

# Duties on pintos hurt

MORAN, from Page 1

Mexico. The point was made that there is no import duties from Canada, but there is an 80 percent import duty on those sent to Mexico.

Moran asked if this was part of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and he was told it was with a provision that the import duty drop three percent per year.

"We are having trouble getting help for our people," Moran said, "because we are running into the fruits and vegetable supporters who say they are not going to support things that would add competition to them."

There are congressmen from Florida, Texas and California who outnumber the other rural people on the agriculture committee, and Moran said that is why it is getting tough to even increase payments because these people are not eligible for them.

"That is why there is expanded funding for conservation programs," he said, "because they are eligible for those."

Todd Allen, manager of the Caprock feedyard in Leoti, said he is concerned about an amendment in the Senate farm bill that would prevent packers from owning cattle. He said this would have a devastating effect on cattle and hog operations in Wichita County.

Moran said that issue has not reached the House yet so he has some time to sort it out, and he was looking at both sides of the question.

"We don't need legislation that puts limits on our production," Golden said. "This stops capital from coming into our area, and we need all the capital we can get to help attract people to agriculture."

A farmer with land around Elkhart asked about new provisions for the Conservation Reserve Program. Moran said both farm bills raise the amount of acres eligible, but said he felt the land should be for those acres

that are highly erodible. He said this was not the best way to manage production.

He said the details are up to the Secretary of Agriculture, and that the Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever people want to raise the level to 45 million acres.

"What is the proper balance?" Moran asked.

Several of those present suggested an increase in the number of acres at the \$50 per acre level would be very good at this time.

"Does this make it harder for the young farmer to find land?" Moran asked. "What happens to the young farmer and the agri businesses?"

There was agreement this might reduce the available land, but with the present economy it was also a question of survivability for the older farmers.

Harlan House, Sherman County farmer, said, "Why can't we sell wheat to Pakistan? We haven't spent any of the export enhancement program money. We need to expand our exports, but the government has limited our ability to sell our products to the world."

"I don't apologize about taking federal payments when we don't have the ability to export our products," he added. "It is not fair to the farmer."

Moran said he has to justify passing a farm bill, but said it is justified to keep the food supply domestic. He agreed that it is an unlevel playing field, and that many other countries help subsidize their farmers.

"It does not allow us to compete fairly," Moran said. "I talked to the secretary of agriculture (Dan Glickman) and told him we need to expand exports. He told me they were working on it, but the next time I asked he said they did not want to rock the boat."

"We need to rock the boat so there is an equal opportunity to sell," he said.

Moran said he met with President Bush in October when he was looking

for support for the fast track trade proposal.

"I told him I wanted to support trade, but didn't believe the Department of Agriculture is being proactive for farmers."

Moran said Bush came around the table and said this is what he wanted to know about. Bush has appointed a White House Agriculture advisor, Chuck Conners.

Gerry Franklin, Sherman County farmer, wanted to know why there had not been an emphasis to make the country energy independent.

Moran said agriculture has a lot to do with this effort. He said that if California was required to clean up their air to meet the standards it would take enough ethanol to use 40 percent of the Kansas corn crop.

He said the energy bill is being held up by concerns about drilling in Alaska.

Rick Knight of LINK, asked Moran about his support for "Mi Casa" legislation.

Moran said he has supported this in the past and does not see any reason not to in the future. The legislation provides money for programs for the disabled and elderly to allow them to live in their own homes.

Jay Jolly, Goodland hospital administrator, asked Moran if there was anything that can be done about the differences in reimbursement rates between urban and rural hospitals.

Moran agreed the system was biased for urban hospitals, and that he was a leader of the Rural Health Coalition, which is trying to equalize the reimbursement rates.

On education, Moran said the solution is not more tests, but to encourage more teacher and student interaction.

"I heard a cattleman once say 'If you want fat cattle you feed them not weigh them'" Moran said.

He thanked everyone and said he always tries to make a difference.



Congressman Jerry Moran talks with John Golden before speaking to about 40 people who gathered at Safari Steakhouse Thursday morning. Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

# Mother proud son qualified for state

WRESTLING, from Page 1

few of the wrestlers have competed at the state level.

