

Rent of the fair building discussed

By Karen Krien
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Coming out on the rental of the building at the fairgrounds in St. Francis was discussed when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Friday. The fair board president will take the commissioners' suggestions back to the fair board on Thursday.

Dick Bursch, fair board president, said, when the building at the fairgrounds was remodeled 5 years ago, the commissioners (not the present three) had told the fair board that the building was to be available to the communities and it was not to be used for making money.

While that is good, Mr. Bursch says that they are losing money on some functions held at the building.

He talked about the gas bills when the furnace was not turned down and it ran for several days. There was another time when the doors were left open even though the temperatures were extremely cold and, again, the gas bill soared.

Turning off the utilities and draining pipes was discussed, but it was noted that each time there is a rental, the utilities need to be turned on and there is that expense.

They had looked at trying to find a thermostat that would automatically shut off but if they could get one, it was very expensive.

The building, Dale Patton, commissioner, said, is not there for a service and then lose money. Andy Beikman, commissioner, suggested converting everything to propane and there would be

no hookup fee, however it would require new lines and the furnaces converted.

Most people, Mr. Bursch said, are very conscientious— it just takes a few....

The commissioners finally agreed that the deposit on the building should be high enough to cover the expense if the furnaces are not shut down.

Mr. Bursch said, that after all the bills had been paid, they had a little over \$1,700 in the account. The books had been audited by the county attorney and had cleared.

He said the water lines on the fairgrounds are getting old. They have replaced five hydrants and had a major leak which was repaired.

To help with expenses, the board

had the telephone on the grounds removed. It was noted that almost everyone has a cell phone and, if they don't, they can probably have access to someone else's. Removing the phone saved the fair board \$500.

Road and bridge department report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, had recently attended a meeting and learned that the state of Kansas was doing away with the 5-year plan. Counties will still have allocations.

With the Kansas Department of Transportation's 5-year plan, there was a 80-20 payment. The Department picked up 80 percent and the county paid the other 20 percent. With the state's plan, the state will pay 90-cents on the dollar and the county will pay the other 10 cents.

There is also not the red tape, Mr. Flemming said, Good, safe bridges can be built for less money. There will still be inspections and engineering costs.

In this plan, the state will also help pay for other projects including chip sealing roads.

The biggest problem with this plan is that the county has to have the money to cover the costs even though the state will pay the 90 percent. However, after the first project, it can be used to start the next project.

Mr. Flemming went over the roads the crew had recently graveled, told about a two-span bridge the crew had turned into a four-span bridge. Harvest is about over and the county roads will be assessed.

The county's bridge inspections will start in December. The county has approximately 92 bridges.

Mr. Flemming also noted that sickness and injuries have left the department short of help.

In other business

In other business: The commissioners signed an agreement for the Southwest Regional Detention Center.

They also talked about the costs for jail keep, noting that it is impossible to budget for something like this when they don't know how much it is going to be. Two prisoners in jail for 433 days had cost the county \$17,320.

The commissioners agreed to table signing the Memorandum of Agreement for Vulnerable Needs Registry until more information was available.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners will be at 8 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 8, where they will count the votes from the general election.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 15, starting at 8 a.m. in the commissioners room in the courthouse.



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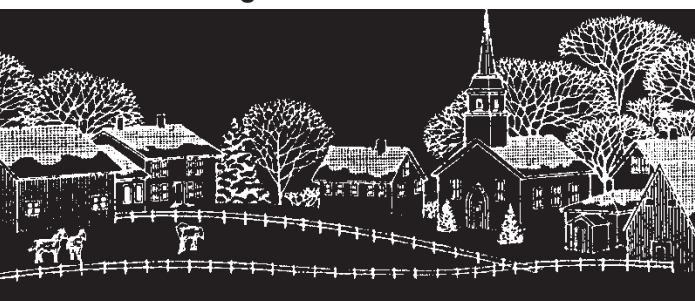
Ginger Thomas, Rodney Neitzel, Cathy Ritcheney, Maggie Smith and Tucker, not pictured: Vicki Cress

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Back: Casey McCormick, Lezlie McCormick, Karen Krien, Front: Norma Martinez, Priscilla Paulsen, Betty Jean Winston.

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Across the County

By Marty Fear



County Extension Agent

Yes, This Really Is the Time to Control Dandelions.

The best time to control dandelions, henbit and chickweed in lawns isn't a matter of obvious logic. Rather than spring, it's in early November, just before these broadleaf weeds go dormant for winter.

"Even well-established dandelions are easier to control then. At other times of year, sprays typically kill top growth, but sometimes leave the roots ready and able to sprout again," said Ward Upham, horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

"All three weeds are preparing for winter in late fall by actively moving materials from their leaves to the roots," Upham explained.

So, a herbicide application will translocate down, too, killing the plants from the roots up.

