

Cheyenne County home to a new slaughter house

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

Cheyenne County will be the home to a new business — a slaughter facility.

Ranch Foods Direct, owned by Mike Callicrate, plans to build a cutting edge slaughter plant in the southern part of the county.

"This plant is necessary in completing the loop from pasture to plate and giving us complete control of the process including delivering the highest possible returns to our farm and ranch gates," he said.

Mr. Callicrate is looking at the possibility of a 50 cattle per day slaughter facility located at and as part of the Callicrate Feedyard operation. The plant will also have the ability to process other producers' cattle, hogs, lambs, goats and poultry. We are just getting started in researching everything from environmental requirements for waste and nutrient disposal, water usage, type of construction, location in reference to the feedyard, etc.

"Once we gather the information we will be able to complete a

feasibility and cost analysis," Mr. Callicrate said.

He has several construction options on the table from a leading engineering firm. This week he will hire a water engineer with extensive experience in working with the state of Kansas.

The plan is to process the animals where they are raised and ship the carcasses to his fabrication plant in Colorado Springs and to other further processors that he envision will become part of a network of outlets providing a natural, high quality, direct-from-the-farm alternative to the meat from the big packers, processors and retailers. This model avoids significant stress on the animals. Shipping a carcass, which is approximately 64 percent of the weight of a live animal, saves freight. Research proves that meat quality is improved when the stress of shipping is avoided.

The plant will employ approximately 15 people.

"For many years, my goal has been to find ways of increasing farm and ranch income, particular-

ly for the community of St. Francis," Mr. Callicrate said. "This type of processing facility is our last step (from our cattle operation in St. Francis to Ranch Foods Direct in Colorado Springs) in completing the infrastructure necessary in connecting the livestock producer to the consumer and in totally controlling the process."

The St. Francis-Ranch Foods Direct concept could become a template to be replicated many times for the benefit of producers of livestock and consumers everywhere, Mr. Callicrate said.

"Unless we find a way to avoid the abusive market power of the big agribusiness firms and retailers by connecting as directly as possible to consumers, farm and ranch communities will continue to suffer the economic decline resulting from prices below the cost of production and increasing imports that we have experienced over the last 20 to 30 years.

"We feel it is important to get input from the community in this early concept phase to insure the best possible outcome."



GETTING INVOLVED—Chuck and Diane Kribs (right), co-directors of the Cheyenne County Development Corporation, are getting community members to help with an asset inventory. Mary Lampe, Carla Lampe and Ernie Keztner (left) attend their meeting.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Asset inventory is needed

By Casey McCormick

The Cheyenne County Development Corporation is working on a plan to attract more people and businesses to the area. This is beginning with an asset inventory of the county.

Chuck and Diane Kribs, co-directors of the organization, brought several community members together last Tues. evening at the Church of Christ in St. Francis to get their help with the project.

The first stage of the plan will have people going to local busi-

nesses to have the owners or managers fill out a questionnaire. The information will be used to find out what the strengths of local stores and services and where help is needed to improve business.

Community members will also be canvassing neighborhoods to record what properties are vacant and who should be contacted to make them available.

After the data is gathered a promotional package will be put together.

Mr. Kribs described how the in-

formation will be used. "Diane and I will use it in a "road show" in various locations, to attract new residents and businesses to Cheyenne County," said Mr. Kribs.

The Bird City asset inventory for housing has already been completed by Hal Sager. The business surveys for the eastern part of the county should be finished soon.

"We appreciate the efforts of the people here who are gathering the information needed to move forward," said Mr. Kribs.

Moments with Mila

Be on Tick Lookout

By Mila Bandel



County Health Nurse

Although the prospect of contracting Lyme disease or other tick-borne diseases is a concern to us all, there is no need to avoid the woods or outdoors. You can still enjoy a healthy outdoor lifestyle as long as you know how to properly take preventative measures against these diseases.

Ticks are bloodsucking external parasites that feed on humans, wild and domestic mammals, bird, reptiles and others. They are totally dependent on the blood/tissue fluids of the host. The longer an infective tick feeds, the greater the chance of infection.

Ticks like to rest on low-lying brush and 'catch a ride' on a passing animal or person. The areas that

hold a high risk of tick infestation are wooded areas, low-growing grassland, and the seashore. You should exercise caution where you go.

To reduce your chance of getting a tick-bite:

Avoid tick infested areas, when possible. Avoid short-cuts through heavily wooded, tick-infested areas. Use caution when you are entering tick-infested areas. Stay in the center of paths, avoid sitting on the ground, and conduct frequent tick-checks.

