

Extension Notes

Calving system can improve calf health

By Joe Leibbrandt
Cheyenne County Extension Agent

If you asked any cattlemen if they would like healthier calves, they would probably say yes. Sometimes, though, the methods to achieve that goal can present a challenge. Despite challenges that can be presented consider this: calves not treated for scours on average are 19 pounds heavier at weaning. That difference in weight can result in around \$20/head profit (not including the cost of doctoring) for calves not treated for scours.

At the recent calving management school, one of the guest speakers mentioned the use of the Sandhills Calving System to improve calf health. As we all know, management practices can profoundly affect cattle health. University of Nebraska-Lincoln researchers, working with Nebraska ranchers and their veterinarians, designed the Sandhills Calving System to prevent baby calf diarrhea.

In this system, cows are managed to minimize transmission of scours-causing pathogens by: 1) segregating calves by age so older calves don't pass germs to younger calves; and 2) regularly moving pregnant cows to uncontaminated calving pastures.

Cows are turned into the first calving pasture as soon as the first calf is born. Calving continues in this pasture for two weeks, and then the cows that have not yet calved are moved to Pasture 2.

Existing cow-calf pairs remain in Pasture 1. After a week of calving in Pasture 2, cows that have not calved are moved to Pasture 3 and cow-calf pairs born in Pasture 2 remain in Pasture 2. Each subsequent week cows that have not yet calved are moved to a new pasture and pairs remain in their pasture of birth.

The result is cow-calf pairs distributed over multiple pastures; each pasture containing calves within one week of age of each other. The effect is to re-create the more ideal conditions that exist at the start of the calving season, each subsequent week of the season (e.g. an uncontaminated pasture without the presence of older calves). Cattle from different pastures may be commingled after the youngest calf is four weeks of age and low-risk for scours.

The Sandhills Calving System was tested over six and five calving seasons, respectively, in two ranch herds. Since then, other ranchers have adopted the plan and observed less sickness and death due to scours, and less use of medications. Although the system was tested in the Nebraska Sandhills, it is being adopted elsewhere because the principles on which it is based are widely applicable.

Maybe you can't use this system on your own ranch, but some of the principles may still be applied. If you think this is something that you can use, please contact the office and we can provide more information for you.

Choir performance to be held in Colby

Harlem Gospel Choir will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 5, in Colby at the high school auditorium. Admission will be by Western Plains Arts Association season ticket or at the door.

The group will give a show consisting of blues, jazz and gospel spirituals. They consider

themselves ambassadors of African-American culture.

This program is made possible in part by: Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; and Betty G. and James Secrest Fund of the Thomas County Community Foundation.



BIRD CITY'S Kansas Day founding presidents Charles Wesley and Cynthia Annie (Maxon) Trickett, 1930.

Kansas celebration held in Bird City

By Linda Schneider
dublins@hotmail.com

On Tuesday, Cheyenne County's 79th annual Kansas Day Celebration was presented by the Kansas Day Officers and hosted in the Bird City American Legion Hall, one of the few towns that still celebrate Kansas Day.

The Kansas Day attendance was good and the attendees were treated to a potluck lunch. The luncheon was opened by prayer given by Rev. Ken Hart.

The program began with the 2008 Kansas Day Presidents, Stan and Janet Carman, graciously welcoming the audience. The audience stood for the pledge of allegiance and the national anthem.

The entertainment began with the St. Francis third graders singing and line dancing. The Cheylin fourth graders gave a presentation on the different names given to the state over the years, some of the names like the "grasshopper state" were descriptive of the destruction that happened in Kansas in 1874, only to have the largest corn harvest in the state's history in 1875.

The guest speaker, Dr. Leo Oliva, entertained the audience with the historical background of how Kansas became a free state.

Dr. Oliva presentation was on "Rowdy Kansas Territory." He presented several colorful Kansas citizens who played major roles in getting a free Kansas state. Slavery expansion, terrorism, voter fraud, Civil War and murder were just a few of the topics.

One of the characters Dr. Oliva spoke about was Julia Archibald Holmes. She was one of the forerunners in women's

equality. Mrs. Holmes brought the "bloomers" to Kansas, much to the dismay of the local male population.

Called the "reformed dress," the bloomer was actually a dress that went only to the knees, unlike the traditional dress of the time that went all the way to the ankles. Underneath was a trouser-type bloomer. She felt this gave her more freedom to do the things she enjoyed out on the range with the cattle.

