

Drip irrigation may cut energy costs

WICHITA (AP) — The cost of running machinery almost doubled for Kansas farmers last year as energy costs soared.

That has people looking into all sorts of alternatives, said Troy Dumler, agricultural economist for the southwest area of Kansas for Kansas State University.

"People are looking into fueling their irrigation pumps with diesel fuel or electricity, rather than with natural gas," he said, "but changing the pump motors costs a lot of money and you're back to figuring out how to meet the capital expense."

Dwight Koops, western region vice president for Crop Quest Agronomic Services, said it costs farmers about \$5 an inch to pump irrigation water, double the cost of only a year or two ago. Irrigation costs, which used to be about 15 percent of the operating expense to grow corn, now account for more than 35 percent of

the cost. That means farmers in western Kansas might be growing a lot less corn and a lot more grain sorghum, wheat and sunflowers in 2001, said Larry Kepley, a spokesman for the Great Plains Irrigators group. Farmers who are looking to replace their outdated flood irrigation systems may take a harder look at subsurface drip systems rather than buying the center-pivot systems that now dominate irrigation in western Kansas.

"Drip costs more to put in so you have a higher up-front cost," Kepley said. "But it takes less water and costs less to operate than pivots. The problem is most people are coming off at least two years of barely breaking even. The money just isn't there for big capital improvements right now."

Eddie Estes, chief executive of the Western Kansas Manufacturers As-

sociation, said he has seen a steady increase in interest in drip systems.

"Technology has been changing steadily over the last several years," Estes said. "We are seeing a great deal of concern about what's in store for natural gas prices."

Environmentalists would approve a major shift toward irrigation systems that use less water.

In parts of western Kansas, the Ogallala Aquifer will be depleted for large volume pumping within 25 years. Other parts of western Kansas have enough water to support irrigation for 250 years.

The option of switching to a crop that takes less water is attractive to many farmers. The problem will be finding a crop that pays the bills.

"We've heard good things about sunflowers," Dumler said. "And milo is an option for a feed grain that uses less water than corn."

Teens to advocate tobacco issues

Five students from Goodland High School will join other Kansas middle and high school students in Colby for Smoke-free Teens are Rising (STAR*) Rally from 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Wednesday at the Colby Community College.

For five years, the annual rally has drawn over 2,000 teens to Topeka and earned national recognition. This year, the program is coming closer to home in Colby and other rural towns. Organizers say it will:

- Raise awareness about tobacco issues.
- Show students how to get involved in their schools and communities.
- Provide adult sponsors for a youth empowerment session.

At 9:30 a.m., Teens Against Smoking in Kansas representatives will welcome the other teens. This will be followed by a general session with a media panel. Breakout sessions will take place before lunch. At 1 p.m., schools will give presentations and a speaker will follow. The rally will adjourn at 2:15 p.m.

The students attending are Jared Doke, Crisy Hernandez, Janae McKee, Efrain Aguirre and Andrew Lovington, all freshmen at Goodland High. They have all agreed to share the knowledge they gain to encourage tobacco free



cris lovington

• prevention center

youth in our schools. We are very proud of them for taking on this issue, as it can be a very tough one.

We have a young adult volunteer who will be accompanying us to this event, Avelia Valles, who has been our youth activity planner for the past five months. She and her husband Sammy are members of the Hispanic Advisory Board and the Harvest America Target Area Council.

They were involved with youth ministries in Texas for three years before moving to Goodland. We appreciate their work and efforts with us and are glad to have them here.

This yearly event is made possible by the efforts of the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Smokeless Kids Initiative Inc., and Teens Against Smoking in Kansas.

For information, contact Cris

Lovington at (785) 899-3848. For information about tobacco and other cancer-related issues call, (800) ACS-2345 or visit our web site at www.cancer.org.

The American Cancer Society is a nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

Virtually all new users of tobacco products are children. Adults don't start smoking—kids do. Almost 90 percent of all smokers started before the age of 19. The average age of initiation into smoking in Kansas is 12.

We cannot always be with our children to "keep an eye" on them, but we can give them the facts which can help them make the better decision when they are not with us. But it also helps to have other youth who can discourage the use of tobacco, as well as other harmful substances. The students who will be attending the rally are great kids who will do a great job representing Goodland.

Plan proposes bonus for teachers

SCHOOL, from Page 1

woman. The plan proposes a \$5,000 bonus to teachers whose students reach the 95 percent skills goal. Lloyd said all K-3 teachers in successful schools would receive the awards.

