



## Annual meeting is held

By Karen Krien

The annual Cheyenne County Farm Bureau meeting was held Monday at the St. Francis Community High School. A meal was served followed by the introduction of special guests and the speaker Debbie Hargraves.

Mrs. Hargraves is the assistant director for Kansas Farm Bureau. She works closely with the district administrators to assist county Farm Bureau staff and volunteer boards by coordinating Kansas Farm Bureau communications and member-benefit programs.

She told those present that they should be looking toward the new year and getting "back to basics." She named the "A, B, Cs" basics.

"A" stood for action, noting that Farm Bureau is known for taking action on legislative policies that protect the farmer's interests.

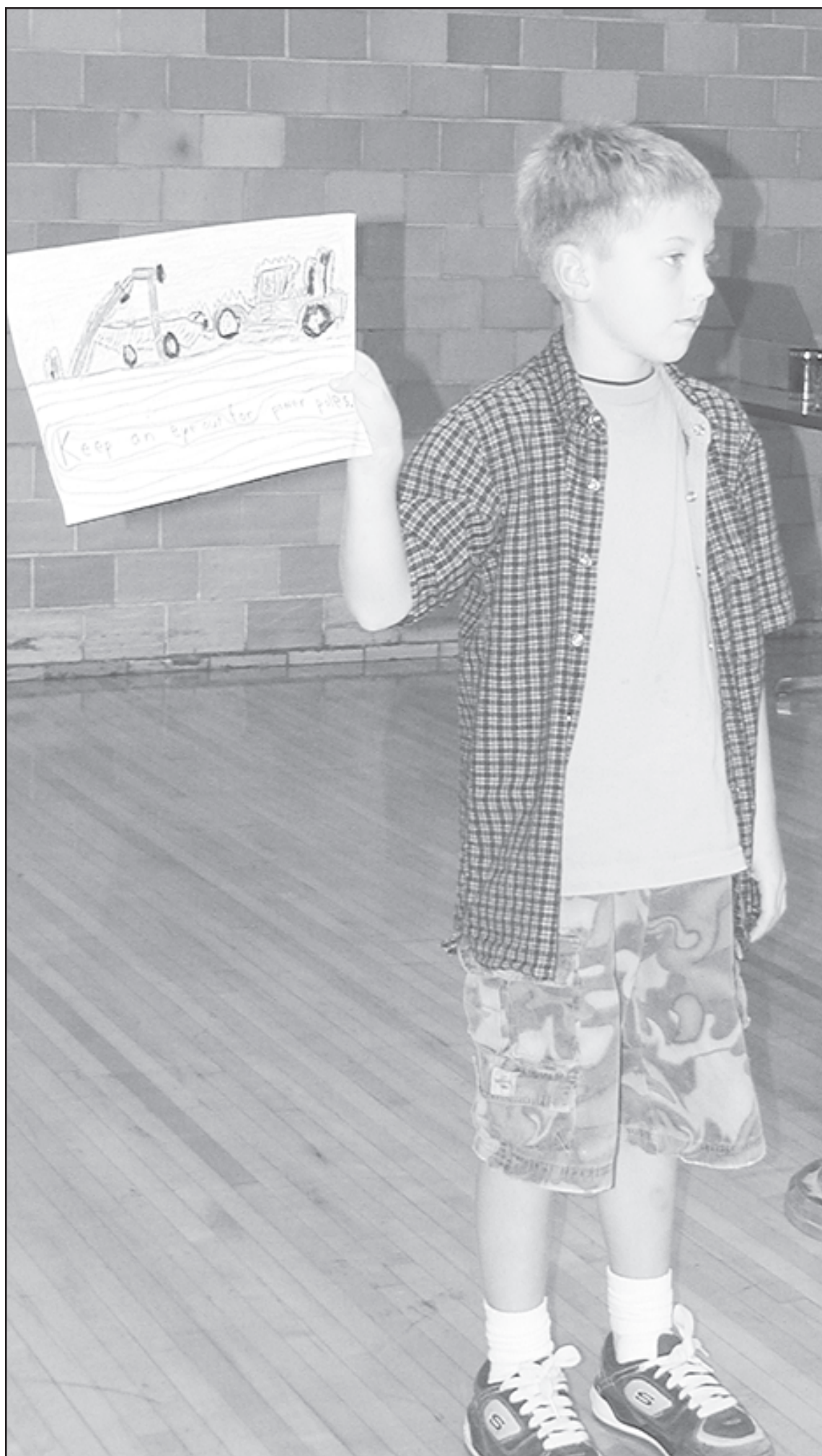
She noted that the senate districts are divided and each district has approximately 66,000 people. In Johnson County, there are seven senators, however, in western Kansas, it takes 18 counties to accumulate the 66,000 people. She laughed as she said the senator in Johnson County can walk her district in less time that it takes Senator Ralph Ostmeyer to drive his.

