

Sunflower State truly blessed

This year Kansas has green fields, kissed by the sun. There are blue skies with white clouds high above. There are even valleys where rivers run.

Seldom have the grass and crops been so green. If you've traveled anywhere in the state you'll know this is true — and this late in summer — the end of August.

Corn crops tower above the ground. Ten-foot tall is not unusual. Some farmers say some of their crops are 11 and 12-foot tall.

Soybean leaves are the size of footballs. Pods weigh down the plants. Cattle graze in grass up to their bellies while looking around for their calves, some who are hidden in the tall, green vegetation.

Even in short-grass country in western Kansas, the buffalo grass is green and full of protein. It's a stark contrast to so many years when the grass has already turned brown, parched by the sun.

The Sunflower State has been truly blessed with abundant moisture during the summer of 2009. Rainfall has been plentiful, timely and it keeps falling.

Hodgeman County farmer/rancher Jerry Whipple grew up on a farm approximately eight

Awards

(Continued from Page 1)

of the agricultural resources in Kansas by giving recognition to those farmers and landowners who have made outstanding progress in the establishment of soil and water conservation on their farms," he said.

Included in the awards program are a soil conservation award, windbreak award and wildlife award.

These new awards are energy conservation, water quality and water conservation.

Points to be considered in selecting soil conservation award winners, he said, include use of land according to its capabilities, completeness of farm plan applied, balance of farm enterprise, quality of conservation work done and maintenance of practices and special practices unique to the farming operation.

The windbreak award considers windbreaks which provide protection from damaging winds for residential, or other structures, areas, livestock, or fields.

Windbreaks should be a minimum of three-years-old. Wildlife habitat awards recognize individuals for establishment and maintenance of habitat to encourage and protect wildlife.

These new awards are being offered this year:

Energy Conservation Program

1. Efficient use of energy in farmstead buildings, equipment and operations including, but not limited to, building isolation; heating and cooling such as ground source heat pumps; lighting and striving for peak fuel efficiency in high energy consumption components such as irrigation pumping.

2. Production of energy from renewable sources including, but not limited to, solar; wind; biomass; biofuels such as biodiesel,

Insight

John Schlageck

miles north of Jetmore. He's been around crops and cattle for more than 65 years.

"It's been a great year," Whipple says. "The cattle are looking good and in great shape. I can't remember when I've ever seen the grass this green this late in the (growing) season."

Plenty of showers, moisture from 35 to 60 hundreds of an inch, have been sure and steady throughout the summer, the Hodgeman County farmer/rancher says.

On this early August morning, temperatures were in the low 70s. Barn swallows bobbed and weaved in the sky searching for insects. Many of the insects are pesky black flies that pester the cattle and calves.

These insects don't like to fly on such cool, early mornings. As the cattle kick them up from the ground, the swallows snatch them from the sky, eat them or carry them home to feed their hungry offspring.

Looking out the window at the

Black Angus herd, Whipple says he'd rank them at the top on a scale of one to five. The plentiful moisture, good grass and plenty of milk for the calves have been a real asset this summer.

"They're in top condition — they're fleshy and their coats are sleek and shiny," Whipple says. "With these cows in such fine shape, they'll raise a better, healthier calf this coming winter."

While Whipple sold his cowherd in May, he still goes out to his farm most days. He also looks after his nephew, Dave Ochs', cowherd. He oversees the cattle like he did while he was ranching.

The cornerstone of his livestock operation has always involved making sure they have good feed, good nutrition and the proper health care. He likened his cattle to his family.

Yes sir, out here on the Whipple place cattle have always been his living. The better he takes care of them, the better they'll take care of him. That's the way it was with his dad and his grandfather before him. As a matter of fact, that's the way he says it will always be.

(John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas.)

methane, ethanol, etc.

3. Co-utilization of energy through combining processes such as heat one stream while cooling another by using heat exchanger; cool milk while heating water for cleaning by using a heat pump, etc.

Water Quality

1. Quality of water improvement and protection work.

2. Adoption of cropping, grazing and animal feeding operation practices to reduce sediment, nutrient, and bacterial contamination of surface water.

3. Practices may include, but are not limited to, conversion of cropland to total no-till farming systems (high residue levels), planting grass or forested riparian buffers, development of nutrient management plan, installing livestock waste management systems, rotational grazing, improved livestock watering distribution system, moving livestock operations out of riparian areas, creation

of stabilized stream crossing and mortality management.

Water Conservation Award

1. Adoption of improved irrigation management techniques, improvement and remote monitoring or control.

2. Evidence of field tests for the evaluation of irrigation system performance.

3. Improvement and/or development of on-farm or ranch water supplies.

These are separate awards but all have a familiar theme of conserving water and energy resources, adapting farm related practices and equipment to utilize forms of energy and improving quality and quantity of water in and around a farming system.

Nominations can be made by any person in the county. Nomination forms can be picked up at the Norton County Extension Office or Norton County Conservation District. The nominations should be returned by Sept. 18.

