

Sign up in March for reserve program

The next general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program will begin on Monday, March 14, and continue through Friday, April 15. This is the second consecutive year the U.S. Department of Agriculture has offered a general sign-up.

"Over the past 25 years, support for CRP has grown thanks to strong backing from farmers, ranchers, conservationists, hunters, fishermen and other outdoor sports enthusiasts," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Not only has CRP contributed to ... water and air quality, it has preserved habitat for wildlife, and prevented soil erosion by protecting the most sensitive areas including those prone to flash flooding and runoff."

Through the program, eligible landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish resource-conserving covers on farmland. Land can be enrolled for up to 15 years.

During the general sign-up period, farmers and ranchers may offer land currently not enrolled at county Farm Service Agency office. Current participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers. Contracts under this sign-up are begin

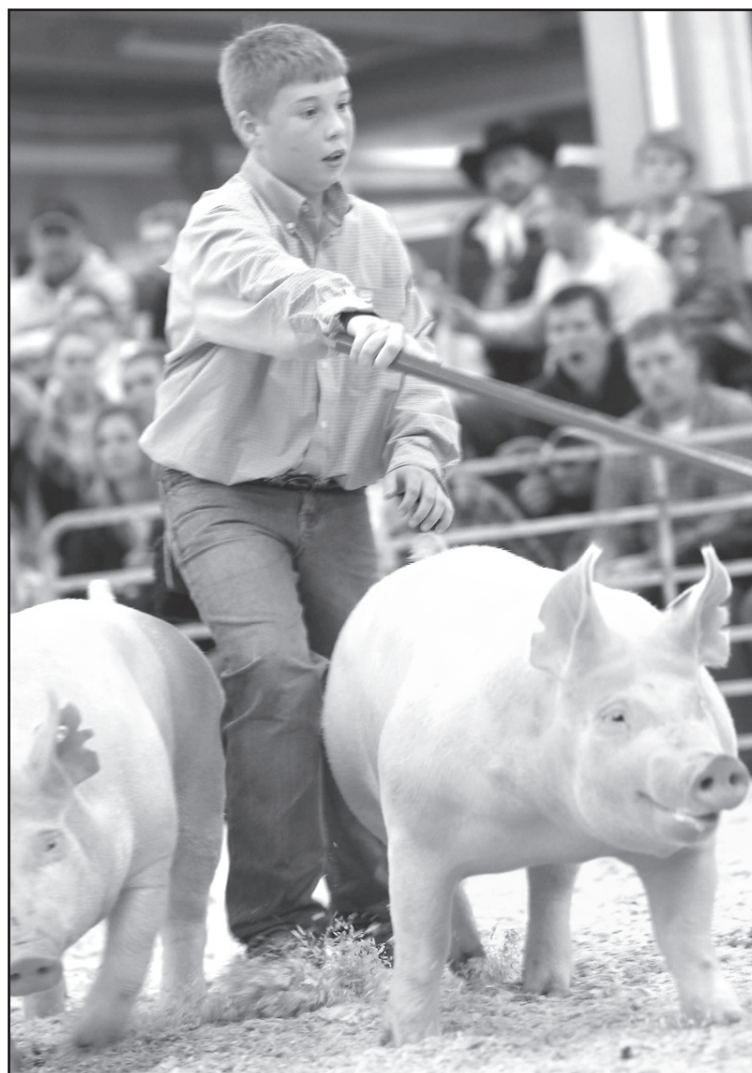
Oct. 1. The general sign-up will not affect cropped acres for this growing season.

Farm Service implements the program on behalf of Commodity Credit Corporation, evaluating and ranking offers using an index that shows the environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land. It looks at wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits and cost. Decisions will be made after sign-up ends and after analyzing the data of all the offers.

In addition to the general sign-up, the continuous sign-up program will continue for the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

The program protects topsoil from erosion and is designed to safeguard natural resources by reducing water runoff and sedimentation, protecting groundwater and improving the condition of lakes, rivers and streams. Enrolled acreage is planted to vegetative covers, contributing to increased wildlife populations.

Through the 2008 Farm Bill, the program is authorized for a maximum of 32 million acres. Contracts on 3.3 million to 6.5 million acres will expire annually between now and 2014.



