

Club Clips

Lawn Ridge 4-H Club May

The May meeting was called to order by Megan Ford. Josh Teeters led the group in the flag salute followed by Miranda leading the group in a song. Roll call was answered by 18 members.

In the business section, a committee was formed and it was decided entries for the sign design will be due next month.

The program consisted of a demonstration by Ashley D., a project talk by Scott F., and music appreciation by Heidi Y. After a game led by Gavin C., the meeting was adjourned.

Ashley Dowgwillo, reporter

Lawn Ridge 4-H Club June

The June 3 meeting was called to order with six members and four leaders present.

Josh Teeters announced the program which started with a preliminary talk by Amber Havel. This was followed by a demonstration presented by Kattie Ford. A project talk was given by Heidi Yonkey and the program was ended with a project talk given by Josh Teeters.

Ashley Dowgwillo, reporter Lawn Ridge 4-H Club July

The July 20 meeting of the Lawn Ridge 4-H Club was held at the park and called to order by Samantha

Marin, vice president.

Roll call was answered by "what you are taking to the fair?"

The club decided to make a donation of \$50 to the Relay for Life organization.

After the meeting was adjourned the club went to several houses to look at animals and other 4-H projects.

The evening ended with swimming and finally a picnic at the park.

Ashley Dowgwillo, reporter



Counter-cyclical program for 2002-2003 sign-up begins

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman has announced that sign-up begins Oct. 1 for the direct and counter-cyclical program for crop years 2002 and 2003. The United States Department of Agriculture will begin making payments to farmers soon thereafter.

"Aggressive implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill continues to be a high priority at the department of agriculture so that farmers and ranchers receive program benefits as soon as possible," said Secretary Veneman. "The recent announcement is a major milestone and comes less than three months after the bill was signed by President Bush."

The 2002 Farm Bill provides for payments to be made to eligible producers of covered commodities and peanuts for the 2002 through 2007 crop years. Direct and counter-cyclical payments are made to producers with established crop bases and payment yields. Payment rates for direct payments are established by the 2002 Farm Bill and are issued regardless of market prices. Producers also are eligible for counter-cyclical payments, but payments are issued only if effective prices are less than the target prices set in the 2002 Farm

Bill. The effective price is equal to the higher of the average loan rate or national average market price received by producers, plus the direct payment rate.

Aug. 2 letters were mailed to farm owners and operators asking them to verify acreage history reported to the Farm Service Agency. Based on this information, a second letter will soon be sent to farm owners and operators providing them with several options unique to their farm for establishing or updating bases. The 2002-07 base options include: (1) using the farm's 2002 production flexibility contract acres as the base acres; (2) adding oilseeds to the 2002 contract acres; and (3) using the farm's 1998-01 planted acres.

The letter will also inform owners that if they elect to update their bases using the farm's 1998-01 planted acres, they will have the opportunity to use their current farm program payment yield or to update their yields using the farm's 1998-01 production. The updated yields may only be used for counter-cyclical payments. To update yields, owners or operators must provide verifiable production evidence. The letter will provide a date that owners and opera-

tors should begin providing base and yield information to their Farm Service Agency service center.

In absence of verifiable production history, producers can use 75 percent of the county average yield. The letter will notify each producer of the farm's 2002 production flexibility contract program payment yield and 75 percent of the county average yield. In most cases, the 75 percent yield will be the lowest possible crop payment yield for counter-cyclical payments attributed to the farm.

Commodities eligible for both direct and counter-cyclical payments include wheat, corn, sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, rice, soybeans, sunflower seeds, canola, flaxseed, mustard, safflower, rapeseed and peanuts.

The department of agriculture will soon make available an Internet-based tool to help producers understand their base and yield options.

Sign-up for the 2002 and 2003 direct and counter-cyclical program ends June 2, 2003.

Producers who have questions should contact their local United States Department of Agriculture service center of the county Farm Service Agency office.

Family enjoys weekend genealogy trip in Nebraska

On August 1, Kent and Carol Amsberry, along with their sons, Will and Grant, departed Olathe, bound for Nebraska on a genealogy weekend trip. Their first stop was the home of Paula and Gary Groff in Bellevue, Neb. The group enjoyed a delicious barbecue dinner on one of the few cool evenings in this hot summer.

The next morning, the group toured around south Omaha to see some of the places where their grandmother, Susie Amsberry, lived and worked in the early 1900's. The tour ended at the Laurel Hill Cemetery, one of the oldest in the Omaha area. In this cemetery, Paula and Kent were able to view the grave site of their great-great-grandparents, Louis and Marie Jourdan, as well as seeing many other interesting old tombstones.

After a light lunch, the group took off for the three hour drive to Kearney, Neb., where they met Lee and Doris Amsberry in a local motel. That evening everyone celebrated Will's fifth birthday with a pool party, cake, presents and dinner at a local Chinese restaurant.

The next morning, the group drove

approximately 40 miles to the Mason City and Ansley, Neb. area. Their objective was to find the tiny Enon Cemetery, reported to contain the graves of several Amsberry ancestors. After failing to find the cemetery using information from the Custer County Historical Society, they returned to town to ask the locals for directions. Two very generous local men spent approximately two hours helping the group find the Enon Cemetery, located on private land west of Mason City. What they found there made the trip well worth the wait.