• PUBLIC NOTICE • IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MAXINE SCHEMPER, DECEASED

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, August 25, September 1, 8, 2009.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of
MAXINE SCHEMPER, Deceased
Case No. 2009-PR-27

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO
ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on August 20, 2009, a Petition was filed in this Court by Gene L. Schemper and Verda L. Brown, named in the Last Will and Testament of Maxine Schemper, Deceased, dated July 5, 2001, praying that the will filed with the petition be admitted to probate, that they be appointed as Co-Executors without bond, and that they be granted letters Testamentary.

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FILE your

written defenses thereto on or before September 16, 2009, at 11:00 o'clock A.M., of said day, in this Court, in the City of Norton, Norton County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

ALL CREDITORS ARE NOTIFIED to exhibit their demands against the estate within four (4) 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.

Gene L. Schemper, Petitioner
Verda L. Brown, Petitioner
R. Douglas Sebelius, #09157
SEBELIUS & GRIFFITHS, LLP
105 South Norton Street
P. O. Box 10
Norton, KS 67654-0010
785-877-5143
Attorney for Petitioners

'Cash for a Clunker' we were

Did anyone get some "Cash for Clunkers"? We had several candidates for the program at our house. And I had been promised a new pick-up this summer. What do they call it when everything comes together? Serendipity?

My everydayride sounded like a coffee percolator and continued to make weird noises even after the ignition was shut off. I would walk away as quickly as possible, just in case it blew up. The rider's side door would not open. The driver's seat belt didn't buckle; the rear view mirror fell off. The headliner fell down years ago. The steering wheel wiggled around giving the impression it might just come apart.

It was bad enough during the daytime but after dark, I was very, very cautious. What if a deer jumped out in front of me? There I'd be; no seat belt and the steering wheel in my lap. The accident report would read, "Hagman was not wearing a seat belt." Would I get a ticket if I perished? It's a lot to worry about!

One morning the hubby asked me to take him to the field before I went to work. When he got out, the smell of the exhaust was awful. Were deadly fumes coming into the cab? His parting comment, "This thing is barely running," added to my paranoia.

Like most government programs, "Cash for Clunkers" doesn't make complete sense. How sad to take what in some cases were very serviceable vehicles and destroy them.

Both GM and Ford have called

laid off workers back because of the increased sales. But the "Buy American" crowd is upset because apparently people bought more Hondas, Toyotas etc, than American cars. Before we get too

upset about that please realize those foreign companies do make cars in America.

Much of the "Cash" went into the pockets of

people who did not need a government subsidy to buy a car.

The environmental side of the program should give us pause. Is it really "green" to destroy body and engine parts that could have been used to repair cars still on the road?

Is it possible that the energy used to produce those parts or a whole new car, might have kept an old one running for some time? Even if the old car had higher emissions, how much pollution is caused by the manufacture of the metals and plastics in new cars?

Even recycled components require a belching smoke stack somewhere to get them back into a usable form.

While I talk a good line, I confess I only take the high moral ground when it doesn't affect what I want. After considering all the pluses and minuses of the program it came down to this: "In what other scenario would we ever get \$4500 for our old heap?"

Our chosen dealer reported "Cash for Clunkers" had been pretty successful for them causing them to be out of new inventory. They were due to get a pickup in that we might like and would give us a call. We waited but with the program due to end, finally called

again. Our friendly salesperson said the deadline was now too close. Many of the "Cash for Clunker" deals they made had not been approved and they were not getting reimbursed.

They did have an '03 Ranger however and they would trade with us.

It seemed the right thing to do. I can't imagine what they are going to do with my clunker but it's gone. I can now buckle my seatbelt. It's not exactly serendipitous but it did work out!

(gneph@yahoo.com)



To... Marj Snyder, on your 94th birthday. (called in)

To... our never-say-die Bluejays, on your great triumph over those eastern Panthers. (called in)

To... the many fans, who traveled to Phillipsburg for Friday night's season opening game. Worth the drive, wasn't it? (email)

To... Tom Dreiling, best wishes on your retirement. (brought in)

(To render a salute, email nortontelegram@nwkansas.com, call 877-3361, fax 877-3732, drop by the office or mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654.)

Back Home Nancy Hagman



Got a news tip?
Call us at (785) 877-3361

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Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009 • 11:00 a.m.
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Sale Held Inside (AC) Harlan County Ag Center
Selling a 1930 Model A Tudor Sedan; John Deere and Ford Pedal Tractors; Several Toy Tractors, Implements and Tonka Toys; Wood Duck Decoys; (20) Guns along with Knives and Ammo; (2) Dueling Double Barrel Muff Pistols, Very Unique; Steven's 22-410 Over Under; Springfield 30-06; Henry Golden Boy 22 Lever Action, Nice; 1800's Red Satin Glass Gone with the Wind Lamp; Salt Glazed Crocks; (25) Outstanding Pieces of Antique Furniture; Kitchen Cupboard; Oak Secretary; Oak Highboys; Oak Drug Store Cabinet, Nice; Oak 4 Drawer Desktop Spool Cabinet; Daisy No. 20, No. 40 Glass Butter Churns; Metal Adv. Signs; Circle Roping Saddle; (100) Shaving Mugs, Scuttle Mugs, Some with Brushes, Very Large Collection-Must See; Shaving Mug Cabinet; Hesston Belt Buckles, 1975 to 1994; Musical Instruments; Plus Hundreds More Antique and Collectible Items along with more Guns and Toys
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