

Sandwich generation's choices complex

Today's 75 million baby boomers lead hectic lives. Many are part of what's called the "sandwich" generation, simultaneously preparing kids to leave the nest, caring for elderly parents and planning for their own retirement. These varied roles often present complex insurance decisions for consumers and their families.

In Kansas alone, there are an estimated 730,000 baby boomers ages 48 to 66. For those of you who are boomers, understanding options and planning ahead are keys to successfully navigating your unique insurance challenges. Whether you are planning for retirement, caring for elderly parents, preparing to send a child to college — or maybe all three — below are some overall considerations.

College considerations
Many of today's boomers find themselves simultaneously researching college campuses for their children and nursing homes for their parents, and trying to

figure out how to cover both costs. Consider the following insurance alternatives:

Confirm your child's health insurance policy. Can he or she stay on family coverage until age 26? If not, college-bound students may have individual health coverage options through the school or a nearby insurer.

If your child has completed college or is no longer financially dependent, review your life insurance policy to determine if you can decrease your life insurance coverage.

Parent considerations
Thanks to advances in health-care, 71 percent of today's baby boomers have at least one living parent. In addition, slightly more than one out of every eight baby boomers are simultaneously raising a child and providing some



Sandy Praeger
• Kansas Ins. Commissioner

form of financial assistance to their parents, and nearly 10 million boomers over age 50 are caring for an aging parent. The considerations below concern health and life insurance choices for your parents.

Review their total health coverage to determine if there are any gaps. Medicare Supplement Insurance — also known as Medigap — is available for additional coverage for those who already have Medicare. There are 10 standardized plans ranging from letters A to N; additional coverage and costs increase as you move up the alphabet.

If your parent needs nursing home care, determine if his or her

monthly income meets the state's eligibility level for Medicaid. If your parent does not qualify for Medicaid, find out if he or she has a long-term care insurance policy or a life policy with a rider or accelerated benefits provision that might help cover nursing home care.

Check to see if your parent has a life insurance policy, and familiarize yourself with the provisions. If so, store it in a safe place. Know the location of the policy, who is listed as a beneficiary, how claims are triggered and the payout instructions.

Your retirement considerations
Approximately 2.5 million boomers turned 65 last year, making them eligible for retirement. And, more than 72 million pre-boomers are approaching the same milestone. They have many insurance approaches, including the following:

If you are covered by an employer-sponsored group health insurance policy and planning to

retire soon, inquire whether your employer sponsors a retiree group plan, or if you can convert the coverage to an individual policy. Also, compare that coverage with available coverage through your spouse's employer.

If you are in good health and can afford high out-of-pocket expenses (minimum of \$1,200 for an individual or \$2,400 for a family), you may consider a high-deductible plan. This coverage requires you to pay out of pocket for basic doctor's visits and prescriptions through a tax-advantaged Health Savings Account, but still provides coverage for major medical care, such as surgery or disease treatment.

Depending on your age and future income, purchasing an annuity may make sense as you plan for retirement, as annuities typically pay an income that is guaranteed to last as long as you live. Be sure to consider the investment amount and your tolerance for risk before purchasing an annuity.

Your age, health status, retirement goals, income and financial assets all are key considerations in determining whether the purchase of private long-term care insurance is a smart choice. Since premiums and health issues increase with age, advisers recommend purchasing a policy before you turn 60.

Work with your local insurance agent or financial adviser to determine your best options.

If you have questions or want information, contact the Kansas Insurance Department's Consumer Assistance Hotline at (800) 432-2484. You can also visit Insuranceonline.org, the consumer site of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Public Notice

Abandoned Vehicle Sale

A 1988 Ford Super Duty, Vin # 2FALF4764JCB28706 will be sold July 14, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at 1870 S. Range, Colby, Kansas, for services and storage due.

(Published in the Colby Free Press on June 28, July 5, 12, 2012)

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Nellie May Pennington aka Nellie M. Pennington, Deceased.
No. 2011-PR-54

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this Court by Judith Dibbern and Joyce Smith, duly appointed, qualified and acting Co-Executors of the estate of Nellie May Pennington, a/k/a Nellie M. Pennington, deceased, praying Petitioners' acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Will be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for attorneys' fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioners be finally discharged as the Co-Executors of the Estate of Nellie May Pennington, a/k/a Nellie M. Pennington, deceased, and the Petitioners be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before July 16, 2012, at 10:00 o'clock AM, in the District Court, in Colby, Thomas County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

JUDITH DIBBERN and JOYCE SMITH

Submitted by:
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(Published in The Colby Free Press on Thursday, June 21, 28, July 5, 2012)

Drought a challenge for Kansas cattle producers

By Mike Corn
The Hays Daily News

LA CROSSE (AP) — Like heat waves rising in the blistering sun, bright red fingers representing an extreme drought now snake through the western third of the state.

More than two-thirds of Kansas is in the midst of a severe drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, based in Lincoln, Neb.

Save for the extreme drought regions, it likely understates conditions — in some cases significantly so — in portions of north-west Kansas.

Already, fall crops and fledgling feed crops in the ground for feeding cattle this winter are struggling, if not already dying.

La Crosse Livestock owner Frank Seidel is planning four full days of cattle sales in July — twice as many as normal — to handle the crush of cattle he expects to go through his sale barn.

