

What happens when cattle meet computers?

By Ron Wilson

director

Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University

What happens when cattle meet computers? That sounds like one of my kid's riddles. Actually, it could be a way of describing a scientific process for evaluating and managing cattle that is being used by an innovative beef feedyard in rural northwest Kansas. It's the subject of today's Kansas Profile.

Warren Weibert is owner and general manager of Decatur County Feed Yard near Oberlin. He is the innovator who is utilizing this high-tech management system.

Oberlin is a town of 1,955 people. That's rural - but there's more. Warren actually grew up near Durham, population 114 people.

Now, that's rural.

After growing up at Durham, Warren went to K-State and then into a business management career. He married Carol who is originally from Oberlin.

In 1971, some 45 local investors around Oberlin went together to create a cattle feedlot known as Decatur County Feed Yard. In 1977, Carol Weibert's father bought the feedyard and invited Warren and Carol to come back to Oberlin to manage it, which they did. Warren and Carol now make their home in Manhattan.

The feedyard expanded through the years and now has a capacity of 40,000 head. During the 1980s, Warren set out to work more closely with the ranchers who supplied cattle to be finished at the feedyard. He and the ranchers were seeking

to get more data to add value to the cattle.

A key breakthrough came in 1994, as new technology came on the scene which made it possible to gather in-depth, individualized information on each steer. First came electronic ear tags to identify each animal, followed by a software system which could track and project the growth of each one.

This allowed the feedyard managers to evaluate, sort, manage and market each animal appropriately. In other words, rather than a pen of steers being lumped together in some sort of average, each animal receives the type of management customized individually for him. It's a great concept but it wouldn't have been possible on this scale without the computer.

How does this work in practice?

When 600-pound steers are brought to the feedlot, they go through a processing shed where the high-tech system is located. This shed is sometimes referred to internally as the "gee whiz" barn. It certainly seems like gee whiz stuff to me.

The cattle are moved through a series of stations to evaluate them. First is a sequencing station, which then automatically moves the cattle through a series of chutes to a second station where video imaging is done. The third station is an electronic scale, followed by an ultrasound station where the internal tissue characteristics are identified.

It sounds like an entry into a high-tech hospital, but it is actually a way of gathering individualized data on each animal. When the data is put together on size, shape, weight

and genetic potential, the manager can project the point at which each animal will be ready to go to market. The animals are then grouped according to their stage of development and sent into the feedyard. As they reach mature weight, each group will be marketed.

Even though these cattle will come from different owners, they can be grouped with those of like characteristics while still being identified individually. Then after the cattle do go to market, the data on each animal are reported back to the individual rancher from which they came. The final close-out report includes 25 columns with information on each animal.

Warren said, "We're providing more information back to the rancher than virtually anybody else in the industry." These data tools

help producers reach the goals of providing beef with lower costs, improved quality, greater convenience and improved consistency while maintaining the highest standards of food safety.

For more information, go to www.decaturfeyard.com.

So when cattle meet computers, innovative, individualized management can follow. We commend Warren and Carol Weibert and all those involved with Decatur County Feed Yard for making a difference with their forward-looking approach to beef cattle management. And what else happens when cattle meet computers? Well, in the feedyard, those hungry steers take a lot of giga-bites...

public notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

LEE B. IHRIG
Plaintiff

vs.

LARRY MCDONALD AND MORRIS CREEK ENTERPRISES and the unknown principals, heirs, executors administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of such defendants as may be deceased; the unknown spouses of each of the defendants; the unknown proprietors, principals, officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of such defendants as are existing, dissolved or dormant business organizations, proprietorships or corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of such defendants as are or were partners or in partnership; the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of such defendants who are minors or are in any wise under legal disability; the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors or assigns of any person alleged to be deceased and made defendants

You are hereby required to plead to said petition on or before the 9th day of September, 2010 in said court at the Courthouse, 813 Broadway, Goodland, KS 67735. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Lee B. Ihrig

Michael V. Foust
126 West 11th Street
P.O. Box 778
Goodland, Kansas 67735
Attorney for Lee B. Ihrig

Published in The Goodland Star-News, Friday, July 30 and August 6 and 13, 2010.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT

BAC Home Loans Servicing, L.P. fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, L.P.
Plaintiff,

vs.

James Schreibvogel and Toniarrae Schreibvogel, et al.
Defendants.

Case No. 08CV50
Court Number:
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60

Notice Of Sale

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me by the Clerk of the District Court of Sherman County, Kansas, the undersigned Sheriff of Sherman County, Kansas, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, at the Front Door of the Courthouse at Goodland, Sherman County, Kansas, on August 17, 2010, at 10:00 AM, the following real estate:

All that part of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) of Section Nineteen (19) Township Eight (8), Range Thirty-eight (38), in Sherman County, Kansas lying South of the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad right-of-way, containing Fifty-seven acres more or less.

EXCEPT TRACT A and B

Tract A
Beginning at the Southeast corner of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) of Section Nineteen (19), in Township Eight (8) South, Range Thirty-eight (38) West of the 6th P.M. in Sherman County, Kansas, as to the point of beginning: Thence, due North 350', thence due West 1080' thence due South 350' thence due East 1080' to the point of beginning. Property comprising approximately 8.67 acres more or less

TRACT B
A tract of land situated in the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) on Section Nineteen (19) Township Eight (8) South, Range Thirty-eight (38) West of the 6th P.M., Sherman County, Kansas and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest Corner of said Section Nineteen (19); thence N 00 degrees 20' 34" E along the Westerly line of said Section Nineteen (19) a distance of 598.27 feet to the True Point of Beginning; Thence N 00 degrees 20' 34" E along said Westerly line of Section Nineteen (19) a distance of 311.13 feet to the Southerly right-of-way of Highway 24; Thence S 89 degrees 43' 05" E along said Southerly right-

of-way a distance of 515.28 feet: Thence S 00 13' 33" E parallel with and 0.2' westerly of the west edge of a concrete pathway a distance of 254.19 feet; Thence S 84 degrees 00' 23" W a distance of 520.99 feet to the point of beginning, described parcel containing 3.35 acres more or less., commonly known as 2505 Road 64, Goodland, KS 67735 (the gProperty h)

to satisfy the judgment in the above-entitled case. The sale is to be made without appraisal and subject to the redemption period as provided by law, and further subject to the approval of the Court. For more information, visit www.Southlaw.com.

