

# 'Don't bless those skeeters'

Curtains moved lazily in the breeze wafting in a meadowlark pane of joy, accompanied by the scent of mint. It was as peaceful as a painting until I turned over in bed and focused on the Baby Ben ticking away beside the bed. 9:30 a.m.! Our house hadn't been quiet at that hour since the twins were born four years ago. One flying leap took me to their bedroom where I saw two empty but unmade beds. A dash to an empty kitchen left me ready to panic until I saw a Post-it note stuck to the toaster. "At the golf course with the kids, back by lunch." I was so collapsed with relief it took me a moment to realize I had a morning all to myself.

You wouldn't believe all I accomplished in those few hours alone and it was good that I did because I was pretty busy when the flock reappeared. "We harvested, Mommie," they called as they trooped in laden with buckets of mulberries and chokecherries. "The fifth hole is near a gully just full of mulberry trees and chokecherry bushes," LeRoy explained, "so we stopped and picked awhile." "And we ate lots right off the trees," David said. Purple hands, mouths and tongues certainly testified to that feast and so did their purple stained clothes. "Good thing Dad told us to wear old clothes 'cause berries leak."

Joan brought the bucket of mulberries to the sink. "Daddy said you'd want to make chokecherry jelly for Grandpa," she told me, "but you'd make something for us with the tree berries." For the first time I took a good look at the outgrown pop top and shorts she had chosen to wear and saw all the angry, red mosquito bites on every inch of exposed skin. "Forgot the bug spray," I see," I said. Big, sad brown eyes looked up at me and a tearful little voice said, "I itch." What an understatement that was!

"I don't," David said. "Why do you?" Good question. No bug ever went near LeRoy or David; they all congregated around Joan and me. Mama's old remedy, a warm bath with baking soda in the water, gave her some relief from the itching and

## Table for five

Liza Deines



we dabbed campho-phenique on every bite but the intense itching was soon back, making one little gal just miserable. We had to cut her fingernails clear to the quick to keep her from scraping those bites raw. She couldn't get comfortable in any position except sitting in the breeze from

the floor fan. In the midst of boiling down chokecherries to make my father's favorite jelly, I'd stop and pat and console and commiserate, none of which was very effective. Lack of sympathy from her brother didn't help much either. I put together a mulberry and rhubarb crumble for supper as promised and despite all interruptions, it turned out pretty well. Saturday night supper was usually spaghetti, a favorite with the kids, but that night Joan wasn't very enthusiastic about eating.

Still, when I produced dessert everyone perked up a bit. David couldn't remember the word mulberry and asked his dad what to call the "tree berries". "So Mama will make it again," he explained "and I want more now." "Well, I guess we should call it Skeeter Crunch," LeRoy teased. Joan suddenly laid her spoon down and gave me a stricken look. "Oh, Mama," she said, "are they going to bite my insides, TOO?" It didn't take long before we figured out she thought berries were what had caused all those itchy red bite marks! And even though we all laughed, we did finally reassure her that berries and bugs were two completely different things, or as David succinctly put it, "You silly girl, we bite berries but bugs bite us."

After another soda bath and more medication dabs, Joan was as comfortable as we could get her at bedtime. Prayers that night included a special blessing for a happy day with Dad. And Joan added "But don't bless those skeeters!"

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# Doors of opportunity



On Friday K-State Research and Extension, Farm Service Agency and Farm Bureau hosted a Women In Ag conference at the Norton Immanuel Lutheran Church. The theme was "Opening Doors of Opportunity, Leave a Legacy, Plant a Seed". Along with breakout sessions, speakers included Stacey Seibel, an attorney from Hays and Doug Beech, the Kansas 4-H Foundation and Planned Giving Officer. Mr. Beech is seen here talking about Charitable Gift Giving to the 21 participants.

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

## Horticulturist gives 10 tips for planting trees

Spring seems to have finally arrived in the heartland, and with it, an interest in improving our landscapes. To help homeowners who are eager to plant trees, Kansas State University horticulturist Ward Upham provided 10 tree-planting tips.

1. Select the right tree for the site. To avoid problems, choose trees that are adapted to your location. Consider whether the tree produces nuisance fruit or if there are disease-resistant varieties available. For example, there are a number of crabapple varieties that are resistant to apple scab and rust diseases. Also consider the mature size of a tree to be sure you have enough room. See [www.hfrr.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=731](http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=731) or ask a local nurseryman for suggestions.

