

Program sign-up announced

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack reminded farmers and ranchers that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will conduct a four-week Conservation Reserve Program general sign-up beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. Vilsack also announced the restart of sign-up for continuous Conservation Reserve Program, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative, the Highly Erodible Land Initiative, the Grassland Restoration Initiative, the Pollinator Habitat Initiative and other related initiatives. Sign-up for continuous Conservation Reserve Program began on May 13 and will continue through Sept. 30, 2013.

"As always, we expect strong competition to enroll acres into Conservation Reserve Program, and we urge interested producers to maximize their environmental benefits and to make cost-effective offers," said Vilsack. "Conservation Reserve Program is an important program for protecting environmentally sensitive lands from erosion and sedimentation, and for ensuring the sustainability of our groundwater, lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. Through the voluntary participation of our farmers and ranchers, Conservation Reserve Program helps us to protect our natural resources, preserve wildlife habitat and bring good paying jobs to rural America related to hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation.

Vilsack encouraged producers to look into Conservation Reserve Program's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, sign-up basis.

Conservation Reserve Program has a 27-year legacy of successfully protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States. Producers enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water,

control soil erosion and develop wildlife habitat. In return, USDA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Currently, 27 million acres are enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program through 700,000 contracts on 390,000 farms throughout the U.S., with enrollment in 49 states and Puerto Rico. Contracts on an estimated 3.3 million acres will expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Enrollment authority for all types of Conservation Reserve Program, which had expired Sept. 30, 2012, was extended through 2013 by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012.

Offers for general sign-up Conservation Reserve Program contracts are ranked according to an Environmental Benefits Index. USDA's Farm Service Agency collects data for each of the Environmental Benefit Index factors based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. Farm Service Agency uses the following factors to assess the environmental benefits for the land offered:

Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on contract acreage; Water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching; On-farm benefits from reduced erosion; Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period; Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion; and Cost.

Conservation Reserve Program soil rental rates for non-irrigated cropland were updated this year to better reflect location and market conditions. A nationwide cap was placed on the maximum amount that may be paid per acre for the general sign-up. Taken together these steps help ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent in a fiscally responsible manner while producing the maximum environmental benefits for each dollar spent.

Conservation Reserve Program is the largest USDA conservation program and continues to make major contributions to national efforts to improve water and air quality, prevent soil erosion, and protect the most sensi-

tive areas including those prone to flash flooding and runoff. At the same time, Conservation Reserve Program has helped increase populations of pheasants, quail and ducks and is recognized as benefiting certain rare species like the sage grouse, the lesser prairie chicken and other grassland birds. Highlights of Conservation Reserve Program accomplishments include:

The restoration of more than two million acres of wetlands and two million acres of riparian buffers; Prevention of more than 600 million pounds of nitrogen and more than 100 million pounds of phosphorous from flowing into our nation's streams, rivers, and lakes. Providing \$1.8 billion annually to landowners - dollars that make their way into local economies, supporting small businesses and creating jobs; and Sequestering more carbon than any other conservation program in the country. By placing vulnerable cropland into conservation, Conservation Reserve Program sequesters carbon in plants and soil and reduces both fuel and fertilizer usage. In 2011, Conservation Reserve Program resulted in carbon sequestration equal to taking almost 10 million cars off the road.

USDA has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as USDA implements sequestration - the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act. USDA has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than \$828 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, common-sense budget reductions. These reductions have put USDA in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.

For more information on Conservation Reserve Program and other Farm Service Agency programs, visit a local Farm Service Agency service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Jammin' with Randy



The theme at the Norton Library this summer is "Dig Into Reading" and former Norton student Randy Sauer, who is currently a music teacher in Hays, made his third visit to share his music jam with the library visitors last Thursday. Randy got a little bit of help with his song that he wrote in tribute to this year's theme. Collin Cox, Riley Goss, Allison Peterson and Ellie Miller did their part by holding up signs as the song was sung. Also pictured is Randy Sauer who entertained approximately 125 children and adults that morning.