Kevin Butts, Sheriff
Sherman County, Kansas

Prepared By:
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Published in The Goodland Star-News, Friday, July 23 and 30 and August 6, 2010.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT

CitiMortgage, Inc.

Plaintiff,

vs.

Diane L Mannebach aka Diane L Koch, Jane Doe, and John Doe, et al.,

Defendants

Case No. 10CV36
Court No.
Title to Real Estate Involved
Pursuant to K.S.A. §60

NOTICE OF SUIT

STATE OF KANSAS to the above named Defendants and The Unknown Heirs, executors, devisees, trustees, creditors, and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; and the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability and all other person who are or may be concerned:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition for Mortgage Foreclosure has been filed in the District Court of Sherman County, Kansas by CitiMortgage, Inc., praying for foreclosure of certain real property legally described as follows:

ALL THAT TRACT, PIECE AND PARCEL OF LAND COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF WHAT WAS PRIOR TO ITS VACATION, BLOCK 3, IN THE C.K. & N. ADDITION TO THE CITY OF GOODLAND, IN SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS, SAID CORNER BEING AT THE INTERSECTION OF 15TH STREET AND CHURCH, (NOW CHERRY) AVENUE AND RUNNING THENCE SOUTH

ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID CHURCH AVENUE TO A POINT 61 FEET SOUTH OF SAID CORNER AND INTERSECTION; THENCE EAST 140 FEET; THENCE NORTH 60 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID 15TH STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID 15TH STREET 140 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. ALSO KNOWN AS LOTS TWENTY-FIVE (25) AND TWENTY-SIX (26), BLOCK THREE (3), C.K. & N. ADDITION TO THE CITY OF GOODLAND, KANSAS. Tax ID No. 1-012000640

for a judgment against defendants and any other interested parties and you are hereby required to plead to the Petition for Foreclosure by September 10, 2010 in the District Court of Sherman County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the request of plaintiff.

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC
Matthew S. Layfield, #22449
Kristin E. Fisk, #21922
Lindsey L. Craft, #23315
Michael J. Wambolt, #24354
Benjamin C. Struby, #22243
11460 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Suite 300
Leawood, KS 66211
(913) 339-9132
(913) 339-9045 (fax)
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC AS ATTORNEYS FOR CitiMortgage, Inc. IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Published in The Goodland Star-News, Friday, July 30 and August 6 and 13, 2010.

Voter Alert * Voter Alert * Voter Alert * Voter Alert

Facts about the Sherman County Economic Development Committee

The City of Goodland and Sherman County provide \$100,000-\$125,000/year of your tax money for this effort. This expense is approved on a year to year basis. The ballot issue you will see on Aug. 3rd is a tax increase that will guarantee their funding without them having to ask the city and county for their funding each year. **For lower taxes, VOTE NO for this new tax.**

ED past performance:

- In 2006, 100% of their budget was spent on salaries and overhead. NO ED projects were funded.
- From 2007-2009, \$10-\$12,000/yr. was spent on grants (taxpayer funded gifts). The bulk of these were given to *private individuals to pay for home renovations* such as new windows, doors or painting. One grant for \$1500 went to a non-taxable church for new doors. Very few business grants were given, and without exception, were to fund the outward appearance of the building, not true economic development.
- The county business micro loan program started with \$100,000. It was to be a revolving fund; businesses were to pay back the loan, with interest. Today there is only ~\$17,000 left in the fund and only one business has paid their loan back as planned. All the rest are either out of business, bankrupt, left the country, are paying a fraction of the agreed payment, or are in court burning thru more taxpayer money as the government attempts to get them to pay up. The micro loan program is essentially a high-risk lender of last resort funded by your tax dollars.
- The grocery store that *may* be coming to Goodland is touted as a great success for ED. Local officials have doled or plan to dole out to this business the following: a market analysis, all manner of tax credits, free utilities (for workers homes too), waiver of real market rent (\$1,000/yr for 10 years), a steal of a sale price on the building itself (\$50,000), \$25,000 for a sign and even more. We estimate that the cost to the taxpayer for this project will be well in excess of \$100,000 for year one and then taxpayers will remain on the hook for at least the next ten years. Essentially, the taxpayer will make a large gift to yet another a high-risk business and we're expected to cross our fingers and hope that it can compete with Wal-Mart.
- True economic development efforts are indeed sorely needed by our community. A tax increase to fund more of the same past efforts would be counterproductive.

Prevent another wasteful tax increase and vote NO on this issue.

Paid for by Sherman County Citizens Against Socialism and Government Waste. Ken Klemm, Treasurer

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Notice from City of Goodland
Electric Distribution Department

Beginning the first week of August, the Electric Distribution Department will begin the annual trimming of the branches away from the primary and secondary electric power lines.

OSHA rules and regulations addresses safety consideration related to line clearances as the trimming of any tree or brush that is within 10 feet of an electric power line. It is more effective to trim trees during the day than at night during a storm.