



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College  
Colby Community College Faculty Alliance President Bob Selby, Head Librarian Tara Schroer, Alliance Vice President Linda Nelson and Alliance Treasurer Mike McVay looked through the books presented recently to the college library.

## Faculty donate books to library

The Colby chapter of the Kansas National Education Association, the Faculty Alliance, recently donated four books to the Colby Community College library.

The books are "Obama: Only in America," by Carol Boston Weatherford; "The Keepers' Tattoo," by Gill Arbutnott; "Nabeel's New Pants: An Eid

Tale," retold by Fawzia Gilani-Williams; and "Joha Makes a Wish: A Middle Eastern Tale" adapted by Eric Kimmel.

The college library is open to the public. All books and other materials are available to community members. The Alliance is active in promoting campus activities and community service projects.

## Accountant gets public certification

Christopher R. Halbleib, of Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, has obtained his Certified Public Accountant designation.

"We are proud of him for this accomplishment," said Kenneth L. Beran, managing partner of the firm. "Chris is an integral member of our team, and I am confident he

will effectively use his CPA designation to grow as a professional and better serve our clients."

Halbleib joined the firm in 2009 and currently serves in the Colby office. As staff accountant, he provides tax and auditing services. He graduated from Kansas State University in 2008 and is a mem-

ber of the Kansas State University Alumni Association. Halbleib lives in Colby.

Founded in 1945, the firm has 12 offices throughout the state. For information about the company, visit [www.abb.com](http://www.abb.com).

# Farmers advised to check on alfalfa crop for damage

This could be a tough winter for alfalfa in Kansas, especially on newly seeded stands. The two main concerns for alfalfa are winterkill and heaving, said Jim Shroyer, Kansas State University Research and Extension crop production specialist.

"There is a wide range of winterhardness among alfalfa varieties. Some varieties may have suffered winterkill injury this winter, especially where the crop had no snow cover," Shroyer said.

As in wheat, winterkill in alfalfa occurs when the crown is frozen, he said.

"If the plants are damaged by winterkill, the taproot will turn soft and mushy. Producers should check for bud and new shoot vigor. Look for delayed green-up, lopsided crowns and uneven shoot growth. If you see any of these symptoms, check the taproots for firmness. Some plants may even begin to green up and then die. But plants that put out second leaves are probably fine," the agronomist said.

If some plants are injured and stands have been thinned, producers may wonder about thickening the stands. Shroyer advises caution.

"Interseeding alfalfa to thicken an alfalfa stand will generally not work. If the stand is one year or less old, new seedlings will generally come up and then be out-competed by the survivors from last year. If large areas of a one-year-old field have been killed, those areas can be disked and then seeded. If the stand is two or more years old, interseeding alfalfa

will not work because of allelopathic effects from the established plants," he said.

This winter could also result in a more common form of injury to alfalfa. As the soil freezes and thaws, alfalfa stands can be damaged by the heaving effect, Shroyer said.

"This winter has been cold enough to freeze the soil where it is not under snow cover. Soils with high levels of clay are especially prone to winter heaving," he said.

If heaving has occurred, dig up some plants to determine if the taproot is broken, he advised.

"Plants with broken taproots may green up, but they perform poorly and eventually die.... Raised crowns are susceptible to weather and mechanical damage. Raise cutter bars to avoid damaging exposed crowns," he suggested.

Producers can start to evaluate the health of their alfalfa stands in March or April, as soon as the soils thaws, Shroyer said. "They should look at the crowns and roots. Buds should be firm, and white or pink in color if they have survived with good vigor. The bark of roots should not peel away easily when scratched with a thumbnail," he said.

When alfalfa growth reaches 4 to 6 inches, producers can use stems per square foot to assess density measure, he added. A density of 55 stems per square foot has good yield potential. There will probably be some yield loss with stem counts between 40 and 50 per square foot.

Information about alfalfa production is available at local K-State Research and Extension offices.

### LOCAL FACT:

There are over 200 families living in poverty right here in Thomas County.

Helping

CHS Harvest for Hunger

March 1-18, 2011

Fight

CHS

Hunger

Donations of Non-perishable food items are accepted at Colby CHS Inc., Brewster CHS Inc, Colby Public Schools, Sacred Heart School, Dillons, Dollar General, Pioneer Memorial Library, Farm Credit, Brewster School Office & Brewster Grocery. Please bring all financial contributions to Colby or Brewster CHS Inc.

Financial contributions are tax deductible.

For every pound of food or dollar donated, CHS will donate back to our community food shelf. The more we collect the more our community benefits.



QUINTER • KS  
785.754.3310  
info@quintermfg.com  
Licensed General Contractor  
In business since 1962



Take advantage of the Tax Relief Act and depreciate 100% of your ag building in 2011.

Schedules are filling up. Begin the process now by calling to discuss your building needs with us.

Specializing in Commercial General Contracting and All-Steel Buildings for Commercial or Ag Usage



COLBY AG CENTER, 2009

"Hey, Grandma! Wanna earn \$100 and help my school?"



When you open our newfangled Spend & Sign & Save account with all the fixins, you'll earn up to \$100 for you and your school.



MEMBER FDIC

EASY AS  
A Cash for grades!  
B Your debit card helps schools!  
C! Earn up to \$100!

888.827.5564 | sunflowerbank.com



GREAT BULL GIVEAWAY

CROOKED CREEK ANGUS AND KXXX 790AM ARE GIVING AWAY A BLACK ANGUS BULL IN THE GREAT BULL GIVEAWAY.

REGISTER TODAY!

DRAWING WILL BE MAY 14TH

GRAND PRIZE PACKAGE INCLUDES...  
BLACK ANGUS BULL, MINERAL PACKAGE,  
20' FEATHERLITE STOCK TRAILER  
\$5,000 BUILDING DISCOUNT  
AND MANY OTHER ITEMS...

OVER \$25,000 AWARDED

MIZER MILLING IN ATWOOD  
VAP CONSTRUCTION IN ATWOOD  
EASTERN COLORADO SEEDS IN BURLINGTON

COLBY DODGE  
BAKER BOOT IN GARDEN CITY  
OR ONLINE AT  
WWW.CROOKEDCREEKANGUS.COM

ROCKING RADIO, INC.  
1065 S. RANGE COLBY, KS 67701 785-460-3306  
3023 WEST 31ST GOODLAND, KS 67735 785-899-2309

NORTHWEST KANSAS RADIO NWKS RADIO

## Raile Charolais/Red Angus

Monday, March 21 • 1:00 p.m. (CST)

St. Francis Livestock Co. -- St. Francis, Kansas

High performing, Stout, Deep Bodied and Heavy Muscled Cattle that "Grow, Grade and Yield"

SELLING 70 BULLS:

46 Charolais, 10 Charolais/Black Angus Composites, 12 Red Angus  
Also selling 22 Females

12 TOP END Purebred Charolais Heifers  
10 Select Charolais/Angus Composites

40 Years of Producing Charolais Seedstock



Raile Charolais Farm

Cliff & Judy Raile ~ 785-332-2794  
Mark Hilt ~ 303-638-5107

craille@wildblue.net  
www.RaileBeef.com