

St. Francis feeders sue Farmland National beef

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas cattle feeder Mike Callicrate, a longtime gadfly in his fight against concentration in the meatpacking industry, has sued Farmland National beef for allegedly boycotting his feed yard after he spoke out against the giant meatpacking operation.

The lawsuit, filed last week in the U.S. District Court for Western Missouri, contends that Farmland National Beef quit buying cattle from Callicrate Feed yards in St. Francis because Callicrate criticized Farmland and other large meatpackers for having too much market

power. His lawsuit seeks actual damages of at least \$5.34 million, as well as punitive damages and attorney's fees.

Callicrate has been an active critic of consolidation in the meat processing industry. About 80 percent of that business in the hands of four companies. Farmland National Beef is the country's fourth-largest beef-processing company.

Callicrate is also a plaintiff in an earlier class-action lawsuit against meatpacker IBP for alleged uncompetitive practices.

Callicrate's latest lawsuit mirrors the complaints filed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture against National Beef in 1999. The USDA alleged that National Beef used its market muscle to retaliate against Callicrate.

The USDA dropped that complaint last year after National Beef agreed to repay the government the cost of the investigation.

That administrative action did not keep Farmland from continuing to refuse to buy cattle from him at competitive prices, forcing him to close his feed yard, Callicrate said.

"None of the meatpackers will buy from

me," Callicrate said. "I have already let 12 people go that worked in the feed yard."

John Miller, chief executive of Farmland National Beef, said the lawsuit was without merit.

"National Beef's conduct with respect to Mr. Callicrate has always been fair and lawful," Miller said in a statement.

When Farmland National Beef settled the complaint with the USDA, the agency's order found that National Beef was not required to buy from any particular producer, he said.

"National Beef owes an obligation to its cus-

tomers and owners to buy the highest-quality cattle at the lowest possible price," Miller said.

Farmland National Beef is a partnership of Kansas City-based Farmland Industries Inc. and U.S. Premium Beef Ltd. It operates beef-processing plants in Dodge City and Liberal, Kan.

Farmland Industries, the country's largest farmer-owned cooperative, has been operating under bankruptcy court protection since May 31. The National Beef partnership is not part of the bankruptcy proceedings.

Silo brings corn heat to suburbs

SILo, from Page 1

group that works on climate change and renewable energy issues. He converted his house into a model of energy efficiency — installing solar panels and buying a low-energy refrigerator. Last fall, he bought a corn-burning stove.

It sits in a corner of his living room and looks like a detached fireplace. Corn is fed into the top and slowly drops into the fire.

Tidwell said the stove heats his house, with help from ceiling fans that spread the warm air. His family of three sits close to the heat, enjoying the flickering flames behind the glass door.

The stove burns more cleanly than a traditional one, said Mike Haefner, president of Hutchinson, Minn.-based American Energy Systems. The company makes models that range from \$2,350 to \$2,800.

American Energy sold about 8,000 stoves in the last year, Haefner said, with most sales concentrated in the Midwest. About 40 percent of the customers are rural farmers who burn their own crop, while the rest are residential consumers.

Haefner donated \$3,000 of the \$4,000 it cost to put up the granary, money he made back when Takoma Park residents bought stoves.

"We did it to show that even in a big

city like Washington, people can get corn easily and burn corn," he said.

Under an agreement with the cooperative, the city of Takoma Park has taken over ownership of the granary. That means the structure is covered by the city insurance policy for \$18 a year, money the cooperative pays.

The project fits in with the city's plan to reduce greenhouse gases, said Mayor Cathy Porter. Many city-owned vehicles run on fuels other than gasoline and energy-efficient light bulbs have been installed in city buildings.

The corn is supplied by a Mount Airy farmer who grows the crop using organic fertilizer and no-till farming to prevent erosion.

Such methods are critical for Tidwell, whose calculations of the carbon dioxide output of burning corn include even the amount of gas used to power the farm equipment.

Cooperative members each pay about \$400 upfront to cover two deliveries of corn during the winter.

Members keep track of the amount of corn they draw from the granary and adjust their final cost at the end of the season.

Tidwell said he saved about \$200 last year when he switched the heating system in his 1915 house from natural gas to corn. With the early cold weather this year, he says his savings could top \$500.

Bush says Saddam report has serious errors

IRAQ, from Page 1

another chance to look at this declaration."

Later, Fleischer was asked to amplify.

"As I said, the president has made clear that this is the last chance and the evaluation of the declaration continues" and will be "deliberate, thoughtful and wise."