Dress properly. Wear light-colored clothing. This allows you to more easily see ticks on your clothing and gives you the opportunity to remove them before they can at-

tach to your skin and feed. Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. This reduces the skin area exposed to ticks. Also, tuck your shirt into your pants and pants into your socks. This keeps the ticks on the outside of your clothing and thwarts their efforts to crawl onto your skin. However, during warm or hot weather, this is not practical. So, if this advice is ignored, it is suggested that you increase your vigilance in conducting tick-checks.

Use Environmental Protection Agency-approved tick repellents. During the summer months, it can be inconvenient to wear pants and long-sleeved clothing, so using repellents can help protect yourself from ticks. Wash off the repellents when you return inside, and children should always have an adult apply the repellent for them.

Conduct frequent tick-checks. This includes a visual inspection of the clothing and exposed skin. Be sure to check the scalp, behind the ears, and behind any joints.

Remember to check your pets too! This is not only for your pets' safety but for your family's as well. Pets can bring ticks in from outside and put you and your family at risk for infection.

Tick removal procedure;

- Use fine-point tweezers to grasp the tick at the place of attachment, as close to the skin as possible.
- Gently pull the tick straight out.
- Wash your hands, disinfect the tweezers and bite site.
- Call the clinic for a medical provider to determine if treatment is warranted.
- Watch the tick-bite site and your general health for signs or symptoms of a tick-borne illness. Make sure you mark any changes in your health status on your calendar.

Cure spring fever by planting peas

By Dana Belshe

Ag/Horticulture agent

If you are tired of winter and hunger for spring, try planting peas as soon as the soil temperature reaches 40 degrees. We have several different types of peas we can plant in Kansas. Probably the most common is the shelling pea and the old standard in this group is Little Marvel.

Though Little Marvel is still on our recommended list, we have a number of others that do well including Green Arrow, Knight, Maestro, Burpeeana and Sparkle. All of these are early maturing types that allow us to harvest a crop before the hot weather arrives and stops production.

Snow peas are those commonly used in stir-fry that have a crisp edible pod. Recommended vari-

eties include Dwarf Grey Sugar, Mammoth Sugar and Snow Green. Sugar snap peas resemble shelling peas but have a thick, fleshy pod and can be eaten fresh, steamed or cooked.

Like snow peas, they are not shelled but eaten pod and all. We recommend Sugar Bon, Sugar Ann, Sugar Snap and Sugar Sprint.

Peas should be planted shallow, about one-half inch deep, to encourage rapid germination and emergence. Seed in the row should be spaced 2-inches apart.

Many people often plant two rows 6- to 8-inches apart so the floppy plants can support one another. For some older varieties, this may not be enough. They may need trellising to support the growing vines.



Notice

In order to sell fireworks in the City limits, you must complete and return your license form to City Hall on or before June 22 at 4 p.m.

3rd Annual High Plains to the Bi-Planes St. Jude's Run

Donate \$20 to ride, \$35 and receive a free T-shirt. 180 miles, as a group ride going out, or ride the new 240 mile route. Return at your leisure. Camping available. ALL proceeds go to St. Jude's and are tax deductible. To join the ride contact Dan Hardin 720-281-2749 or Aurora Honda 303-341-7200 For more information go to www.stearmanflyin.org

4-H Car Wash

Brunk's Machine Shop

(Benton & US 36 - St. Francis)

Saturday, June 13

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Proceeds will go to the 4-H Shotgun Club. The kids need shells.



St. Francis Emergency Building

U.S. Hwy 36

Open House

Saturday, June 20

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tours and Refreshments



Home of the Cheyenne County Firemen, Cheyenne County EMTs and Cheyenne County Emergency Management Coordinator.

Texas Red's BBQ

will be at St. Francis Super's Tuesday, June 16 thru Saturday, June 20



Beef brisket, chicken halves, turkey breast, ribs & sausage

NOTICE • NOTICE • NOTICE

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times will be closed Friday, July 3rd.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

Registered Nurse

Full-time position available; twelve hour shifts.

Nursing Assistant

Full-time position available; twelve-hour shifts. CNA training preferred; not required.

Successful applicants will possess a positive attitude, strong communication skills, and basic computer knowledge. Holiday and weekend rotation required. Cheyenne County Hospital offers competitive wages, paid CEUs, support for educational growth, and a comprehensive benefit package. Call or go online to learn more! www.cheyennecountyhospital.com 785-332-2104 ext. 116-Human Resources