Besides that, henbit, chickweed and some dandelions are young, tender and easier to control in early November, he said. Dandelions typically produce a flush of new plants in late September. Henbit and chickweed are winter annuals that go to seed during the growing season. Their next generation of plants germinates in October, getting a start on spring.

"The important thing to remember is that the better the weed is growing, the more weed killer will move from the leaves to the roots. Cold weather will slow or stop this process. So, you need to choose a day when it's 50 degrees or higher," Upham said.

Program cut-off date extended

The cut-off date for the producer applications in the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Conservation Stewardship Program has been extended said the service chief, Dave White. The date has been extended to Jan. 7.

"We're extending the deadline for applications to Conservation Stewardship Program to provide agricultural producers more time to complete their applications," said Mr. White. "This will help farmers, ranchers, and forestry producers by giving them more time and hopefully allow even more producers to participate in this program."

"With the additional time, farmers can use the program's self-screening checklist to determine if the program is suitable for their operation and then go to their Natural Resources Conservation Service office and sign-up for it," said Eric B. Banks, the service's

State Conservationist in Kansas.

The Conservation Stewardship Program checklist highlights basic information about the program's eligibility requirements, contract obligations, and potential payments. It is available from local Conservation Service offices or online at nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html.

"The Conservation Stewardship Program has proven popular with stewardship-minded and conservation-conscious Kansas producers who have been stewards of the land for over 75 years," said Mr. Banks. "So, it is only natural that Kansas is a leader in producers eligible for the program."

Kansas producers enrolled over 1.2 million acres in 875 contracts for over \$17 million.

The Conservation Stewardship Program is offered in all 50 states, District of Columbia, and the Pacific and Caribbean

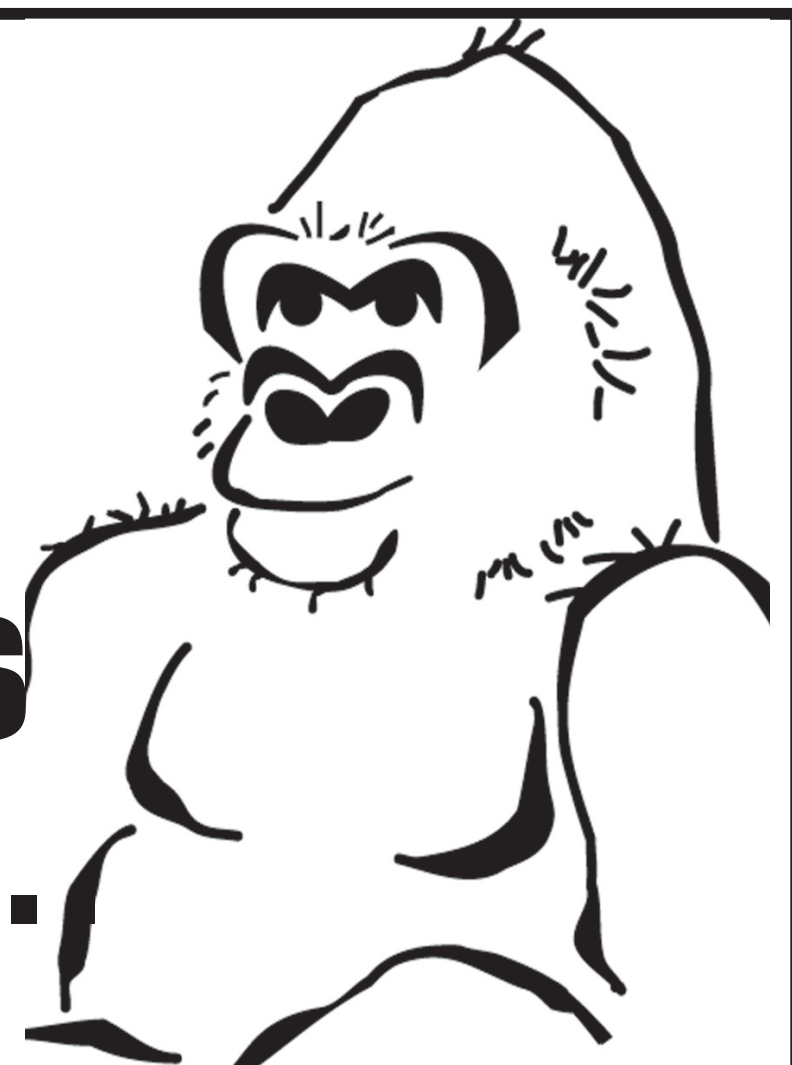
areas through continuous sign-ups with announced cut-off dates for ranking periods. The program provides many conservation benefits including improvement of water and soil quality, wildlife habitat enhancement, and adoption of conservation activities that address the effects of climate change.

All producers are encouraged to apply for Conservation Stewardship Program. The program, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland, and nonindustrial forestland.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is celebrating 75 years helping people help the land.

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