

Sectioning provides better grass

The 1999 Goodyear Award for soil management and Grassland Award for good grass practices went to Larry Lively.

Mr. Lively runs a farming and cow/calf operation in Center and Altony townships southeast of Oberlin. He lives next door to his uncle, Ivis Hanson.

Mr. Lively received the Grassland Award, in part, because of a project he and partner Marlene Wolfram undertook about a year ago.

A government grant allowed stockmen to turn large pastures into smaller sections, called cells, and drill a new wells, Mr. Lively said.

Cattle are moved from one cell to another each 30 days, which allows the ungrazed land to regrow better.

"Cell grazing is more efficient than grazing a whole pasture at a time," Mr. Lively said. "More cattle can be run on the same acres without over taxing the grass."

Government regulations were numerous and included how deep to dig each fence post and how the wire had to be wrapped around the corner posts.

Mr. Lively said he hired someone to help with the fencing and to drill a new well in the northern part of the pasture.

To complete the project about a mile of new interior cross fences were put in to make the cells, 11 sets of corner posts were replaced and new

wire was put on the exterior fence.

A central cattle watering source is needed or water must be available in each cell.

Mr. Lively said the new solar-powered well is the only water sources in the pasture, where he keeps part of his 140 head herd.

There is a windmill with double stock tanks, two electric water wells and two natural stream fed ponds that make up the water systems in the cell grazing blocks.

"I hired Jim Gaumer to dig a small pond in the pasture to catch rain run off for the cattle to drink from," he said. "and there are several low spots that catch run off as well that can water the cattle also."

Along with the cross fencing Mr. Lively built a working chute in a shed with corrals just west of where he lives.

"It's really nice to be able to work cattle inside or to be able to pull a baby calf if the

need arises," said Mr. Lively. "It enables me to do some of the work myself instead of having someone help every time."

For Mr. Lively's overall farming practices he received the 1999 Goodyear Award. He has been farming in Decatur County for 25 years and raises wheat, corn and cane on 1,100 acres using eco fallow practices.

"Eco-fallow is the best way to farm around here," said Mr. Lively. "It takes the least amount of tillage and saves moisture."



THE DARK CORNER POSTS next to Larry Lively were set per to government regulations on new fence put into his grassland project. — Herald staff photos by Jeanette Krizek






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THE HUFF FAMILY — Richard; Boo, the labrador; Charissa; and Eldon — use their semi-truck during harvest seasons.. — Herald staff photo by Jeanette Krizek

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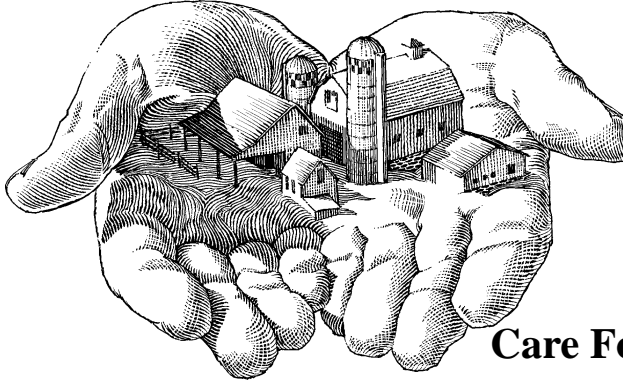
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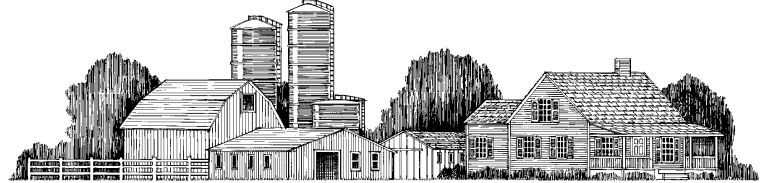


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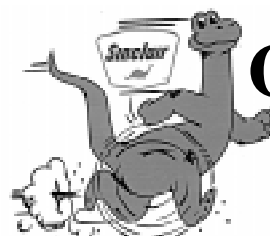
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Interesting crops help farm family

By JEANETTE KRIZEK

No-till practices earned Elden and Charissa Huff the 1999 Soil Conservation Award from the Kansas Bankers Association and the Decatur County Conservation District. The couple farm in Harlan and Grant Townships about 21 miles northeast of Oberlin.

The Huffs' and their son Richard, 13, have lived on the farm for many years.

Mr. Huff said he fell in love with the farmstead 17 years ago, back when he was a junior in high school, and made plans to buy it from the owners Kenneth and Henrietta VanVleet.

He acquired the property and other land over the years, accumulating about 3,000 acres of farm land where he grows corn, wheat, alfalfa, and sunflowers.

This past year the couple tried their hand at raising white wheat and white corn which will be used to make specialty food items.

A 50-acre test plot was planted last year and another 150 acres were put in the fall for summer harvest.

"The wheat and corn are planted the same as the yellow varieties," said Mrs. Huff, "but the kernels look different."

After the wheat was harvested, the crop was stored in a grain bin on the farm until a sample can be tested at the elevator for protein content. The higher the protein content the better the price.

