



THE MEN'S QUARTET from Deatur Community High, David Morris, Kellen Doeden, Jeremy Tally and Anthony Marshall (from left above), sang a few songs for the audience at the Decatur Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet Thursday night. Eric Eicher (below) talked about differences between the book and movie, "The Wizard of Oz" after dinner. — Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Man talks books

Movie different than the novels

When someone says "The Wizard of Oz," most probably think of the movie with Judy Garland, but not Eric Eicher, who has been studying the movie, the Oz books and their author for years.

At the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet Thursday night, Mr. Eicher, who teaches English at Fort Hays State University, talked about a little of what he has learned about "The Wizard of Oz."

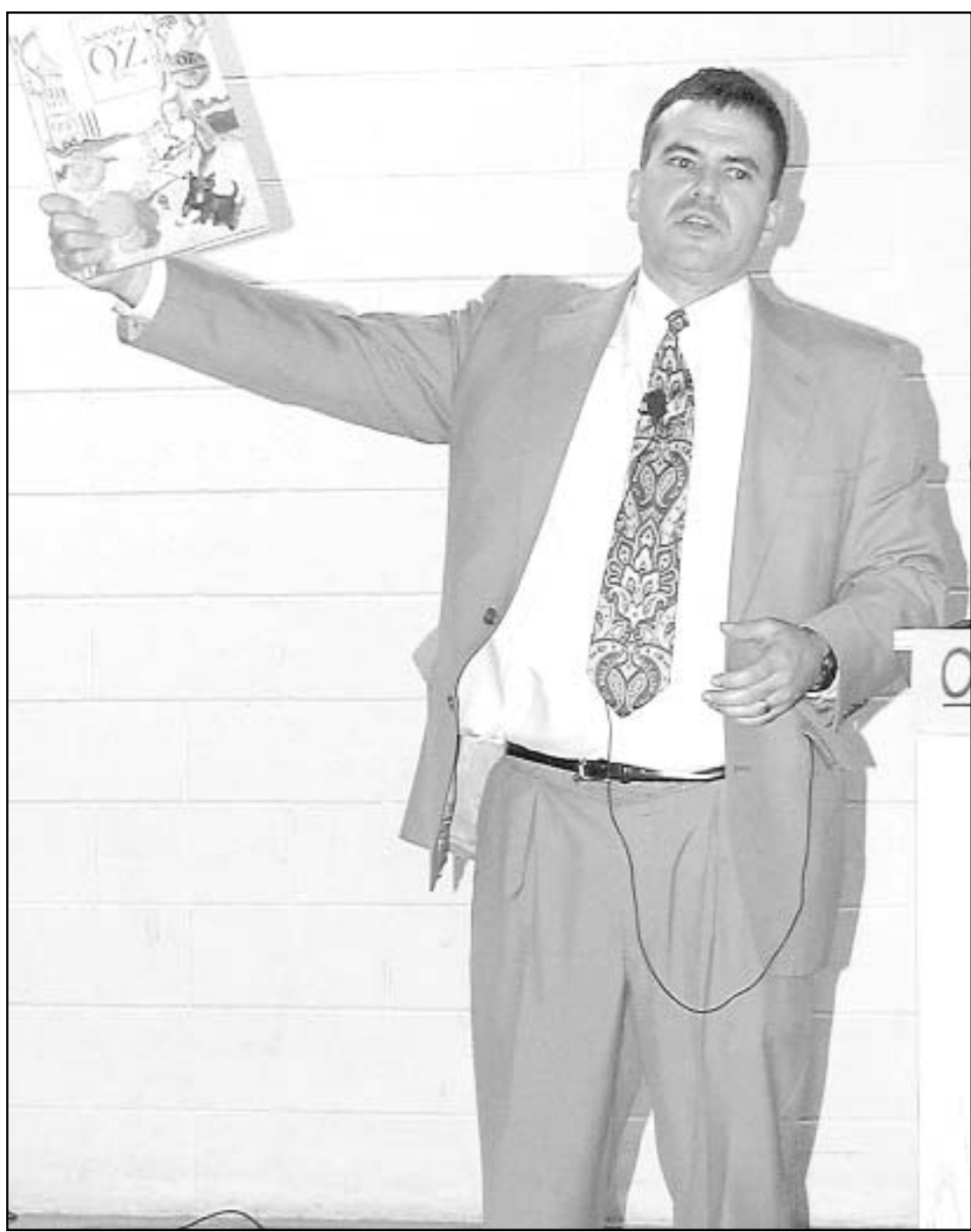
Mr. Eicher has a doctorate in English from the University of Kansas and received his master's from the University of California at Berkeley.