Roxane Brack, busy capturing the send off on video tape, said she's extremely excited and proud that her son Taylor qualified for state because he's worked hard for the honor.

She said he's been wrestling since the third grade and missed qualifying for state by one point last year and two points the year before.

"He's been this close every year," she said, "and this year he made it. It's

a big dream."

Brack and Kathy Bahe, mother to Bryce and Blayze Bahe, said they're proud of the entire team.

"Even the kids that aren't mine seem like mine," Kathy Bahe said. "They're a good group of kids."

She said she hopes the wrestlers do their best, and she'll be happy with any outcome.

"I figure they naturally put enough pressure on themselves," she said.

The wrestlers said they expect to do well at the tournament.

Why?

"Because we're awesome," said Max Saint. "We're the Cowboys."

Taylor Brack attributed their success this season to teamwork.

"We just came together," he said.

Blayze Bahe said there's a little more experience on the team and the wrestlers have been encouraging each other to win.

"We've been challenging each other more," he said. "Pushing each other."

The wrestlers said Blayze's nickname is "Buzz."

When asked why, Saint said, "He just rips through people, I guess."

# Redistricting map still in flux in Senate

TOPEKA (AP) — A Senate redistricting plan already approved by that chamber won a House panel's endorsement Wednesday, but Senate President Dave Kerr believes Gov. Bill Graves will probably veto it.

The plan that the House Redistricting Committee endorsed, on a voice vote, was drafted by a coalition of the 11 conservative Senate Republicans and the chamber's 10 Democrats.

Coalition members said their map made fewer changes to existing districts and was better for their political prospects than a plan backed by Kerr and endorsed by the Senate Reapportionment Committee. The coalition substituted its plan for the one Kerr favored during Senate debate and won Senate approval.

Kerr, R-Hutchinson, said Wednesday the plan approved by the Senate was "a secret map" that ignored the committee process and he is working

to find a better map.

"The way it was done, and tactics used, created a lot of anxiety and many members feel their interests were violated," Kerr said. "I would be surprised if the governor doesn't veto it."

After meeting Wednesday with Kerr, Graves said he was letting the process work itself out before making a decision.

"I'm reserving all my options. I haven't agreed to sign or not sign," said Graves. "But, I have reservations about the Senate map."

The coalition plan for Senate redistricting is scheduled for a House debate Monday.

A key difference between the coalition's plan and the one Kerr favors is the treatment of Sen. Janis Lee, D-Kensington.

The Kerr-backed map would put Lee and conservative Sen. Stan Clark, R-Oakley, into a single new district in

northwest Kansas.

The coalition's plan would collapse Lee's district and the area now represented by Sen. Larry Salmans, R-Hanston, against whom Democrats feel Lee would have a better chance for re-election in 2004.

In addition, all parties agree the lines in the coalition's map for Johnson County favor conservative Republicans by not combining rural voters in the southern part with suburban ones further north.

"My fellow conservative friends were being harmed," said Sen. Kay O'Connor, R-Olathe, a conservative who acknowledged drawing the county's districts for the coalition.

Members of the House Redistricting Committee said Wednesday they were concerned the Senate wouldn't uphold a deal made at the beginning of the session to not change the other chamber's map.

# Realtors support Moran with donation

By Patty Decker

The Colby Free Press

First District Congressman Jerry Moran, R-Hays, made a brief stop in Colby on Tuesday to accept a campaign contribution of \$1,000 on behalf of the National Association of Realtors.

The event, sponsored by the Kansas Association of Realtors, was held at the

Colby Country Club with members of the Goodland, Colby and Hays Board of Realtors offering their support for Moran's re-election to Congress in November.

Representing the local Board of Realtors at Tuesday night's meeting were Pat Selby of Colby; Rocky Feltis of Hays; and Rose Anderson of Goodland.

At this time, no one has filed challenging Moran on the Republican ticket as the deadline for the August primary of June 10 approaches.

Looking around at the 40 some people gathered in Colby, Moran spoke of leadership.

"We can't wait for Washington and Topeka — what we need are leaders willing to do community service and join in the fight to protect the rural values," he said. "Unfortunately, and too often, not enough people are getting involved in the decision-making process and less than 50 percent even turn out to vote."

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