

October is Cooperative Month

In recognition of October as National Cooperative Month, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that U.S. farmer, rancher and fishery cooperatives set records for sales, income and assets in 2012, buoyed by strong prices for grain, farm supplies and many other agricultural commodities. Sales by agricultural and fishery co-ops of nearly \$235 billion surpassed the 2011 record by \$18 billion, an 8.3 percent gain. Record net (pre-tax) income of \$6.1 billion was up nearly 13 percent over the \$5.4 billion recorded in 2011.

"Agricultural cooperatives are a driving force in the nation's thriving farm economy. Because they are farmer-owned and operated businesses, the sales dollars and income generated are much more likely to be returned and spent in rural areas and communities," Vilsack said. "Ag cooperatives are also vital to the rural economy because they support 185,000 full- and part-time jobs, and are often the major employer in many rural towns."

Vilsack has signed an October 2013 National Cooperative Month Proclamation that salutes not only agricultural and fishery co-ops, but the entire co-op sector - which includes utility, financial, food and many other types of co-ops - for helping to boost the economy and create jobs. Reading from the proclamation, Vilsack said: "Cooperative businesses, arising from a sense of community and common cause, are the ultimate economic self-help tool, helping member-owners market and process their crops and other products, obtain needed ser-

vices and acquire high-quality, affordable supplies."

USDA's annual survey of the nation's more than 2,200 agricultural and fishery cooperatives shows that grain and oilseed sales by co-ops increased more than \$7 billion in 2012. Taken together, bean and pea, fruit and vegetable, nut, poultry and sugar sales by co-ops increased at least 3 percent over 2011 levels. Farm and ranch supply sales by co-ops were up by \$7 billion, primarily due to rising energy prices. Fertilizer, feed and petroleum sales by co-ops each increased by at least \$1 billion.

Net assets owned by agricultural co-ops - which range from local grain elevators and farm supply stores to major food and beverage processing plants - also showed a dramatic increase in 2012, rising to \$82.9 billion, up 4.4 percent from \$79.4 billion in 2011. Owner equity gained \$1.8 billion. Equity capital remains low, but is clearly showing an upward trend, with a 6.5 percent increase over the previous year.

USDA recently released its annual list of the nation's 100 largest agricultural cooperatives. The list shows that Farmway Co-op Inc., a grain co-op based in Beloit, Kan., made the largest upward jump on the Top 100, rising from 114th place in 2011 to 62nd on the 2012 list. The next biggest "gainer" was West Central Cooperative, in Ralston, Iowa, a co-op that handles grain and farm supplies, which climbed from 69th to 41st place in 2012. As a sector, the biggest upward jumps on the Top 100 list were made by grain and grain/farm supply

co-ops. Eight of the 10 biggest co-op gainers on the list in 2012 were grain or grain/farm supply co-ops.

The 100 largest agricultural cooperatives reported revenue of \$162 billion in 2012, a new record and an increase of more than 9 percent over 2011, when revenue was \$148 billion. Net income for the 100 top cooperatives also set a new record in 2012, reaching \$3.5 billion, up from the previous record of \$3.1 billion in 2011.

Further details about the top 100 largest agricultural cooperatives are available in the September/October 2013 issue of Rural Cooperatives magazine.

Vilsack noted that the recent announcement is another reminder of the importance of USDA programs for rural America. A comprehensive new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill would further expand the rural economy. He said that's just one reason why Congress must get a comprehensive Food, Farm and Jobs Bill done as soon as possible.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way - strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities. USDA's investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values.

Chicken and noodle dinner



The First United Methodist Church held its annual chicken and noodle dinner on Saturday evening. Most people enjoyed their meal at the church. There were those who ordered their meal to go, and some even had it delivered.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Reserve program issues payments

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA has begun distributing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments to participants across the country. USDA also will distribute 2013 direct payments and 2012 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program payments beginning Oct. 24. Payments originally were scheduled to be issued earlier in the month, but were delayed by several weeks due to the lapse in Federal funding.

"Farmers, ranchers and rural landowners across the country count on USDA programs and the payment delays due to the shutdown were an unnecessary burden," Vilsack said. "USDA has prioritized making these scheduled payments without any further delay and Farm Service Agency staff have worked hard to get this assistance out the door as quickly as possible."

Producers will receive payments on almost 700,000 CRP contracts on 390,000 farms covering 26.8 million acres.

In exchange for a yearly rental payment provided by USDA on contracts ranging from 10 to 15 years, farmers and ranchers enrolled in CRP agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant grasses or trees that will improve water quality and improve waterfowl and wildlife habitat. CRP reduced runoff and leaching of nitrogen and phosphorus into waterways by an estimated 605 million pounds and 121 million pounds, respectively, in 2012, and soil erosion reductions totaling 308 million tons in 2012.

Direct payments for 2013 for the DCP and ACRE programs are being made to the more than 1.7 million farms enrolled in the Farm Service Agency's programs. Producers with base acres of certain commodities are eligible for DCP payments. ACRE payments for 2012-crop barley, corn, grain sorghum, lentils, oats, peanuts, dry peas, soybeans, and wheat are scheduled to be released beginning Oct. 24 and contingent upon na-

tional average market prices and yields in each state. ACRE payments for large chickpeas, small chickpeas, canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame, and sunflowers are scheduled to be made in early December and for long grain rice and medium and short grain rice in early February 2014 when the final 2012/13 market year average price data becomes available.