He asked the audience to think of three things about "The Wizard of Oz"

One said ruby red slippers, which, he noted, in the book were actually silver. Another said Toto, the little dog. Mr. Eicher said in early plays, the dog was made into a cow because a person can't fit into a dog costume. Another said tornado, which in the book was called a cyclone.

Mr. Eicher said author L. Frank Baum was born in New York and died at 62. When he was 5, his father struck it rich in oil and the family moved to a country estate. As a boy, Mr. Baum had a weak heart and suffered from several heart attacks.

Mr. Baum was a dreamer and



read lots of fairy tales. He was always interested in theater. His father bought a string of opera houses and his son worked in them, directing and writing plays.

Mr. Eicher said Mr. Baum was in Kansas once, but got only as far

west as Lawrence. Mr. Baum worked as a salesman and newspaper editor before really taking off in his writing career.

Mr. Baum said many people think there is only one book about "The Wizard of Oz," but actually

there are 14 written by Mr. Baum. There are 40 books in all, said Mr. Eicher, but the others were written by later authors hired by the publishers.

Without these books, he said, (See MAN on Page 10A)

Ranch gets new school on wheels

Modular pulled across corn stubble to new home

The Oberlin schools, the county and a company out of Liberal teamed up Friday afternoon to haul a 28x60-foot modular classroom across Lee Martin's field of corn stubble to Sappa Valley Youth Ranch.

The Oberlin School Board purchased the modular building from the Minneola district for \$7,000. It will add two classrooms to the school at the ranch.

After purchasing the building, said Superintendent Kelly Glodt, he started to call around to a few moving companies to see if they could haul it here. All of the companies except for Marcellus House Moving out of Liberal wanted to cut the building in half. Mr. Glodt said the modular has new shingles, so he didn't like that idea.

Marcellus was hired for \$6,600.

Mr. Glodt said he had received permission from Mr. Martin in case the movers had to haul the modular across the field which is south of the ranch from U.S. 36. Mr. Martin suggested that Mr. Glodt talk to county

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman in case they needed help.

Friday morning, Mr. Glodt and Mr. Stallman checked the field out. It was frozen enough, said Mr. Glodt, that they didn't think the truck would sink, but they were worried that it would get stuck and spin its tires in the mud.

Around 1 p.m. when the movers got there, the large semi with the flatbed attached was attached to a dozer. Mr. Glodt said the dozer pulled the large truck right through the field.

"They kept crawling along," he said.

On the other side of the field, they had to take down a white fence to get into the ranch. Earlier, when the building was moving up the Rexford Road, traffic had to detour into the ditch. At least one dump truck got stuck.

Mr. Glodt said the truck could have come on the road, but at the very last little bit they would have had to take down a fence and a bunch (See RANCH on Page 10A)

Telethon celebrates 10 years of service to Decatur County

Ten years ago, the Seeds of Hope Telethon got a kind of rebirth and the community fund-raising program has been going strong ever since.

From 1 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 5, the 10-year anniversary will be celebrated at The Gateway with this year's event.

The telethon started out as a sort of "united fund" which aired on the cable access channel, with Bill Duncan filming and directing. The event stopped and out of that came the Seeds of Hope Telethon.

This year, the committee, recipients, volunteers and talent will celebrate the success of the last 10 years.

Over those 10 years, the telethon has given on average \$558 to 163 recipients, said Anita Hirsch, organizer and one of the original board members who handles talent.

Although the united fund started out supporting Oberlin, the telethon has grown to encompass all of Decatur County, she said.

In the past 10 years, the telethon has raised anywhere from \$2,654 to \$13,775 after expenses.

In the beginning, she said, the telethon focused on talent. Today it also showcases a live auction which is aired on access channel 7. The auction was started by Julia Noone DeGroot and later taken over by Sarah Fredrickson and then Peg Smith, who runs it now.

