

How much do you love your job? Call me cynical; I estimate less than 10 percent of people jump out of bed in the morning and say, "Goody, I get to go to work today!"

So many jobs are boring and tedious or dirty, dangerous and just plain hard. Maybe I'm projecting but can hotel maids love their jobs? Who likes cleaning, especially other people's messes? And what about telemarketers, how could you spend all day trying to talk to people who loathe you?

Surveys tell us the highest rates of job satisfaction are among architects and teachers (especially special education teachers). The special education part surprises me a little. Although a special education teacher once told me it is very satisfying to see students progress. I would guess she is not a cynic!

I don't want to over analyze this though as there are plenty of people out there who will say they probably love their jobs! I do believe people are happiest when they have some power not only over others but in determining their own destinies.

Teachers are empowered in the classroom. I got my daughter the T-shirt: "If I'm talking you better be taking notes!"

Or take a person who gets to write an opinion column in a newspaper. MOI! Not that this is exactly a job, more of a hobby. Still it is very satisfying to spout off about anything I want and no

Back Home Nancy Hagman



one talks back. Don't tell me it's because no one is even reading it because several people tell me they do! Not that I give quizzes or anything so maybe they are just telling me that to be nice, but that works for me too!

Then there are farmers. What a dirty, hard dangerous job. However in our house it is a happy job. You get to be your own boss and all the benefits and rewards come back to you. Some things just come back and bite you, but hey, there is no one else to blame!

I have thought a lot about what my "dream" job would be. God is taken. Actually I don't do a whole lot I don't want to do except clean house and yard work. Sometimes minions would really come in handy!

A friend found his dream job while watching a program about photographing the Sport's Illustrated Swimsuit Edition. Apparently there is a person whose actual job is carrying around a little paint brush and brushing sand off the models before they get their pictures taken. Not that he got that job; he doesn't even know where to apply. But he enjoys the fantasy!

My son-in-law had a baseball coach who has a Yankees World Series ring. He wasn't exactly on the team. He was the bullpen catcher. He warmed up the pitchers before they went into the game. What a great job.

I suppose it requires a certain level of expertise almost like assistant coaching. But he made great money and got a World Series Ring for a very part time job! Where do you apply for that job?

Speaking of baseball, how about the Royals? Number one in their division as of today!

As a woman it seems men actually have more opportunities to have great jobs. Men are more likely to be put in charge! They get paid lots and lots of money for playing games. There are really no big time professional sports for women.

And men may think they help out around the house but no matter how great a woman's out of the house job is she is usually also the one who has to figure out how to keep it together at home. Some may have maids but where do you find minions?

Well, gotta go. Promised to shorten some trousers for my mother-in-law. I hate alterations. Nonetheless, I am happy to do this for her. Sometimes the very most satisfying thing is helping someone.

Try that, the world will be a better place and everyone will be happier!
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Healthy animals, healthy food

Today, raising livestock on a farm or ranch is a dynamic, specialized profession that has proven one of the most successful in the world. Today's animal husbandry, or care and feeding of livestock, is no accident.

Rather, it's because of the dedicated men, women and children who raise and care for this state's livestock. For generations, Kansas farmers and ranchers have watched over and nurtured cattle, hogs, sheep, chickens and other livestock from sunup to sunset — every day of the year.

Few consumers are aware of livestock producers' relationships with their animals. They don't know how the meat, milk, eggs and other food products wind up on their dinner table. But today, more and more are becoming interested.

Amy Saunders raises cattle in Jefferson County and markets her family's beef in nearby Lawrence and suburban Kansas City. Her customers want to know her and her family.

In the case of Saunders, when her customers buy her family's beef, they're also buying the complete package. "They're buying us," Amy says. "They're buying a quality product, and they know exactly who produces it."

On the open range in far southwestern Kansas, cattle have the right of way in Clark County. Here, rancher Roger Giles treats his cattle with care and respect. He understands to do so bolsters his bottom line and his reputation.

"We like what we do," Giles says. "Many people have a job

Insight John Schlageck

and they recreate on weekends. We recreate every day because we like what we do."

For this southwestern Kansas family, raising cattle is a profession and lifestyle they enjoy. Still, Roger realizes his generation may be the last to have direct ties to the land.

"My children's generation and beyond... even in our local town, have no perception of production agriculture or the tradition of the family farm," he says.

That's why it's so important livestock producers inform consumers about this relationship with their animals.

Another producer who understands this mission is Lee Borck. He manages cattle feed yards in Kansas and Nebraska. The Pawnee County livestockman knows a major part of any successful production plan includes caring for the animals.

"The more comfortable we make our animals, the more productive they're going to be and the better opportunity we'll have to make a profit," Borck says. "It starts when we load them on trucks and bring them into the feed yard. It ends when we load them back on the trucks to go to market."

