

No-till conference to focus on building a solid foundation

"Building a Solid Foundation" is the theme for the No-till on the Plains Winter Conference Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 24-25, at the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

The theme refers to the pieces that come together to form a solid, successful system that focuses on soil health, fertility, profits, holistic management, advanced agronomy, equipment needs, grazing, and the importance of crop rotations, including the management of cover crops.

The conference will provide tips and management practices from successful continuous no-tillers, along with networking with producers, scientists and exhibitors.

Whether a producer is ready to begin no-tilling and has questions to get started or whether he is a

seasoned veteran looking to gain tips, the conference has something to offer with sessions producers will find relevant no matter what their tillage practices currently are.

Topics include family conflict and exit strategies from one generation to the next, fertility and nutrient management and what is going on in the depths of the soil that is every farmer's factory.

The conference also offers another full-day of education on Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Bicentennial Center. The Agriculture's Innovative Minds Symposium will feature Colin Seis of Australia who will do a workshop on "Pasture Cropping."

For information or to register, contact the office at (888) 330-5142 or visit the website at www.notill.org.

Steps help with 'green' resolution

As we head into 2012, many of us will resolve to lose those extra pounds, save more money, or spend more hours with our families and friends. But there are also resolutions we can make to make our lives a little greener. Each of us can make a commitment to reducing our environmental impacts.

"The global community, and particularly people living in industrialized societies, have put unsustainable demands on our planet's limited resources," says Robert Engelman, president of the Worldwatch Institute, a global environmental research organization. "If we expect to be able to feed, shelter, and provide even basic living conditions to our growing population in years to come, we must act now to change."

The United Nations has designated 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. Broadening access to sustainable energy is essential to solving many of the world's challenges, including food production, security, and poverty.

Hunger, poverty, and climate change are issues we can all help address. Here are 12 simple steps to go green in 2012:

1. Recycle. Recycling programs help save energy and protect the environment. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for each pound of aluminum recovered, Americans save the energy necessary to generate roughly 7.5 kilowatt-hours of electricity - enough to power Pittsburgh for six years.

2. Turn off the lights. On the last Saturday in March, people, businesses, and governments around the world turn off their lights for an hour as part of Earth Hour, a movement to address climate change. You can make an impact every day by turning off lights during bright daylight, or whenever you will be away for an extended period of time.

3. Make the switch. Compact fluorescent lamps use only 20-30 percent of the energy required by incandescents to create the same amount of light, and LEDs use only 10 percent, helping reduce electric bills.

4. Turn on the tap. Fill your glasses and reusable water bottles with water from the sink. By eliminating bottled water you can help keep bottles out of the landfill and save money on water costs.

5. Turn down the heat. Turning down the heat by 10 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit for eight hours can save 5-15 percent on your home heating bill.

6. Support food recovery programs. Roughly a third of all food produced for human consumption gets lost or wasted. Go through your cabinets and shelves and do-

nate any non-perishable canned and dried foods you won't be using to your food bank.

7. Buy local. "Small Business Saturday," falling between "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday," was established in 2010 as a way to support small businesses during the busiest shopping time of the year. Local small businesses are more sustainable because they are often more accountable for their actions, have smaller environmental footprints, and innovate to meet local conditions.

8. Get out and ride. We all know carpooling and using public transportation helps cut down on greenhouse gas emissions, as well as our gas bills. Now, cities across the country are investing in bike sharing programs that allow people to rent bikes for short-term use. Even if without bike share programs, many cities and towns are incorporating bike lanes and trails, making it easier and safer to use your bike for transportation and recreation.

9. Share a car. Even if you don't want to get rid of your own car, using a shared car when traveling can greatly reduce your environmental impact.

10. Plant a garden. Growing your own vegetables is a simple way to bring fresh and nutritious food to your doorstep. Growing a garden doesn't have to take up a lot of space, and in light of high food prices and recent food safety scares, even a small plot can make a big impact on your diet and wallet.

11. Compost. And what better way to fertilize your garden than using your own composted organic waste. You will not only reduce costs by buying less fertilizer, but you will also help to cut down on food and other organic waste.