Ms. Smith sends out letters to area businesses, which in turn donate items to be sold to raise money. Some of the big items this year are a photo package from Photos by Jeannie, a video recorder, tickets to the Royals, Kansas Speedway, and Denver Center Theater Wolf collec-

tor plates and ribeye steaks, cut and wrapped. Items are on display in the Stanley Hardware window.

The auction started nine years ago with 20 items, said Mrs. Hirsch, and has grown to 120.

In 1997, the chili cook off began and is still going. Glenva Nichols heads up the event. Anyone interested in bringing in chili can do so at 4:30 p.m., with judging at 5 p.m.

Mrs. Hirsch said all of the events are important and so are volunteers and those who are willing to give.

Money comes from those who buy items and people who make a donation.

The money is then taken and split among community agencies after expenses are paid. This year, there are 19 recipients.

Mrs. Hirsch has been on board since the telethon reformed 10 years ago, as have Mr. Duncan and Jack Benton. Other committee members are Regina Stanley, treasurer; Kimberly Davis, secretary; Dennis Brown, concessions; and Brenda Ulrich, computer.

At the telethon on Saturday, Feb. 5, Mrs. Hirsch said, there will be a lot of looking back at talent 10 years ago, as well as other parts of the telethon and how it has changed over the years.

One thing that hasn't changed much is that Kent Ploussard and Stan McEvoy have been donating their equipment and helping run music for the event for years.

The telethon is open to everyone who wants to watch. It runs from 1 to 10 p.m. at The Gateway. The committee invites everyone up to have lunch or dinner and to purchase a little something.

Center to get flooring

Decatur County commissioners gave the Golden Age Center board the go ahead to tear up carpet in the hallway and replace it with vinyl at their meeting last Tuesday. They also had a chance to talk about the center's leaky roof.

Commissioners talked with board members Dorothy Moore, Calvin Ufford, Myrna Jones and Barb Solko about the floor.

Ms. Moore said they would like to tear up the carpet in the hallway and have it replaced with linoleum. She said they got an estimate from (See COUNTY on Page 10A)

Rotarians join forces to help tsunami victims with supplies

The Oberlin and Hoxie Rotary clubs purchased a Shelter Box to be sent to tsunami victims in southeast Asia.

This is the first Shelter Box the Oberlin club has purchased, said President Lee Gilliam. The boxes cost \$750 plus freight, he said, which means each club donated \$450 for the box.

The box is a 49-gallon container. Inside are a three-compartment dome tent, 10 sleeping bags, one pack of 180 water purification tablets, two 2.1 gallon collapsible water containers, two sets of cooking and eating utensils, a trenching shovel, a package of three flashlights with batteries, 164 feet of rope, 10 ponchos, a tool kit and a cook stove.

Mr. Gilliam said the clubs were notified recently about the boxes, which are made by a company in Florida. He said the group thought the boxes were expensive, so they asked the Hoxie club to join in with

them.

The club purchased the shelter box a week ago. Mr. Gilliam said there have been 200 boxes delivered to tsunami victims so far, with 700 more ordered and at least 200 more ready to be shipped out from the states.

Although the Oberlin club hasn't purchased a box before, other Rotary clubs in the states sent this type of boxes to Afghanistan a year ago when there was an earthquake, and to Grenada when a hurricane hit. Mr. Gilliam said purchasing the box goes along with the object of Rotary which is "service above self."

He said several members have made individual donations through the club for tsunami relief.

Mr. Gilliam said the club has 43 members. They meet at noon every Tuesday at The Gateway. The group's next project is Rotary Radio Day in March.

School board election will have one race

As of Monday afternoon, there was going to be one race in the upcoming school election, for the District 4 seat for the Oberlin School Board.

Both Delayne May and Jody Robertson had filed for the seat. So far, that is the only seat that has competition.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn, the county election officer, said Deputy Jackson had filed for reelection for District 6 and Chris

Bailey for District 5

In the Oberlin City Council race, Joe Stanley and Jay Anderson have filed for re-election. As of Monday, Stan McEvoy hadn't filed.

Louise Cressler filed for the Jennings City Council and Frances Bader for the Jennings School Board. There are three seats up for election on the council and three on the school board.

