settled the dust for us, and to their groundskeeper, Ron Kogler, who graciously helped us solve any problems we encountered pertaining to the fairgrounds. (If you haven't seen the new fence and entrance, you need to drive through and look. It is beautiful.)

All of that makes us mindful that none of it would have happened – none of the 1,000+ people who attended would have made that new friend, heard that meaningful song or felt the warmth and friendliness of our bluegrass family – had it not been for the generous support of our sponsors. We couldn't have had the two awesome tents or the high quality bands, or the top-notch sound equipment, if we didn't have such a supportive group of businesses and individuals who gave so generously that we were able to put on the biggest and best "Pickin' on the Plains" we have ever had!

Our hearts are warmed by the willingness of all those who helped make "Pickin' on the Plains" a truly wonderful family event for Colby and friends from near and far!

Thank you,

Colby Bluegrass Committee:

Brandon McLemore	Lottie McLemore
Blake McLemore	Larry Booth
Kathy Leitner	Bob McLemore
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