The 2008 Farm Bill, extended by the American Tax Payer Relief Act of 2012, provides authority to enroll land in DCP, ACRE and CRP through Sept. 30, 2013, however, no legislation has been enacted to reauthorize or extend this authority. Effective Oct. 1, 2013, FSA does not have legislative authority to approve or process applications for these programs.

For more information on CRP, DCP and ACRE, producers should contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

SENIOR CENTER

Norton Senior Center Menu-November

Friday, Nov. 1 - Turkey ala King, peas and carrots, Mandarin oranges, biscuit and no bake cookie.

Monday, Nov. 4 - Hamburger steak, cream of mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, bread and peaches.

Tuesday, Nov. 5 - Ham, scalloped potatoes, peas, bread and 5-cup salad.

Wednesday, Nov. 6 - Goulash, corn, spinach salad, bread and fruit cobbler.

Thursday, Nov. 7 - Oven baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, bread and cook's choice fruit.

Friday, Nov. 8 - Fish sticks, macaroni and cheese, winter mix vegetables, bread and gelatin with fruit.

Monday, Nov. 11 - Steak fingers, parsley potatoes, cook's

choice vegetable, bread and rosy pears.

Tuesday, Nov. 12 - Turkey, sweet potatoes, cranberry apple salad, bread and pumpkin dessert.

Wednesday, Nov. 13 - Taco salad, apricots, chips and brownies.

Thursday, Nov. 14 - Pork roast, mashed potatoes with gravy, steamed cabbage, carrots and onions, bread and strawberries.

Friday, Nov. 15 - Tuna and noodles, stewed tomatoes, mixed fruit, bread and cook's choice complement.

Monday, Nov. 18 - Cook's choice entree, au gratin potatoes, seasoned carrots, bread and plums.

Tuesday, Nov. 19 - Chili, Ambrosia fruit salad, crackers and cinnamon roll.

Wednesday, Nov. 20 - Chick-

en and rice casserole, Italian blend vegetables, applesauce, bread and cookie.

Thursday, Nov. 21 - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, birthday cake and peaches.

Friday, Nov. 22 - Chef salad (meat on the side), Mandarin oranges, breadstick and fruit crisp.

Monday, Nov. 25 - BBW beef sandwich, scalloped potatoes, 3-bean salad, bun and hot cinnamon apple slices.

Tuesday, Nov. 26 - Hamburger vegetable soup, orange-pineapple salad, crackers and bar cookie.

Wednesday, Nov. 27 - Sausage gravy, tator triangles, cook's choice vegetable, biscuit and apricots.

Thursday, Nov. 28 - Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, Nov. 29 - Closed

Comments requested on program amendment

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) requests comments on the amendment of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) FY 14-17.

The Improvement Program is a project specific publication that lists all Department of Transportation administered projects, regardless of funding source, and includes projects for counties and cities as well as projects on the State Highway System. The list of project(s) being amended to the Improve-

ment Program may be viewed at www.ksdot.org/publications.asp.

The amendment of the Improvement Program requires a public comment period of 14 days, which concludes Nov. 6. To make comment on this Program amendment, contact Kansas Department of Transportation Bureau of Program and Project Management at (785) 296-2252.

This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative

format, contact the KDOT Office of Public Affairs, (785)296-3585 (Voice/Hearing Impaired - 711).



PUBLIC RECORD

District Court
These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the District Court clerk at the Norton County Courthouse.

Traffic and Wildlife and Parks cases are given to the paper when the fines are paid.

Oct. 17
Sept. 30-Patricia Ann Becker, Estes Park, Colo.; Charge: Speeding 78 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$159.

Sept. 19-Larry D. Blackman, Bartley, Neb.; Charge: Driving on left in no-passing zone; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$171.

Sept. 20-Emily Marie Brestel,

Tucson, Ariz.; Charge: Speeding 76 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$147.

Sept. 21-Stephanie Chavez, Marysville; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt (14-17 yo); Found: Guilty; Fine: \$60.

Sept. 4-Theodore Clay Davis, Norton; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$10.

Sept. 27-Lana K. Gerlick, Denver, Colo.; Charge: Speeding 75 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$141.

Sept. 27-Marcus Jay Grace, Pueblo West, Colo.; Charge: Speeding 82 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$0.

Norton County Arts Council Presents

Something Ridiculous Jugglers

Bureau of Lectures Lawrence, KS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3
4:00 p.m., Norton, KS
East Campus Auditorium

ADULTS: \$5.00 - STUDENTS: \$2.00
NCAC MEMBERS FREE WITH PAID MEMBERSHIP
SPONSORED BY THE:

NORTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

www.ridiculousjugglers.com

Oct. 25- Oct. 30

Showing at the

NORTON THEATRE

Gravity - in 3D

1 Hour, 41 Minutes (PG-13)

Friday and Saturday: 8:00 p.m.
Sunday: 5:00 p.m.
Mon., Tues., Wed.: 7:00 p.m.

Bad Grandpa

1 Hour, 42 Minutes (R)

POPcorn

COMING SOON

Let's Go to the Movie

Bad Grandpa is \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under. \$3/tx on Sunday
Gravity is \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under. \$3/tx on Sunday

FRI., NOV. 1 - FREEBIRDS
FRI., NOV. 8 - THOR 2: THE DARK WORLD
FRI., NOV. 21 - THE HUNGER GAMES
FRI., NOV. 27 - FROZEN

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