

New system supposed to track sick animals

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says it has finished a rule to improve traceability of diseased livestock moving across state lines. The final rule, to be published in the Federal Register today, will establish a framework to allow states and Native American tribes to establish animal disease traceability systems that meet their needs. Dr. Bill Brown, Kansas animal health commissioner, said an effective animal disease traceability program will give Kansas the ability to easily trace the movement of livestock in the event of a livestock

disease outbreak. He also said an effective program should reduce the number of animals involved in a disease investigation and the necessary response time while minimizing the financial impact on stockmen and ranchers. "We have been preparing for the final animal disease traceability system since February 2010, and we appreciate USDA's efforts to work with states, tribes and all industry stakeholders to finalize this rule," said Dr. Brown. "Agriculture is the largest industry in Kansas. As such, we have worked closely with our

partners in the livestock sector in Kansas to educate livestock farmers and ranchers about animal disease traceability and develop a statewide plan to implement the program in Kansas." Dr. Brown said Kansas has purchased USA-Herds, an in-house, secure electronic "filing cabinet" to collect confidential traceability data. Kansas is one of about 12 states that use the program and is leading efforts to educate other states about its capabilities to track the interstate movements of animals. The final rule will go into effect

60 days after publication. Under the rule, unless specifically exempted, livestock moving interstate must be officially identified and accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection (also known as a health certificate) or other state-approved documentation. The final rule exempts cattle under 18 months of age from traceability requirements, but the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service plans to work with the industry to promulgate a separate rule for this group. Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Dale Rodman said while traceabil-

ity is important for animal health purposes, it may also have implications on export markets as well. "More than 99.96 percent of the world's population lives outside of Kansas. Our farmers and ranchers have been feeding Kansans since before our statehood, but in the future, we will play an increasingly important role in feeding the world," he said. "Cattle traceability could impact market access in the future. This is especially concerning when recognizing that of the world's eight largest exporters, six have adopted mandatory cattle animal identifica-

tion and traceability systems. "We have worked with USDA on the animal disease traceability framework and will continue working with the agency to implement this rule and on all issues that impact the ability of farmers and ranchers to raise healthy animals and produce safe, wholesome food." For information about the issue and to read the rule, go to www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/. For information about animal disease traceability in Kansas, go to www.ksda.gov/animal/content/417.

Tools that can be used to turn compost piles

Several weeks ago I wrote that it was time to turn the compost. This week I saw a video on composting and gardening tools. Now we all know that round blade shovels or tile spades are great tools to move soil. When it comes to composting they will also do a good job if the compost is getting close to being finished. In the early stages of compost making the compost can be clumsy and hard to manage



**dana
belshe**
• ag notebook

with stringy inter-twined materials. The use of a garden fork or potato fork, as I refer to it,

will allow you to penetrate the leaves and vines that are found in many compost piles. Ease of penetrating the pile is also why some gardeners prefer the pitch fork. As the pile matures, the finer materials can fall through the tines of the fork and the material may not move as well as you like. The tool that interested me the most in the

video was a compost auger. The auger had an open spoon on the end of a cranking brace. To use you simply turn the auger into the pile and pull it out with material falling off and mixing as it is retrieved. The presenter noted that lifting and pulling associated with the use of any of these tools can be hard on muscles and the back, so use a little caution if you are not use to

such activities. Yes, it's winter, but I am sure there are gardeners out there that are starting to miss the action in garden. The use of any of these hand tools in a compost pile would be a great way to get out of the house, back to nature and make a great product for next summer's garden.

Snow brings many benefits to the struggling wheat crop

Much-anticipated snow this winter will bring many benefits to the struggling wheat crop, said Jim Shroyer, Kansas State Research and Extension crop production specialist. In many ways, he added, snow will be even better than rain. Those benefits include:

- Moisture. Obviously, snow brings much-needed moisture to wheat fields. The general rule is 10 inches of snow equals 1 inch of rain, although this varies, depending on how fluffy or heavy the snow is. One of the benefits of getting moisture in the form of snow is that nearly all the moisture will move down into the

soil and remain there for quite some time. Since the weather is cold, or at least cool, after a snow, little will evaporate. • Root development. Moisture from snow will help increase root growth of wheat. Even is the top growth is dormant and isn't growing during cold weather, roots will con-

tinue to grow if there is moisture. • Soil protection. Snow cover does a great job in keeping the soil from blowing. As long as the ground is protected by snow, soil particles on the surface can't be picked up by the wind, preventing erosion. • Soil temperatures. Snow insulates the soil. Keeping cold air

from reducing soil temperatures and protecting the crown of the wheat plant from cold. Snow also keeps the ground warmer during the winter by adding moisture. It takes longer for wet soil to get cold. The best way for a grower to improve the chances of having snow cover is to maintain standing residue

on the field, Shroyer added. "Standing residue is especially effective in capturing and keeping snow, especially when it's windy," he said. "That's another reason that keeping residue on the soil is important."