The language was carefully crafted to reflect both Bush's promise to have "zero tolerance" for Saddam's defiance and allies' demands for patience from the United States — a difficult balance that administration officials said Bush hopes to strike this week when he offers his first public assessment of the declaration.

Senior officials involved in the talks said Bush decided not to declare Iraq in "material breach" of a U.N. resolution arms resolution, which would pro-

vide him what the United States considers legal justification for war.

Instead, Bush will allow the weapons inspectors to go ahead with their work while using the declaration's omissions to increase public pressure on both the United Nations and Iraq, the officials said.

The strategy gaining most support on Bush's team is to increase pressure on U.N. weapons inspectors to seek interviews with Iraqi weapons scientists outside of Iraq, a prerogative given to the international body under the resolution.

Bush believes Saddam will resist such demands, giving the United States a case for "material breach" that U.S. allies and the American public may find more justified than hastier action, the officials said.

On the other hand, if Iraq surprises Bush and turns over the scientists, U.S. officials believe the witnesses would

provide evidence that could be used against Saddam, officials said.

"I assure you this president does not bluff," Fleischer said. "When he said Saddam Hussein must disarm ... it is not a bluff."

At issue is a 12,000-page weapons declaration required under the U.S.-backed U.N. disarmament resolution, and Saddam's contention that he has no weapons of mass destruction.

"We have learned much about the declaration, although the review is not complete," Fleischer said as Bush met with his foreign policy team to discuss his options.

"The president is concerned about omissions in the declaration and about the problems in the declaration."

It marked the first time the White House has talked about problems with the declaration in addition to omissions. Powell planned to elaborate on the new issue, officials said.

Though he offered no details on Bush's plans, Fleischer said, "The United States will continue to push the very deliberate approach in dealing with the issue and the potential consequences."

Even as Fleischer spoke, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw echoed what aides said was Bush's assessment of the declaration, calling the assertion that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction "obvious falsehood."

Among the "obvious omissions" Straw cited was Saddam's failure to account for the weapons of mass destruction which were listed in the final report of the inspectors who left his country in 1998.

Straw said those inspectors had accused Saddam of possessing nerve agents and other "chemical precursors" and munitions.

student of the week



Name: Ashley Engel
Parents: Keith & Jody Engel
Grade: Senior
Age: 18

We've nominated this student because: Ashley is an excellent student who is prompt in turning in assignments & projects. She goes out of her way to help her peers, is active in school & community activities & strives to meet her many goals with high expectations.

Student Comment: Being able to see my friends everyday! My favorite subject this year is English Composition class! I'll

remember all my friends & the memories made at GHS!

Activities involved in at school: NHS, FCCLA, GAA, Little Brother Little Sister, Scholars Bowl, Senior Citizen Dinner, Highway Cleanup.

My choice of movies, books, and games : All scary movies & action movies & mystery books! R & B music, any card or board games.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to ... : Attend Washburn University in Topeka & major in Political Science.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ... : hopefully working at a law firm as a corporate attorney.

Favorite Quote: : "The turning point in the process of growing up is when you discover the core strength within you that survives all hurt"

- Max Lerner

B-E's Jewelry

1105 Main • Goodland, Kan 67735
785-899-5400

Explore the wide world of the Web

We have new high speed digital lines!

nwkansas.com is your key to the Internet. We offer reliable service, fast digital connections and full access to the Internet, the World Wide Web and E-mail all in one package for one low monthly fee*. We have knowledgeable customer service people to help you get connected, and plenty of lines to take your calls. We are your local Internet Service Provider with people who can answer your questions. In most cases, you can be hooked up today. We have the newest digital incoming lines, and a high speed frame relay to carry your traffic.

*Special rate offer

With a payment of **\$99.80** (four months base service) we give you a month of service free and free set-up (\$19.96 per month average rate. We are offering an annual rate of **\$198** (four months free service).



We can connect you tonight... not next week!

Infinite variety on the 'Net

There's a whole new world waiting out there. Whatever you're interested in, the Internet, with its millions of postings and services, has it. Weather, time of day, art, archives, news, hobbies . . . If you can imagine it, someone has put it on the Internet.

Use it for business. Use it for school. Use it for pleasure. Use it just to find out what's out there. Pick a topic and search the entire World Wide Web for it ... in just seconds.

E-mail for fun and profit

E-mail is fast, affordable and inexpensive. From your computer, you can send and receive messages anywhere in the world . . . for no charge . . . once you have an Internet connection.



nwkansas.com

Local Tech Support • Same-Day Connection* • Friendly People to Help

The Goodland Daily News • 1205 Main, Goodland, Kansas, 67735 • 785 899-2338

*In most cases, we'll try anyway.