

Football, runners display talents, seasons to start

School started Monday, and the fall sports schedule is beginning with the Goodland Cowboys football and cross country teams holding their scrimmage and run at 6:15 p.m. on Friday at Cowboy Stadium.

The Black and Gold Booster Club annual barbecue will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday at the south end of Cowboy Stadium.

The Goodland Cowgirls Volleyball team will hold their scrimmage at 6 p.m. on Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The sports season kicks off on Thursday, Sept. 1, with Cowgirls golf at Hugoton and the Cowboys cross country team hosting the Goodland Invitational at 4 p.m. at Sugar Hills Golf Club. The Grant Junior High cross country team will be part of the Goodland Invitational on Thursday, Sept. 8, at Cowboy Stadium.

ball team will be in action at 3:30 p.m. in St. Francis.

The home football opening game will be at 6:30 p.m. on Friday when the Cowboys take on Hugoton as Coach Kent Teeter and his team try to build on the success of last year.

The Goodland Cowgirls will hold their Invitational at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6, at Sugar Hills Golf Club.

Cowgirls volleyball will be in action at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6, at Max Jones Fieldhouse for a quad.

Junior varsity Cowboy football will be in Hugoton at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6, and the freshman team will be in Oakley at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

The first home Mustang football game will be 3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8, at Cowboy Stadium.

Proud fisherman



Laurie Carmichael and husband Mark of Goodland traveled to Jordan, Mont., to fish at Hell Creek State Park. On Saturday, Aug. 6, Laurie caught this 40 inch Northern Pike weighing approximately 20 pounds.

Area farmers, ranchers encouraged to 'get a conservation plan'

The state conservationist is encouraging farmers to get a conservation plan for their land before applying for financial assistance.

"Get a conservation plan," says Eric B. Banks, state conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kansas.

"It is a beneficial step for you, and it also helps NRCS," he said.

Banks said with a conservation plan developed prior to applying for financial assistance through popular farm bill programs — such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program and others — would add points to their

application.

"The Fiscal Year 2012 application evaluation cutoff date for EQIP and WHIP funds has been set as Nov. 15," Banks said. "Applicants who request a conservation plan prior to Aug. 31, will receive additional points in the ranking process."

"A conservation plan has so many benefits," said Banks. A few he mentioned:

- Identifies immediate or potential issues that may result in a resource concern and diminished production
- Adapts to your changing farm or ranch operational goals
- Establishes a reasonable schedule for applying needed conservation practices that will fit your

timetable and resources

"And, of course with the producer's input, NRCS will develop the plan for him or her for free," said Banks. "This is not something new. Conservation planning is what the agency has done for over 75 years."

"However, newer producers and others may not be aware of this valuable free service available to them. They just need to do it. Call or go into their local county USDA Service Center to take advantage of this opportunity."

What is a Conservation Plan?

The NRCS defines a conservation plan as "a written record of your management decisions and the conservation practices and systems you plan to use and maintain

on your farm." More specifically, a conservation plan is the culmination of a nine-step planning process used by the NRCS district conservationist from the USDA Service Center in consultation with the farmer or rancher who owns and/or farms the land. The conservation plan may address a single soil, air, water, plant, or animal resource concern or any combination thereof.

A Historical Record

The conservation plan may be looked at as a historical record of what has taken place on your farm or ranch as well as a guide to what will take place on the farm or ranch regarding conservation work. The timeline and practices to implement as well as the installation methods

are spelled out specifically in the conservation plan. A conservation plan not only addresses the proper installation of new conservation practices, it also addresses proper maintenance of existing practices to ensure that they function and perform as originally intended.

Combination of Skills, Science

A conservation plan combines the farming and ranching skills and goals of the land user with the science-based knowledge and tools of the conservation planner in a user-friendly format that is easily updated as tenants, owners, and objectives change over time. A detail map of the planning area is developed along with descriptions of the soils present on the farm or

ranch. Additional resource maps may be developed based upon land use and resource concern.

Additional Benefit

For further information or to schedule a planning appointment, contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with the NRCS staff or conservation district staff about your conservation plan. Information is available on the Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

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