

Onions that will make you cry

Kay Melia

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On the cover of their little 5x8 inch catalog, the words 'WE KNOW ONIONS' jump right out at you; get your undivided attention!

I dearly love onions! But I can't remember how I discovered this family owned onion production facility, but I'm grateful I did. And as a result, they have been supplying me, and a lot of my gardening friends, with beautiful, healthy, dependable onion plants for many years.

This place is called Dixondale Farms, and they perform their magic just a few miles outside Carrizo Springs in the southwest part of Texas.

It isn't often that I make an effort to convince my friends that a product I use seems better to me than another, but I have a definite bias when it comes to Dixondale Farms, and I promise you that I'm not on their payroll!

Dixondale Farms is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. The Company was founded in 1913 by John Mabson McClendon, and is now headed by his Great Granddaughter Jeanie

Frasier and her husband Bruce, as well as other family members. That's four generations and 100 years of service.

The aforementioned catalog, sent out every December to their customers, and their website, are veritable history books of successful onion plant production. Their plants, as well as their distribution system, are literally marvels of success. As a result, Dixondale Farms is now the largest grower of onion plants in the nation. Not only do they sell to individual gardeners like you and me, but they also supply hundreds of garden centers and greenhouses all across America.

On this, their 100th anniversary, Dixondale developed and is now offering a new variety of onion to their mail order customers only. It's called "Texas Legend" and we can expect it to be at least as sweet and mild as its famed parent, the 1015y Texas Supersweet, one of the most celebrated sweet onions in the nation. Texas Legend is a large yellow onion, packed with food value, and is actually an open pollinated "short day" onion, which means it thrives

best in areas south of our High Plains. But I can hardly wait to plant a row of them in this, their first year of distribution!

Dixondale Farms offers about 25 different varieties of onion plants. Please understand that they do NOT sell onion sets, those little bulblets that you plant if you want to grow scallions or green onions. Their plants are divided into offerings for the northern part of the nation, for the central portion, and for the south, and there is no question as to which ones should grow best for you. There is also a section of their catalog devoted to onion fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides and other helpful supplies, and invaluable growing advice.

Dixondale Farms doesn't sell Vidalia onions. Vidalia is a privately owned brand sold only in a small area of Georgia. But get this! Dixondale Farms sells Georgia farmers the seed for their Vidalia crop! If you enjoy growing big sweet onions, you'll love everything about the big family farm near Carrizo Springs, Texas!

Wedding Announcement

Jessica Curlo and Garry Lowry of Lincoln, Kan., are announcing their engagement to be married later this summer.

Parents of the bride are Tom and Deb Curlo of Grant, Neb., and parents of the groom are Bill and Susan Lowry of Hoisington.

Jessica graduated from Grant High School in 2001 and attended Mid-Plains Community College where she earned an Associates of Applied Science degree in 2003. She is a Medical Laboratory Technician at Ellsworth County Medical Center in Ellsworth.

Garry is a 2000 graduate of Northern Valley High School in Alma and in 2006 earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Human Performance from Fort Hays State University. He is the athletic director, head football coach and the strength and conditioning teacher at USD 298 Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School in Lincoln, Kan.

The couple has set Aug. 3, 2013 as the date of the wedding which will be held at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Ogallala, Neb.



COLLEGE NOTES

A 2009 NCHS graduate, Brittany Otter, was recently selected as a team member for an internship to East Africa. Brittany is completing her senior year at Nebraska Christian College as a mission major. Brittany has been involved in furthering her education and study of the Bible and ministry. She also has been a leader on the Nebraska Christian College campus for 3 years along with working as a part time worship leader. As an intern in East Africa, Brittany and her teammates will be helping with and learning what Pioneer's missionaries are doing in East Africa. Bible translation, discipling, learning administration techniques, and serving the nationals of East Africa are only a few "things" that they will be a part of.



The funding for this internship is completely self-funded. Anyone wishing to donate to her trip can send their contribution to:
Pioneer Bible Translators
c/o Nathan & Lindsay Dav-
enport
4116 S. Carrier Parkway,

Ste. 280
PMB832
Grand Prairie, TX 75052
Brittany is the daughter of Stephen and Penny Otter. Her grandparents are Ron and Helen Hager; and Gil and Carol Otter.

Accident Reports

Jan. 8-A white 2000 Chevrolet 2500, driven by James B. Ninemire of Lenora, was traveling east bound on Highway 9 when a deer ran onto the road from the south ditch. Ninemire was unable to avoid hitting the deer, causing over \$1,000 damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported and the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Scott Bohl.

Jan. 9-A light blue 2005 Dodge 1500, driven by Sandra Dole of Alma, was traveling east bound on Highway 383 when a deer ran onto the roadway from the south ditch. Dole was unable to avoid a collision, causing over \$1,000 damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported and the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Adam Wahlmeier.

Jan. 13-A silver 2001 Buick LeSabre, driven by Fleta L. Hanlon of Alma, was traveling west bound on Highway 383 when a deer entered onto the roadway from the north ditch. Hanlon was unable to avoid striking the deer, causing over \$1,000 in damage to the vehicle.

No injuries were reported and the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Bobby Annon.

