

# Rodeo challenges everyone to wear pink

Pink. It will be the color of choice for rodeo fans and cowboys alike at this year's Kansas' Biggest Rodeo in Phillipsburg. The first performance of the rodeo, to be held on August 3, has been designated Tough Enough to Wear Pink® night at Kansas' Biggest Rodeo, to raise awareness of breast cancer.

For every fan who wears pink to the rodeo on Aug. 3, \$1 will be donated to the Phillips County Relay for Life. Brooke Corporation (NASDAQ: BXXX), which markets insurance franchises, insurance brokerage and lending services through its subsidiaries, will match the rodeo's contribution, dollar for dollar. Brooke Corp. is headquartered in Overland Park, with a campus in Phillipsburg. Cowboy and cowgirl competi-

tors will be encouraged to wear pink as they compete in the arena, and pink items will be for sale on the rodeo grounds.

The Tough Enough to Wear Pink initiative has been catching on at rodeos across the nation. One of the first rodeos to sponsor a Tough Enough to Wear Pink night was Round 5 of the 2004 National Finals Rodeo, held in Las Vegas, where contestants donned pink clothes and over \$20,000 was raised for breast cancer research.

For more information on Tough Enough to Wear Pink at Kansas' Biggest Rodeo, visit [www.kansasbiggestrodeo.com](http://www.kansasbiggestrodeo.com). Tickets are on sale for the rodeo at Tri-County Insurance, 785-543-2448. Tickets may be charged by phone or purchased at the gate. Kansas' Biggest Rodeo runs Aug. 3 through Aug. 5, with rodeo performances each night at 8 p.m.

# Congress grown kinder to value-added agriculture

By JOHN CRABTREE, Center for Rural Affairs

In inexplicably good news from Washington, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to provide a total of \$48 million for US Department of Agriculture's Value-Added Producer Grants.

This is the second year in a row that one house of Congress provided more than was authorized by the farm bill, though last year it was the House rather than the Senate talking.

Spending bills during tight budgetary times can be politically sensitive, so many believe that the process may not be completed until the lame duck session after the election. We hope that proves untrue. In fact, the political sensitivity of election season is a time when rural Americans have an even better chance of standing up for the future of rural America and being heard.

There was a time when, nearly every year, one house of Congress would cut Value-Added Grants to the bone and supporters of the

grants would have to work tirelessly to restore funding in the other chamber, and then work tirelessly again to maintain that funding in the House-Senate Conference Committee.

Value-Added Producer Grants have steadily gained popularity, however, because they invest in farmers and ranchers who are tapping into high value markets, or creating new markets, that pay them a premium. And the businesses they form often create decent paying jobs in their rural communities.

Value-Added Producer Grants are the best investment in rural entrepreneurship the federal government makes. We would all do well to let our elected officials know that we support this effort.

Established in 1973, the Center for Rural Affairs is a private, non-profit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

# Some will need new licenses

The Kansas Legislature passed a bill requiring all drivers' licenses issued to persons under the age of 21 to expire on their 21st birthday — on and after July 1, 2006.

The wording, according to the Department of Revenue, Division of Vehicles, does not allow the Division to renew licenses held by persons under the age of 21 early. Some license holders may not be able to visit a driver's license office on their birthday because of weekends, holiday, etc.

Instead, the Division will issue a temporary extension of the driver's license for 15 days, in order to give the driver time to renew when a license office is open. Temporary extensions can be obtained from any state or county driver's license office before the license expires.

Fees for all new drivers' licenses issued to persons under 21 will be \$20 for each class of license requested, as well as any applicable examination fees and photo fees.

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# Horses on display...



A young rider took his horse through the course at Friday's Northwest Kansas 4-H District Horse Show. The show was held at Norton's Equine Center and was the pre-qualifying event for the Kansas State horse show. More than 40 youth were entered in the event. The results and more pictures will appear in Friday's Norton Telegram.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

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