12. Reduce your meat consumption. Livestock production accounts for about 18 percent of

all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. Yet global meat production has experienced a 20 percent growth rate since 2000. You don't have to become a vegetarian or vegan, but by simply cutting down on the amount of meat you consume can go a long way. Consider substituting one meal day with a vegetarian option.

The most successful and lasting New Year's resolutions are those that are practiced regularly and have an important goal. Thankfully, simple practices, such as recycling or riding a bike, can have great impact. As we prepare to ring in the new year, let's all resolve to make 2012 a healthier, happier, and greener year for all.

Thomas County Jail

Booked into the Thomas County jail:

- Bruce Merrill Miles, 50, Brookings, Ore., Dec. 9, possession of certain hallucinogenic drugs, no drug tax stamp, resisting arrest, obstruction of official duty, Kansas Highway Patrol, released last Thursday on recognizance.
- William Ray Park, 24, Brookings Ore., Dec. 9, possession of certain hallucinogenic drugs, no drug tax stamp, Highway Patrol, released Dec. 21 on recognizance.
- Erasmo Acosta Nava, 59, Fresno, Calif., Dec. 13, possession/distribution of certain hallucinogenic drugs, no drug tax stamp, Highway Patrol, released Dec. 21 on \$25,000 appearance bond.
- Terrence Marshall Knuth, 24, Colby, Dec. 14, abusing toxic vapors, Colby Police Department, released Dec. 21 on \$50,000 bond.
- Alberto Valdez, 36, Dodge City, Dec. 16, driving under the influence, Thomas County Sheriff's Office, released Dec. 20 on \$10,000 bond.
- Kenneth Lyn Biggerstaff, 31, Odessa, Texas, Dec. 18, criminal possession of a firearm, driving under the influence, possession of certain hallucinogenic drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving without a license, failure to keep within a single lane, Highway Patrol, released last Thursday on \$50,000 appearance bond.
- Billy Creed Goodman, 33,

Odessa, Texas, Dec. 18, criminal possession of a firearm, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of certain other illegal drugs, Highway Patrol, released last Thursday on \$50,000 appearance bond.

- Mathew Allen Strifler, 22, Salina, Dec. 19, failure to appear/driving while suspended, Highway Patrol/Saline County Sheriff's Office, released Dec. 21 to other agency.
- Heather Marie Binder, 20, Colby, Dec. 20, failure to appear, Colby Police, released same day on recognizance.
- Corey Allen Reed, 25, Colby, Dec. 20, giving a worthless check, Thomas County Sheriff, released same day on recognizance.
- John Lewis Stephens, 24, St. Francis, Dec. 20, driving with license suspended or revoked, Court services of Thomas County, released Dec. 21 for time served.
- Kelly Patrick Geehan, 53, Colorado Springs, Colo., Dec. 21, possession/distribution of certain hallucinogenic drugs, Highway Patrol, released same day on no-

notice to appear.

- Blaine R. Redburn, 28, Colby, last Thursday, disorderly conduct, Colby Police, released same day on notice to appear.
- Ferman L. Gibson, 56, Oakley, Friday, driving under the influence, Colby Police, released same day on notice to appear.
- Melinda M. Hulse, 47, Denver, Friday, driving with license suspended or revoked, Thomas County Sheriff, released Saturday on notice to appear.
- Jason Randall Davis, 30, Colby, Saturday, driving under the influence, reckless driving, no proof of insurance, failure to stop at sign, improper driving on laned roadway, Highway Patrol, released same day on notice to appear.
- Mathieu Dean Gilliland, 25, Hoxie, Sunday, driving under the influence, improper driving on laned roadway, Highway Patrol, released same day on notice to appear.
- Kenneth G. Wilkening Jr., 41, Colby, Sunday, driving under the influence, Colby Police, released same day on notice to appear.

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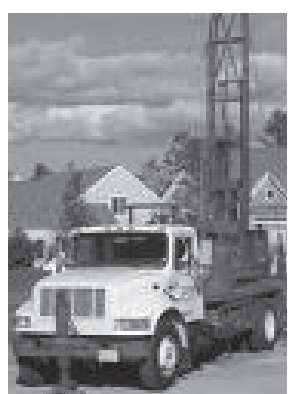
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