



Farmers and ranchers waited patiently in line at the St. Francis Sale Barn on Wednesday. There were 1,392 head of cattle brought in and most went home with good checks.

Livestock barn has \$1 million sale

By Casey McCormick

On Wednesday, Jan. 12, pickup trucks and cattle trailers filled the lot at the sale barn and poured onto U.S. 36. Ranchers showed up to take advantage of good beef prices on a cold, blustery winter day. "There were 1,392 head sold," said Betty Petersen, St. Francis Livestock. "Most were from 500 pounds on up."

The sale brought in \$1 million for cattlemen from Cheyenne, Rawlins and Sherman counties.

As of Friday, the prices for fats were \$92 to \$93 per hundred.

"Cattle of all classes are in demand," Mrs. Petersen said.

"With the recent moisture, many farmers and ranchers hope to get some grass growing," she said, "The cattle went to Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska and some to local feed lots as well."



WORKING THE GATES was cold business at the sale barn on Wednesday. It was also a busy time as cattle were brought in by the truck loads.

Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick



Board lining up the entertainment for August fair

By Leslie Hilt

At the Jan. 6 Cheyenne County Fair Board meeting, members were still trying to fill the night entertainment for the 2005 fair which will be held in August.

Wednesday night of the fair will find the Kids Ranch Rodeo back again and, of course, the demolition derby will be held at the Saturday night spot. Several other ideas for entertainment have been checked into or tossed around but nothing has been reserved.

Remodeling

The remodeling of the fair building is coming along. The members discussed whether to pay Lampe Hardware or Tri-State Lumber bills

as there is not enough money in the account at this time. They could move money out of Grandstand Account into the General to pay the bills. After some discussion, it was decided to wait until the end of the month when the board gets their allotted budget and pay both bills

Extension office

Tye Faulkender, county extension director, asked the board if they saw any problems with having 4-H clubs or an all-county cleanup in June. If the grounds could be mowed in June and again before fair there wouldn't be as much of a problem with weeds. Jared Douthit, board member, offered to do the spraying

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Four candidates file for offices

By Karen Krien

The deadline for filing for one of the seats on Bird City or St. Francis city councils and Cheylin or St. Francis school boards is noon on Tuesday, Jan. 25. The elections will be held in April.

Terry Miller, county election officer, reported that those filing are coming in slowly. As of Tuesday, only four candidates had filed. Canda Orten and Jan Busse have filed for the Member-At-Large position on the Cheylin Board of Education; Rod Young filed for District 2, position 6 on the Cheylin Board of Education; and Rodney Bracelin has filed for a seat on St. Francis City Council.

He said several of the board members had picked up the papers for filing but not all had turned them back in but they do have a few more days before the deadline.

pay a \$5 fee or submit a petition with the required amount of signatures. If the candidate is thinking of submitting a petition, he or she should check with the county clerk to find out the number of signatures needed as there are different numbers for each city and school board.

It should be noted, that after a candidate has filed for an office, he cannot withdraw his name after the last date provided by law for filing for such candidacy.

There are a number of positions open in both cities on both the school and city boards. In both cities, the council can have any number of candidates running but only the seats which are up for election will be filled by the candidates with the most votes in the April 1 election.

To run for a seat on the city council, the candidate must live within the city limits.

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CHECKING THE BOOK with the critique, seniors (front) Emily Walz, Megan Ford, (back) Kelsey Dunn, Amy Grace and Alé Tygart study the rating of the 2004 Wigwam. "We are all

so excited about the All-Kansas award. It gives us inspiration to work even harder this year," said Grace.

Photo courtesy of Wigwam staff

Yearbook staff ranks at the very top

All-Kansas! Students in the Journalism lab excitedly reviewed the critique sheet announcing their 2004 yearbook had received the top rating for student publications in the state. Not only had they received an All-Kansas rating overall but in each category: concept, reporting, design, coverage and photography.

"I knew we had done well when the first thing the judge said was, 'I'm afraid this evaluation might just be a string of compliments,'" said adviser

Brenda Day. Judge Brett Zinger went on to say, "Wonderful yearbook overall, with numerous standout elements. The staff should be proud, and I am certain the book is well-received by the students and the community. Solid Journalism."

The yearbook staff consists of 10 seniors enrolled in Advanced Yearbook or Editorial Leadership, 14 juniors enrolled in two sections of Yearbook and nine sophomores enrolled in Introduction to Yearbook Journalism.

The "staffers" are the best ac-

ording to Mrs. Day. "They work hard to fully finance the book and keep costs down to the students and add patrons."

No small feat when the cost of publication has risen to over \$52 per book.