When a price was set Mr. Huff hauled the wheat in his semi-trailer to an elevator in Kipp, outside of Salina. The American White Wheat Association purchased the wheat to bake bread for grocery stores.

"The white wheat sold for about the same as regular wheat this year because this is a new market," said Mr. Huff, "The main idea is to get a foot in the door for when the project takes off in the future."

The couple has experimented with grinding the wheat for personal use in baking and found it to be superior quality to what is sold at grocery stores.

In the future the couple may look into grinding their own wheat, marketing it, and distributing it themselves.

"One of the things I've learned over the years is the importance of marketing your own product," he said. "This could be a perfect opportunity to branch out and try our hand at something different."

The other new crop the couple tried this last year was white corn. About 18 acres was planted and the harvested grain taken to an elevator in Gothenburg, Neb., where it will be used in tortilla chips.

Mr. Huff said the market price for white corn is estimated to be about eight to 10 cents more per bushel than the yellow variety.

Mid Olec Sunflowers which is used for cooking oil is another crop the couple have raised.

In the past the Huffs' planted a white variety but do to a shortage of seed a black variety will be used this year.

He said one of the reasons he started growing Mid Olec Sunflowers is because the product has about a one dollar higher premium than regular sunflowers that are planted in the area.

Mr. Huff said he rents out all of his grassland and concentrates all of his energy on farming.

"I re-build my own terraces and do most of my own mechanic work on top of keeping the ground in good shape," he said. "That keeps us pretty busy."

Mr. Huff also served on the Decatur County Farm Bureau for the last eight years, serving as president for three.

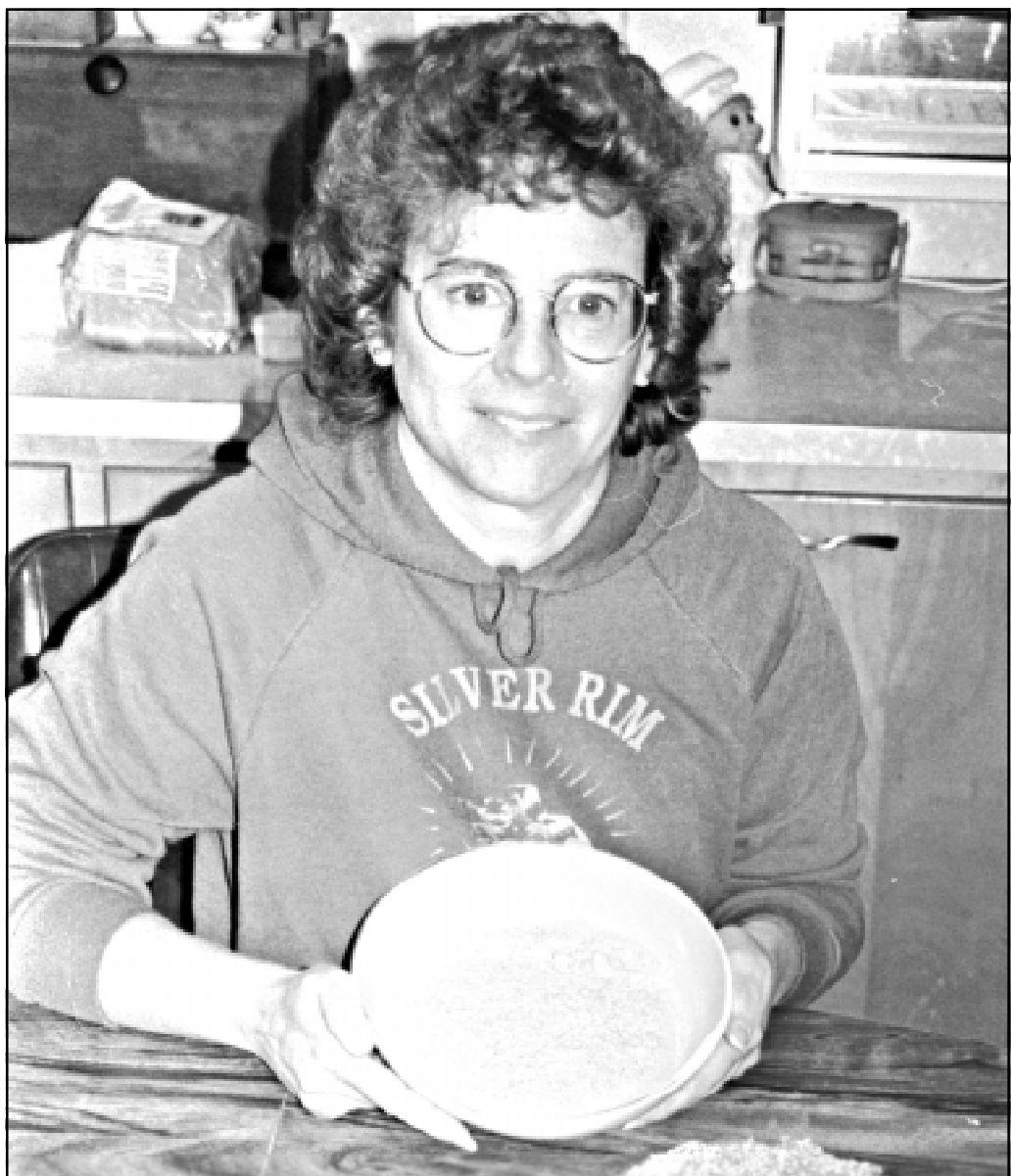
He and others serving on the board have gone to Washington to lobby for farm issues and meet with Kansas representatives.

