

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor,
I would like to take this means to add to Jane Brubaker's wonderful letter written for the paper December 22. I have had the privilege of living in three rural communities during my teaching career. During these years I have discovered that all of these small farming communities, with their schools, share something in common. They are full of caring, hardworking dedicated people, as are Bird City, McDonald, and the surrounding area.

I am thankful that I have been able to work with the parents of Cheylin schools and the dedicated teachers and staff, who give so much, so our children can be successful. I have always found the

parents to be committed to their children's success and the success of the school here. The people of this area, through the grandparents and parents, are passing on this wonderful work ethic to their children.

I have found parents and students always willing to do whatever was necessary to be successful in my classes. The students take great pride in doing well and putting their best effort into whatever is required of them.

In closing, I would like to say that I truly appreciate the hardworking students, parents, teachers, and grandparents that are found in this area. I'm sure they will make us proud for years to come.

Sincerely, Marjean Zumbahlen

Emergency loans available to farmers with crop losses

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service is making emergency loans available to help qualified producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought in Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace counties. Eligible loan funds may be used to restore or replace essential property and pay production costs associated with the disaster year.

Applicants can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses not to exceed \$500,000. The current rate for these low interest loans is 3.75 percent. Producers must meet eligibility requirements and not be able to obtain credit from a commercial lender.

Farm Service Agency will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

Producers have until July 7 to apply for an emergency loan. Contact the Farm Service Agency office at your local U.S. Department of Agriculture Service center, or call (785) 899-3070, Ext. 26 for more

details.

Rural youth loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency makes operating loans to youth 10 to 20 years old to establish and operate income producing projects. To qualify, the borrower must be a U.S. citizen, live in open country or a town of less than 10,000 people, and be unable to get a loan from other sources. Up to \$5,000 can be used to finance income producing projects in conjunction with participation in 4-H, FFA or a similar club.

Some common projects include livestock and crop production, lawn and garden services, and repair shops. The funds may be used to buy livestock and equipment and supplies, and pay operating expenses for the project. Interest rates for these loans are determined periodically; however, when the loan is made, the interest rate is fixed.

Gain valuable business experience and contact the Farm Service Agency at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center for more details.



LLOYD WILSON, standing, and his wife Sandy have leased the St. Francis Livestock Auction. On Jan. 11, they had a \$1 million sale at the barn.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Sale barn under new management and have a \$1 million livestock sale

By Karen Krien

Early every Wednesday, farmers and ranchers began arriving at the St. Francis Livestock Auction for the weekly sale. Last week, there were many producers as well as buyers as just under 1,300 cattle were sold, making for a \$1 million sale.

Lloyd and Sandy Wilson, Imperial, leased the sale barn a little over three months ago after Skip and Betty Petersen retired. The Wilsons have been in the livestock auction business for 25 years and before that, they lived north of Levant where they bought and sold cattle.

The Wilsons thought that the Imperial Livestock Auction and St. Francis Livestock Auction businesses would work well together and have found it to be true.

"We have buyers from Imperial coming down to St. Francis on Wednesday and, on Fridays, there are buyers from St. Francis attending the Imperial sale," Mr. Wilson said. "Both markets are working hand in hand."

The St. Francis sale averages between 500 and 700 head a week but there are the bigger sales like the Jan. 11 sale.

"We found the community

people and local cattlemen were anxious to have a sale barn," Mr. Wilson said. "We are real pleased with the response."

He said that the businesses in town also seem eager to help and knew that having the sale barn in town is important.

There will be many of the familiar faces seen each Wednesday and many of the former employees are still there.

Jim Dunn, St. Francis, is the field representative as well as the brand inspector. Rocky Hayes, Atwood, is the field representative for the Rawlins County area as well as the auctioneer. If farmers have cattle they are planning to sell, they can either call the sale barn or contact one of these field representatives.

Robin Witzel, St. Francis, helps at the auctions on Wednesdays and also throughout the week when the Wilsons are in Imperial.

"She is our business manager when we aren't there," Mr. Wilson said.

Mrs. Wilson is in charge of the business office. Rikki Rueb and Jacque Zwegardt, along with the Wilson's daughter, Julie Rigel, are there to help the buyers and sellers.

Those helping in the yard are: Jerdene Barnhart, Darrel Zwegardt, Gary Grice, Lester Horinek, Gabe Horinek, Ron Johnson, Brenda Nelsen, Bob Zwegardt, Royce Roberts, Adam Morris, Butch Ewing, Adam Arensdorf, Troy Burr, Preston Smith, Josh Fanning and Richard Walter.

Rosie Bierig runs the sale barn cafe.

"A good cafe is a real asset to a sale barn and Rosie has a good cafe with good food," Mr. Wilson said.

Sale days

Sale day in St. Francis starts at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at the

auction barn on U.S. 36.

The Imperial sale starts at 1 p.m. mountain time on Fridays. A horse sale is held at 5 p.m. mountain time on the first Saturday of the month (tack sales start at 2 p.m.). The Imperial sale barn is located on the southeast side of the city on U.S. 34.

"Some weeks we have three sales," Mr. Wilson said.

Future plans

Mr. Wilson said the St. Francis sale barn was in good shape with nice pens when they leased it but they have added seven feed-and-water pens to accommodate the cattle that come in early and those staying after the sale.

In the future, the Wilsons would like to put a building over the veterinarian's working chute. They would also like to build a drive-thru where trailers can be unloaded. This will eliminate the need to back up to the chutes. The Imperial sale barn has a drive-thru and those unloading like the convenience.

History

The Wilsons originally came from Colby and lived north of Levant for 10 years before moving to Imperial. Mr. Wilson said, during those years, he attended five livestock sales a week where he bought and sold cattle. He said Sandy stayed at home and did the work there.

They have three children, a daughter Lisa and family who lives in Omaha, Neb.; a son Doug and family living in North Carolina; and daughter Julie and husband who lives in Imperial. They also have three grandchildren.

Part of each week is spent in St. Francis getting ready for the sale and the rest of their time is spent in Imperial.

The Wilsons encourage people to stop by on Wednesdays and watch the cattle sell.



Public Notice

Petition filed in court for the Ewing estate

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays January 19, January 26 and February 2, 2006. (3-5)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

CASE NO. 2006-PR-01 ANNA M. EWING, Deceased. PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 59

NOTICE TO CREDITORS THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on January 6, 2006, a petition was filed in this Court by Howard B. Ewing and H. Lynn O'Leary, heirs and beneficiaries under the Last Will and Testament of Anna M. Ewing, deceased, dated May 22, 1979, and

Howard B. Ewing and H. Lynn O'Leary were granted Letters Testamentary.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within four months from the date of first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Howard B. Ewing
H. Lynn O'Leary
Co-executors

JAMES M. MILLIKEN, CHARACTERED
Kari M. Gilliland, #17386
101 W. Washington Street, P.O. Box 627
St. Francis, Kansas 67756
(785) 332-2101
Attorney for Petitioners



SANDY WILSON is busy clerking the sale in the office.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

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