Junior and senior yearbook staffers are currently involved in preparing for Kansas Scholastic Press Association Contest in Hays on Feb. 17 and also working on their second deadline. Intro students are working on

their Intro edition of the CIN. Students also plan to add a yearbook DVD to the class this year and want to put up a publication web site.

Yearbook is a lot of hard work, but "gives the students the opportunity to work independently, rely on their own creativity and writing skills," said senior Kali Rueb.

"Getting All-Kansas was a really big honor," said senior Emily Walz. "It made all our hard work last year worth it."

Farmers have opportunity to learn more on Jan. 27

Area producers will have an opportunity to learn more about two new practices under the Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program beginning at noon on Jan. 27, at a meeting to be held at the Blue Bird Cafe in Bird City. Those interested in attending need to make reservations by Jan. 21 to the Cheyenne County Conservation District at (785) 332-2341, ext. 3.

"We are targeting people with an interest in enrolling eligible crop acres to benefit aquifer recharge and increase wildlife habitat while maintaining a viable economic return from those acres," Barth Crouch, regional biologist for Pheasants Forever and Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (CAWS) board member, said.

"Producers will hear from a select list of presenters who will answer questions and help provide guidance in planning considerations."

Seating is limited so interested producers need to contact the conservation district to reserve their place as soon as possible.

The two new practices are the Wetlands Restoration Non Floodplain Initiative, of CP23a, providing farmers financial incentives to

protect and restore playa wetlands, and the Upland Bird Habitat Buffer, or CP33, which provides for nesting and brood cover for northern bobwhite quail and ringneck pheasants," Mr. Crouch said.

"Playa lakes are also known locally as buffalo wallows, lagoons and various, more colorful names. They are shallow, seasonal wetlands that collect water from the surrounding area after heavy rainfall or runoff events," said Tim Christian, state coordinator for Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams.

"Recent studies show that playas are the primary source of recharge for the Ogallala Aquifer, plus they host millions of migrating, breeding and wintering birds throughout the year. Playas are the most numerous wetlands in the region, totaling about 60,000 in the southern and western high plains. Kansas has over 10,000 playas scattered across 31 western counties.

Of the 250,000 acres set aside nationally for the initiative, 11,000 acres have been allocated to Kansas. In the six-state playa Region 56,600 acres have been allocated for enrollment," Mr.

Christian said.

The new Upland Bird Habitat aims to create 250,000 acres of nesting and brooding cover nationally. The initiative has set 20,000 acres for the enrollment goal in Kansas, an important area for bobwhite quail recovery and a major pheasant production region.

The program provides cost share, annual rental payments and other financial incentives to landowners to establish 30-to-120-foot native grass buffers around crop fields. Similar to the wetlands restoration initiative, land must have been cropped four out of the past six years to qualify for enrollment.

For more information on the meeting and to make your reservation, contact the Cheyenne County Conservation District at (785) 332-2341, ext. 3.

The meeting is sponsored by the High Plains Rooster Chapter, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, the Cheyenne and Rawlins County Conservation's Service and Farm Service Agency, the Thomas County Farm Bureau, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and the Playa Lakes Joint Venture.

Bobwhite Quail Initiative is good news for producers

The Northern Bobwhite Quail Initiative is good news for Kansas farmers, ranchers, hunters, and wildlife enthusiasts. Opportunities to increase quail habitat are available through systems of innovative practices and financial assistance.

Bobwhite quail are a valued inhabitant of farm landscapes, an important aspect of rural culture, and possibly the most popular upland game bird among hunters. However, the bob-

white quail population has declined from an estimated 59 million birds in 1980 to about 20 million in 1999. While many reasons can be cited for their decline, the urbanization and subsequent management of their grassland habitats seems to be common among all theories. Elimination of prairie fires and other natural disturbances has speeded up a transitioning of once grassy fields into woods and forests - a natural process called succession.

To assist in slowing this decline the Initiative introduces a conservation practice intended to create 250,000 acres of early successional grass buffers along agricultural field borders.

In exchange for planting and managing these borders, farmers may be eligible for the following payments:

- Signing incentive payments of up to \$100 per acre;
- Cost-share assistance of up to 90 percent of the eligible reimbursable practice costs;
- Annual rental payments for the length of the contract; and
- Maintenance incentive payments.

To be eligible, cropland must be suitably located and adaptable to the establishment of bobwhite quail. In addition, the applicant must satisfy the basic eligibility and cropping history criteria for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Interested program participants should inquire at their local U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center about Continuous Conservation Reserve Program practice CP33, "Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds." The purpose of this practice is to provide food and cover for bobwhite quail in cropland areas by planting a 30-to-120-foot wide "border" of native grasses and forbs around cropland fields. Buffer species may include native warm season grasses, legumes, wildflowers, forbs, and limited shrub plantings, as determined by the program participant and the Department of Agriculture technical service provider.