The books closed at noon on Tuesday.

* County says yes to work

(Continued from Page 1A)
The Carpet Center.

When the carpet is torn up, she said, the little ramp in the hallway will need some repairs. With the estimate for linoleum, she said, she thought it would cost around \$400.

What is the condition of the carpet in the front room? asked Commissioner Patricia Glenn. It is good, said Ms. Moore. She said they just want to do the hallway. If there is linoleum in the hallway, she said, it can be cleaned easier.

Mrs. Solko said it would be nice to get something in there with a little texture so no one slips.

Mr. Ufford said possibly some of the men who go to the center could tear the carpet out or help with the ramp.

The commissioners told them to go ahead and work.

Ms. Moore said Golden Age is a viable center, with 40 to 50 people in and out of it every day. The building is rented weekly by one group and monthly by another. It is well used, she said.

The condition of the building is good, but the roof is a big problem which she knows the commissioners are aware of.

Recently, she said, a ceiling tile fell out and water spilled out of the hole all over the floor. She said the hole is covered with a piece of cardboard to keep the cold air out.

Bob Berls, courthouse custodian, has the ceiling tiles to replace the one that fell out.

Maybe there is a grant available for the roof, said Ms. Moore. The commissioners said they have looked and haven't found anything yet.

Is there a property tax levy, asked Ms. Moore? There is a senior citizen tax levy of .795 of a mill, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn. That generates around \$23,000 to \$24,000 a year, said County Attorney Steve Hirsch. The money is split among the senior citizen groups in Oberlin, Jennings and Norcatur.

Ms. Moore said the roof is a major request. She said they would also like an overview of the building again.

That roof, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, is a major disaster. It overlaps with the roof on Sunflower Cinema and has about every kind of roofing a person can imagine.

"You can't really appreciate the disaster without seeing it," said Mr. Unger.

Mr. Brown said the commissioners have looked at grants and other options.

The problem is that foundations tend to think of roofs more as maintenance, said Mr. Hirsch.

There was a plan to put a new roof over both the center and the theater, said Mr. Unger. He didn't know where the theater stood on that idea.

The theater is in the same boat as the center, said Ms. Moore. Where are they going to get money for a roof?

The county got an estimate of \$60,000 to replace the roof on both buildings, Mrs. Horn said.

"We realize the roof is a problem you know about," said Ms. Moore. "We just wanted to present it again because it poses a problem for those on the inside."

Maybe the center board could get some proposals from contractors, said Mr. Hirsch. That way the county would have some ideas.

"We all know the problem," said Mr. Ufford, "but don't know the solutions. The question is, do you keep making repairs and struggling along, or close it up?"

No one has ever talked about closing the center, said Mr. Brown.

The commissioners said it was OK for the board to talk with some contractors. The center hasn't been forgotten, said Mr. Brown; the county is just trying to figure the roof out.



FRIDAY AFTERNOON, a county road dozer (above) helped pull a semi-trailer truck loaded with a 28x60-foot modular classroom across a corn field belonging to Lee

Martin south of Sappa Valley Youth Ranch. A man from Marcellus House Moving (below) used a large pole to hold up a utility line. — Photos by Kelly Glodt and Aurelia Jackson

* Ranch gets two more classrooms

(Continued from Page 1A)

Mr. Glodt said he told the board he wanted to do all the up-front work for \$20,000. He said they were having some concrete poured and plumbing work done inside the building.

Someone from the district still needs to go to Minneola and get the steps, ramps and skirting for the building.

The building, said Mr. Glodt, was the right price and will add two more classrooms for the ranch boys and teachers. The new modular has two bathrooms, while the old one doesn't have any.

Currently, there are just two classrooms at the ranch. Mr. Glodt said the district is using money that has to be spent at the ranch on the new classrooms. He said none of the general fund or capital out-

lay that can be spent in town is being spent at the ranch.

They absolutely needed the room, he said. They have been getting by with split classrooms, but four rooms will be a much better learning environment.

Aurelia Jackson, who teaches at the ranch, said they have some new ideas for both the current building and new one.

She said they would like to keep the east classroom in the old building as the math and social studies room. In the west classroom, she said, she would like a wall built where the divider is located. On one side, there will be office space with a conference room. On the other side, there will be a combination library and teacher workspace. The office could then be used to keep records and supplies.

