

# Training scholarships available

Midwest Energy and CoBank have established a \$120,000 scholarship and career training project for people from Midwest Energy's service area interested in careers requiring technical training from community and technical colleges in central and western Kansas.

"Too many young people from rural communities believe that to be successful, you have to leave your hometown, get a bachelor's degree and work in a big city," said Bob Muirhead, Midwest Energy's Director of Economic and Community Development. "The reality is we have many businesses with good-paying jobs right here, looking for people with particular training and skill sets. This new scholarship program will help local individuals pursue these opportunities."

The pilot project, to be administered jointly by the Kansas Department of Commerce and the Kansas Economic Development Institute, will offer a one-

stop connection for trainees interested in jobs requiring career and technical training, and the businesses in central and western Kansas looking to hire them. KANSASWORKS centers, local businesses and participating technical and community colleges will collaborate to identify trainee candidates, who will then participate in customized training programs designed by industry. Priority will be given to those seeking training for jobs in high-demand occupations, including HVAC, plumbing, welding, and construction and electrician trades.

"This pilot project will connect trainees with employers who need people now, and remove the barriers to those individuals acquiring the skills and credentials needed in rural Kansas communities," said Kansas Commerce Secretary Pat George.

The program is being made possible through a \$100,000 grant from Denver-based Co-

Bank, and a matching \$20,000 grant from Midwest Energy.

"In order for our rural communities to continue to grow and thrive, business and education must work together to generate greater levels of opportunity," said Robert B. Engel, CoBank's chief executive officer. "This new scholarship program is all about creating options and, in the process, giving both young people and rural businesses a solid foundation for the future."

"We would like to thank CoBank for making these funds available," said Muirhead. "Their generosity will help businesses throughout Kansas find urgently needed workers, while strengthening our communities."

For more information about the project, contact Zoe Thompson at the Kansas Department of Commerce, 785-296-0205 or e-mail [zthompson@kansasccommerce.com](mailto:zthompson@kansasccommerce.com).

# Annual Winter Concert



Logan Elementary School held its annual Winter Concert on Monday, Dec. 9 at the Logan School Auditorium. The students in Grades K-2 sang and danced to "Snow Cow."

- Photo by Shannon Kats

# Vietnam veterans scholarships available

Vietnam Veterans of American Hays Chapter 939 is announcing that they will once again be awarding four \$500 scholarships for college or trade school. Residents of the following counties are eligible: Cheyenne, Decatur, Ellis, Finney,

Graham, Gove, Hodgeman, Lane, Ness, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Rawlins, Rooks, Rush, Sherman, Smith, Thomas, Trego and Wallace. Application deadline is March 3, 2014. Recipients of the scholarships will be announced April 15, 2014.

For further information regarding the scholarships, interested persons may write to: Edna Hansen 2001 Monroe St. Ellis, Ks 67637. Students may also contact their high school for an application packet.

# Conservation stewardship applications due Jan. 17

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be conducting a sign up for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for new enrollments for federal fiscal year (FY) 2014. Starting through Jan. 17, 2014, producers interested in participating in the program can submit applications to NRCS.

"Through the Conservation Stewardship Program, farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners are going the extra mile to conserve our nation's resources," NRCS Chief Jason Weller said. "Through their conservation actions, they are ensuring that their operations are more productive and sustainable over the long run."

The CSP is an important Farm Bill conservation program that helps established conservation stewards with taking their level of natural resource management to the next level to improve both their agricultural production and provide valuable conservation benefits such as cleaner and more abundant water, as well as

healthier soils and better wildlife habitat.

The program emphasizes conservation performance - producers earn higher payments for higher performance. In CSP, many of the enhancements improve soil quality, which helps land become more resilient to extreme weather.

Some popular enhancements used by farmers and ranchers include:

- Using new nozzles that reduce the drift of pesticides, lowering input costs, and making sure pesticides are used where they are most needed.
- Modifying water facilities to prevent animals from being trapped.
- Rotating feeding areas and monitoring key grazing areas to improve grazing management.

Eligible landowners and operators in Kansas can enroll in CSP through Jan. 17, 2014,

to be eligible during FY 2014. While local NRCS offices accept the CSP applications year round, NRCS evaluates applications during announced ranking periods. To be eligible for this year's enrollment, producers must have their applications submitted to the NRCS by the Jan. 17, 2014, closing date.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if the program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about the CSP eligibility requirements, stewardship threshold requirements, and payment types.

For the checklist and additional information, visit the CSP web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/> or visit your local U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) NRCS office.

# Some antimicrobial drugs to be phased out

News that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is taking steps to help phase out the use of certain antimicrobial drugs as growth promoters in livestock means there's now a timeframe in place for livestock producers to adjust production practices, said Kansas State University veterinarian Mike Apley.

The guidelines apply to drugs considered "medically important," which the FDA describes as being important for treating human diseases. Cattle production will be less affected than swine because cattle growth promoters are typically ionophores, which are not considered medically important, said Apley, a professor of clinical sciences in K-State's College of Veterinary Medicine.