Borck's feedlots have been totally rebuilt and redesigned so the animals move smoothly and comfortably. This keeps the livestock from being excited. They eat and perform better.

"I'd like to tell you we thought this up ourselves, but our business is consumer driven," Borck says. "Whatever the consumer wants, that's what we're obligated to provide as long as we can do it economically."

In southeastern Kansas, Allen County dairyman Steve Strickler rises every morning before the crack of dawn. The health of his dairy herd trumps everything else on the farm, even his own comfort.

"One of the famous quotes in the dairy industry by W.D. Hoard says the dairy cow is the foster mother of the human race," Strickler says. "Cows are very gentle creatures... and should be treated with respect."

Teenager LeaAnne Diederich cares for her horse and two Angus-cross steers on the family farm in Washington County. Through this experience she has learned what it means to take charge of a life.

"It is a lot of work, but it's good to learn responsibility and to care for something more than just a pet," LeaAnne says. "I've learned to be there... or make arrangements to feed and water them daily. It's a big commitment."

These farmers and ranchers appear in the Kansas Farm Bureau television documentary, "The Care & Feeding of Farm Animals," available at www.kfb.org.

(John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.)

OpinionLine: 877-3361

Counties united

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nity developmental disability services and implores the members of the Kansas Senate and House of Representatives, particularly those members who represent the districts in Northwest Kansas, to address fully and unequivocally, the funding shortfalls currently being experienced through the passage of HB 2094 and Sister bill in the Senate."

The resolution, which was developed in cooperation with Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, was fully supported and signed by 17 of the 18 county commissions. The remaining County Commission also urged legislative action, only in a different format — through a special letter of support for the passing of both bills. In the letter, the commission writes, "We are in support of these bills, which provide much needed funding for services to a segment of our special needs population. Without this funding, the quality of services provided to the disabled will be severely impacted. We urge the Kansas Legislature to immediately pass House Bill 2094 and it's sister bill in the Kansas Senate."

"This is a landmark moment for Northwest Kansans with developmental disabilities," said Jerry Michaud, President of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas. "This unanimous support of the bill (HB 2094/SB 207) from the county commissions of Northwest Kansas, demonstrates their understanding of the importance of community services for their neighbors with disabilities and the urgent action the Legislature needs to take in the Omnibus session. Providing adequate funds to support individuals with disabilities in the community is an obligation of the State, like you and I putting food on the table for our families. This obligation is something which has been over-

looked for far too long."

HB 2094 and SB 207 will eliminate the state's waiting lists of more than 3,800 people statewide, within four years, and will also provide the necessary resources to help providers pay a living wage to their workers who provide vital support to Kansans with developmental disabilities. These two bills will also provide much-needed support for people with other types of disabilities, including the physically disabled, the frail elderly, those with traumatic brain injuries, those infants/toddlers with disabilities and children with autism.

For additional information, contact President Michaud at (785) 625-5678.

Report: 37 percent of wheat has jointed

Precipitation was widespread this past week in Kansas with all but a handful of counties reporting rain. Norton County, depending on the location of rain gauges, received anywhere from an inch to 2.5 inches.

Topsoil moisture, according to the Kansas Agricultural Statistics' latest report, shows 37 percent of the wheat has jointed, compared with 22 percent in 2008 and 52 percent for the 5-year average. Breaking that 37 percent figure

down shows the northwest part of the state with around 10 percent jointed, 24 percent westcentral, 26 percent southwest and the south-central with 61 percent jointed.

The condition of the wheat crop is rated 4 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 44 percent fair, 33 percent good and 4 percent excellent.

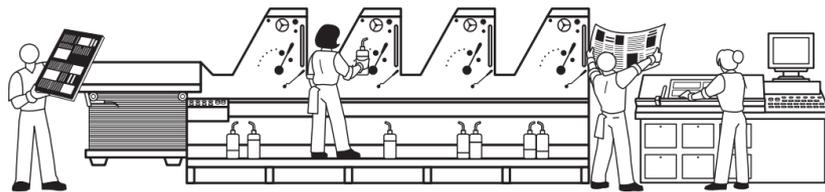
Wind damage to the wheat has been rated at 67 percent with no damage to speak of. The report further says 24 percent has just

light damage, 8 percent with moderate and 1 percent with severe damage.

Freeze damage figures, as reported by the Agricultural Statistics, show slightly more than 50 percent of the crop with no damage, 35 percent light damage, 11 percent moderate and 3 percent severe.

Insect infestation is rated at 80 percent none, 14 percent light, 2 percent moderate and 1 percent severe.

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~ Dana Paxton ~

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