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Children's medical grants now available

Grants help Kansas families pay for children's medical expenses not covered, or not fully covered, by a commercial health insurance plan.

The UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation is seeking grant applications from families in need of financial assistance to help pay for their child's health care treatments, services or equipment not covered, or not fully covered, by their commercial health insurance plan.

Qualifying families can receive up to \$5,000 per grant to help pay for medical services and equipment such as physical, occupational and speech therapy, counseling services, surgeries, prescriptions, wheelchairs, orthotics, eyeglasses and hearing aids.

To be eligible for a grant, children must be 16 years of age or younger. Families must meet economic guidelines, reside in the United States and have a commercial health insurance plan. Grants are available for medical expenses families have incurred 60 days prior to the date of application as well as for ongoing and future medical needs. Parents or legal guardians may apply for grants at www.uhccf.org, and there is no application deadline. Organizations or private donors can make tax-deductible donations to United Health Care Children's Foundation at www.uhccf.org. Donations are used for grants to help children and families in the region in which they are received.

"The UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation is dedicated to improving a child's health and quality of life by making it easier to access needed medical-related services. The grants enable families to focus on their children's health instead of worrying about how they'll pay their medical bills," said Bill Tracy, CEO, UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual of Kansas. "Eligible families are encouraged to apply online for a medical grant today and take advantage of this valuable re-

source." In 2012, United Health Care Children's Foundation awarded more than 1,300 grants, worth more than \$4.1 million, to families across the United States, for treatments associated with medical conditions such as cancer, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, diabetes, hearing loss, autism, cystic fibrosis, Down syndrome, ADHD and cerebral palsy. As successful fund-raising efforts continue to grow, United Health Care Children's Foundation is hoping to help more children and families in 2013.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The S.T. & Mabel Nuttycomb Charitable Trustees announced the selection of scholarship awardees for the school year beginning August, 2013. The trustees are awarding scholarships totaling \$47,000 to students in Phillips and Norton County.

\$2,000 Renewal Scholarships
Bailey Elizabeth Ward, Phillipsburg

Caitlin Peak, Phillipsburg
\$1,000 Delayed Scholarship
Matthew Schneider, Phillipsburg

\$4,000 Scholarship
Regan Bartels, Phillipsburg
\$3,000 Scholarships
Whitney Nicole Mulder, Lo-

gan
Alex Michael VanKooten-Tharman, Northern Valley
Brooke Boyington, Phillipsburg

\$2,000 Scholarships
Kamilla Jones, Norton
Marcy Gaines, Logan
Samantha Pakkebieb, Logan
Megan Wagner, Phillipsburg
Michaela Gower, Phillipsburg

\$1,000 Scholarships
Andrew S. Ellis, Norton
Alec Melvin, Norton
Dylan Sprigg, Norton
Kiersten Klinger, Phillipsburg
Zachary Ewing, Phillipsburg

Bradley Wayne Blew, Phillipsburg
Alyse Weisharr, Phillipsburg
Adam Ewing, Phillipsburg
Reagan E. Simpson, Phillipsburg

\$2,000 Scholarships for Vo-Tech/JuCo
Sara Edwards, Phillipsburg
\$2,000 Scholarships for Vo-Tech/JuCo
Ryan Hoover, Phillipsburg
Tanner Aherin, Phillipsburg
Kenadee Kogl, Phillipsburg

\$1,000 Scholarships for Vo-Tech/JuCo
Carson McKenna, Norton
Katie Mae Becker, Logan
Dalton Schneider, Logan

The 2013 St. Francis of Assisi Scholarship winners:

Jade Cressler, daughter of Don and Trish Cressler, won the Hickert Scholarship-\$300.

Shelbi McKenna, daughter of Richard McKenna, won the Parish Scholarship-\$300.

Eli Bozarth, son of Curtis and Marla Bozarth, won the Tweed

Scholarship-\$500.
Lane Bigge, son of Pam Bigge, won the Frede Scholarship-\$1,000.

Ryan Bainter, son of Dan and Tammie Bainter, won the Meschner Scholarship-\$500.