Jan. 12-A gray 2006 Chevrolet Tahoe, driven by Landon M. Slipke of New Alamo, was traveling west bound on Highway 9 when a deer ran onto the road from the north ditch. Slipke was unable to avoid the collision, causing over \$1,000 damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported and the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Bobby Annon.

Jan. 21-A white 1990 Chevrolet 1500, driven by John Robert Sanders of Norton, was traveling west on Road L when a deer entered onto the roadway from the north ditch. Sanders was unable to avoid striking the deer, causing over \$1,000 damage to the passenger side of the vehicle. No injuries were reported and the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Adam Wahlmeier.

Jan. 25-A white 1995 Oldsmobile Royale, driven by Donna L. Hale of Norton, was traveling south bound on W9 road. Hale lost control on the loose gravel and the vehicle started to fish tail and entered into the west ditch, went down and back up the ditch, coming to a stop in a wheat field. Hale was transported by ambulance to Norton County Hospital. No injuries were specified. The accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Adam Wahlmeier.

Feb. 1-A dark blue 2010 Mazda 6, driven by Chrysta L. Stanton of Logan, was traveling east bound on Highway 283 when a deer entered onto the roadway from the south ditch. Stanton hit the deer, causing over \$1,000 in damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported and the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Bobby Annon.

Honoring those who serve the needy

By Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd Institute

Let's go to the governor's mansion at Cedar Crest in Topeka. A holiday reception is underway. The governor and first lady are visiting with their guests. But this is not some fundraiser with big political donors - in fact, it's not a fundraiser at all. This is a reception to honor missionaries, volunteers and supporters of a project which is serving needy children overseas.

Kathy Fox of Topeka is president of the board of this initiative. Kathy first learned about it when attending a women's group. A speaker named Helena Kilian told about a voluntary effort to build a children's shelter in a poverty-stricken region of Brazil. The effort was called Project Rescue of Amazon Youth, or PRAY.

PRAY was founded in 1999 by three women: Maria Kientz, Sally Savery, and Jennie Dieball. Maria is originally from Brazil. She met and married a Kansan who was in Brazil on a mission trip and moved to his farm near the rural community of Wamego, population 4,220 people. Now, that's rural.

In Kansas, Maria became good friends with two women named Sally Savery and Jennie Dieball. In 1998, Maria was planning a visit back home to Brazil, and she invited Sally to go with her. Unfortunately, there was no money for airfare. But Maria and Sally planted and sold 3,000 cantaloupes and raised the money to make the trip.

When Sally got to rural Brazil, the conditions that she saw touched her heart. She saw children in abject poverty and abandoned kids living on the street, with no home, food, or health care.

Kansas with a desire to build a children's shelter in the Brazilian village of Jacunda. Jennie Dieball gave the initiative a name: Project Rescue of Amazon Youth, or PRAY for short. With support from Presbyterian and other churches in Wamego and elsewhere, the project began. Funds were raised and a shelter and medical clinic were built in Jacunda.

Kathy Fox learned about PRAY in 2009. Her son, a K-State alum and medical school applicant, was looking for an opportunity to do volunteer work overseas. Ultimately, Kathy and her son and daughter went to Brazil to volunteer with PRAY.

"We were dragging our feet at first," Kathy said. "It is a hard trip. There are two or three plane changes to get to Brazil. Then you take an eight-hour bus ride to Jacunda." The roads are bad and the buses break down frequently.

"But it changes your life," Kathy said. "The children are so excited and so loving." Kathy and her family painted walls at the mission and interacted with the children. Her son even met his future wife. Talk about changing your life! Now he is married and in medical school.

Kathy joined the PRAY Board of Directors and eventually became its president. Sally Savery joined the Fraternity of Missionaries and became a full-time missionary, now known as Sister Magdalena. Sadly, Jennie Dieball passed away from cancer. Memorial gifts in her honor will be used for an educational building at the mission.

The PRAY Board continues to raise funds to sustain and expand the mission in Brazil. Several hundred children have come through the children's center with excellent results. A

teen house has been added in another Brazilian community.

Helena Kilian serves as volunteer coordinator. Martha Seaton of Manhattan, a former English teacher in Brazil, helps with translation. Maria Kientz's daughter Hannah, a K-State student, is also helping, along with many others.

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback and first lady, Mary Brownback have supported the project for years, as an excellent example of a private sector, faith-based relief initiative. In December 2012, they hosted a reception to honor the Fraternity of Missionaries and the PRAY volunteers and supporters.

It's time to leave Cedar Crest, the governor's mansion in Topeka, where the governor is honoring those who are serving the needy in Brazil through Project Rescue of Amazon Youth. We commend Kathy Fox, Maria Kientz, Hannah Kientz, Sally Savery/Sister Magdalena, Jennie Dieball, Helena Kilian, Martha Seaton and all the other board members and volunteers for literally making a difference in the lives of these Brazilian children.





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Almena Community Building

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- Dole's Welding and Design
- Doyle's Woodworking
- Crosses Etc. •It Works Wraps
- JamBerry Nail Wraps
- Lorraine McClain •Genesis Pure
- Granny's Goodies
- Kristin Minkler's Signs
- Premier Designs
- Scentsy •Silpada Jewelry
- Signature •Topsy Gypsy
- Tupperware •31 Bags
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