2. Keep the tree well watered and in a shady location until planting. When moving the tree, lift it by the root ball or pot and not by the trunk.

3. Before planting, remove all wires, labels, cords or anything else tied to the plant. If left on, they may eventually girdle the branch to which they are attached.

4. Dig a proper hole. Make it deep enough so that the tree sits slightly above nursery level. Plant the tree on solid ground, not fill dirt. In other words, don't dig the hole too deep and then add soil back to the hole before placing the tree. The root flare (point where trunk and roots meet) should be visible. If it isn't, remove enough soil or media so that it is. The width of the planting hole is very important. It should be three times the width of the root ball. Loosening the soil outside the hole so it is five times the diameter of the root ball will allow the tree to spread its roots faster.

5. Remove all containers from the root ball. Cut away plastic and peat pots; roll burlap and wire baskets back into the hole, cutting as much of the excess away as possible. If you can remove the wire basket without disturbing the root ball, do it. If roots have been circling around in the container, cut them and spread them out so they do

not continue growing this way inside the hole and become girdling roots later in the life of the tree. Remove any excess soil from the top of the ball so that the root flare is visible.

6. Backfill the hole with the same soil that was removed. Amendments such as peat moss likely do more harm than good. Make sure the soil that goes back is loosened - no clods or clumps. Add water as you fill to insure good root-to-soil contact and prevent air pockets. There is no need to fertilize at planting. Note: Adding organic matter to the larger area than just the planting hole can be beneficial, but it must be mixed in thoroughly with the existing soil. However, adding amendments to just the planting hole in heavy soil creates a "pot" effect that can fill with water and drown your new tree.

7. Don't cut back the branches of a tree after planting except those that are rubbing or damaged. The leaf buds release a hormone that encourages root growth. If the tree is cut back, the reduced number of leaf buds results in less hormone released and therefore fewer roots being formed.

8. Water the tree thoroughly and then once a week for the first season if there is insufficient rainfall.

9. Mulch around the tree. Mulch should be 2 to 4 inches deep and cover an area two the three times the diameter of the root ball. Mulching reduces competition from other plants, conserves moisture and keeps soil temperature closer to what the plants' roots prefer.

10. Stake only when necessary. Trees will establish more quickly and grow faster if they are not staked. However, larger trees or those in windy locations may need to be staked the first year. Movement is necessary for the trunk to become strong. Staking should be designed to limit movement of the root ball rather than immobilize the trunk.

## Communicating about agriculture and rural life

By Ron Wilson  
Huck Boyd Institute

What is your creative outlet? Singing in the shower? Doodling on a napkin? Today we'll meet a young Kansas farmer who found a creative outlet in creating music videos to post on the Internet. In doing so, he is helping communicate about agriculture and rural life.

Derek Klingenberg is founder of Klingenberg Farms Studios near Peabody, Kan. He grew up on a farm near Peabody and attended K-State where he majored in agriculture. He is musically talented, having sung in the K-State Men's Glee Club and played trombone in the marching band.

After college, Derek married and returned to the farm. He and his brother Grant and some friends started a bluegrass singing group called the Possum Boys. It was a lot of fun, but the group disbanded when two members of the group went to seminary.

"I needed a creative outlet," Derek said. He wrote a song about bumble bees and, for fun, decided to try making a video to go with it. He bought some software and a camera. His brother Grant helped him make the video, called Bumble Bees in the Hay, which they staged on a hayfield on their farm. "I spent maybe a year filming and editing those first videos," Derek said. The next step was to post the video online.

These farmboys did not begin as technology whizkids. In fact, it was a time when social media were just emerging.

"We didn't really know what YouTube was at the time," Derek said. "I didn't even have In-

ternet. I had to go to my brother's to post it online."

But he did post it online and he got a good reaction. Derek wrote more music and tried another video called Possum in the Barn. He got Internet access and upgraded to a nicer camera and professional software, producing more videos using his self-taught skills. For example, he learned about green screens which can project a video image behind a performer. He recorded the music at a studio in Newton.

Derek continues to produce music videos focusing on those things closest to him: Family and farm. It is a homegrown operation.