She said that it was important to get along with the bigger eastern districts, who can help the western districts.

"B" stood for belief." Mrs. Hargraves said it was important to make things better for farmers. She said Farm Bureau recognizes Century Farm Families and, so far, there have been over 1,500 Century Farm Families names. She said these families deserved to be recognized as they believed as they went through many trials to maintain and keep their farms, many of them building the farm before the house.

"C" stood for commitment. She said without commitment, "action" and "believe" will falter. Mrs. Hargraves said that Cheyenne County was the first county in the state to reach memberships gain and voting members. The county Farm Bureau is also to be commended for bringing educational programs to youth as well as adults.

Roger Zwegardt, president, told of the many programs which Farm Bureau had brought to the community. Some of them were



REECE LEONARD HOLDS up his winning safety poster for everyone to see at the annual Farm Bureau meeting and dinner.

Times Staff photo by Karen Krien

giving \$50 to the Food Pantry, gave informational meeting on well meter requirements for irrigation wells, hosted a farm tour for fourth and fifth graders; cosponsored the Pedal Pull and gave the winners T-shirts and conducted a ATV safety rodeo.

The Cheyenne County Farm Family award went to Clayton and

Lori Janicke and family. Safety poster winners were: Forrest Burr, Tye Carmichael and Reece Leonard.

There was an election of board members. Board members include Mr. Zwegardt, Steve Douthit, Shawna Blanka, Ryan Culwell, Todd Neitzel, Clayton Janicke and Jeanne Dunn. The

agency manager is Connie Holzwarth, and Marla Rice is the marketing assistant and county coordinator. District administrator is Craig Cooper.

A meal was served by the high school cooks. Door prizes were drawn before the crowd adjourned.

## Historic site tour to start in Bird City

Kent Chapman, Emporia, will be the guest speaker at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Bird City Library. Mr. Chapman will be talking about Gen. George Custer and his trips through Kansas. The group will head to the Kidder Massacre site where he will tell of the Kidder battle and some of the differences in the opinions of the massacre.

Please join the Cheyenne County Historical Society for this historical event.

### More about the site

The July 29, 1969, *Saint Francis Herald* had the following information about the dedication of the markers.

On Aug. 3, 1969, there was a dedication of the historical markers at the site of the Kidder Massacre on Beaver Creek in southeast in Sherman County.

Two markers were erected, the main one that was similar to those of the Kansas Historical Society, but financed by local contributions, was placed where the Bird City to Edson highway crosses Beaver Creek. A smaller monument was placed

about a mile east, at the place where the bodies were found, and has the names of those who lost their lives there.

Col. Ray Sparks of Shawnee Mission, a noted historian and writer of the early Indian battles was the guest speaker.

The event commemorated by the markers happened when a scouting party led by Lt. Lyman Kidder, with 10 members of the 2nd U.S. Cavalry and an Indian guide, were ambushed and massacred. There were no survivors. The mutilated bodies were discovered July 12, 1867, by Col. (later Gen.) George Custer and a searching party. They were buried there, but the following February they were recovered and moved to Fort Wallace Cemetery by a party under command of Lt. Frederick Beecher, who later that year was to lose his life at the Battle of Beecher Island.

People should plan to bring their own drinking water and wear suitable clothing for this outside adventure on Sept. 10.

## Health program for adults planned

A program to improve the health and well-being of middle-aged and older people will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 5, at the courthouse in St. Francis. People will be shown how to have a structured, safe and effective strength training program.

The program, sponsored by the Sunflower Extension District, will show the importance of preserving and gaining back muscle, maintaining or boosting metabolic rate; preserving or gaining back bone; improving strength and balance which will help reduce injuries; and reducing arthritis symptoms, while improving mood, self-esteem and self-confidence. The program also shows people how to decrease depression and improve sleep.

