

Ballots due by March 1 for commodity boards

Ballots to elect commissioners to the state's five grain commodity commissions – corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers and wheat – have been mailed by the Kansas Department of Agriculture to registered voters in the western districts of the state.

Dist. One includes Cheyenne, Decatur, Graham, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman and Thomas counties.

Dist. Two includes Gove, Greeley, Lane, Logan, Ness, Scott, Trego, Wallace and Wichita counties.

Candidates for the Kansas Corn Commission

Dist. One – Brian Baalman is from Sheridan County. He is the past president of the Kansas Corn Growers Association and current Kansas Corn commissioner. He serves on the U.S. Meat Federation.

No candidates are running in Dist. Two. The commission will appoint this position.

Candidates for the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission

No candidates are running in districts One or Two. The commission will appoint these positions.

Candidates for the Kansas Soybean Commission
Dist. One, Two and Three – Kurt Maurath is from Logan County. He has served on the Soybean Commission for the past eight years, representing the western third of the state. Maurath graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture mechanization.

Candidates for the Kansas Sunflower Commission

No candidates are running in districts One and Two. The commission will appoint these positions.

Candidates for the Kansas Wheat Commission
Dist. One – Brian Linin is from Sherman County.

He serves on the wheat commission and is chief financial officer for Frontier Ag. Linin earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Kansas State and is working on a master of business administration degree from Oklahoma State University.

Dist. Two – Ronald Suppes is from Lane County. He serves on the Wheat Commission and has been a participant of the Kansas Agriculture Rural Leadership program. Suppes earned a bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University.

Eligible voters who registered before Dec. 31 or voted in the 2009 election received a ballot. Those include Kansas residents age 18 who have grown corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers or wheat during the last three years and have registered.

Votes must be cast or postmarked by Thursday, March 1. The names of candidates-elect will be announced in mid-March and the elected commissioners will take office April 1. Commissioners serve three-year terms.

Information is available from these organizations:

- Kansas Corn Commission at (785) 448-2626 or www.ksgains.com/kcc
- Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission at (785) 341-6433 or www.ksgainsorghum.org
- Kansas Soybean Commission at (785) 271-1030 or www.kansassoybeans.com/KSChome.html
- Kansas Sunflower Commission at (785) 565-3908 or www.kssunflower.com
- Kansas Wheat Commission at (785) 539-0255 or www.kswheat.com
- Kansas Department of Agriculture at (785) 296-3556 or www.ksda.gov/kansas_agriculture/content/152.

College hires veterinary instructor; distance program to begin in March

Colby Community College has announced the selection of Dr. Beth Fenton to be an instructor in the recently-approved distance learning veterinary technology program.

Fenton, a licensed Kansas veterinarian, received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Kansas State University in 1989. She is also licensed in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Fenton was a registered nurse prior to becoming a veterinarian. She graduated from Washburn University in Topeka with her bachelor's degree in nursing.

Prior to accepting the job at Colby, she was an associate veterinarian at the Spay-Neuter Assistance Program in New Hill, N.C.

Wendi Ehlers has been selected as the administrative assistant for the distance learning program. She has over 20 years of general office experience including four years in higher education. Ehlers was a loan support representative at First National Bank in Goodland from 2009 to 2011. Prior to accepting that position, she was a distance education

assistant at Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs, Wyo.

The distance learning veterinary technology program will begin offering online classes in March. Students in the program will complete traditional classroom course work online and will gain hands-on experience with animals such as dogs, cats, horses, cattle, rabbits, rodents and birds in veterinary hospitals.

The Veterinary Technology Program at the college is one of the first established in the nation. It began in 1969 and was

fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association in 1974. The program has maintained full accreditation since that time. It is the only program in Kansas fully accredited by the association.

Students enrolled in the program are exposed to many advanced skills including digital radiology. The on-campus program was the first in the nation to train veterinary technician students on in-house adipose stem cell therapy.



Dr. B. Fenton



Wendi Ehlers

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE Wednesday

2:11 a.m. – Caller reported an erratic driver southbound on Country Club from College. Unable to locate.

6:56 a.m. – Gas skip.

10:42 a.m. – Report filed on assisting Goodland Police Department Tuesday.

12:55 p.m. – 911 caller requested attempt to locate subject. Four officers responded; subject located.

1:01 p.m. – Helped ambulance crew.

2:19 p.m. – Assisted sheriff's office.

3:43 p.m. – Report filed for lost purse.

Thursday

12:08 a.m. – Caller reported loud party. Report filed for minor in possession.

12:42 a.m. – Transported subject.

4:05 a.m. – Helped semi that ran out of fuel by Love's.

9:01 a.m. – Manager caller to request welfare check on guest. Subject wasn't in room.

9:03 a.m. – Driving while suspended report filed on traffic stop.

9:23 a.m. – Accident in the 500 block of N. Court.

9:45 a.m. – Gas skip.

10:11 a.m. – Assisted Highway patrol at I-70 mile 52 transporting prisoners.

1:40 p.m. – Assisted Social and Rehabilitation Services.

2:24 p.m. – Caller reported vehicle parked away from the curb at Third and Franklin. Will try to contact the owner.

2:40 p.m. – Spoke to subject about child custody matter.

2:45 p.m. – Caller reported injury accident in Walmart parking lot.

2:50 p.m. – Caller advised of slashed tires at Colby Community

College. No report.

3:05 p.m. – Helped motorist in the 100 block of W. College Dr.

3:09 p.m. – Driving under the influence report filed.

4:39 p.m. – Caller reported unknown vehicle parked in rental house driveway. Spoke to subjects; was a misunderstanding.

5:31 p.m. – Caller advised subject was yelling at her which is violation of court order; wanted officer. Spoke to subjects; civil matter; no protection from abuse involved.

6:05 p.m. – Oakley Police called wanting subject they had warrant on arrested. Not found, report filed on traffic stop.

6:06 p.m. – Caller reported kids on roof at 1150 W. Sixth. All OK; spoke to subjects.

8:47 p.m. – Caller reported wife's vehicle struck in parking lot at 1890 S. Franklin. No damage; no report.

Signup deadline in February for agricultural water program

The Kansas Agricultural Water Enhancement programs have all been funded and the application sign-up deadline has now been set for Friday, Feb. 24. There are four programs in Kansas, each with different goals.

The Groundwater Management District 4 program which affects the northwest part of the state consists of setting aside irrigation water use for six years in lieu of five years of payments. The payment levels are different according to which additional practices each

applicant chooses to adopt.

The District 4 program also encourages successful applicants to piggyback the federal Agricultural Water Enhancement contract with a Kansas Water Transition Program contract to permanently retire the irrigation water right. Both programs are only available in the six designated high-priority areas. This program has been allotted \$1.825 million for this coming year.

The other three Kansas programs are in District 2, headquartered in

Halstead, District 5, Stafford, and District 3, Garden City. These programs offer, in addition to encouraging the set aside of irrigated acres, also encouraging water conservation efforts such as increased irrigation efficiency and eliminating center pivot endguns.

If interested, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office at 462-3915.

Don't forget the Feb. 24 sign-up deadline.

Santas meet to recap holidays

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) – A group of Santas from Ohio and Michigan have held their annual get-together to eat cookies and discuss the concerns of the modern Mr. Claus, such as liability insurance or networking.

The Blade newspaper (<http://bit.ly/xouCwC>) reports nearly 20 white-bearded men met Jan. 21 in Toledo in northwest Ohio. Some drove vehicles bearing slogans such as "I brake for reindeer." In-

stead of suits and fuzzy hats, they wore holiday-print shirts and sweaters for a look that one described as "Santa casual."

Organizer Tom Pellitieri of Toledo says the gathering gives them a chance to evaluate how things went during the season. They also chatted about hair care and dealing with impossible requests from children.

Buckeye Santas president Eddie Burch of Grove City, Ohio, says the first rule is never to lie.

Send local news to colby.society@nwkansas.com

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