"My computers are in the basement of my house," Derek said. The studio for filming is in a newly constructed Morton building which also serves as an office and machine shed for the farm.

During the 2012 Christmas season, he produced commercials for businesses in Newton. Mid-Kansas Co-op had him do a music video called White Pickup Truck, which was a parody of Toby Keith's song Red Solo Cup.

In March 2013, Derek posted a music video called Ranching Awesome, which was a parody of the song by Thrift Shop. For example, instead of the line "I've got twenty dollars in my pocket," it said, "I've got twenty thousand pounds of cow feed."

Presented with lots of tongue-in-cheek fun, the video featured scenes of everyday life around the farm and information about beef and pasture burning. It also showed Derek's two cute young daughters, ages five and three.

The video even included a cameo appearance from Derek's rancher father.

"We asked him to do it in front of my mom so he couldn't turn us down," Derek said with a smile. "My parents have really supported me on this stuff."

The Ranching Awesome video soon went viral among the Kansas agricultural community, circulating on social media and, in three weeks, reaching more than 189,000 views on YouTube.

Not bad for a video produced in a rural setting. The Klingenberg Farm and Studio is located between Peabody and Elbing, a rural community of 214 people. Now, that's rural. For more information, go to [www.facebook.com/klingenbergstudios](http://www.facebook.com/klingenbergstudios) or follow Derek at [www.twitter.com/KlingenbergFarm](http://www.twitter.com/KlingenbergFarm).

What is your creative outlet? We commend Derek Klingenberg and family for finding a creative outlet with online music videos about agriculture. While providing good, clean entertainment, they are also making a difference by creating more knowledge about farm and ranch life.

And there's more. Another parody music video about agriculture landed its producers in a New York television studio. We'll learn about that next week.



## PUBLIC RECORD

**Municipal Court**  
These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the Norton Municipal Court. These cases were given to the paper with the date of the hearings.

**March 21**  
March 14-Kaylynn Lantz, Norton; Charge: Speeding 40 in 30; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

**March 28**  
Jan. 12-Jordan Hartwell, Norton; Charge: Minor in possession of alcohol; Other action: Diversion by city prosecutor.

March 14-Brandon Traxler, Long Island; Charge: 1. Speeding 38 in 20, 2. No motorcy-

cle license; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: 1. \$30, 2. \$1,000 reduced to \$100 if motorcycle license is obtained by April 11, costs \$76, total \$206.

Nov. 20, 2012-Christopher Fisher, Norton; Charge: 1. Leave scene of accident, 2. Failure to yield; Found: Innocent at trial.

April 4  
March 7-Alexander Stevens, Alma; Charge: No seat belt (14-17); Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$60, total \$60.

Feb. 20-Brandy Davis, Norton; Charge: No insurance; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Insurance obtained same day, so fine the minimum, \$300, cost \$76, total \$376.

**The United Northwest Federal Credit Union is Closing its doors early at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 19 so employees can attend a meeting. The drive up window will remain open until 3 p.m. that day**

**FUNDRAISER FOR THE Norton Community Center**  
208 West Main, Norton, Kansas  
**Saturday, April 20**  
— FREE WILL OFFERING —  
**Spaghetti Dinner**  
5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. **Take Out \$5.00**

**Pet Wellness: \$5.00 Off Rabies Vaccines**  
**IT'S TIME TO START FLEA AND TICK PREVENTION**  
Come in and Buy 6 Frontline Plus and Get 2 Months FREE!  
**Free Exam for New Clients**  
REFER A FRIEND FOR \$10.00 OFF YOUR NEXT VISIT  
**Norton Animal Health Center, LTD**  
801 W. Holme, Norton, Kansas  
Phone: 785-877-2411  
Aaron R. White, DVM • Sarah Ketterl White, DVM  
[www.nortonanimalhealthcenter.com](http://www.nortonanimalhealthcenter.com)

**2013 Home Based Spring Business EXPO**  
FEATURING:  
Miche Thirty-One Scentsy  
The Pampered Chef Genesis Pure  
Signature Homestyles Youngevity  
Tupperware Scarves by Judy Arnold  
Silpada and More  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 20**  
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
**Lenora Grade School Cafeteria**  
Come and Check Out New Spring Products and Great Specials!!  
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED