

Five agricultural businesses receive grants

TOPEKA – U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development State Director Patty Clark announced that five Kansas agricultural businesses have received business development assistance through the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program.

“Kansas is a national leader in agricultural exports, and USDA Rural Development is assisting innovative agricultural producers that are looking to further process their agricultural products,” stated Clark. “The Value-Added Producer Grants are federal investments that will further spur the agricultural economy in our state and provide jobs in rural Kansas.”

businesses received financing through the Value-Added Producer Grant program that totaled more than \$700,000.

- Brown Honey Farms, Inc. based in Washington County received \$300,000 to develop additional markets and products using raw honey. The company is the Official Honey Drink for the Arena Football League and K-State Athletics.

- Johannes Farms based in Brown County received \$9,400 to dehull, process, package and market food-grade oats.

- McCarty Family Farms, LLC based in Thomas County received \$300,000 to expand its dairy processing facility to provide pasteurized skimmed condensed rBST-free

milk and heavy cream to the Dannon Company to process into yogurt.

- Schmidt Farms, Inc., based in Rawlins County received \$49,714 to expand its beef product line to include chicken and add an additional market.

- Thayer Feed, LLC based in Neosho County received \$46,945 to process organic chicken feed into consumer-friendly packages.

“We moved the McCarty Family Farm from Pennsylvania to Kansas because there were limited opportunities for our dairy to expand,” stated Ken McCarty, Manager/Owner of McCarty Family Farms. “The Value-Added Producer Grant fit nicely with our goals for expanding the dairy processing facility to

create a ready-to-use dairy product. By creating a value-added product we are eliminating some of the uncertainty with milk prices for our business and Dannon, as well as providing greater predictability of yogurt prices for consumers.”

Rural Development partnered with K-State Research and Extension to hold Value-Added Producer Grant workshops last fall. This approach assisted Kansas agricultural businesses with applying for the grants, and all five applications received in the state were funded this year. Through this outreach partnership between USDA Rural Development and K-State Research and Extension, Kansas producers were able to better compete at the

national level for funding.

Value-Added Producer Grants may be used for feasibility studies or business plans, working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy projects. Value-added products are created when a producer increases the consumer value of an agricultural commodity in the production or processing stage.

“Honey as a commodity has been underpriced and undervalued for the past five years, and we are working to create products that effectively utilize raw honey produced in the United States,” stated Dr Ron Fessenden, Director of WorldClassEmprise, LLC. “With assistance through the Value-Added Producer

Grant Program, Brown Honey Farms will be able to creatively market honey products that offer numerous health benefits.”

The Agriculture Department, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a national network of state and local offices. Rural Development has an active portfolio of more than \$155 billion in affordable loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

County wheat grower on board

Brian Linn of Sherman County has been elected to the Kansas Wheat Commission in District One.

He currently serves on the commission and is the Chief Financial Officer for Frontier Ag, Inc. Linn earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Kansas State University at Manhattan and is currently working on his Masters of Business Administration from Oklahoma State University.

For District Two Ronald Suppes from Lane County was re-elected to the commission. He has participated in the Kansas Agriculture Rural Leadership program and earned a bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University.

In District Three Jason Ochs from Hamilton County was re-elected to the commission.

He is the board president from Hamilton County Historical Society and is the director for Southwest Kansas Federal Land Bank.

For the Kansas Corn Commission Brian Baalman from Sheridan County has been re-elected from District One. District Two had no candidates and Steve Rome from Stevens County was re-elected for District Three.

There were no candidates for the Kansas Soybean Commission and the Kansas Sunflower Commission.

The 2013 election will cover the eastern third of the state in Districts Seven, Eight and Nine. District Seven includes Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Leavenworth, Marshall, Nemaha, Pottawatomie, Riley and Wyandotte counties. District Eight includes Anderson, Chase, Coffey, Douglas, Franklin, Geary, Johnson, Linn, Lyon, Miami, Morris, Osage, Shawnee and Wabaunsee counties. District Nine includes Allen, Bourbon, Butler, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Cowley, Crawford, Elk, Greenwood, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson and Woodson counties

Grain growers who plan to campaign for a seat on one of the commissions must collect 20 signatures from eligible voters on an official petition form to be included on the 2013 ballot. Official petition forms will be available through the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the grain commodity commissions.

