

Beef conference in August

The 2011 Kansas State University Beef Conference is planned for Tuesday, Aug. 16, with a full lineup of speakers who will address "Managing in a Transitioning Industry."

"The beef industry has encountered so many changes recently," said Larry Hollis, veterinarian with K-State Research and Extension. "Volatile beef and cattle prices, new research findings, and high fuel and other input costs mean producers are always looking for ways to keep up with the most recent information, so they can run their businesses as efficiently as possible. Our goal with the K-State Beef Conference is to address the most relevant topics every year."

The program begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. and includes both refreshments and lunch. If unable to travel to Manhattan, beef producers and others interested in participating can attend via webcasts at Butler County Community College, Pratt County Fairgrounds and the Wakeeney Public Library.

On K-State's Manhattan campus, this year's conference will be in a different location than in years past - 123 Weber Hall.

Presentation topics and presenters at the conference will include:

- The New Reality: Volatility Factors and the Cattle Cycle - K-State agricultural economist Glynn Tonsor.
 - Ranch Management in Volatile Times - Justin Waggoner, K-State animal scientist.
 - Does High Input Always Mean High Output? - Bob Weaber, K-State animal scientist.
 - Adapting to Change at the Ranch Level - Virgil Huseman, Ellsworth stockman.
 - Anthelmintic Resistance in Beef Cattle - Joe Dedrickson for Merial.
 - Implant strategies for forage-based programs - Chris Reinhardt, K-State animal scientist.
 - Sell Cows, Build Herds, or Get Out? - Kevin Dhuyvetter, K-State agricultural economist.
 - Emerging Social Ethics for Animals and the Beef Industry - Bernie Rollin, Colorado State University.
- The fee to attend is \$60 per person or \$100 for two or more from the same operation. Information, including how to register for the webcasts or for in-person attendance, is available on the web at www.asi.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabindex=339&tabid=223 or by phone, (785) 532-1280.

Senior Progress Center

John Griffin will entertain at the Senior Progress Center Thursday with jokes and stories.

Activities for the week: **Monday:** 10:30 a.m. Skip Bo. **Tuesday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 pinocle game. **Wednesday:** sweets day. **Thursday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 11:15 am. John Griffin. **Friday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 a.m. pool game.

Menus for the week: **Monday:** taco burger, tater tots, seasoned carrots, pears. **Tuesday:** steak fingers, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, pineapple upside-down cake. **Wednesday:** cook's choice entree, hash brown casserole, spinach,

applesauce. **Thursday:** barbecue chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, cantaloupe. **Friday:** ground beef stroganoff, green beans, German cucumbers, noodles or rice, five cup salad.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch Monday through Friday at the senior center. Home delivery is available, as is pick-up service. A contribution of \$3 per meal is suggested for seniors, \$5.25 for others. For anyone under 60, home delivery is \$5.75. Make reservations at (784) 460-2901 by noon the day before.

Loans available to minority farmers

The Farm Service Agency has farm operating and farm ownership loans available for women and members of minority groups who want to purchase or operate a family-size farm.

"Each year, the Farm Service Agency earmarks a portion of its farm loan funding for socially disadvantaged applicants, people who have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender inequality without regard to their individual qualities," said Dwight Jurey, farm loan manager of the agency for Logan, Gove and Thomas counties. "Socially disadvantaged applicants may be women, African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders and Alaskan Natives."

Jurey said that while funding is earmarked for loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, loan approval is neither automatic nor guaranteed.

"Socially disadvantaged applicants must meet the same eligibility criteria as other applicants," Jurey said. Applicants must be U.S. citizens; have a satisfactory credit history; have sufficient education, training or experience managing or operating a farm; possess legal

capacity to incur debt; and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere.

The agency can make direct loans to applicants who are unable to get commercial credit or provide loan guarantees to commercial lenders.

Applicants can use operating loans to purchase livestock, equipment, feed, seed or pay other business related expenses. Operating loans are usually repaid in one to seven years.

Ownership loans provide capital to purchase or enlarge a farm, construct or improve buildings, promote soil and water conservation and pay closing costs. Direct ownership loan terms are up to 40 years while guaranteed loan terms are established by the lender.

In Fiscal Year 2010, Kansas obligated \$2,152,970 for a total of 75 loans to qualified farmers under the Socially Disadvantaged Persons Loan Program. We also obligated \$20,952,114 for a total of 286 loans to qualified farmers under the Beginning Farmer Program," Dwight Jurey said.

For information, contact your local Farm Service Agency at (785) 462-7671.

Tuition rates climb at universities statewide

By John Milburn

The Associated Press

TOPEKA - University students in Kansas will see their tuition increase for fall classes under new rates approved Thursday by the Kansas Board of Regents.

The proposal, which will generate an additional \$26 million for the six state universities, means the schools will receive more revenue from student tuition than they do from general Kansas tax revenues. The six universities will get \$591 million from tuition and \$567 million from the state.

"Everything is going up except state funding. The question is who is going to pay for it," said Regent Dan Lykins of Topeka.