Visit us on Facebook - The Goodland Star News

The Goodland Star News Service Directory

TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane!

Bowman's Heating / Air Conditioning
577 W. 31st, Goodland (785) 899-5770

HAPPY Holidays
Thank you to our wonderful customers for your loyal business. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!
Sales ~ Service ~ Installation ~ Repair

Culligan
Quality Service since 1948
Better Water. Pure and Simple™

Scheopner's Water Conditioning, Inc.
904 Main, Goodland (785) 899-2352

- * Drinking Systems
- * Water Softeners (Sales & Rentals)
- * Water Coolers
- * Salt Sales & Delivery

"Seek Shelter Today!"
LIFE • HOME • CAR • FARM • BUSINESS

Jim Alcorn, Agent
1624 S. Main Street
Goodland, KS 67735-0727
Business: (785) 899-2553
www.shelterinsurance.com

The Decorating Co.
Interior Design Consultants
Irene Smith & Rochelle Kling
There's no limit to our imagination.
106 E. 11th, Goodland, KS 67735
(785) 890-5441
E-mail: decorco@st-tel.net

2003 PRESIDENT'S AWARD **Ford** 2005 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

"Where Service is an Affair of the Heart"
DAN BRENNER FORD, INC.
222 W. HWY. 24, I-70 BUSINESS LOOP, GOODLAND, KS
(Toll Free) 800-636-8770
(Business) 785-899-2316 (Fax) 785-899-2317

Windy Plains Bike Shop
Professional bicycle repairs since 1978!
Parts, accessories and service for all makes. Pick up and delivery available in Goodland!
TIRED OF FLATS? ASK ABOUT OUR NO FLAT GUARANTEE!
Harold Snetten
6085 Rd. 17
(785) 899-4786 • (785) 899-5858 (home)
Same day service on most out of town repairs!

Brandon's Carpentry
Drywall • Painting • Flooring • Roofing
Doors • Windows • Siding • Decks • Ramps
Small Building Construction • Garages and More
BRANDON LEE (785)332-3370
St. Francis, KS 67756 Cell: (785)332-5264
Serving the tri-state area.

Sealy **MOHAWK** **ASHLEY**

Superior Electronics & MORE!
Flooring and Furniture and Accessories
360 14th St., Burlington, CO ~ PHONE: (719) 346-7579
Dan and Myrna Troyer
www.superiorflooringandfurniture.com

Sit back, relax, and watch The Service Directory do the hard work for you.

NEW SYSTEM PROFESSIONAL WINDOW CLEANING

Serving Northwest Kansas & Northeastern Colorado since 1992!

Plum Creek, Ltd.
Stylish & Sophisticated Affordable Quality
Mens & Womens Clothing
Elite Tuxedo Rentals

Store Hours: 9 am - 5:30 pm M - F
9 am - 4 pm Sat. 475 N. Franklin, Downtown Colby 785.460.1978

Call Kayla at *The Goodland Star-News* today to find out how!

(785) 462-6995 OR (800) 611-6735
egriffith@st-tel.net
www.mywindowcleaner.net

Eldean and Janet Griffith • PO Box 692, Colby, KS

WANTED: DIRTY CARPET
IF YOU HAVE DIRTY CARPET, WE CAN STEAM CLEAN IT.
NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL!

- Commercial/Residential
- Advanced Truck Mounted Steam Cleaning Equipment
- Water Damage Restoration
- FREE ESTIMATES

Cleaning NW Kansas one house at a time!
PRO FLOOR CARE
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
(785) 462-8313 or (800) 473-4138

Truck Lettering
800-886-2423
AWARD WINNING SIGNS AND PINSTRIPING SINCE 1974

Hot Brush 204 W. 4th Box 309
Bird City, Kan. 67731