

Hunter safety classes are set

Hunter Education classes will be held Aug. 1, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the basement of the Norton City office and Aug. 12, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Prairie Powder Packers gun range.

Prior to coming to class, students must take the online Hunter Education course available at www.ihea.com and print off and bring with them the score pages for the 14 final quizzes at the end of each session.

Students must be 11 years of age by the date of the class.

Parents are welcome to attend

with their child.

For registration, call the Prairie Dog State Park Office at (785)877-2953 or End Zone at (785)877-2626.

For other questions concerning this class, please call Natural Resource Officer, Richard Kelly, at (785)877-3284.

If you are interested in a Hunter education class this year and cannot attend the Norton class, you can contact the Hunter safety department at Pratt for further scheduling in the area at (620)672-0773.

Standard Reinsurance agreements for 2011

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that as of July 12, United States Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency received signed 2011 Standard Reinsurance Agreements from all 16 private insurance companies who participated in the federal crop insurance program during the 2010 crop year, formerly ending the negotiation process which has been underway since December 2009. The new Standard Reinsurance Agreements negotiated by United States Department of Agriculture is projected to achieve \$6 billion in savings over the next 10 years, two-thirds of which will go toward paying down the federal deficit while the remaining third will support high-priority risk management and conservation programs.

"The new agreement that we have now finalized lays the foundation for a more sustainable federal crop insurance program, reduces the federal deficit and improves the farm safety net for producers by providing incentives for companies to sell policies in all areas so that farmers and ranchers across the country can access these critical risk management tools," said Vilsack. "United States Department of Agriculture appreciates the efforts of the companies to negotiate a new agreement in good faith, with straightforward and constructive dialogue to develop an agreement that works for the companies, producers and taxpayers."

Throughout the negotiation process, United States Department of Agriculture worked aggressively to preserve the crop insurance program as part of the farm safety net, support producer access to critical risk management tools, protect the interests of taxpayers and ensure a reasonable return for the companies that deliver the program.

The 16 companies who have signed the Standard Reinsurance Agreements are: Ace Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Agrinational Insurance Company, American Agri-Business Insurance Company, American Agricultural Insurance Company, Austin Mutual Insurance Company, Country Mutual Insurance Company, Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa, Great American Insurance Company, Hudson Insurance Company, NAU Country Insurance Company, Occidental Fire and Casualty Company of North Carolina, Producers Agriculture Insurance Company, Rural Community Insurance Company, Stonington Insurance Company, John Deere Insurance Company and XL Reinsurance America, Inc.

Risk Management Agency grants conditional approval to these companies to participate in the program, including the renewals and writing of new fall crop business, contingent upon receipt and final approval of each company's plan of operations. The plan of operations from each company is due no later than July 26.

The new agreement will generally maintain the current Administrative and Operating subsidy structure, but remove the possibility of windfall government payments based on high commodity price spikes by limiting the level of Administrative and

Operating payments that the industry can receive. Through the negotiation process, Risk Management Agency lowered the projected average long-term return for the companies to about 14.5 percent.

With the savings achieved with the new agreement, \$2 billion will be used to strengthen successful, targeted risk management and conservation programs and \$4 billion will be used to reduce the national deficit. The \$2 billion that will be invested in Farm Bill programs include releasing approved risk management products, such as the expansion of the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage program; providing a performance discount or refund, which will reduce the cost of crop insurance for certain producers; increasing Conservation Reserve Program acreage to the maximum authorized level; investing in new and amended Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program initiatives; and investing in Conservation Reserve Program monitoring.

The \$4 billion in budget savings United States Department of Agriculture achieved is one of the first and most significant steps that a federal agency has achieved in reducing mandatory spending from the long term federal deficit.

The 2008 Farm Bill authorized Risk Management Agency to renegotiate the agreement effective for the 2011 crop year. Due to significant increases in commodity prices in recent years, annual insurance industry payments more than doubled from \$1.8 billion in 2006 to an estimated \$3.8 billion in 2009 based on the terms of the previous Standard Reinsurance Agreements. Meanwhile, the number of total policies decreased from 2006 to 2009.

In preparation for these negotiations, Risk Management Agency contracted with an internationally known company, Milliman Inc., to review historical rates of return and determine a reasonable rate of return for the crop insurance industry. The Milliman analysis shows that over the past 21 years, the crop insurance companies averaged a 17.0 percent return when the average reasonable rate for that period was 12.7 percent. See the full report and additional information about the new Standard Reinsurance Agreements online at <http://www.RiskManagementAgency.gov/news/2009/12/StandardReinsuranceAgreements.html>.



Dusty Tuckness, Meteetse, Wyo., as a freestyle bullfighter. Rodeo in Phillipsburg. Freestyle bullfighting will be part of the 2010 Kansas' Biggest

-courtesy photo

Freestyle bullfighting is back

By RUTH NICOLAUS
Special to the Telegram
Fans at this year's Kansas Biggest Rodeo who feel they're not getting enough wrecks in their rodeo will have a chance to see more danger.

Following the bull riding at the end of each performance on August 5-7, freestyle bullfights will take place.

The bullfights, once sponsored by Wrangler and held across the nation, haven't taken place in Phillipsburg since 2000.

Fans love them, says rodeo committee man Rod Innes. "We

brought the bullfights back because they are a fan favorite. People enjoy the excitement of it."

Freestyle bullfighting is different from the bullfighting seen during a rodeo.

At a rodeo, bullfighters are charged with saving bull riders from bulls that could (and do) harm them.

In freestyle bullfighting, the bullfighter showcases their ability to "fight" a bull, getting as close as possible to the animal without being harmed.

"You can dress up your fight by

doing fakes, reverses, and step-throughs, as well as jumping the bull and doing tricks off of the barrel," said bullfighter Dusty Tuckness, who will not only be "cowboy protection" during the bull riding in Phillipsburg, but will also freestyle.

Three bullfighters will each be given 40 seconds to demonstrate their skill.

They will be judged on their maneuvers and skill by two judges, with the optimum score being 100 points, just as in the bull riding.

If, after 40 seconds, a bullfighter feels he has not had the chance to

show all his techniques, he can ask for an additional 30 seconds.

The rodeo will award money to first, second, and third places.

In addition to Tuckness, bullfighters Wacey Munsell, Ulysses, Kan., and Casey Craigen, Beaumont, Texas, will also freestyle bullfight.

Innes said the bullfighters are key to the entertainment.

"They have to put on a show to sell it. If they get out there and run for the fence, it isn't worth a darn," he said.

"It's a chance to try out a bunch of new young bullfighters."

New Lutheran Church Opens

Immanuel Lutheran Church will dedicate its new facility at 14715 Washington Road on Aug. 1 at 2:30 p.m. The public is invited.

The new, 10,000 square foot facility includes worship space for about 170, a fellowship hall, classrooms and office space. Immanuel's previous facility served the congregation for 60 years, but impeded Immanuel's ministry due to a lack of parking, poor wheelchair access and a lack of space.

The new facility is constructed all on one level with full accessibility to all parts of the building. Parking is available for about 60 vehicles, and includes handicap parking stalls. In addition to the new worship space, the facility has classrooms, a fellowship hall that can seat 110 people, and expanded kitchen and improved office space.

While Immanuel Lutheran has been in existence for over 100 years, the members look forward to a new beginning in their new church building and the opportunity to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of Norton.

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Send club news to Harriett at hgill@nwkansas.com

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