



PRINCIPAL Hoagie Carmichael introduces the St. Francis students at the KU honors banquet. (R) Cara Hunt was one of the students honored.

Herald staff photos by Steve Haynes



# Lawn and yard care presented

"Conservation in the Landscape" a yard and lawn series presented by Cheyenne County Resource Conservation and Development, Sunflower District Master Gardeners and Bird City Century II will be held for two weeks in April and three weeks in May.



and fertilizer by Christy Rasure, K-State Master Gardener.

- The exact dates include:
- Thursday, April 23: Kansas Healthy Lawns and Communities - self-assessment to evaluate your lawn and landscape practices by Dana Belshe, Sunflower District Extension Agent.
  - Thursday, April 30: Trees for Northwest Kansas, Care and Planting by Jim Strine, Forester for the Kansas Forestry Service.
  - Thursday, May 7: Easy Care Gardening, learn the new and easy way of gardening to save time, water

- Thursday, May 14: Irrigating Flower Beds and Gardens, putting the water where you want in the amount you want by Gary Coon, K-State Master Gardener.
- Thursday, May 21: Ornamental Grasses, see how grasses can be used in the landscape by Christy Rasure, K-State Master Gardener.

The programs begins at 7 p.m. in the American Legion hall in Bird City.

## Learn about new grazing techniques

By Joe Leibbrandt

Ag/livestock management agent

• Many of us have heard of different grazing systems, but what are they and will they work for you? There are always questions when it comes to changing the way we do things. As we approach the beginning of the spring/summer grazing season, I strongly encourage cattlemen to evaluate their traditional grazing practices. There are many relatively new grazing

strategies that can greatly increase production. The following are descriptions and comparisons from the "Stockman Grass Farmer" of some grazing practices that some producers are currently using with some varied results.

• Management-intensive grazing: The thoughtful use of grazing manipulation to produce a desired agronomic and/or animal result. This may include both rotational and continuous stocking depend-

ing upon the season. The benefits of this grazing include reducing stored feed costs by extending the grazing season, increased production on both an animal and land basis are also clear cut economic benefits. Improvement in wildlife habitat or water quality are not as easily accounted for but are also possible benefits.

• Ultra high stock density grazing or mob grazing: A mob is a group of animals. This term is used to indicate a high stock density. This is probably the hottest new grazing strategy. In this animals are allowed to graze small areas at a time and are moved 2 to 6 times a day. This allows for more uniform grazing and causes more uniform distribution of dung, urine and trampling. This also increases plant diversity. There are a limited number of producers utilizing this method, but initial results are amazing. Some producers have reported increasing production by over 200% or more!

• Mixed grazing: The use of different animal species grazing either together or in a sequence. An example of this is grazing cattle and goats together. In this case there is little affect on stocking rate because they graze different plants.

• Continuous stocking: Allowing the animals access to an entire pasture for a long period without paddock rotation. This is the stocking method used by a majority of producers. Although convenient, it results in less forage production and stocking rates compared to previous mentioned methods. It also results in certain areas of pasture being over-grazed while other areas are under-grazed.

• Rotational Grazing: Rotating livestock from paddock to paddock throughout the grazing sea-

son.

• Seasonal grazing: Grazing restricted to one season of the year. An example of this is winter grazing of stockpiled forage on native pasture.

• Swath grazing: The cutting and swathing of small grains or other forages into large windrows. These windrows are then rationed out to animals during the winter with temporary electric fence. This method of winter feeding is most-often used in cold, dry winter climates.

• Crop Residue Grazing: The utilization of excessive crop residue by livestock. This practice has several advantages for the livestock and crop producer.

• Stockpiling: The deferment of pasture for use at a later time.

• Stock density vs. Stocking Rate: Stock density is the number of animals on a given unit of land at any one time. This is traditionally a short-term measurement. This is very different from stocking rate which is a measurement of the long-term carrying capacity of a pasture. A simplified example: 200 steers may have a long-term stocking rate of 200 acres, but may for a half a day all be grazed on a single acre. This acre while being grazed would be said to have a stock density of 200 steers to the acre.

• Carrying capacity: Stocking rate at which animal performance goals can be achieved while maintaining the integrity of the resource base. Hopefully these gave you some ideas to help develop a grazing strategy for your operation. There are many opportunities to make your operation more profitable. As always if you have any questions, please contact the extension office.



FOUR GENERATIONS - Naomi Holliman, Mike Holliman, son; Adyson McGregor, granddaughter, and Kari McGregor, great-granddaughter.

**The Saint Francis Herald**  
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THE FIFTH GRADERS were the Pink Pathers during the mini-relay week at the Grade School. The fifth grade class raised \$69.96.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

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