

# New web site focuses on value-added agriculture market

The Agricultural Marketing Resource Center, a three-state university effort to enhance value added agriculture, launched a new Web site on Sept. 23 to provide education and research to producers about business development and marketing related to value added agriculture.

The new Web site, www.AgMRC.org contains contacts and directories, as well as new business development and commodity-specific information designed to help build successful value added agricultural enterprises.

"Beginning a new farming venture was overwhelming at times for our 24-member farmer cooperative," said Chris Henning-Cooklin of the Greene Bean Project in Jefferson, Iowa. "We were looking at growing specialty beans and needed market and production information. A new value added agriculture Web site was invaluable to us in our information search."

The Web page is designed to link producers with electronically available information and resources on a variety of agricultural commodities and products. The Center works with leading agricultural economists and business professionals from across the United States to provide applicable research and analysis on market and economic issues facing value added business ventures.

"The Center provides value added business and economic analysis tools and information on business principles, legal, financial, logistical, and other issues needed to build successful value added businesses," said Mary Holz-Clause, co-director.

According to Don Hofstrand, co-director, "Many farmers are looking to value added agriculture to improve their business profitability."

"The Center's Web site was very beneficial to the Greene Bean Project," said Henning-Cooklin. "Additionally, they have provided training and outreach to producer groups like ours in communicating information about marketing our products and honing our communication skills."

The center is funded through a grant to Iowa State University, Kansas State University and the University of California from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Rural Business Cooperative Service. The web site is designed to provide the information producers and other agribusiness professions need to enhance their bottom line through value added agriculture activities.

**For more information**

For more information, please contact the Center at www.AgMRC.org, toll free at 866-277-5567 or email at agmrc@iastate.edu.



**KAREN WILLEY, an undergraduate working toward a PhD, has spent the summer studying The Breaks north of St. Francis. Her Uncle Bill is holding the survey pole.**

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

## Undergraduate studys the soil and erosion of 'The Breaks' in Cheyenne County

*By Karen Krien*

Karen Willey, who is working on an undergraduate degree at Kansas University, has been making daily trips to The Breaks north of St. Francis where she is studying the rough terrain, taking soil samples and surveying the land. She is also making a geology map of the northern part of the county.

Ms. Willey first discovered The Breaks five or six years ago when she had a job with a professor who was doing work with soils. She found the area extremely interesting and wondered just how The Breaks were formed.

Today, she says The Breaks are considered "exaggerated gully erosion." She thinks that erosion has been going on for about 10,000 years or so. She also has found that the erosion goes in cycles and she is not ready to talk about what causes the cycles. She will know more when she has talked to the five professors who advise her.

She has found that the reason there is little water in The Breaks is the base is shale which slants to the south, thus running any water into the Aquifer which is located under much

of the middle and southern part of the county.

Ms. Willey arrived in St. Francis in mid June and rented one of the Lampe apartments south of Main Street. Most of her exploration of The Breaks has found her with a companion including her father, an uncle, professor, friends and, even Fred Magley, Cheyenne County historian, has showed her some interesting historic sites.

Among her finds while surveying The Breaks has been an extinct young bison horn. When she found it, she was unsure just what it was and how old it might be so she drove to the museum in Wray and was told that was part of a bison and could be 8,000 or more years old. She will take it back to Kansas University to show it to her professors.

Her surveying trips have been relatively uneventful with few snakes seen. She said there were more box turtles, toads, mule deer and owls. But every trip back into The Breaks has been interesting in some way or other.

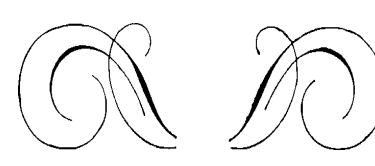
On Sept. 25, she was accompanied by her Uncle Bill from Wichita. He also had found The Breaks amazing,

"When we came around the curve, I could hardly believe what I saw. I had heard about The Breaks but I guess I thought they were more like bluffs," he said.

Ms. Willey has been teaching geography and ecology at Kansas University for the last four years and after she has earned her PhD, she would

like teach classes and conduct field trips.

She said she has enjoyed her stay in St. Francis and has met many nice people. She will be leaving at the end of the month but will probably return to do more studies of The Breaks and renew old acquaintances.



**Sat., Sept. 28 • 10:30 a.m. CT**  
**For Raymond Hill Estate AUCTION**  
**SALE SITE:** From St. Francis, KS - North on Hwy. 27 to RD W, 2 miles West to RD 5, 2 1/2 miles North from Haigler, NE - South on Hwy. 27 to RD AA, 2 miles West to RD 5, 1 1/2 miles South.

**Vehicles & Trailers, Antiques & Collectibles • Tanks & Propane Bottles • Dishes, Cookware, Bakeware & Household • Shop Tools & Related • Shop Equip. • Livestock & Related • Machinery • Appliances • Guns • Yard & Garden • Furniture • Misc.**

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## Bureau looking for German historians from the county

The Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau is looking for German historians from Cheyenne County who may be interested in volunteering their time and talents to help share their German heritage with others.