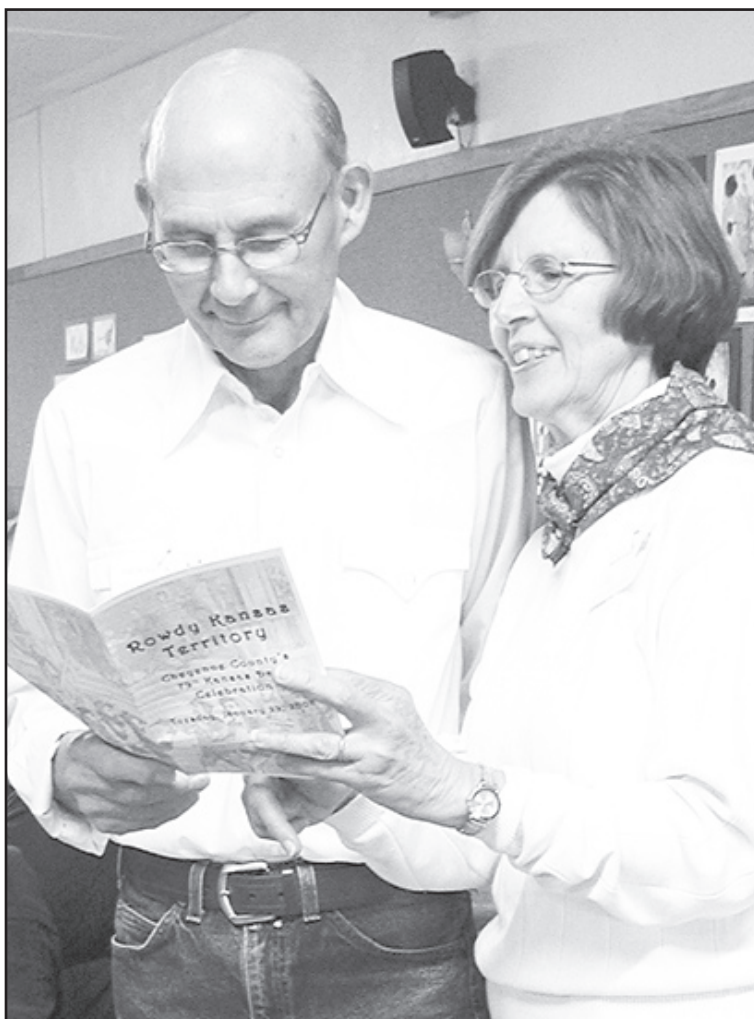
Kansas was one of the first states in the Union to allow women to vote in local elections, all due to the tireless efforts of Mrs. Holmes to prove equality between women and men. She was the first woman to climb Pike's Peak when it was still part of Kansas territory on Aug. 5, 1858. For more information about Kansas, go to www.territorialkansasonline.org.

The program continued with Janet Carman, president, presenting special recognitions to Kansas residents. The eldest Kansas born man went to Tobe Zwegardt of St. Francis, born in 1916. Mr. Zwegardt also received recognition for be the eldest Cheyenne County born man.

The eldest Kansas born woman went to Myra Miller of McDonald, born 1910. The eldest woman born in Cheyenne County went to Margaret (Indorf) Shay of St. Francis, born 1915.

The eldest foreign-born man living in Kansas went to Paul Lorenz of Bird City, born in Lativa, Northern Europe, 1920.

The eldest foreign-born woman living in Kansas went to Galina Lorenz, Mr. Lorenz's wife, born in Toropetz, Russia, 1948.



STAN AND JANET CARMAN give the welcome at the Kansas Day celebration.
Herald staff photo by Linda Schneider

The youngest boy to attend the Kansas Day event went to Joseph Augusta of Bird City, born in 2002. In addition, the youngest girl to attend went to Charly Ann Grigg of Pueblo, Colo., 2 1/2 years old.

The program ended with Rev. Dan Carson of Wesleyan Church, Bird City, giving recognition to those who had lived in Kansas and have died in 2007 and closing with the benediction.

Coming Soon:



Conservation Section

This section will feature the Conservation Award Winner in Cheyenne County.

BANKER'S AWARD DINNER
FEB. 28TH

WORKING WOMEN'S SECTION

Coming the first of February!

THIS SECTION IS PACKED WITH ADS FEATURING WOMEN.

For more details, contact Casey McCormick at the Saint Francis Herald at 785-332-3162

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