For undergraduate Kansas residents, the percentage increases range from 6.9 percent at Emporia State to 4 percent at Kansas State and Fort Hays State. The biggest dollar increase will be paid by some non-Kansas undergraduates at the University of Kansas, who would see their tuition rise 7.4 percent, from \$9,075 per semester to \$9,750, a difference of \$675. The figures are based on a full course load of 15 hours.

University leaders sought the increases to offset \$24 million in reductions in state-funded operating budgets and increases in health care costs and other mandated expenses.

Regents say they are concerned about the declining state funding, the effect on the quality of academic programs and making access to college more difficult.

"I wish we didn't have to do this," said Christine Downey-Schmidt of Inman. "This is the option we have left until our partners come back and help us with this process."

Downey-Schmidt said she was frustrated that media reports failed to tell the full story about how much state higher education spending had been cut in recent years, painting what she felt was a picture that the regents were trying to get more money out of parents and students.

She said cuts in higher education spending brought on by declining state revenues during the Great Recession had to be offset from other sources if Kansas

was to meet the education needs of its 90,000 public college students.

Downey-Schmidt said the tuition increase leaves \$2 million in new revenue shared among the six universities.

Regents Chairman Ed McKechnie of Arcadia said the goal for the coming years should be to encourage legislators and Gov. Sam Brownback to increase funding so that the levels from the state and tuition are "50-50." Universities receive additional funding from federal grants and private endowments.

"I think it's a very strong story that there are a number of initiatives that we're trying to achieve on less dollars from the previous year," McKechnie said.

KU, the state's largest university, also has a program in which it freezes tuition for undergraduates who promise to graduate within four years. The rates for students entering into those agreements will not jump as much - 6.2 percent for Kansas students and 5.2 percent for non-Kansas students.

Undergraduates from Kansas who are not part of the program also would see their tuition rise this fall by 6.2 percent, or \$222, from \$3,584 to \$3,806.

University of Kansas Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little said the tuition revenue will also be used for raises aimed at retaining top faculty, increasing access to high-demand courses and supporting student retention services. The university is also increasing needs-based grants for students by \$400,000 to more than \$10 million.

"We are going to continue to do everything we can to make sure students who want to come to KU, who can do college work, have an opportunity to do that," she said.

Graduate student tuition rates are increasing across the system, ranging from 6.9 percent at Emporia State to 4 percent at Kansas State and Fort Hays State for Kansas residents. Out-of-state tuition will increase from 6.9 percent at Emporia State to 1.6 percent at Wichita State.

Fort Hays State is increasing in-state tuition for graduate and undergraduate programs by 4 percent, but leaving out-of-state rates for both at the 2011 levels.

Vanishing cat returns after 4 years' absence

By Martin Griffith

Associated Press

RENO, Nev. - Giddy the kitty has returned home to her Reno owner, four years after vanishing

and somehow winding up on the northern Oregon Coast.

Officials at the Clatsop Animal Assistance center in Warrenton, Ore., were able to track the feline back to Bill Tweedy with the help of an identifying microchip embedded in the animal.

Giddy was flown to Reno in a commercial airliner and reunited with Tweedy, who had adopted her for companionship after going through a divorce.

"She wasn't scared or didn't move away when I went to pick her up," Tweedy said of the reunion. "She snuggled up in my arm and she stayed there. I think she remembered me."

After the house cat darted out the front door of his home in 2007 and failed to return, a heartbroken Tweedy gave her up for dead or stolen. He now thinks someone

in Reno took in the cat and later moved to Oregon.

Tweedy, 48, a driver for NevCal Trucking, said he was shocked when he learned 6-year-old Giddy had turned up alive in Oregon.

"I was really happy to have her back," he said. "When I got her, I had just had a divorce and wanted company. I really missed her company the last several years."

A volunteer from the Oregon shelter, Lori Huntley, accompanied Giddy on her flight back home, said Krys T. Bart, local airport authority president and chief executive officer and Nevada Humane Society board member.

"Reno-Tahoe International Airport is proud to serve over 3.8 million passengers per year, whether they come on two legs or four," Bart said.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

Wednesday

9:10 a.m. - Report of two male subjects pushing a Walmart shopping cart in the area of 2000 S. Range. Unable to locate subjects.

10:37 a.m. - Caller reported male yelling and acting disruptively. Spoke with subject. Everything OK.

11:28 a.m. - Caller reported juvenile acting aggressively.

1:18 p.m. - Took subject to Juvenile Detention Center.

4:35 p.m. - Caller requested

officer to check the Greyhound about letting people off at the Visitors Center. Everything OK.

9:51 p.m. - Subject came to station after running away from home. Report filed.

10:42 p.m. - Assisted Colby Fire Department.

11:16 p.m. - Security check at Comfort Inn.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Wednesday

9:36 a.m. - Booked Michael Dwaine Martinez.

11:35 a.m. - Released David Wayne Horton.

1:20 p.m. - Arrested Robert McCurdy on warrant.

1:34 p.m. - Booked McCurdy.

1:55 p.m. - Released McCurdy.

2:03 p.m. - Seth Dehart arrested on warrant.

2:27 p.m. - Booked Dehart.

3:11 p.m. - Released Jeremiah Bastin.

10:42 p.m. - Assisted Colby Fire Department.

11:11 p.m. - Security check at Ag Sun in Brewster.

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