In the Senate, 37 members have sponsored a bill putting more money into programs for children considered eventual dropout risks. All districts would use the money to help children master basic reading skills by third grade.

Solving the finance side of the equation is more difficult.

Rep. Ralph Tanner, House Education chairman, acknowledges that the state's school finance formula may have been adequate when it was approved in 1992 and shortly thereafter, but if it is not broken, "it is at least impaired in certain respects." Larger districts across the state are suing to have the formula overturned, claiming they get less money per student than smaller and big-city districts.

"I can't promise that we will deliver that vision or that funding formula by the time we adjourn in May," said Tan-

ner, R-Baldwin City.

Tomlinson said there may be two reports coming from the finance subcommittee, with one containing a proposal tax increase.

The Senate Education Committee plans hearings Tuesday and Wednesday on the school finance formula, including local option budgets and special education. Under local option budgets, school districts can exceed budgets set by the state by increasing property taxes.

Committee chairman Dwayne Umberger, R-Thayer, said current finances make some of the work easier. For example, Gov. Bill Graves recommends funding all-day kindergarten programs statewide to the tune of \$52 million. But the money is not there.

Preliminary figures show that state revenue collections fell short of expectations by about \$50 million in December and January.

"To me, on a list of priorities that we need to attain, all-day kindergarten is not high on the list," Umberger said.

Higher on Umberger's list are retaining and recruiting teachers and adding to the base state aid to districts, with

additional dollars devoted to districts with low enrollments.

Umberger understands that the formula adopted in 1992 is not perfect and is constantly being tweaked.

"We still have those districts that receive more than others. I'm confident we will have to deal with that," he said. "But I'm not convinced that we're going to have to scrap the entire formula."

The likelihood of a tax increase isn't strong. Legislators have there's said little support for raising taxes exists.

Throw in a slowing economy, high natural gas bills and anemic revenue estimates and the fate of large spending increases is nearly sealed.

Still, legislators do not rule out raising taxes in the future to get the state's education system where most agree it needs to be.

"You have to plant the seed for consideration," Umberger said. "Now is the time to begin explaining why a tax increase and what is going to be attained."

Without a consensus on education policy and changes in funding, that seed may not bear fruit until at least next session.

matters of record

Sherman County Traffic

Jan. 22 — Bruce A. Harbison, 23, Muskogee, Okla., speeding 96/70, \$102.

Christine L. Rex, 19, New Strawn, speeding 97/70, \$105.

Ryan D. Engle, 20, Sioux City, Iowa, speeding 97/70, \$105.

Sarah N. Young, 21, Carl Junction, Mo., speeding 92/70, \$90.

Troy J. Betz, 28, Goodland, no proof of insurance, \$64.

Coby D. Brock, 22, Goodland, speeding 65/55, \$64.

Jan. 23 — Randall C. Brecheiser, 19, El Dorado, speeding 102/70, \$124.

Jan. 24 — Wade P. Bell, 20, Hill City, disobeyed stop sign, \$74.

Erwin H. Dressman, 75, Goodland, speeding 79/55, \$96.

Jan. 25 — Deborah L. Hughes, 40, Moyers, Okla., speeding 96/70, \$102.

Ortiz M. Olivias, 26, Goodland, no driver's license, \$64; registration violation, \$10; no liability insurance, \$10.

Jan. 26 — Paul J. Allwin, 29, Independence, Mo., speeding 92/70, \$90.

Marsha L. Griffin, 21, Pine, Colo., speeding 90/70, \$84.

Benedict J. Varnum, 16, Lake Quivira, speeding 91/70, \$87.

Real Estate Transfers

Trustees of the Elaine Whitaker Trust established under the will of C.T. Handy to Justin Bentzinger, the W 1/2 of Sec. 13, T8S, R40W.

Porter M. Moss to Phillip V. and Dixie F. Hooker, the north half of Lot 3 in Block 6 of the Original Town of Kanorado.

Bonnie and Kenneth Kysar and Evelyn and Mirl Barnett to Harlan D. and Cora A. House, the NE 1/4 of Sec.

36, T9S, R40W.

Hub & Spoke Ranch Co. to Henderson Partners, Ltd., all of Sections 22-27, the NW 1/4 and the S 1/2 of Sec. 34, and all of Sec. 35, T10S, R39W and the E 1/2 of Sec. 19; the SW 1/4 of Sec. 20; the S 1/2 of Sec. 23, all of Sections 26, 27, 29, 30 and 31; the N 1/2 and the SW 1/4 of Sec. 32; the SE 1/4 and the N 1/2 of Sec. 34; and all of Sec. 35; T10S, R38W.

