

Agriculture seminar set for Manhattan

Sustainable Ag Roundup — The 2004 Sustainable Ag Roundup will take place February 20-21 in Manhattan at the KSU Campus. Both days are open to farmers, ranchers, food advocates and consumers. The event is sponsored by the Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops, the Kansas Rural Center, K-State Research and Extension and the North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Professional Development Program.

Featured speakers include Mark Richie of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and Barry Dunn, Extension Range Livestock Production specialist from South Dakota State University. Richie will speak both Friday and Saturday about renewing the countryside through the eyes of farmers, businesses and programs, as well as the roles of public policy and land grant universities. Dunn will also speak both days on grazing management. Other topics will be woodland management, range management in drier years, soil fertilizers, cover and smother crops, water quality management for the farm.

Registration for the event is required by Feb. 10. For more information about the 2004 Roundup or to register, contact Jerry Jost at (785) 865-2555 or email jjost@myvine.com or contact the Norton County K-State Extension Office.

Farmers Tax Guides — This IRS publication is put together by the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee. It explains how tax laws apply to farming. The examples and explanations that are provided reflect the interpretations of various tax laws that are enacted by Congress. This booklet does not contain extra forms but it does have many examples of the forms and information on ordering many of the forms needed for a particular situation. The booklet includes important tax rule changes or reminders on major topics related to filing tax returns. The Farmers Tax Guide is an excellent resource to show many tax form examples. These

Views with Van Keith VanSike, Norton County Extension Director

booklets are in the Extension Office and available at no charge.

Poinsettia Care — Place your poinsettia in a sunny window or the brightest area of the room, but don't let it touch cold window panes. The day temperature should be 65-75 degrees with 60-65 degrees at night. Temperatures above 75 degrees will shorten bloom life and below 60 degrees may cause root rot. Move plants away from windows at night or draw drapes between them to avoid damage from the cold.

Poinsettias are somewhat finicky in regard to soil moisture. Avoid over-watering as poinsettias do not like "wet feet." On the other hand, if the plant is allowed to wilt, it will drop some leaves. So how do you maintain a proper level of moisture? When the soil becomes dry to the touch at about 2" depth, water the plant with lukewarm water until some water runs out of the drainage hole.

Are Poinsettias Poisonous? — It seems that every year about this time the rumor is resurrected that poinsettias are poisonous. This is NOT TRUE. Though there may be an allergic reaction to the milky sap or plant parts and pollen, there has never been a recorded case of toxic poisoning. This rumor has been so persistent that members of the Society of American Florists have sought to dispel it.

In the 1985 AMA Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants, the poinsettia "has been found to produce either no effect (orally or topically) or occasional cases of vomiting. This plant does not contain the irritant diterpenes" which is the toxin in other members of the genus Euphorbia to which poinsettia belongs. Of course as with any plant, you should not allow small children to eat the leaves for obvious reasons.



Making dinner for dozens

Mashing, as if their lives depended on it, (from left above) Karla Reed, Helen Hager and Mel Rice prepared potatoes for a crowd on Thursday for the annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas dinner at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Before the mashers got started, however, people like Georgia Rowh (left) had to get everything cooked.

— Photos by Carol Erlenbusch

Drive safely this season

As you travel this holiday season, remember to buckle up your family and drive safe and sober. Alcohol is one of the primary causes of traffic crashes and law enforcement agencies across the state will be out in force during this holiday season.

According to Kansas Department of Transportation of the 511 people who lost their lives on Kansas roadways in 2002, 130 died in alcohol-related crashes and another 2,415 people were injured.

"These fatality and injury statistics are simply unacceptable," said Deb Miller, Secretary of Transportation and Governor's Highway Safety Representative.

"The 'You Drink and Drive. You Lose' mobilization will work to reduce those numbers by raising enforcement and educating the public on the state's drinking and driving laws," said Miller. In the U. S. during 2002, alcohol was a contributing factor in 41 per cent of all fatal crashes, with more than 17,000 lives in alcohol-related crashes."

Service With A Smile



Linda Wahlmeier Agency, Inc. 111 W. Washington Norton, Kansas 785-877-5802

Whether it's answering your questions, providing a free Personal Insurance Review, or handling your claims, American Family is there for you. Call today.



©1997 American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries. Home Office - Madison, WI 53783 www.aflac.com NA-07488 Rev. 10/02

For the news you need! THE NORTON TELEGRAM

It's not too late!

A gift subscription is the gift that keeps coming — and they won't even know you forgot!



With The Norton Telegram, you'll get excellent local and area coverage, editorials, feature stories, sports and you'll know what our advertisers have to offer also.

OUR RATES ARE COMPETITIVE!!

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

215 S. Kansas — Norton, Kansas (785) 877-3361

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—

NORTON, PHILLIPS, GRAHAM DECATUR & FURNAS COUNTIES:	
1 Year	\$60.00
6 Months	\$32.00
3 Months	\$18.00
ELSEWHERE IN KANSAS AND NEBRASKA:	
1 Year	\$70.00
6 Months	\$42.00
Student (9 Mo.)	\$52.50
Less than 6 Mo. would be \$15 per month	
ELSEWHERE IN US:	
1 Year	\$76.00
6 Months	\$40.00
Student (9 Mo.)	\$57.00
Less than 6 Mo. would be \$15 per month	
TAX IS INCLUDED	

PLEASE SEND A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS
 PLEASE START A NEW SUBSCRIPTION FOR ME
 PLEASE ADD TO THE FOLLOWING SUBSCRIPTION

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____
 STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

GIFT SUBSCRIPTION FROM _____
 MY CHECK FOR \$ _____ IS ENCLOSED

Thank You... for making our Grand Opening a big success!

Winners of Terazzo Sweaters · Katie Currier · Tami Brown

CJ's Boutique
 Southwind Plaza • 1105 Taylor Avenue
 Colby, KS • 785-460-0337
 Hours: M-S 10-6, Sun 12-6