

New face



The finishing touches were applied to the front of the Jamboree Foods supermarket in downtown Norton earlier in the week. This has been an ongoing project for several weeks. - Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Livestock loss papers need to be compiled

The acting state executive director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Kansas, Jack Salava, encouraged producers who suffered livestock death losses on or after Jan. 1, 2008, to begin compiling verifiable documentation of eligible livestock deaths.

"Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality as a result of adverse weather," Salava said.

"Eligible disaster conditions include blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires."

Producers will need to provide documentation detailing the proof of death to indicate that the livestock deaths are a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event.

It will also be necessary for producers to provide documents detailing the quantity and kind of livestock that died as a result of the adverse weather event. Docu-

mentation may include, but is not limited to the following: bank or other loan documents, FEMA records, tax records, National Guard records, private insurance documents, production records, property tax records, purchase records, rendering truck receipts, veterinarian records, and written contracts.

In the event verifiable documentation is not available, producers will be required to present reliable records documenting the proof of death along with verifiable beginning and ending livestock inventory.

"FSA is not currently taking Livestock Indemnity Program applications or making such payments," Salava said. "We are simply informing producers of the documents that will need to be presented to Farm Service Agency to prove death losses for LIP purposes."

After Federal Regulations are published the Farm Service Agency will distribute additional information on the program.

Farm program extensions offered

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said this week that USDA's Farm Service Agency will offer certain producers the opportunity to modify and extend their Conservation Reserve Program contracts that are scheduled to expire on Sept. 30, 2009.

USDA can only extend approximately 1.5 million acres out of a total 3.9 million acres expiring this year. This extension will ensure that Farm Service Agency meets the statutory CRP acreage limitation of 32 million acres established in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

"President Obama is committed to safeguarding the nation's natural resources and this program will help protect millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and enhance the quality of our water," said Vilsack.

The Conservation Reserve Program is a voluntary program for

agricultural landowners. It protects millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and is designed to safeguard the nation's natural resources. Participants receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland.

A general CRP signup is not scheduled during fiscal year 2009. However, producers may continue to enroll relatively small, highly-desirable acreages, including land that is not extended, into Continuous Conservation Reserve Program such practices as filter strips and riparian buffers.

Farm Service Agency started notifying participants by letter beginning May 6. The sign-up for this voluntary extension will begin on May 18 and run through June 30. Farmers and ranchers may apply for this extension at their FSA county office. The Farm

Service Agency administers the Conservation Reserve Program on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

CRP contracts with the highest environmental benefit or with the highest potential for soil erosion will be selected. These contracts can not exceed 15 years in the aggregate and chosen contract holders will generally be offered a three to five year extension.

Producers electing to extend their contract period will receive their current contract rental rate. All or a portion of the acreage under contract may be included in an extension, but no new acreage may be added.

Through CRP, the Farm Service Agency enters into long term (10-15 year) contracts with agricultural producers to protect highly erodible and other environmentally-sensitive land. Participants convert enrolled land to grass,

trees, wildlife habitats and other conservation uses. The program has reduced soil erosion by over 400 million tons, protected over 2 million acres of wetlands and resulted in buffers established on over 100,000 miles of streams and rivers, said Secretary Vilsack.

For more information visit your county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

Grader damaged

A window was shot out of a Norton County road grader around Easter.

County Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan reported the incident to the county commissioners during their meeting a week ago Monday.

The grader was parked in the county, he said, and vandals shot out a side window resulting in about \$125 in damage.

The county suffers vandalism to equipment occasionally, Mr. Brannan said; however, there has not been a lot of problems lately. Vandalism problems seem to go in streaks, he noted.

Referendum forms available

The Farm Service Agency in Kansas will offer soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, said Jack Salava, acting state executive director of the Farm Service Agency.

The request for referendum will be conducted at Farm Service Agency offices. To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2007, through Dec. 31, 2008.

Beginning May 4, 2009, and continuing through May 29, producers may obtain a form by mail, fax, or in person from the Farm Service Agency county offices. Forms may also be obtained via the internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/ismarketingprograms](http://www.ams.usda.gov/ismarketingprograms) during the same time period.

Individual producers and other producer entities may request a referendum at the county FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For the producer not participating in Farm Service Agency programs, the opportunity to request a referendum will be provided at the county office where the producer owns or rents land.

Completed forms and supporting documentation must be returned to the appropriate county office by fax or in person no later than close of business May 29; or returned by mail, must be post-marked by midnight May 29 and received in the county office by close of business on June 5.

The United States Department of Agriculture will conduct a referendum if at least 10 percent of the nation's 589,182 soybean producers support a referendum.

Stimulus project

(Continued from Page 1) to close just one lane and let traffic drive on the other lane." The official detour will take travelers onto K-4 Highway, U.S. 83, U.S. 40, and Interstate 70.

"Once a contract is signed, the work could begin as soon as June," Stewart said, "Although

Norton's name

(Continued from Page 1)

She was busy handing out the special section produced by the newspapers along U.S. 36 from St. Francis to Smith Center, including *The Norton Telegram* and she was almost out of handouts by early Sunday afternoon. The fourth annual Great U.S. Highway 36 Treasure Hunt information was also a favorite at the booth, she said. The state-wide coast-to-coast yard sale will be held on Friday through Sunday, Sept. 18-20 this year.

The Sampler Festival had 35 Kansas counties represented this year, Sampler foundation director Marci Penner said.

"Exhibitors were very pleased with the steady flow of interested people," she said. "And as it is every year, the most familiar audience reaction was surprise at all that Kansas has to offer."

This year's festival was held in the Concordia city park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday with food, music, historical re-enactments, story tellers and booths from towns, counties and groups throughout the state.

Tents were set up by geographical regions such as Northeast, Northcentral and Southwest. Other tents held those selling Kansas-made products from books to wood carvings to wine and beer.

The 5,000 festival goers could also tour the historic Brown Grand Theater downtown, the Orphan Train Museum near the train tracks or the Nazareth Motherhouse, which is the base for the Sisters of St. Joseph in the midwest.

Next year and in 2011, the festival will be held in Leavenworth County.

the feasibility of the project occurring this construction season is not likely, there is that possibility — and we want the public to be aware of it."

Logistically, many things will have to occur before the actual road work begins including the granting of permits, surveying, and securing and delivering the materials needed for this pavement reconstruction project. The contract spells out a consecutive 20-week timeline once construction begins. It allows the contractor the option to make the closure this year or early next construction season.

The scope to rebuild the roadway includes removing the deteriorated pavement, stabilizing the base, and adding seven inches of new asphalt material. The project will provide a new roadway

with 12-foot driving lanes and two-foot-wide paved shoulders containing rumble strips — which alert travelers when they get too close to the edge.

"A portion of this roadway dates back to the Depression-era Works Progress Administration (WPA) and is past the point of a 'band-aid' treatment," said Stewart. "Those who travel on K-23, including the approximate 250 cars and 150 trucks daily, will notice improvements made to the corridor."

For more information regarding this project, please contact District Engineer Jeff Stewart at (785) 877-3315 or [jstewart@ksdot.org](mailto:jstewart@ksdot.org), or in Norton Kristen Brannan, KDOT's Northwest Kansas Public Affairs Manager at (785) 871-2137 or [kristenb@ksdot.org](mailto:kristenb@ksdot.org).

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