This news means the clock is ticking. Livestock producers and pharmaceutical companies have three months and three years to get it done," he said, referring to a three-month comment period which will be followed by a three-year period for drug companies to voluntarily revise FDA-approved labeled use conditions.

**FDA Provides Guidance**  
He referred to a Dec. 11 announcement [www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm378193.htm](http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm378193.htm) by the FDA called Guidance 213 (GFI 213) which provides guidance for drug companies to voluntarily revise the FDA-approved labeled use conditions to:

- remove the use of antimicrobial drugs for production purposes;
- add, where appropriate, scientifically-supported disease treatment control or prevention uses; and
- change the marketing status from over-the-counter to Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) for drugs administered through feed or to prescription status for drugs administered through water in order to provide for veterinary oversight or consultation.

In its announcement, the FDA stated that "certain antimicrobials have historically been used in the feed or drinking water of cattle, poultry, hogs and other

food animals for production purposes such as using less feed to gain weight. Some of these antimicrobials are important drugs used to treat human infection, prompting concerns about the contribution of this practice to increasing the ability of bacteria and other microbes to resist the effects of the drug. Once antimicrobial resistance occurs, a drug may no longer be as effective in treating various illnesses or infection.

The new document finalizes guidelines issued last year, Apley said, when the FDA determined that the use of medically important antibiotics for growth promotion is injudicious and will be phased out. The guidelines also specified that all medically important antibiotics administered in feed or water (including milk replacer) will be administered only with veterinary oversight in the form of a VFD.

Apley said FDA officials have been working closely with the American Veterinary Medical Association and also taking comments from stakeholders into consideration in order to develop the guidelines. The guidelines are voluntary, but he expects the pharmaceutical industry to cooperate.

"The FDA [said] on a conference call this week that Zoetis and Elanco have already indicated they would comply with the guidelines," he said.

Until now, livestock producers could buy and administer antimicrobial drugs in the feed and water to food animals to prevent, control or treat disease, and to improve performance without veterinary oversight. The new rule removes the uses for improving performance and shifts oversight of the remaining uses to veterinarians.

### What It Means for Producers

"In swine, our estimates indicate that this will remove about 16 percent of the use of medically important antibiotics in feed for growing swine," Apley said, citing studies conducted in the past six years.

"In cattle, the primary growth promotant antibiotic use is with

ionophores, which are not considered medically important so the cattle industry will be minimally affected," he said.

With the use of tetracyclines, he added, research suggests that low concentrations of antibiotic used for growth promotion is probably the least likely to cause alterations in the intestinal tract, while higher prevention/control concentrations have much more of an altering effect. "We should be clear that this action is about decreasing the use of antibiotics in food animals, not about having clear evidence that growth promotion uses are driving problems in human therapy," Apley said.

"We have very little knowledge of the relative effect of magnitude and duration of antibiotic exposure on bacterial populations, regardless of some who think they do," he said. "So, the result is lopping off the most politically acceptable antibiotic use category, with no evidence that it is more, or even as much of a problem than other higher exposures. This is a troubling precedent when we eventually evaluate some prevention and control uses in the future."

"While the new rules mean some antimicrobial drugs will be removed from livestock production, no one should think that it's removing a substantial amount," Apley said, adding that "the public perception of the amounts of such drugs used in food animals for growth promotion has been intentionally inflated for purposes of agenda advancement by some groups."

To help phase in veterinary oversight of drugs that move from over-the-counter to VFD status, the FDA released a proposed rule for public comment that updates its existing regulations relating to VFD drugs. The proposed rule allows for changes to the VFD to attempt to decrease the load on veterinarians and feed mills, the veterinarian said.

More information about the new guidelines is available at [www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/GuidanceComplianceEnforcement/GuidanceforIndustry/ucm216939.htm](http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/GuidanceComplianceEnforcement/GuidanceforIndustry/ucm216939.htm).

For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call 877-3361 email: [dpaxton@nwkansas.com](mailto:dpaxton@nwkansas.com)

*Merry Christmas*

**You're Invited to Our Customer Appreciation Day**

**Friday, December 20**

**11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**Join Us for Cookies and Hot Apple Cider!**

**Norton Animal Health Center, LTD**

Aaron R. White, DVM • Sarah Ketterl White, DVM

801 W. Holme, Norton, Kansas • 785-877-2411

# FYI

Pastor Timm O. Meyer of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS) in Norton, KS received his Volunteer of the Year award from Warden Jay L. Shelton at a ceremony held at the Norton Correctional Facility on July 18. This event took place after the May 1st ceremony conducted

in Topeka, KS for other state volunteers. At that event Secretary of Corrections, Ray Roberts presented the state award to the volunteers. Later Governor Sam Brownback met with the group to extend his congratulations.



*You're Invited to Our*

# Open House

In Our Lobby On

**Thursday, December 19, 2013**

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*"TAKE A BREAK FROM THE BUSY HOLIDAY SEASON TO ENJOY DELICIOUS CANDIES AND CIDER WITH US!!"*

Established April 1902

P.O. BOX 560 — NORTON, KANSAS 67654-0560

PHONE 785-877-3341

VISIT THE ALSO RAN GALLERY ON THE MEZZANINE

ATM Service at Norton Total Service Station

Member F.D.I.C.