"We're going to go every week in July," he said of Friday sale days there, "while we'd usually go every other week."

In an ironic twist of fate, some of the cattle he is brokering will be heading to Texas, ground zero for the drought last year but receiving enough rain in the winter months to let cattlemen start restocking.

In Kansas, cattle are running out of grass.

"We're selling cows because we don't have any grass," said Chase Rogers, standing in a wheat stubble field after loading 40 round bales of straw onto a truck driven

by Kelly Petz.

The straw went to Lane County Feeders, where it will be mixed into the ration for cattle there.

Petz said he, too, could be selling cattle if it doesn't rain soon.

"I put them in in May," Petz said of moving cattle into a pasture west of Hays. "And I'm about out of grass now. I've got 15 days of grass left."

"If we don't get rain in the next 15 days, I'll have to sell cows. You can't afford to feed them summer and winter."

On June 29, the Kansas Farm Service Agency announced it would allow emergency grazing of Conservation Reserve Program grass in Ellis, Graham, Trego, Osborne, Rooks and Wallace counties.

"This authorization provides relief for many Kansas livestock producers who have suffered through severe drought conditions," said FSA's Adrian Polansky. "The drought has depleted hay supplies and affected the growth of hay and pasture in parts of Kansas. Many livestock producers cannot maintain their current herds without implementation of CRP emergency grazing."

Grazing is allowed through Sept. 30, and at least 25 percent of each field must be left ungrazed for wildlife. Farmers will lose 25 percent of their annual payments.

Golden Prairie Extension agent Scott "Bronc" Barrows is hoping CRP will offer some help, as will ammoniated bales of wheat straw. The problem there, he said, is that it can't be used for cow-calf pairs,

meaning farmers will have to wean calves before using it.

And any further reductions in the Trego and Gove area will cut deep, coming on top of what was reduced last year.

"It's not going to be a herd reduction," he said, "it's going to be a herd liquidation."

Grass isn't the only issue. There's also the need for water, especially during the sweltering temperatures lately.

Rogers said they have about 700 acres of grass south of Ellis, and out of seven ponds on the place, there's water in only one.

Seidel, at the La Crosse sale barn, is hearing about the lack of grass on an almost daily basis.

He's also reminding cattlemen to keep excess feed or hay around in case of drought.

Public Notice

On August 9, 2012 beginning at 11:30 a.m. CDT, the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing regarding the district's proposed 2013 operating budget. The hearing will be held in the district office at 1175 S. Range, Colby, KS. The budget being proposed at this hearing was approved for said hearing by the eligible voters present during the 37th annual meeting held on February 15, 2012. A copy of the proposed budget is available for inspection in the district office during normal office hours. Should a board quorum not be possible on August 9, 2012, August 16, 2012 will become the alternative date - with all other meeting details remaining unchanged.

ATTEST
Scott Maurath, President
Jeff Deeds, Secretary

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"That's pretty cheap insurance laying out there behind the house or shed," he said.

There was a rush last year by many to take advantage of high feed prices because of the drought in Texas and Oklahoma.

Some of that was wheat straw baled up. Prices remain strong, going for about \$70 a ton.

"For straw, that's a real good price," Rogers said.

It's the second year he's been

balancing straw. With a couple hundred bales already on hand, he plans to keep another hundred.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADOPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR CITY OF MENLO, MENLO TOWNSHIP, AND FAIRVIEW CEMETERY

You are hereby advised pursuant to the provisions of KSA 12-17, 117, a public hearing will be held at Menlo City Building, 124 F Avenue, Menlo, Thomas County, Kansas, on the 12th day of July, 2012, at 8:00 o'clock p.m. to consider whether the City of Menlo, Menlo Township, Fairview Cemetery, Thomas County, Kansas, should adopt a "Neighborhood Revitalization Plan" for all of the area and territory lying within the corporate limits of such township in Thomas County, Kansas.

The proposed Revitalization Plan is available for public review and consideration at the office of Thomas County Economic Development Alliance, 350 S. Range, Ste. 12, Colby Kansas during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CITY OF MENLO
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS
BY: Troy Staats, Mayor
ATTEST:
Sharon Munk, Clerk City of Menlo

MENLO TOWNSHIP
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS
BY: Jack Steiger, Trustee
ATTEST:
Loren Guill, Clerk Menlo Township

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS
BY: Troy Staats, Chairman
ATTEST:
Leona Steiger, Secretary/Treasurer

NORTH RANDALL TOWNSHIP
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS
BY: Trustee - Lonnie Wilson

ATTEST:
Clerk of NORTH RANDALL TOWNSHIP

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(Published in the Colby Free Press on Thursday, June 28, July 5, 2012)



Living Trust Seminar

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- Privacy.** A Trust assures that information about your assets and your estate plan are kept private.
- Others.** Many other advantages will be discussed at the seminar.

Dan Diederich is an Attorney and Certified Public Accountant who operates a law practice focused on family estate planning. During his 28 years of practicing law, Mr. Diederich has advised and prepared trust estate plans for residents throughout the state of Kansas. His seminar will provide you with information you need about estate planning in general, and the many advantages of Living Trust estate planning.

Attorney at Law Daniel K. Diederich
122 N. Santa Fe, Suite B / Salina, KS 67401

For Free Seminar Reservations, call 1-877-826-9250

Free personal consultation offered to all attendees.

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