

Students learn at ranch

BUFFALO, from Page 1

Ken said they are in the business of converting sunlight to grass, grass to calves, calves to buffalo and buffalo to meat. Buffalo calves weigh about 35 pounds when they're born, he said, and grow to 1,200 pounds before they're ready for slaughter.

Buffalo, which are actually bison, a different species from buffalo which are found in Africa, are a success story in saving an animal from extinction, Ken said. Around 1900, he said, there were around 400 buffalo left in the United States. Now, there are over 400,000, he said.

"People like to eat them," Ken said. "That has guaranteed their survival." Bison are a native species of North America, he said, and are well-adapted to the Great Plains region of this continent. The animals are a natural harvester of the native grasses here, he said, and need grass to survive.

Ken said they prefer natural, non-

chemical means of raising the animals and their feed. The buffalo are free-range raised, he said, not forced to live in a feedlot. This ensures their health and protects the environment, he said.

The Klemms do not use hormones or sub-therapeutic antibiotics, he said, and feed organically grown grain or as close to organically grown as possible. The buffalo are never fed animal by-products, he said.

After the lesson on raising buffalo and answering questions about chronic wasting disease and mad cow disease, neither of which has ever been found in buffalo, the Klemms took the group to the corrals.

Laurie said the buffalo are best left to take care of themselves. She said a buffalo calf was once born at only 20 pounds but grew to normal size in a short period of time under its mother's care.

Ken said buffalo are not domesticated and that the animals should not be completely domesticated. Buffalo

won't calm down if they see people, he said, so they put up black plastic between the chute and where people stand while "working" them, so the buffalo can't see the people.

Ken asked the students if they knew how to count buffalo, and they said they knew how to count and didn't think it would be a problem to count buffalo. He said the only way to count buffalo is to count them as they run by you because they never stop moving.

He had the students line up at the buffalo chute and said they would be the buffalo herd. It took a few tries to get all the students to go along with the plan, but Ken was able to get them to all walk by on the same side of him so he could count them as they entered the chute.

The students were "herded" through the chute into the squeeze chute and then back out to freedom. All the while, Ken explained that the chute had bars over the top to keep the buffalo from climbing on top of each other to get out



The buffalo on Ken and Laurie Klemm's ranch northeast of Goodland got restless and stirred up a lot of dust whenever people were near on Friday. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

and why each part of the chute was needed in order to keep the buffalo in line and prevent them from rebelling

or escaping. The students also toured the pasture and saw the real buffalo herd, ate lunch,

had presentations by Farm Bureau and a Kansas Wildlife Officer and played games.

Two men being questioned

SNIPER, from Page 1

dealer. She said she saw just one man in the van.

Over the weekend, police said they found a note in the woods near the Ponderosa restaurant in Ashland, a few miles north of Richmond, after the latest victim was shot and critically wounded. Police urged whoever left the note to call them.

Early today, Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose, who is in charge of the investigation, said authorities had received a message and were "preparing our response."

He did not specify whether the message was a new communication or the one they discovered near the scene of Saturday's shooting. He refused to elaborate or answer questions.

Surgeons removed the bullet from the latest victim, a 37-year-old man shot, and turned it over to investigators. As in the previous shootings, the victim was felled by a single shot.

The victim, whose name was not released, remained in critical condition Monday after six hours of surgery. Doctors were cautiously optimistic but said he would need more surgery.

Through the hospital, the wife released a statement saying the caring and prayers she and her husband have received "have been a bright ray of hope and comfort."

"Please pray also for the attacker and that no one else is hurt," she added.

In other developments: — Schools in the Ashland and Richmond areas stayed closed today, keeping more than 200,000 public students out of class.

— France alerted Interpol about a French army deserter who is known as a marksman and is missing in North America. A Defense Ministry spokesman said there was speculation of a link to the sniper.

— In Arlington, more than 200 mourners gathered today to remember Linda Franklin, the FBI analyst shot to death a week ago in Falls Church, as a

spirited woman with a generous heart. The altar at Mount Olivet United Methodist Church held candles to represent prayers for each sniper victim.

— Bail was denied today for Matthew M. Dowdy, who was accused of lying to police by describing a cream-colored van with a burned-out taillight at the scene of last week's shooting in Falls Church.

The nature of the message that investigators say was left at the Ashland shooting scene was unclear.

The message contained significant text and was found in woods behind the restaurant, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported today, quoting unidentified law enforcement sources. The report also said police have found more than one tarot card during the investigation.

A tarot death card was reported found Oct. 7 outside a Bowie, Md., middle school where the sniper wounded a 13-year-old boy. It had the words "Dear Policeman, I am God" written on it.

Elevators expect less grain this fall

HARVEST, from Page 1

evator.

"If we don't get the volume of bushels," he said, "we won't get the money."

Ed Cook, manager of Collingwood Grain, said the only choice elevators have is to control costs and make cuts where possible.

He said Collingwood is also expecting to take in only 50 percent of the grain total it received last year.

Cook said harvest is getting off to a slow start this year because the plants aren't drying out as fast as usual. The recent cold nights have helped, he said, by killing the plants, which causes them to start drying out.

Harvest may be later this year, Cook said, but that doesn't mean it's late.

He said farmers typically cut through the end of Oc-

tober.

Dana Belshe, Sherman County agriculture extension agent, said yields are depressed across the board, but some crops are producing more than expected.

Some irrigated corn fields are yielding 200 bushels per acre, which is good, he said, while others are producing only 50 bushels.

No matter what, he said, a lot less grain will be going into storage this harvest, as there is no dryland crop to bring in.

"It's not nearly as it is in normal years," he said, noting that in the past some dryland corn crops have yielded an average of 125 bushels per acre.

Belshe said this past summer was the driest since the 1930s, during the Great Dust Bowl.

"I've never seen a drought this severe for this long," he said.

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