In the new building, said Mrs. Jackson, one room could be used



for English and life skills. She said she would like a 220 electric line added so an electric range could be put in and a 110 line for a refrigerator.

She said possibly a sink could also be installed. The other room will then be for physical education and science.

Credit union has one of its best years

By VERONICA MONIER

The United Northwest Federal Credit Union of Norton and Oberlin had a good year, Board Chairman Steve Mathes said at last Monday's annual meeting, one of the best years the organization had ever had.

He said they had an increase of over \$2 million in total assets, its best ever. Over the past five years, he said assets have increased by more than \$12 million, well over 100 percent.

Mr. Mathes said the credit union added 50 new members in 2004 and 557 over the last five years.

"Management and the board of directors will continue to do everything we can to make sure the credit union does well," he said. "Hopefully, we'll have more good news to give next year."

Manager Mark Keilig went over the financial and manager's reports with the more than 200 customer members who attended the meeting.

Mr. Keilig said in 2004, the financial institution had given 1,021 loans to 649 borrowers for almost \$14 million with a \$247,000 allowance for loan losses, and had \$7.5 million in cash and investments, \$76,000 in land and buildings, \$46,000 in furniture and fixtures, and more than \$318,000 in other assets for almost \$21.7 million in total assets.

There were \$70,500 in liabilities, \$19,600 in shares deposited, and \$2 million in reserves for almost \$21.7 million in liabilities and owners' equity.

He said the credit union had a

gross income of \$1.2 million, expenses were \$532,000, and almost \$321,000 was paid out in dividends, for a net income of \$364,000, an increase over last year's \$254,000.

The credit union had 2,221 members in 2004.

"It has been another successful year," he said, "but it takes the members to make it that way."

Mr. Keilig said there are a few political issues that could cause problems, including a push from the Kansas Bankers Association to tax credit unions. This is one benefit of being a cooperative, he said; it helps credit unions offer higher savings rates and lower loan rates to members. Mr. Keilig encouraged members to contact their legislators if this becomes an issue.

He said they are also watching bankruptcy reform, which could help credit unions slow unpaid debt.

Mr. Keilig said "Internet fishing" is a big problem. He gave members a few tips to avoid identity theft, including destroying private records and statements when you're done with them, securing mail, safeguarding Social Security numbers by not placing them on checks, not leaving a "paper trail" by always taking your credit card and debit card receipts, knowing who you're dealing with, taking your name off of marketers "hit lists", being defensive with personal information, monitoring your credit report, and reviewing credit card statements to make sure there are no discrepancies.

Bill Beale gave the supervisory committee report, saying that all of the records were in good order. He said the federal examiners gave a good report and hope that the credit union continues in the direction it's

headed. He said the supervisory committee will continue to work with the employees and do business as usual.

In board elections, Mr. Mathes and Jim Green were re-elected to three-year terms. Also on the ballot were Joy Johnson and Alan Hale.

Special gifts were given to Mr. Keilig for his 10 years of service, Denise Bailey for 25 years and Don McClelland for 10 years as a volunteer.

Members of the board are Greg Engel, Bette Townsend and Jim Green.

Making up the supervisory committee are Don McMullen, Mr. Beale and Brenda Mann. Employees are Mr. Keilig, Ms. Bailey, Sharon Black (Oberlin), Lori Duscher, Susan Gilgenbach, Jamie Applegate, Kimberly Soutter and Carissa Lacy.

* Man studies author

(Continued from Page 1A)

entertainment wouldn't be what it is today. Mr. Eicher likened "The Wizard of Oz" series to the Harry Potter books today.

In the books, he said, Oz is a real place, just like Hogwarts is. He said Mr. Baum popularized the idea of a good witch.

"You couldn't have Harry Potter without that idea," he said.

He said there are actually three versions of the movie — one made in 1910, one in 1925 and the 1939 version with Judy Garland. He said he hadn't seen the 1910 version, but saw the 1925 version, which was a silent film.

Mr. Eicher said some believe that the books were about the Populist movement and dealt with the politics of the time. He said he doesn't think that a man who wrote dozens of books, plays and songs had time to work in a parable of that kind. Besides, he said, Mr. Baum didn't want to alienate his readers.