The Ellis County Historical Museum is making plans for German Heritage Days to be held in April, and would like to have someone that is knowledgeable of the German history of Cheyenne County to participate in this event.

This event will promote the German heritage of the area and will feature various speakers, presentations, entertainment, German food and round table story-telling sessions.

The keynote speaker will be William Keel, who will talk about the Volga German dialects of Ellis and Rush counties. He is with the Univer-

sity of Kansas Department of Germanic Languages, and has done extensive research on the various German dialects of Kansas.

Other activities will include tours of the Volga German Haus, a traditional polka wedding dance, German singing and tours of the beautiful churches in Ellis County.

The Ellis County Historical Museum welcomes German historians from Cheyenne County to participate in this event by providing presentations or take part in a round table story telling session.

Residents of St. Francis who are of German descent are encouraged to volunteer their talents and share their German heritage during this festival.

For more information call (785) 625-2465.

## Bird City blood drive brings in 55 units

The American Red Cross blood drive held in Bird City on Friday had great success. Debbie Kirk, Red Cross Donor Recruitment representative, reported collecting 55 units of blood and the goal was 40 units.

"Bird City is a special community of caring people and I want to give special thanks to them," said Ms. Kirk.

The day before the blood drive, there were no volunteers to work so Ms. Kirk went to the high school and students

Hayley Young, Annie Hengen, John Simmons, Becca Mason, Andy Smith, Natasha Gordon, Katina Downing, Brandon Gordon and Bryce Ambrosier volunteered.

"Without the help of this energetic crew, the day would not have gone nearly as well," Ms. Kirk said.

Others helping were John DaPron and Lee Amsbury who allowed the blood drive to be held in the American Legion building.

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**Sat., Oct. 5 • 1 p.m. CT**  
**Location: Intersection of North & N. Francis Streets, St. Francis**

**Tractor - Yard & Garden Equip. - Welder - Tools**

1940 9N Ford Tractor, hyd., 3 pt. • EZ Go Golf Cart, newer batteries, w/shade • Lawn Chief Riding lawn mower, 12.5 hp, 39" cut • 2 - push mowers, one slightly used • 5'x7' flatbed trailer • John Deere 6' blade, 3 pt. • John Deere 2 row planter, 3 pt. • John Deere 2 row cultivator, 3 pt. • John Deere 2 row potato cultivator, 3 pt. • Dearborn 2 row planter, 3 pt. • Dearborn wood splitter, hyd. on 2 wheel trailer • 2 wheel manure spreader • 1947 John Deere one row corn binder, on rubber • 7' Dearborn tandem disc., 3 pt. • 5' spring tooth harrow • 2 section spring tooth harrow, 3 pt. • Forney electric welder, 220v, 2 NEW leads • lots of welding rods • 2 welding helmets • Atlas 26" snow blower, 8 hp.

Spike tooth harrow • Dirt scoop, 3 pt. • Old stationary silage cutter • 2 bottom Molboard plow, 3 pt. • Cornstalk drill • Pull-type side delivery rake • 110" heavy duty extension cord • MW rototiller, 5 hp. • Weed burner • (4) NEW round bale feeders • Bull dozer fence charger • Steel posts, approx. 5 dozen • Electric fence wire • Electric fence insulators • Creosote posts (5) 8' & (6) 7' • Rabbit hutch on stilts • Back pack sprayer, 4 gal. • (2) belt pulleys for 9N tractor • Flat belt 6"x30" • Mens golf club set • Womens golf club set • 90 golf balls • Porch swing • (5) garden type gates • (3) 2 wheel garden carts • (2) Wheel barrows.

Hoses • Pitch fork • (3) bicycles, 1-29" mens & 2-20" ladies • Pickup topper for 8' box • Stock racks for pickup • Antique rocking chair • 3/4 size bed w/box springs & mattress • Sickle mower 7' pull type on rubber • Cook stove • Heater • Sink from camper trailer • Clothes washer • Ping pong table • People mover • 2 Weed Eaters, 1 gas/1 elec. • Buckets of bolts • Misc. tools • Port. aluminum ramp 29"x68" • Atlas table saw • GMC tailgate, fits 1976-1986 • (3) Fertilizer spreaders • (2) Jack stands • (2) Car ramps • Grease guns.

(2) Round porch columns • (2) rolls of 4' yard fencing • Books • Misc. dishes • Canning jars • Kitchen utensils • Ladies purses • Window coverings • Old picture frames • Aquariums • NEW mirror & Sconces • Old boiler w/copper bottom • Galvanized tubs • Ironing board • Women's clothes • Many items too numerous to mention!

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** Wade has sold his garden lot so we have the opportunity to sell at public auction his equipment and personal property. We encourage you to be on time as there are very few small items. We'll see you at the auction!

**TERMS:** Terms of the sale are cash. No credit cards will be accepted. No items to be removed until settled for. Announcements made day of sale shall take precedence over printed material. Not responsible for accidents, injury or theft. Western Auction & Real Estate, clerks.

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