

# Farmers reminded to submit report

Producers need to be reminded to submit their annual report of acreage to their local Farm Service Agency county office to meet Farm Service Agency program eligibility requirements, said Adrian Polansky, executive director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency in Kansas.

"Producers must file their reports accurately and timely for all crops and land uses, including prevented and failed acreage, to ensure they receive the maximum Farm Service Agency program benefits possible," said Mr. Polansky.

Accurate acreage reports are necessary to determine and maintain eligibility for various programs, such as the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program and newer programs authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. Programs include the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP),

and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

Wheat, barley, oats and triticale acreage reports are considered timely filed when completed by May 31st.

Prevented acreage must be reported within 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failed acreage must be reported before the disposition of the crop. Producers should contact their county Farm Service Agency office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines.

Late-filed provisions may be available to producers who are unable to meet the reporting deadline as required. Reports filed after the established deadline must meet certain requirements to be accepted and may be charged late fees.

Contact the Farm Service Agency office at 332-2183 to complete acreage reporting. More information on Farm Service Agency programs is at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).



**ENJOYING A VISIT—** Ken Quigley and Albert Burr relax in the new chairs at the senior center. Charlsie Rogers also gave the center a couch.

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

# Assistance available to all producers

Each year the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers millions of dollars worth of conservation assistance in both technical and financial form. This assistance is available to all producers without discrimination.

Historically Underserved (HU) producers fall into one or more of three categories: Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher, Beginning Farmer or Rancher, and Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher. The 2008 Farm Bill recognizes these landowners and operators as eligible for special incentives for program participation. Those incentives may include increased payment rates, advanced payments, and/or special funding pools.

A Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher is a producer who has been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice without regard

to his or her individual qualities. Producers qualifying for assistance as a Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher must identify themselves as a Native American or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or a Hispanic. In order for an entity of any type to be eligible for socially disadvantaged status, at least 50 percent ownership of the entity must be controlled by a member of one of the aforementioned groups. Gender alone is not a covered group for Natural Resources Conservation Service programs.

Beginning Farmers or Ranchers are those producers who have not operated a farm or ranch or have been operating a farm or ranch for fewer than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of an entity to qualify as a Beginning Farmer or Rancher.

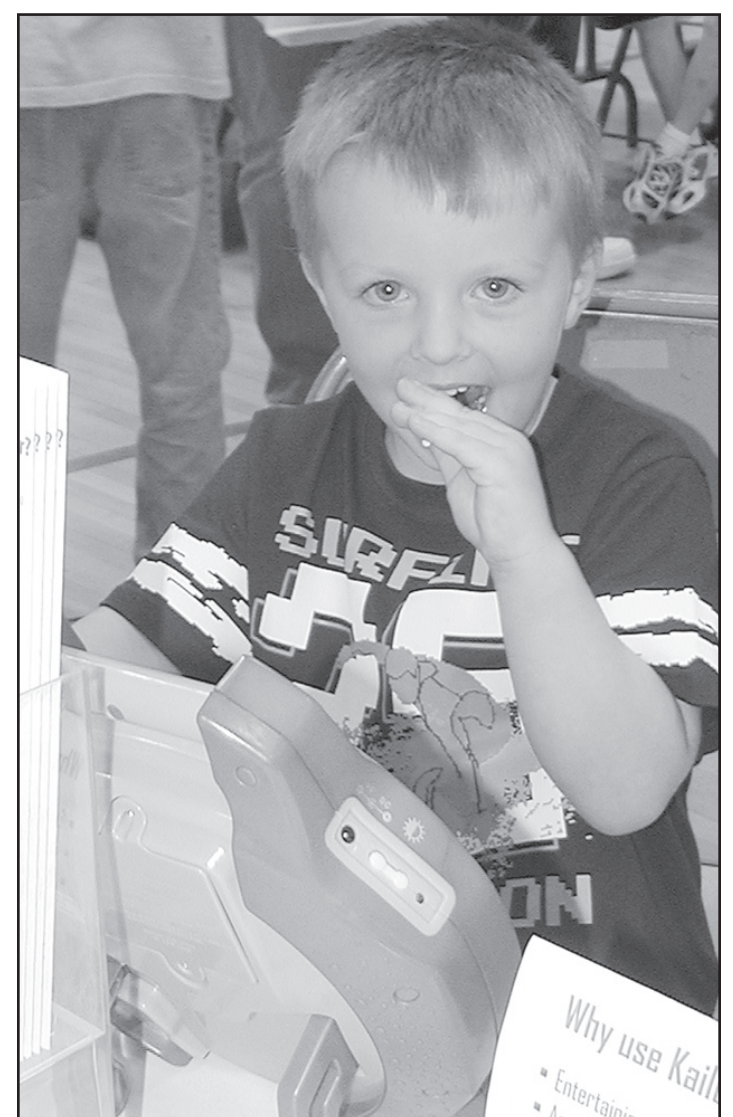
A Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher is an individual or entity with gross farm sales of not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years (\$142,000 for 2010) and an adjusted gross income of less than 50 percent of the county median. Eligibility for this group is self-determined by using the online tool located at <http://www.lrf-tool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.

Historically Underserved producers are eligible for separate funding pools and for increased levels of financial assistance for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Under each of these programs Historically Underserved producers must declare if they want to be ranked in the general ranking category or the Histori-

cally Underserved ranking category. All participants receiving financial assistance on a contract must be Historically Underserved producers in order to qualify for the Historically Underserved incentives program.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and Conservation Stewardship Program are available through a continuous sign-up.

If you are considering applying for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and/or Conservation Stewardship Program, you are encouraged to determine if you are eligible for Historically Underserved farmer or rancher incentives. For more information on criteria required to qualify for Historically Underserved status or to learn more about Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, and other Farm Bill programs stop by your local county U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center and visit with the Natural Resources Conservation Service staff. Information is also available on the Web site at [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov).



**JAKE RATH** enjoys a sucker during the health fair.

*Herald staff Photo by Karen Krien*

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To apply or for more information, contact Casey McCormick or Karen Krien at the St. Francis Herald, 785-332-3162 or stop by the office at 310 W. Washington, St. Francis.