Andrew Ellis, son of Scott and Darla Ellis, won the Brantley Scholarship-\$500.

Marissa Baker, daughter of Mark and Juli Anna Baker, won the Meschner Scholarship-\$600.

Emily Schulze, daughter of Tim and Mary Schulze, won the Frede Scholarship-\$1,000.

Austin Duscher, son of Joel and Lori Duscher, won the Wahlmeier Scholarship-\$250.

New CCC-Hastings Students Receive Scholarships
About 150 individuals plan-

ning to attend Central Community College-Hastings have received scholarships for the

2013-14 academic year.
Cassius Dole of Norton was one of the recipients.

Local Student awarded scholarship to Fort Hays State University

Students are listed by hometown with their high schools and high school graduation years and with their college majors.

an \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award. Tharman is the son of Ken and Michelle Tharman, Long Island. He plans a career in optometry.

Local students have been awarded scholarships to Fort Hays State University for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Long Island: Alex Tharman, a 2013 Northern Valley High School graduate, was awarded

Emily Schulze, daughter of Tim and Mary Schulze, is the recipient of the 2012-13 Schol-

arship awarded by Harmonson-Redd Unit #63, American Legion Auxiliary. Emily plans to

enroll at Hutchinson Community College to study anesthesiology.

Each year, the Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture awards scholarships to college students studying in fields that benefit agriculture and rural Kansas. Thirty seven recipients have received \$21,500 in scholarships for the 2013-14 school year.

Four students were awarded scholarships to Kansas technical and community colleges. They include: Clayton Beckman, Norton County, who will attend North Central Kansas Technical College.
Twenty four recipients received scholarships for students

attending a Kansas college with a Kansas Farm Bureau Collegiate chapter. Students must be a Farm Bureau Collegiate member.

Recipients include:
Kansas State University
Briana Jacobus, Logan County



301 E. WASHINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 160

City of Norton

The City of Norton would like to remind citizens that all flowers at the cemetery must be picked up by 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 6.

33rd Annual
Antique Machinery, Threshing Power and Car Show
JUNE 8 AND 9, 2013
ALMENA, KANSAS

Events Start at 9:00 a.m. - All Exhibitors Welcome
Featuring: *John Deere and Machinery*
Non-Denominational Church Services 8:30 a.m. Sunday
Flea Market and Arts and Crafts Vendors Welcome-No Charge

ADMISSION TO ENTIRE SHOW FOR BOTH DAYS: \$5 ADULTS; 12 AND UNDER FREE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

Prizes to be given away Sunday, June 9 - \$1 Donation - First Prize: 42" Flat Screen TV; Second Prize: Queen Quilt; Third Prize: Quartz Heater; Fourth Prize: Cedar Chest; Fifth Prize: John Deere Toy Tractor

Events Both Days: Small Engine Display, Saw Mill, Threshing, Corn Shelling, Cars, Trucks, Tractors, Windmill Display; Quilt Show Saturday and Sunday; Pedal Power Pull Saturday after Parade; Saturday Only-Car Show and Swap Meet; Food Stand Both Days; Breakfast Both Days 6:30 a.m.

Entertainment: *Larry Henderson and Lee Ann Shearer*

Visit our web site <http://www.rootsweb.com/~kssppa/>

Sunflower Pioneer Power Assoc. Inc.
West Brockton Street - Almena, Kansas
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: President Lonnie Shearer 785-669-2221; Vice President Dennis DeWitt 785-973-2383-Cell: 973-8020 or Bob Underwood 785-877-3817/Cell 785-973-8026



Celebrating 10 Years . . .
Lacy Frack . . .

is the Executive Director of the Norton Housing Authority. Mrs. Frack has been in this position since May 2003. The Norton Housing Authority is a public housing authority of 30 one-bedroom apartments and eight two-bedroom apartments. Mrs. Frack is a member of the Kansas Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (KSAHRO) and is the current Vice President of Professional Development. Prior to this position she held the position of District 1 Representative for the organization for five years. Mrs. Frack is also a member of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) that covers all the states.

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