The Enon Cemetery was a small fenced area of native grassland with a number of large old cedar trees in one corner. The small cemetery contained less than 20 grave sites and perhaps a few more unmarked graves, all located within the small thicket of trees. The group was thrilled to find the graves of Lee's grandfather, Floyd Murton Amsberry (1854-1914) and great-grandparents, Lucy Caroline and Francis Everett Amsberry (1824-1897). The F. M. Amsberry grave site was particularly interesting as it was a homemade concrete marker

with one of the trees grown in close at the headstone. The group took many photos and shot some camcorder film footage to document the area. The location of the cemetery was carefully noted in case anyone from the family would like to visit in the future.

In the afternoon, the group visited cemeteries in Broken Bow, Ansley and Mason City to see the graves of more distant relatives. The most noteworthy ancestor was Darius M. Amsberry, buried in Broken Bow, who was a nephew of Lee's great-great-grandfather. He was locally prominent in Broken Bow and later was appointed as Receiver of the U.S. Land Office by Presidents T. Roosevelt and Taft. The group broke up later in the day to return home and heartily recommend that everyone take the time to find records of their ancestors who may be located in some of the pioneer cemeteries in the Midwest. On their return to Bird City, Lee and Doris stopped in Wilsonville, Neb. to see the grave of Doris's grandfather, Ralph S. Wolbach, so it wasn't just Amsberry family history that was documented that weekend.

Wheat crop decisions start now

One of the most important decisions wheat producers make starts with the seed they use, says Jim Shroyer, K-State Extension crop production specialist. Quality seed pays off all season long.

"I'd like to see everyone plant at least some certified seed every year," Mr. Shroyer says. "If you plant three varieties, you should buy certified seed of at least one of those varieties." Certified seed has several benefits, he explains,

"You get genetics that are true to the variety, good germination, and good test weight. Plus, you get seed that has been cleaned of weed seed and foreign matter."

Using high quality seed, with large kernels for the variety, gets the crop off to a stronger start in the fall, he adds.

"With large, high quality seed, the young plants tend to tiller more in the fall and are better able to tolerate environmental stresses," Mr. Shroyer says. "I've seen cases where we've had a hard freeze on Halloween, and a plot planted to certified seed survived while the plot right next to it planted to bin-run seed died out."

Producers who use blends should start with certified seed of each variety, he adds. "You want to be sure to have equal proportions of all the varieties you want in the blend.

When you start a blend with the highest quality seed, your chances of success are much greater."

Certified seed fields are inspected for varietal purity and after cleaning the seed is tested for germination and mechanical purity by the Kansas Crop Improvement Association. Wheat seed is also checked for Karnal bunt. All this inspecting and testing assures farmers that they are getting seed that will consistently perform in the field.

For information on finding certified seed producers in Kansas, call Kansas Crop Improvement Association at (785) 532-6118, or e-mail kscrop@kansas.net.

Plain Sense

Late-life Depression

High Plains Mental Health Center

Despite the increased likelihood of losing a loved one, or of experiencing a serious physical illness or disability, old age is not necessarily a time of sadness and depression. Most elderly people are as satisfied with life in their later years as at any other age. They find enjoyment in retirement, personal and social interests, family and friends.

Unfortunately, there are elderly people who do suffer from depression severe enough to interfere with their daily lives. Depression in the elderly is usually the result of a combination of physical, psychological and social factors, along with a number of predisposing factors including:

- A family history of depression
- A negative or pessimistic personality
- Major life changes such as retirement, serious reduction in income, loss of a spouse, or entering a long-term care facility
- Physical illness such as severe arthritis, and cardiac disease
- Neurological problems such as stroke, dementia, Parkinson's or other disorders that affect thinking and emotions
- Worrying about basic needs such as housing, finances, and employment
- Continuing concerns about adult children, grandchildren and friends

Depression in the elderly is a treatable condition. A thorough physical exam along with a mental health evaluation can help determine methods of treatment. There are several safe, effective medications available to help

relieve the signs and symptoms of late-life depression. Talk to your medical doctor or a mental health professional for more information.

Contributed by Cora Lee Pfannenstiel, RN, BSN, Community Outreach Consultant/Nurse Educator

Book Review

Book Review from the St. Francis Public Library

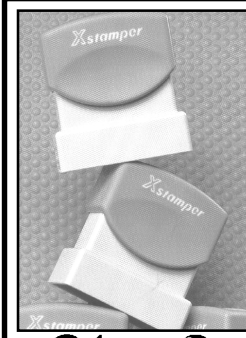
America

By Stephen Coonts

Hundreds of people have gathered to watch the launching of the U.S.S. America—the United States' newest and most sophisticated nuclear submarine. Then the unthinkable happens: armed men emerge from the tugboat that is leading her to sea, board the submarine, and man her controls. Before nearby destroyers can react, the sub disappears.

Admiral Jake Grafton is resting at his Delaware beach house when he is asked to find out who has stolen the submarine and why. He learns that a

rogue CIA group, originally trained to steal a Russian submarine, may be behind the operation. And soon it becomes clear that, whatever their purpose, they mean business: within hours a missile launched from the submarine destroys the top floor of the White House, and a second missile knocks out the electrical power in the heart of Washington and fells an airliner. The race is on to find the submarine, determine who is behind the nightmare scenario, and—most critically—figure out how to stop it.



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NE¼ Sec. 14, 7-39

BASES: 63 ac. wheat base; 28.3 bu. yld.
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