Staying physically active and being properly nourished is one of the most important things people can do to stay healthy for life. For the past 20 years, at Tufts University and other scientists around

the world, have gained knowledge about the aging process and how people can maintain strength, dignity, and independence as they approach and enjoy the later years of life.

Essential to staying strong and vital during older adulthood is participation in regular strengthening exercises, which help to prevent osteoporosis and frailty by stimulating the growth of muscle and bone.

Feeling physically strong also promotes mental and emotional health. Strength training exercises are easy to learn and they have been proven safe and effective.

The program on Tuesday will help implement safe and effective strength training programs so women and men of all ages can become stronger, feel better and maintain their independence throughout life.

For more information, contact the extension office at 785-332-3171.

## Area residents receive answers to dairy questions

By Melinda Basnett

About 120 area residents turned out on Wednesday August 23, for the informational meeting about the dairy planned for the Bird City area.

The McCarty family from Rexford attended along with the mayor of Rexford, Bill Dible, the principal of the Golden Plains School, Dr. Roger Baskerville, Lawrence Rogers of Atwood, Kansas State University Dairy Specialist, John Smith, and many others who feel that the Bird City area is extremely lucky to be getting such an impressive operation and family to come to their town.

The McCarty's moved to Rexford in 1999 from Pennsylvania after their sons finished college and started their present dairy with 200 head. Today they are milking 1,800 head. It's very much a family operation.

Tom McCarty, his wife Judy, their sons, Mike, his wife Amy and their two children, son Clay and his wife Cristy and their two children, and son Ken work side by side to see to it that the herd is healthy and producing at its best.

capacity with Mike McCarty in charge.

The land is secured and they are in the process of getting the proper environmental permits. With the permits, dirt work will start in November and construction will begin in February.

The construction will be done by a company from Canyon, Texas. There will be 40-50 construction workers on the job and it is expected to take four to five months to complete.

Mike McCarty plans to move his family to Bird City in late May or June. There will be five or six key personnel and their families brought from the Rexford site with the needed experience to start operations here.

Approximately 12 more jobs will be open for qualified applicants.

"What types of jobs will be available?" asked Troy Burr, Bird City Mayor.

"There will be inside jobs as well as outside jobs, a herdsman, seven milkers, three pushers, breeders, feeders, hoof trimmer, many opportunities for the best qualified to do a good job," Mike McCarty answered.

Housing is one of the main concerns of both the McCarty's and area residents. Rental properties are needed by the construction crew as well as the families em-

ployed by the dairy. In Rexford most of the dairy employees are from Chihuahua, Mexico. The dairy rents homes in the area for their employees and provides their utilities as part of their salaries. There are also bonuses and incentives offered to employees.

"We take a lot of pride in our employees because they are a reflection on us." Mike McCarty said after the mayor of Rexford, Bill Dible spoke to the assembly about the impact of the McCarty Dairy on the Rexford area. Mr. Dible emphasized how well kept the rentals are and stated that he owns some of them. When asked if the dairy would buy housing for their employees, Mr. McCarty answered that they need to invest in cattle not real estate.

There will be opportunities for local growers to market high quality feedstuffs to the dairy. Alfalfa, silage, corn, straw, cottonseed and hay will be needed.

In return their will be a supply of manure available from their three stage manure system. They use a sand-base bedding in their open air barns. From there, waste goes to earth basins to settle and a two stage lagoon system. There will be solids available for spreading and the liquids will be pumped through irrigation for fertilizer.

"What does the dairy ask of Bird City?" Mayor Burr asked.



NED SMITH listens as Mike McCarty answers questions about the proposed dairy

"Patience," Mr. McCarty said. "It will take us a little while to get going, and smooth out the wrinkles. Maybe no tours right away. We'll be happy to show folks around once we get going."

"What is the total estimated worth of the project?" Ernie Ketzner asked. Specialist Smith, said it is estimated between \$9 and

\$10 million.

Golden Plains principal, Mr. Baskerville spoke to the group about their concerns and hopes for the Cheylin School District. The question of bilingual teachers was a concern. Golden Plains obtained a grant which offered incentives for some of their teachers to become certified as English as a sec-



K-State Dairy Specialist John Smith tells the group about dairy operations in the state.

Times Staff photos by Melinda Basnett

ond language (ESL) teachers.

"The children become fluent very quickly. They're bright young people who have been a godsend to our school. Right now I'm very envious of you all. You are getting some of the very best families and if I could keep them I would," Mr. Baskerville said.