Scot G. McClone to Commercial Hedge Services Inc. doing business as Marketing Concepts, a tract in the SW 1/4 of Sec. 20, T8S, R39W.

Lucille M. and Robert L. Smith to Travis L. Jones, all of Lots 19, 20 and 21 in Block 16 of the Third or College Addition to Goodland.

Douglas and Laurene Easterberg to Michael L. Short, the east 75 feet of Lots 10, 11 and 12 in Block 4 of the Third Addition to Goodland.

The Goodland Daily News Service Directory • 785-899-2338

Your KEY to business success.

Have your name up front when a customer needs you. Repetitive advertising is the key to opening the door to new customers.



Combined rates are available to feature your services in the Daily and The Country Advocate.

RAIN or SHINE
Cleaning Service

Complete Janitorial Service
Commercial & Residential
Carpet Cleaning

721 Grand (785) 899-2900
Goodland, KS 1-877-811-2900
Jerry & Trish Langley, Owners

The Framing Place
Custom Matting & Framing

Large Selection • Creative Matting
Brass Easels • Plate Frames •
Norman Rockwell Prints • Panoramic
Prints of Cities • Beautiful Country
Living & Wildlife Prints • Quick Turn
Around • Gift Certificates

Cheryl Peck
404 Main (785) 899-5528
M-F 10-4 or by appointment

FLANDERS GUTTERING
"A Better Way To Go"

Specializing in:
5" Seamless Steel Gutter • Soffit & Fascia

Mark & Jamie Flanders
(785) 899-7456
(785) 462-0633, Cell

We'll always be there for you.

LIFE • HOME • CAR • FARM • BUSINESS

SHELTER INSURANCE

Jim Alcorn, Agent
1624 S. Main Street
Goodland, KS 67735-0727
Business: (785) 899-2553
Home: (785) 899-3974
www.shelterinsurance.com
www.shelterinsurance.com

Stop by our newest location
and check out
our Mexico,
Las Vegas,
Hawaii, &
Cruise Packages.

ROUND TRIP TRAVEL
Full Service Travel Agency
1302 Main • Goodland, KS 67735
(785) 899-7505

nwkansas.com
Your local internet service provider
with connections in St. Francis, Bird
City, McDonald, Oberlin, Colby,
Goodland, & Norcatuar.

Call (785) 899-2338
(785) 332-3162
(785) 462-3963 or
(785) 475-2206
for information.

With monthly costs as low
as \$16.50 per month!

Hot Brush Since 1974

SIGNS-LETTERING & PINSTripES
Custom Vinyl & Painting

Box 309
BIRD CITY, KS 67731
FAX-785-734-2459

800-886-2423

For Home Purchases
or Refinancing
CALL ME FIRST

Monica Stramel

OVERHEAD DOOR
OVERHEAD DOOR
OF NORTHWEST KANSAS

1-800-203-5691 • (785) 899-2426
Goodland, KS

**Sales • Service
Installation**

24 Hour Emergency Service

"We do Windows
Year Round"

Serving NW Kansas & Eastern Colorado
(785) 462-6995
(800) 611-6735
COMMERCIAL-RESIDENTIAL-FREE ESTIMATES

NEW SYSTEM
Professional
**WINDOW
CLEANING**
Colby, Kansas

Commercial Federal Bank
Insured by FDIC

(785) 899-3941

Power Loan - Pre Approval
Conventional • VA • FHA • RECD
BI-WEEKLY MORTGAGE

H.L. Financial Services, Inc.
1302 Main • Goodland, Kan.

Have you heard
about the
800 lb. Gorilla?
Call Doug or Eric
for details!
899-2338

The Goodland Daily News
brings you Internet and
E-mail Access!
(785) 899-2338

1205 Main • Goodland, KS 67735
daily@nwkansas.com

TRUST YOUR HOME
COMFORT TO
CB HEATING & COOLING

TAPPAN
Heating and Cooling Products
Trademark: Tappan Used
Under License

CHAD BRINEY 462-2445
1180 W. 4th • Colby, Kansas

travel & tours

It's time to book
your Disney and
cruise vacations!!

COLBY TRAVEL
438 N. Franklin
785-462-3163 or 800-648-0862