



**COOLING OFF** with some watermelon. Darris DeGood (second from left), of Farm Credit, handed out slices during the barbecue held Saturday evening. He got help from ladies from the Colby office. *Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick*

# Producers are encouraged to take advantage of program

Producers need to be reminded of the importance of timely electing and enrolling in the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program or the traditional Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), according to Jack Salava, acting state executive director of the Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency in Kansas. He feels it is critical for producers to begin the enrollment process as soon as possible. The deadline to enroll in these programs for 2009 is Aug. 14.

"The Average Crop Revenue Election program is an innovative alternative to the traditional farm safety net. With this new program also comes a complex signup process. It is important producers contact their local office to set up appointments well before the Aug. 14 deadline," he said.

Late-filed applications for these two programs will not be accepted. A CCC-509ACRE for election and CCC-509 for enrollment not having all requisite signatures of producers on a farm by the elec-

tion/enrollment deadline of Aug. 14 will not be considered submitted for the purpose of election/enrollment and will not be acted on or approved. If producers do not elect Average Crop Revenue Election, they have the option of completing the CCC-509 contract for enrollment into the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program program by Aug. 14. Both programs require all signatures be obtained by the deadline.

"In all cases, it is the responsibility of the operator and owners of a farm to obtain and submit all necessary signatures necessary on the enrollment forms by the Aug.

14 deadline," Mr. Salava said. To elect Average Crop Revenue Election for a farm, producers must complete Form CCC-509-ACRE, which irrevocably elects Average Crop Revenue Election for the farm through crop year 2012. Form CCC-509, the contract to participate in this program, must then be completed each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

For more information about the Average Crop Revenue Election program please visit your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

# Conservation program available to area

Beginning on Aug. 10, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will begin the continuous sign-up for the new Conservation Stewardship Program with the first signup period cutoff scheduled for Sept. 30, according to Kathleen Merrigan, Agriculture Deputy Secretary. This is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations.

"This program will help the Nation's agricultural and forestry producers reach greater levels of conservation performance, which will help protect our land and water," Ms. Merrigan said. "The conservation benefits derived from maintaining and enhancing natural resources will improve the quality of soil and water, assist in addressing global climate change, and encourage environmentally responsible energy production."

### Applying for Conservation

### Stewardship Program

Agricultural and forestry producers must submit applications by Sept. 30 to be considered for funding in the first ranking period.

To apply for the newly revamped program, potential participants will be encouraged to use a self-screening checklist first to determine whether the new program is suitable for them or their operation. It will be available on Natural Resources Conservation Service Web sites and at their field offices.

After self-screening, the producer's current and proposed conservation practices are entered in the conservation measurement tool. The tool will be completed with assistance from the Conservation Service field office staff. This tool estimates the level of environmental performance to be achieved by a producer implementing and maintaining conservation activity. The conservation performance es-

timated by the measurement tool will be used to rank applications.

States will determine their own priority resource concerns, one of the criteria that will be used to rank applications.

Eric B. Banks, Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist, Salina, said priority resource concerns for agricultural land are soil quality, water quality, water quantity, plants, and animals (wildlife and domestic). The priority resource concerns for non industrial private forest land are soil erosion, soil quality, water quality, plants, and animals.

States will establish ranking pools to rank applications with similar resource concerns.

"In Kansas, based on recommendations received from the Kansas State Technical Committee, the state will be divided into three geographic ranking pools for agricultural land and one state-wide ranking pool for nonindustrial private forest land," said Mr.

Banks. He further explained that these geographic ranking pools will align with the Kansas Conservation Service's administrative area boundaries.

Natural Resources Conservation Service field staff also will conduct on-site field verifications of applicants' information obtained from the measurement tool. Once the potential participant has been field verified and approved for funding, he or she must develop a conservation stewardship plan.

### Eligibility

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) authorizes Conservation Stewardship Program. Congress renamed and revamped the former Conservation Security Program completely to improve its availability and appeal to agricultural and forestry producers. The Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the program.

Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland, non industrial private forest land—a new land use for the program—and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

Eligible applicants may include individual landowners, legal entities, and Indian tribes. The program will be offered to producers in all 50 states, District of Columbia, and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups.

For information about Conservation Stewardship Program, including eligibility requirements, producers can visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/new\\_csp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp) or visit their local Natural Resources Conservation Service field office.



**NOT ONLY** did the crowd get to see magic, Mario Manzi performed an Elvis impression as well on Friday night at the fair. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

# Obituary

## Bernard W. Wilger

Aug. 1, 1923 - July 25, 2009

A funeral mass for longtime Lamar, resident, Bernard W. Wilger, was held Friday, July 31, 2009, at the St. Francis de Sales/Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Lamar with Reverend Charlie Sena as celebrant.

An evening Rosary was held on Thursday, July 30, at the church with Deacon Henry Wertin reciting.

Rite of Committal was held following the Mass in Veterans' Section at the Fairmount Cemetery under the Auspices of Lamar Veterans of Foreign War, St. George Creagh Jr., Post 3621, and the American Legion Post 71.

Bernard was born Aug. 1, 1923, at Lamar to Henry and Olive Martha (Miller) Wilger and died on July 25, 2009, at his home with his family by his side at age 85.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Arline Wilger, his parents, his brother, Jird Wilger, son-in-law, Bob Spurlock and his brother-in-law, Richard Koenig.

Bernard is survived by his children, Betty (Jim) Cavis of Lamar, Mary Spurlock of Belene, N.M., Jim Wilger of Lamar, Donna (Brian) Hoopes of Snowflake, Ariz., John (Lois) Wilger of Loveland, Colo., and Bill (Connie) Wilger of St. Francis; grandchildren, Calvin and Leah Cavis, Curt and Rosalba Cavis, Casey and Shea Wilger, Kyle, Sarah and Cody Hoopes, Allan and Becky Wilger and Jamie Wilger and Brennon Wilger. He is also survived by his great-grandchildren, Emily and Heather Cavis, Oscar and Frida Cavis and Dylan and Aidan Wilger; his sister, Lucile Koenig; and sister-in-law, Pauline Wilger; as well as numerous other family and a host of friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fairmount Cemetery Veterans' Fund in care of the funeral home office.

Online condolences can be made by visiting the website [www.peacockfuneralhome.com](http://www.peacockfuneralhome.com).



**MATTHISEN WITZEL** listens as Keith Van Skikes judges her rabbit at the fair. This was just one of her projects as she, and other 4-H'ers, had a busy few days. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

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