This is a limited-acre opportunity. The Initiative will enroll only a total of 250,000 acres divided among 35 states that have the greatest potential to restore bobwhite quail habitat. Kansas has been allocated only 20,000 acres for this Initiative. These

acres have been further distributed within Kansas, with 5,000 acres available to the western two-thirds of the state and 15,000 available in the eastern one-third from the western edge of Washington, Clay, Dickinson, Marion, Butler and Cowley counties. Sign up will end when the 20,000 acres, or corresponding allotment to that part of the state, have been enrolled.

Wildlife partnerships estimate that the nesting and brood-rearing cover created by this initiative will increase bobwhite quail numbers by 750,000 bird annually. Planting buffers will also benefit reptiles, amphibians, aquatic species, and numerous other upland birds.

When considering field borders, think about those areas bordered by hedgerows or other trees where you probably are not raising a good crop anyway due to loss of moisture from the trees. It would also be a good time to take the opportunity to consider a filter strip or riparian forest buffer along any streams or water courses running through your fields. Using a combination of filter strips, habitat buffers, or other available Continuous Conservation Reserve Program practices could leave you with a cropland field of your most productive soils while benefiting wildlife and water quality and getting a decent payment on the acres you take out of production. Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is not intended to eliminate crop production but to provide alternatives to improve wildlife and other resources while retaining a viable working agricultural operation.

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a U.S. Department of Agriculture program administered by the Farm Service Agency. Enrollment in this program is open anytime to qualifying applicants. Technical services are provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, local conservation districts, or other Department of Agriculture technical service providers.

For more information, contact your local Department of Agriculture Service Center or stop by and visit with the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or conservation district staffs.

FILE

Continued from Page 1

School board elections have different rules and if there are more than three candidate running in a district, there will be a primary election on Feb. 25, eliminating the extra candidates.

There are also different districts in the school district and to run for a certain position, the candidate must live in that district. A map showing the districts can be obtained at the county clerk's office.

City council/mayor

St. Francis — There are three city council seats up for election.

Those members whose term are up are: Rodney Bracelin, Natalie Knodel and Kay Shay.

Bird City — There are two seats on the city council and the position of mayor up for election. These positions are currently being served by Larry Henry and Wendy Richmeier, council; and Dave Hickert, mayor.

Board of education

St. Francis — There three seats up for election on the St. Francis Board of Education. Positions and the people currently serving are: District 1, position 4, Bruce Feikert; District 2, position 5, Gene Dodd; District 3, position 6, Pete Raile.

Mr. Dodd moved out of his District and is now living in Mr. Feikert's District. He said he would not be running against Mr. Feikert.

Cheylin — The Cheylin Board of Education has four seats up for election including District 2, position 6, Rod Young; District 1, position 3, Hal Anholz; and District 1, position 1, Gerard Pochop; Member at Large, Cheryl Wilkinson.

FAIR

Continued from Page 1

as he is licensed, but asked that the county supply the chemical. The members felt that an early mowing would be a good idea even if they sprayed the weeds — it would eliminate the big weeds.

Mr. Faulkender talked about having a Spring Show. No date has been set. He was just getting the board's approval before making any plans. Mr. Faulkender thought that maybe if there was no other show in the area, that they would have a better attendance.

Mr. Faulkender asked how the members felt about setting up in the basement of the courthouse for the judging of foods during the fair. This would give the 4-H'ers a cool place to wait before their conference judging and after they were done, the projects would be taken to the fair building.

In other business

In other business:
• It was decided that the Goat

Class needed to be established for three years before adding it to the Round Robin competition.

• There are several people who would like to turn in their trophies for recycling. No decision was made until they can check and see what all would be involved.

• Work nights on the fair building will be on Thursdays.

• There were some ideas for having portable peg boards or a way to display articles so that they would be removable for wedding and other functions. However,

Mr. Faulkender was assured that the peg boards would be available for the displays at the fair.

• There was discussion about what to charge for the rent on the fair building. There was a suggestion of charging \$200 to \$250 for six months during the winter and \$150 for the other six months. The matter was tabled.

• The members approved another possible board member and they will submit the name to the commissioners.





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COMING SOON —



Winter Sports Section

This supplement will feature St. Francis and Bird City Jr. High and High School Basketball players, Wrestlers and Cheerleaders!

To be inserted in your paper in January.





Romance In Bloom



"Don't Gamble With Love" Promotion ...

Coming this Valentine's Day!

Conservation Section

This tab features 55 years of Conservation in Cheyenne County.





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