

Farms need disaster plan

Every farm should have a disaster plan to protect assets from natural disasters and other emergencies, said a Kansas State University Extension communication specialist.

Farmers should also develop a disaster plan as a way to find potential problems that could be costly in the event of an on-farm emergency, said Mary Lou Peter, who also serves as Kansas State Research and Extension's contact with the Extension Disaster Education Network.

The network is a collaborative effort by extension services across the country to reduce the impact of disasters through education.

Find risks ahead of disasters

"Creating a plan helps producers find risks they may have overlooked or not thought about," Peter said.

Disaster planning starts with identifying high on-farm risks and acknowledging past emergencies. In many states, the most common natural disasters are floods, wind, fire and winter storms.

Crop insurance can be one of the best ways to protect income if field crops are damaged. Farm disaster planning should include an analysis to determine if crop insurance is best for a particular farm.

Peter also recommends farmers take steps to mitigate risks, such as buying a weather radio, labeling all truck and equipment keys, resolving electrical problems and cataloging assets that could be damaged.

Farmers, like other business owners, should back up computers and use off-site storage for electronic and hard copy records that are irreplaceable and easily protected but often forgotten. Peter suggests inviting emergency personnel to visit farm properties and help determine risks. For example, this might help firefighters understand how to

respond to a fire at a specific farm.

"If there is a fire near chemicals, it may be better to let it burn out rather than using water," she said. "Thinking through these steps before an emergency can help farmers avoid the environmental issues with chemicals getting into the groundwater."

Review plans annually

Once in place, disaster plans should be reviewed and exercised at least once a year.

"It does not have to be an elaborate exercise," Peter said. "Just ask questions about who is going to execute certain tasks. When disaster strikes, it won't be the plan that saves lives and money, it will be the thought process and experience gained knowing the plan."

The hardest part about creating a disaster plan can be taking the time to write it down, but two publications developed by Purdue University Extension can help.

"Plan Today for Tomorrow's Flood" is a flood response plan for agricultural retailers which farmers also can use. "Rural Security Planning" is designed to protect family, friends and farms in the event of an emergency.

Both publications are available for free download from Purdue Extension at The Education Store at mdc.itap.purdue.edu/. Hard copies are available for \$1 each.

"Using publications and common sense," Peter said, "a producer can have a farm-ready emergency plan in about three hours."

Information for farmers and others about emergency preparedness and disaster recovery is available at www.extension.org (click on disaster issues) and www.eden.lsu.edu. More information for Kansas is available at www.kseden.ksu.edu.

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Andrew Korte and Jillian Parker

Graduating couple to marry in June

Jillian Parker of Goodland and Andrew Korte of Columbus, Neb., plan to marry on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church at Goodland with Fathers Nick Parker and Norbert Dlabal officiating.

The parents of the bride-to-be are Lauren and Geralyn Parker of Goodland and her grandparents are Gerald and Leona Rogers and Harold Parker and the late Luella Parker.

The future groom's parents are Don and Susan Korte of Columbus, Neb. and his grandparents are Vera

Blum and the late Harold Blum and Mary Korte and the late Virgil Korte.

She graduated from Goodland High School in 2007 and will graduate May 6, 2011, from the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Neb. with a Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre.

He graduated from Columbus High School, Columbus, Neb., in 2005 and will graduate May 6, 2011, from the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Neb. with a Bachelor of Arts in education and a Bachelor of Science in education.

public notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Lois L. Cook,
Deceased

Case No. _____

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Larry L. Cook, an heir of the decedent, Lois L. Cook, praying that: Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Sherman County, Kansas:

Northeast (NE/4) of Section 12, Township 10 South, Range 39 West of the 6th P.M., Sherman County, Kansas

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death. Further, that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate

owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before May 6, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., in the District Court, Sherman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgement and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Larry L. Cook
Petitioner

Zuspann & Zuspann, P.A.
1002 Broadway Ste B
P.O. Box 968
Goodland, Kansas 67735-0968
Phone: (785) 890-6555
Attorneys for Petitioner

Published in The Goodland Star-News, Friday April 15, 22 and 29, 2011.

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