DEBBIE STRAMEL

Hudson Stramel of Winona showed his Yorkshire pig Elroy at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, where he and his pig, won Reserve Grand Champion Yorkshire.

Winona youth wins at Denver stock show

By Debbie Stramel
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Hudson Stramel, 11, of Winona, competed in the Junior Market Swine Show at the National Western Stock Show in January in Denver, where he and his Yorkshire pig, Elroy, won Reserve Grand Champion Yorkshire.

Stramel applied in July to compete. In August, he received his letter of acceptance.

On Jan. 17, Stramel took two pigs to Denver. He had a medium weight crossbred gilt and a heavy weight Yorkshire barrow. He competed in showmanship but did not place.

On Jan. 19, he did well in market classes, with the gilt receiving fifth in crossbred class. There were four York classes totaling about 70 pigs. Stramel placed second in the

class. The class's Grand Champion was from Louisiana. Elroy was awarded Reserve Champion.

Stramel and Elroy competed in the Grand Drive that evening in the stadium arena, when he won Reserve overall.

"It was a proud moment for me and my pig," Stramel said "We got to do something that few ever get to. I knew Elroy was special from the day I brought him home."

There were 496 swine from 20 different states in the competition. Stramel ended up in the top 10 overall. On Friday night, he and his pig, decked out in a K-State cape, participated in the Auction of Jr. Livestock Champions, which was broadcast on 9News.com.

Faith Edwards, Russell Springs, also took two Yorkshire swine to Denver. Her lightweight gilt finished ninth in class.

Students earn semester honors

Eleven Thomas County students earned honors from Kansas State University for their academic performance in the fall 2010 semester.

Students earning semester honors receive commendations from their deans, with the honors recorded on their permanent academic records. K-State semester honors are awarded to students who earned a 3.75 grade point average or higher for the semester. Students had to be enrolled in at

least 12 semester hours of graded course work.

The students honored were: Colby: Heath Christian Bieker; Katie Lynn Friesen; Mitchell Gregory Gatz; Henry Lamm; Taylor Nicole McLemore; Janessa Anna Rasmussen; Cody A. Wark; and Logan Marie Wark.

Gem: Todd Matthew Ziegelmeier.

Golden Plains High School: Andrew Gerald Broeckelman and Jonathan Paul Broeckelman.

Property Transfers

Real Estate recorded Jan. 17 to Jan. 31

The following real estate transactions have been reported by the Thomas County register of deeds:

- April 2, 2001, Ross and Anna Dean Rodenbeck to Michael D. Woofter; tract of NW/4 of Sec. 18, T8, R33.

- Dec. 27, Merle E. Allen Trust to Marvin D. Allen Farms No. 1 LLP; NW/4 of Sec. 21, T10, R35.

- Dec. 27, Merle E. Allen Trust to Merle Gene Allen Farms No. 1 LLP; S/2, NE/4 of Sec. 21, T10, R35.

- Jan. 12, Warren H. Hills Trust No. 1 to Warren H. Hills Trust No. 1 (Cynthia C. Moses trust-to-be share); SW/4 of Sec. 26, T10, R34; S/2 of Sec. 20, T7, R34; NW/4 of Sec. 34, T7, R34; SW/4 of Sec. 15, T6, R34; SE/4 of Sec. 16, T6, R34.

- Jan. 12, Warren H. Hills Trust No. 1 to Warren H. Hills Trust No. 1 (Nancy L. Schiefen trust-to-be share); SE/4 of Sec. 36, T9, R34; W/2 of Sec. 3, T9, R33; SE/4 of Sec. 26, T10, R34; NE/4, NW/4 of Sec. 20, T7, R34.

- Jan. 13, Jon C. and Ann Friesen to Friesen Grain Co. LLC; four-acre tract east of railroad, SE/4 of Sec. 11, T9, R33.

- Jan. 14, Colby Apartments I LP to States Resources Corp.; tract, SE/4 of Sec. 7, T8, R33.

- Jan. 17, James L. Keller Trust to Woofter Construction and Irrigation Inc.; Lot 5 and south 140' of Lot 6, Block 10, Colby Ostmeyer Addition.

- Jan. 17, Raymon D. Schweitzer to Norman L. and Betty J. Behring; Lots 1-2, Block 45, Colby South Park Annex.