No more than five signatures from any one county will be used to qualify a candidate. Eligible voters are Kansas residents who will reach age 18 before the election and have been growing corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers or wheat during the last three years. The filing deadline for candidates is Nov. 30.

Other candidates are: Jacob Pankonin, automotive technology, Imperial, Neb.; Seth Ackerman, diesel technology, Brewster; Arthur Larson, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration, Atwood; Jonathan Garcia, collision repair, Garden City; Patrick Lorenz, communications technology, Stratton, Neb.; Amanda Pankonin, computer graphics technology, Imperial; Jill Bracelin, cosmetology, St. Francis; Aaron Wolfe, engineering technology, Hays; Laura Titus, medical assistant, Hays campus, Virgil; Tanner Ray, welding, Augusta.

The student of the year winner will be announced at the graduation ceremony on Friday, May 25, at the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Pheasant in flight



The wildlife as well as people enjoyed the unseasonably warm weather in the county on Saturday. This female pheasant was flying to a new location away from the camera. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Five from Goodland nominated for honor

Lauren Weber in business technology, Tyler Jones in carpentry, T.J. Hawkins in electrical technology, Tammy Freeman in medical assistant at the Goodland campus and Joan Partridge in respiratory therapy are among the 14 students nominated by Northwest Kansas Technical College as Northwest Tech Student of the Year.

To be nominated, a student must maintain a minimum grade average of 2.0 and graduate in 2012. Students vote for a candidate from each program, based on leadership, dependability, maturity, industriousness, advocacy for the college, excellence as a student and ability to succeed in their field of study.

'Honky Tonk Angels' to be in Oakley

It happens every day of the year! Somewhere in America, a girl quits her job, kisses her loved ones goodbye and climbs aboard a Nashville-bound Greyhound. And every day those girls arrive in Music City USA with little more than a dream to sustain them.

The adventures of three of these women are in the production, “Honky Tonk Angels” at 6:30 p.m.

(Mountain Time) on Monday at the Oakley High School auditorium.

In Ted Swindley's “Honkey Tonk Angels,” the raucous and touching hit country musical, three attractive and talented young women make their way to Nashville determined to “make it.” Hear the classic tunes of Tammy Wynette, Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn as they were meant to be sung. Follow the adventures of

these three sassy gals as they pursue their Music City dreams. “Stand By Your Man, h gCoal Miner's Daughter, h g9-to-5, h gHarper Valley PTA, h gRocky Top, h gI'll Fly Away, h gThese Boots Are Made For Walkin, h and “Ode to Billy Joe h are some of the country favorites

that make “Honky Tonk Angels” the biggest sure-fire musical theatre hit of the year!

Admission is by Western Plains Arts Association season pass or at the door, adults, \$20, and student kindergarten to 12, \$10.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

**Classifieds work!
899-2338**

The Goodland Star-News
SUBSCRIBER

Judy Siruta

You receive two free passes to see:

**THE VOW
(PG-13)**

Clip and bring to the show.
Non Transferable

**The SHERMAN
THEATRE**

1203 Main Avenue • (785) 899-6103

**HARVEST
LAND & MINERALS**

BUYING MINERALS AND RANCLAND

Interested in selling all or a portion of your minerals or ranchland? We're interested in buying. We offer THE MOST COMPETITIVE PRICES AROUND!!!

Call us today at 1-888-415-5726 or email george@harvestlm.com.

Patient Support Programs at Goodland Regional Medical Center

Tuesday, March 27—Diabetes 101: Session 2—5-6 p.m. MST
Please join us for the second session of this very informative workshop. The presenter, Jillian Richard, APRN, FNP-C, CDE, will speak on a variety of topics concerning diabetes. Presented by KUMC Center for Telemedicine & Telehealth.

Wednesday, March 28—Jin Shin Jyutsu—Building the Immune System—2-3 p.m. MST
Jin Shin Jyutsu, the ancient art of balancing life energy in the body can help strengthen the immune system. Presented by Turning Points.

All programs are free
Meet in the Large Boardroom
220 W. 2nd
Goodland KS 67735
See more information on our website:
www.goodlandregional.com