"The whole family has gone to Washington," said Mr. Huff. "My son even has a photo hanging on the wall of Congressman Moran's office."

The photo, taken by Richard, was of sunflowers growing on his parents farm. He entered the photo in the Decatur County Fair a few years ago as a 4-H project and received a purple ribbon.

He presented the photo to Mr. Moran when he visited Washington D. C with his parents last year.

Outside of helping on the farm Charissa also works at the Good Samaritan Home and Richard attends Decatur Community Junior High.



CHARISSA HUFF holds freshly ground flour, from white wheat grown on the Huffs' farm. — Herald staff photo by Jeanette Krizek



A SUNFLOWER FIELD PHOTO by Richard Huff captured a bee resting on the flower head. A copy of the photo hangs on the office wall of Congressman Jerry Moran in Washington.

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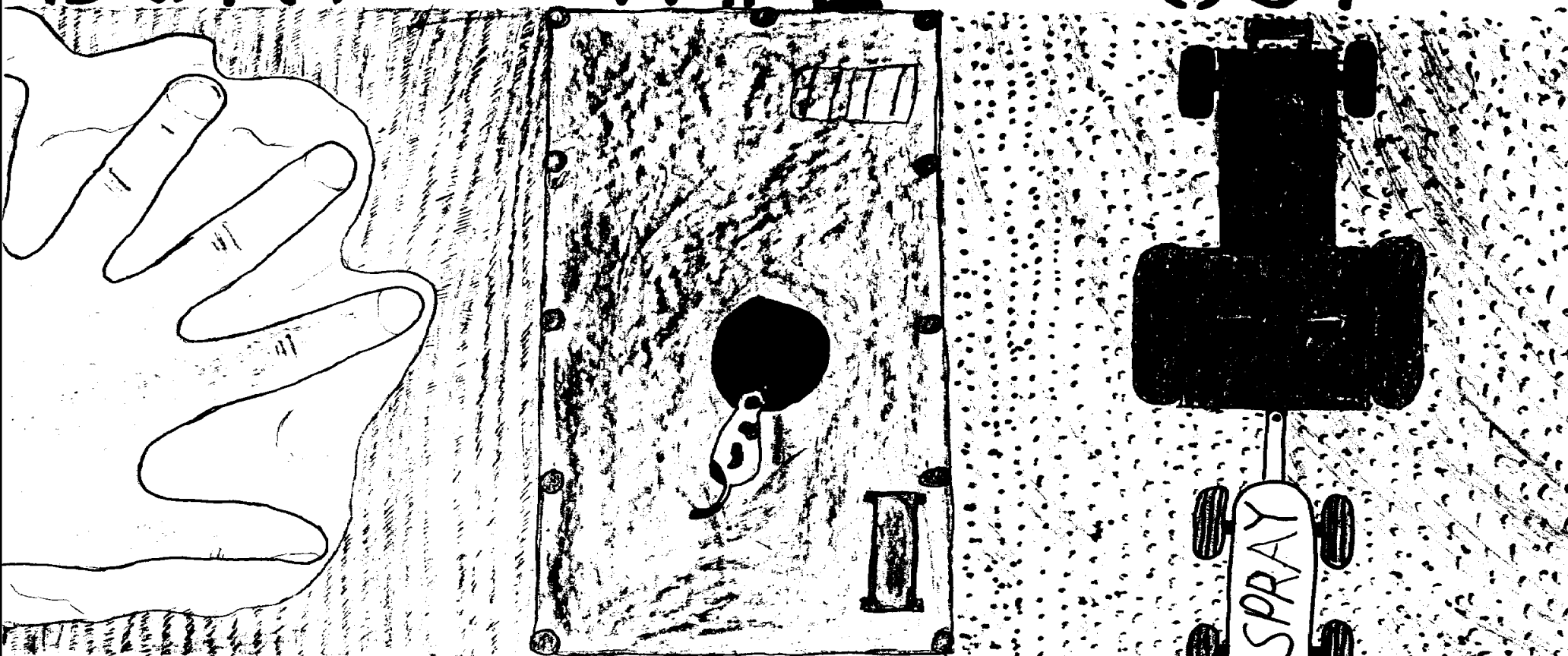


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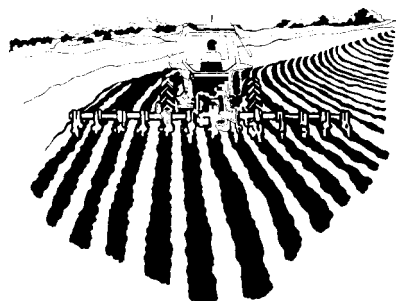
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