- Jan. 17, Paul J. and Joanne Stephens to James R. McCormick and Cherry K. McCormick; 9.74-acre tract of NW/4, 7.26-acre tract of NE/4 of Sec. 8, T8, R33.

- Jan. 17, D.W. and P.K. Ziegelmeier Family Trust to Chad

S. and Amanda S. Focke; two tracts, S/2 of Sec. 12, T6, R32.

- Jan. 18, quit claim deed, Valerie J. and Darrel E. Wark to Valerie J. Wark and Darrel E. Wark; SE/4 of Sec. 36, T7, R33.

- Jan. 18, quit claim deed, Gary Woodall to Dawn Woodall; W/2 of Lots A, 11 and 14, Block 4, Original Colby.

- Jan. 18, quit claim deed, Gary Woodall to Dawn Woodall; north 5' of Lot 18, Lots 19-20, and east 7.5' of north 55' of vacated alley, Block 74, Colby West Addition.

- Jan. 18, quit claim deed, Gary Woodall to Dawn Woodall; east 3/5 of Lots 2-3, 6-7 and 10 and adjoining tract; Block 18, Original Colby.

- Jan. 19, Andrew G. and Jennifer C. Burr to Douglas D. and Bonnie L. Lewis; north 128.5' of Lot 1 and north 128.5' of E/2 of Lot 2, Block 48, Colby South View Addition.

- Jan. 19, Foley Industries Inc. to Woofter Construction and Irrigation Inc.; Lots 5-8, Block 9, Colby Ostmeyer Addition.

- Jan. 20, Norman L. and Betty J. Behring to Ronald G. and Wanda B. Hicks; Lot 3, Block 2, Colby Westwood Subdivision.

- Jan. 20, Foley Industries Inc. to LKE Inc.; tract of SE/4 of Sec. 12, T8, R34.

- Jan. 20, Shai and Shiv LLC to OM Shiva Shakti LLC; east 24.99' of Lot 9 and Lot 10, Block 2, Colby Lunsway Subdivision.

- Jan. 24, Douglas D. and Bonnie L. Lewis to Lindsay M. Solorio; Lot 1, Block 1, Colby Westwood Subdivision.

- Jan. 24, Paul M. Steele Trust to Jean Paul and Chyun Huang Steele; W/2 of Sec. 29, T9, R35.

- Jan. 31, Dean E. and Sandra K. Geihlsler and Dean E. Jr. and Pamela K. Geihlsler to Sandra Kay Geihlsler; SE/4 of Sec. 27, T7, R35.

Kids can enroll now for Sternberg winter series

Registration is still open for programs in the Fort Hays State University Sternberg Museum of Natural History's winter educational series for children 4 to 12 years old throughout February.

Participants will explore the museum's temporary exhibit, "Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs and Babies," for "The Chicken or the Egg?" program on Saturday, Feb. 12. They will discover similarities between dinosaurs and birds. The registration deadline is Monday.

"Sculpting Dinosaurs!" on Saturday Feb. 19, will show kids how paleoartists mold clay over bone to recreate animals

by hand. Participants will sculpt their own prehistoric creature out of clay to take home. Registration deadline is Monday, Feb. 14.

On Saturday, Feb. 26, kids will explore a variety of animal tracks at "What's that Track?" They will also have the chance to mold their own animal tracks to take home. Registration deadline is Monday, Feb. 21.

The program fee is \$5 per child. Museum members are free. Participants must be accompanied by an adult.

To register or for information, contact Brian Bartels at (785) 628-5502 or e-mail him at bcbartels@fhsu.edu.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE
Tuesday

7:06 a.m. - Officer reported stalled vehicle in the 400 block of E. Pine blocking street, there since 3:38 a.m. Vehicle towed to impound.

7:15 a.m. - Stalled semi on K-25 south of I-70. Traffic control provided until wrecker arrived.

8:55 a.m. - Assisted stalled motorist at Range and Webster.

10:33 a.m. - Caller reported receiving e-mail asking for money. Spoke to subject, options provided.

11:18 a.m. - Caller requested welfare check on dogs in back yard. Owner spoken to.

11:39 a.m. - Caller reported subject walk-

ing. Checked OK.

11:40 a.m. - Welfare check.

12:51 p.m. - Two subjects walking on Villa High Pond not found.

3:43 p.m. - Two subjects going door to door. Everything OK.

9:19 p.m. - Report of suspicious person. Not found.

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