

# Women in Ag conference is April 20

Norton County Farm Bureau has formed a committee to develop a Women in Ag Conference Series for 21 northwestern Kansas counties and southern Nebraska counties. Additional committee members include Twin Creeks Extension District #9, Farm Services Agency and Norton County Conservation

District and WRAPS.

The date for the first conference has been set for Friday, April 20 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Norton.

The conference will consist of an afternoon session and evening session repeating the same information to accommodate as many

women as possible.

An evening meal between the two sessions will include all participants with an agriculture advocate and keynote speaker, 2011 Miss America Teresa Scanlan.

Miss America will also be making appearances at Eisenhower Elementary and Norton Jr./Sr. High

School. This conference is open to all women involved in some type of agriculture.

Flyers and registration brochures will soon be available. Send registrations in as quickly as possible as there will be limited space available.

Matter of opinion...

# Thank a farmer

By Lesley Schmidt  
Wichita

You, I and 142 other people ate today because of one American farmer. We officially recognize our farmers and all they do to make our lives better on March 8, National Ag Day. Farmers not only produce food, fiber and fuel, they contribute to a strong economy. In fact, the total impact of agriculture and agribusinesses accounts for 20 percent of the state's economy, according to Kansas Inc.

The role of farmers will become even more critical with the exploding world population. We reached 7 billion people in 2011. The United Nations forecasts that world population will reach 9 billion by 2050 – and that farmers will have to produce 70 percent more food than they do today.

I'm proud to be part of a Kansas family farm that has helped feed the world for five generations. We are also raising the next generation of farmers and cherish every planting, every birth of our livestock, and every harvest we spend together.

Be part of Kansas agriculture, if even just for one day. Take a drive in the country with your family, for instance. There's no prettier green than winter wheat fields waking from winter dormancy. And wave if you see a farmer. I guarantee they'll wave back.

Happy Ag Day!

# Conservation program sign-up begins this month

The Conservation Reserve Program is offering a general sign-up period from March 12 through April 6. The program has successfully protected our natural resources while providing economic and environmental benefits to rural communities for the past 25 years.

Landowners enrolled in the program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance

to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on environmentally sensitive land.

Land that is not currently enrolled in the program and land expiring Sept. 30 can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met.

Offers for program contracts will be ranked according to the Environmental Benefits Index.

Each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other offers and selections are made from the ranking. Program fact sheets can be obtained online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). then click on Fact Sheets.

Kansas has 2.5 million acres enrolled and 517,708 acres will expire on Sept. 30.

# Initiative will help restore wetlands and grasslands

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced this month the opportunity for producers to enroll a total of 1 million acres of land in a new Conservation Reserve Program initiative to preserve grasslands and wetlands.

Rather than wait for a general sign-up (the process under which most Conservation Reserve Program acres are enrolled), producers whose land meet eligibility criteria can enroll directly in this "continuous" category at any time. Some of the changes brought on by the expansion will take place immediately and some will be initiated in the coming months. Changes include:

New Continuous Pollinator Practice – 100,000 additional acres: A new continuous practice to permit producers to develop pollinator habitat for many pollinator species.

Increase Acreage for Wetland Restoration – 200,000 additional acres: Two practices will expand that are designed to restore wetlands that are both within a 100-year floodplain and outside of a 100-year floodplain. Last year's floods were

a strong reminder of the value of wetlands in absorbing storm water and slowing run-off.

Restoration of Critical Grassland Ecosystems: This initiative targets areas that can restore important habitats to protect threatened and/or endangered species, candidate species, or species of significant social/economic importance. The restoration work would be done through the following existing practices and sub-initiatives:

Increase Acreage for SAFE – 400,000 additional acres: SAFE practices provide the flexibility to meet the specific needs of high-value wildlife species in a participating state or region through higher-quality habitat. SAFE projects would be developed at the state and local level.

Increase Acreage for Duck Nesting Habitat – 150,000 additional acres: Restores wetlands and develops nesting habitat in areas deemed as the most critical waterfowl areas. Currently, there are 175,000 acres enrolled in this practice.

Increase Acreage for Upland Bird Habitat Buffers – 150,000 additional acres: Provides extremely valuable habitat for upland birds such as quail and pheasants. Currently, there are 244,000 acres enrolled in this initiative.

Provide Greater Incentives for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.

To encourage producers to sign up their most environmentally valuable acres, Farm Service Agency will increase the Signing Incentive Payments to \$150 per acre from the current level of \$100 per acre. The incentive is offered on most continuous practices and will include wetland restorations, pollinators and upland bird habitat.

Recently, the Department of Agriculture announced two additional program sign-ups: a four-week general sign-up beginning on March 12 and ending on April 6; and a continuous sign-up for Highly Erodible Cropland beginning this summer, which seeks to protect the nation's most environmentally sensitive lands.




## We Salute Our Area Farmers!



# Kowpoke Supply

Lumber, Hardware and Appliances

415 E. Holme, Norton, KS ~ 785-877-3070  
"ALL YOUR BUILDING NEEDS"




Thank You to Everyone Involved in Agriculture

- Concrete Work of all Kinds •Metal Buildings
- Steel Fabrication and Welding
- Grain Handling and Storage Equipment

No JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL!

Contact:  
Tim Hammond,  
Brett Hammond or  
Brock Hammond  
785-854-7470



## Auto | Home | Life



Call today to see how I make insurance simple and can help you protect what matters most.



FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES  
Insurance • Investments

Joy Johnson  
205 N Kansas  
Norton, KS  
785-877-3221

Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC, 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266. 877/860-2904, Member SIPC. Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company\*, Western Agricultural Insurance Company\*, Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company\* West Des Moines, IA. \*Affiliates \*Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services PC026-ML-1 (2-12)

## Thank You Farmers for Feeding the World




Don Kaus, Owner

113 W. Washington, Box 299  
NORTON, KANSAS  
Phone 785-877-3002

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK MARCH 4-10, 2012

### WE SUPPORT AGRICULTURE IN NORTHWEST KANSAS



314 West Holme,  
Norton, Kansas  
Phone: (785) 877-5109



## Ag Week March 4-10 2012

Honored to serve the farmers that serve our land so well



www.nortonanimalhealthcenter.com

Aaron R. White, DVM • Sarah Ketterl White, DVM  
801 W. Holme, Norton, KS • 785-877-2411  
Hours: Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.;  
Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.



## Looking for farm/ranch insurance?

Competitive rates.  
Great service.



Curt P Wahlmeier Agency  
111 W Washington St, PO Box 130  
Norton, KS 67654  
(785) 877-5802 Bus  
cwahlmei@amfam.com  
www.curtwahlmeieragency.com



American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries  
American Family Insurance Company  
Home Office - Madison, WI 53783

BC-224474 - 2/12

## We're Proud to Honor the American Farmer




# Norton Auto Supply



102 N. Second  
Norton, Kansas  
785-877-3333


## Thank You Area Farmers



NATIONAL AG WEEK - MARCH 4-10, 2012

Duane McEwen (Owner)

# McEWEN AUCTION



601 E. HOLME STREET (E. HWY. 36), NORTON  
PHONE: (785) 877-3032

## Prairie Land Electric Cooperative Salutes Area Farmers

We All Appreciate Your Hard Work and Dedication




14935 US Highway 36  
Norton, KS 67654  
785-877-3323 or  
800-577-3323  
www.prairielandelectric.com

# Farming...Lands Of Opportunity

## THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Saluting Our Area Farmers

215 South Kansas Avenue  
NORTON, KANSAS  
PHONE: 785-877-3361  
e-mail:  
nortontelegram@nwks.com

