

Agri-tourism a future option?

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Thinking of opening a bed and breakfast? Wanting to start an agri-tourism business on your farm?

You can tour an area in, experience other aspects of rural tourism and get ideas and marketing plans from others in the business. And you don't have to leave northwest Kansas.

The Northwest Kansas Rural Experience: Agri-Tourism Plus, a two-day workshop and tour, will be planned for the Goodland area, Atwood and Colby on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 4 and 5.

Early registration needs to be in by Friday, March 17. After that, the registration fee will be higher. Contact the Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development office, 350 S. Range, Suite 13, Colby, Kan. 67701, (785) 462-2602 to register.

The event is for anyone interested in agri-tourism, cultural tourism, bed and breakfasts and rural enjoyment businesses, said Donna Price, director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The tour will offer information on how to start a tourism business, Price said, and a "value-added" concept for existing businesses. It will provide connections for mentoring by people already in the business, she said, and technical assistance from state, federal and local agencies and private organizations for those interested in tourism.

Registration will be at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 4, at the Sherman County 4-H Building. Keynote

speaker Marci Penner, founder of the Kansas Sampler Festival, will give a talk at 9 a.m., and the group will leave Goodland at 9:30 on buses.

The group will arrive at Kuhrt Ranch north of Edson at 10 a.m., where they will be welcomed by owners Paul and Diane Flanders and hear presentations by Bryce Cole, owner of Cole Farms and the corn maze, and Ken Klemm, owner of Klemm Ranch and the Buffalo Guys.

After lunch, there will be a panel on bed and breakfasts and hunting lodges and a tour of Kuhrt Ranch. The group will leave at 2:45 p.m. to arrive at Aberdeen Steak House in Atwood at 4:45 p.m., followed by supper and entertainment. They will return to Goodland after dinner.

Wednesday, April 5, the group will register at 7 a.m. Mountain Time at the Prairie Museum in Colby. There will be breakout sessions, a working lunch, general session and adjournment at 1 p.m.

Those attending can choose three breakout sessions from agri-tourism by the Kansas Department of Commerce, marketing by local tourism businesses, accessing local resources by the Northwest Kansas Travel Council, wildlife issues by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the federal Natural Resources Conservation Services, historical registration by the Kansas State Historical Society and business structure and liability issues by the Small Business Development Center at Fort Hays State University.

School board meeting moved to Wednesday

The Goodland School Board rescheduled its second meeting of the month from Monday night to 4 p.m. Wednesday because of substate basketball games Monday.

Board members will be treated to a demonstration on literacy at West Elementary School by Principal Shelly Angelos and teachers.

The board will get principal evaluations, financial reports and a report from Superintendent Marvin Selby.

Principal evaluations are done by Selby and given to the board and

then the principal gets a chance to talk to the board about it.

Discussion items will include an update by Glen Strait of Strait Associates, Colby, on cost of air conditioning West and North schools. A church group wants to rent the high school auditorium for two months.

Michael Smith's quest for the national presidency of Family Career Community Leaders of America is on the agenda, and Fritz Doke will report on the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center.

Chamber receives boost from Aquila Gas grant

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce got a boost in the form of a \$1,000 grant from Aquila Gas Services, Goodland's natural gas supplier.

Ken Clouse, president of Northwest Kansas Technical College, applied for the grant in November and December, and the Chamber got the money in January.

"Aquila likes to invest back in their communities," Clouse said.

The Chamber had applied for the grant when it reorganized last year. The Chamber board since has developed a new mission and vision statement.

"Aquila realizes the importance of having a Chamber of Commerce office that represents the business community," said Chamber President Brian Linin.



Mary Newman (above) "had a little lamb" in her arms, and Linda Wojtasinski took her picture at the Gattshall farm Monday, Feb. 20, while they, visitors from Hingham, Mass., were in the Goodland area as part an AFS short-term exchange. Diane Gattshall, Drew

Wojtasinski (Linda's son) and Matt Gattshall watched the "Kodak moment." Molly Wagner (below) of Hingham took some helicopter propellers for her classmates from the box held by Earlene Brenner of Goodland at the High Plains Museum on Wednesday.

Photos by Elaine Felver and Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Easterners glimpse rural life experience

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Three white Suburbans, packed full of teenagers, teachers and parents, rumbled around the streets of Goodland and the roads of Sherman County.

The occupants, 21 students from Hingham, Mass., and foreign exchange students from Denmark, Chile and Germany, staying in northwest Kansas, climbed into a combine; held small animals; saw big animals (buffalo); visited historic sites, a feed yard and a sunflower processing plant; and marveled at a giant sunflower painting.

And they ate and ate and ate.

The easterners reported a rough train ride to the Midwest, with bad food and everyone getting sick, but they said they were well fed in Goodland. Hingham is a suburb of Boston, on the south edge of the city along the bay. The students traveled Amtrak to McCook, Neb., and the Goodland High School Suburbans went to pick them up Sunday and returned them to the train Wednesday night.

The exchange was set up by the AFS Club at Goodland High, so the city kids could experience country life, and some Goodland students can go to Boston to experience city life.

"This trip is amazing," said April Conkey, a Hingham student. "We've had so much good food on this trip."

The homemade meals have been really good, said Anne Feldman; Mr. Stone (teacher Dennis Stone) made a really good apple pie.

The food is really fresh here, said Jenny Kahame.

Bigger seemed to be better — several students said they enjoyed the buffalo at the Klemm Ranch, the combine on Bill and Diane Gattshall's farm and the giant replica of Van Gogh's sunflowers.

"I loved the buffalo," said Blair Bailey. "They were huge."

"It was sweet," Rachel Gillard said of the Klemm Ranch, "wicked awesome."

The huge combine was neat, said Mary Newman; that was so much fun.

But the small was good, too. Bailey said she enjoyed the puppies, chickens and lambs at the Gattshall farm.

Carolyn Trogele noticed a lot of differences between Massachusetts and Kansas.

"It's tranquil, peaceful," she said. "I like that. This is my first exchange. I'm glad I did it."

The school here is much smaller than in Hingham, Trogele said, and has different sports — everyone is really into hockey and lacrosse back home. Everyone has trucks here, she added, not cars like at home.

Bailey and Amanda Dolan commented that they liked the real silverware and trays at the high school. The cafeteria at home uses foam and plastic, they said.

Dolan said she also liked that it doesn't snow all the time here, and Bailey liked the night sky. You can see 10 times more stars than back home, she said. Both girls said they would like to come back to Goodland.



"I'll definitely take a trip here some summer," Bailey said.

Several students said that they liked the people here. Adam Fairbanks said he liked his host family, Doug and Jeanne Irvin. They are nice, he said, and have a huge house.

The people are really nice, said Kahame. They're fun, said Gillard.

"I like how everyone knows everyone in town," Newman said. "They all wave at each other."

Hingham students Drew Wojasinski, Sarah Stone, Feldman and Kahme, along with exchange students Lise Vinge from Denmark and Camilo Briceno from Chile (staying in Norton), said there was

a fly in the ointment. Teasing Wanjia Runkel, an exchange student from Germany, they said, "There was this German boy on the trip who wouldn't stop talking."

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.

**USD 352
Board of Education**

cordially invites you to attend an
Open House in honor of
Shelly Angelos,
newly appointed
Superintendent of Schools
March 8, 2006 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

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