Mr. Eicher said Mr. Baum wrote his last two books while he was bedridden. The author's last words were, "now we can cross the shifting sands." Mr. Eicher said the shifting sands were a way to get into or out of the land of Oz, but who knows what Mr. Baum meant by that.

Board elected

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce board has three new faces after the annual banquet Thursday night at The Gateway.

The 82 people who came for dinner and entertainment elected Pam Wilson who works for Warren Bainter, Kem Bryan, and Doug Brown who works at The Bank, to the board. They will serve for three years, replacing Derek Riner who works at Pauls Funeral Home, Judy Scott who works at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch and Marilyn Noone who works at First National Bank.

Chamber Manager Glenva Nichols said attendance was up about 20 over last year. She said she thought that was pretty good, especially since the high school was having a basketball tournament.

The Chamber honored four from Decatur County including Richard Anderson, who farms near the Rawlins County line, who received the Agriculture Builder of the Year award; Bob Fraker, longtime manager of the Oberlin Airport, the Community Leadership award for what he has done over the years; former grocer Don Fredrickson, Volunteer of the Year award; and Family and Consumer Science teacher Marlene Moxter for Educator of the Year.

Cover Your Acres Winter Conference

February 3, 2005 at the Gateway in Oberlin, KS

Kansas State University and the Northwest Kansas Crop Residue Alliance

Discussing the latest technology, methods, and conservation practices to improve crop production on the High Plains

Time	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Exhibit Hall
7:45 - 8:15	Registration					
8:15 - 8:35	Welcome with Dave Mengel, Department of Agronomy Chair					
	University Sessions			Industry Sessions		
8:45 - 9:33 a.m.	GPS Guidance Systems*	Corn vs. Grain sorghum production	Cover Your Acres Results	Rimsulfuron: New herbicide for RR Corn		Sponsor Displays (machinery, equipment, and information from industry)
9:40 - 10:28	Spray Application Technology*	Crop Insurance	Dryland strip-till and skip row corn	No-till Harvesting Equipment	Sunflower Production	
10:35 - 11:23	Soil Sampling and Precision Ag: Does it Pay?	Dryland strip-till and skip row corn	N & P fertilizer in no-till systems	Sunflower Production	Cimarron Max for Pastures	
11:30 - 12:30	Managing changing weed populations brought on by glyphosate*			Noon Meal		
12:40 - 1:40	Managing changing weed populations brought on by glyphosate*			Noon Meal		
1:50 - 2:38	Soybean Rust Management*	Spray Application Technology*	Tree Loss in Windbreaks		GPS - basics, yield mapping, auto steer vs. assisted steer	Sponsor Displays (machinery, equipment, and information from industry)
2:45 - 3:33	N & P fertilizer in no-till systems	Dryland Soybean Productions	GPS Guidance Systems*	Redball LLC: Applying Innovation		
3:40 - 4:28	No-till Crop Production (10 year study)	Drill vs. planted dryland grain sorghum and soybeans	Soybean Rust Management*	The Only Way to Spray	Advantages of the new JD skid-steer	
4:35 - 5:23 p.m.	Corn vs. Grain sorghum production	Dryland Soybean Productions	No-till Crop Production (10 year study)	Advantages of the new JD 4920 Sprayer		
5:30 - 6:10	Q & A with Fred Cholick, new Dean of Agriculture at K-State, and Daryl Buchholz, Associate Director of Extension					
6:10 - 8:00	Industry Sponsored Bull Session (refreshments and heavy hors d'oeuvres provided) in commercial display area					

CEU credits for CCAs have been applied for all university sessions, *CEU credits for 1A for Commercial Applicators have been approved.

Sponsors - Southwest Implement, Hoxie Implement, Redball with Colby Implement, DuPont Ag with Pioneer Hybrids, and the High Plains Sunflower Committee

Registration - Registration fee **\$8.00** if postmarked by **January 27**. After this date, registration will be **\$25.00**.

Proceedings for conference along with refreshments and meals (breakfast, lunch, supper) are included in the registration fee.

Mail registration and check, payable to KSU

Please include the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

Program will be held regardless of weather.

Northwest Area Extension Office
ATTN: Brian Olson
PO Box 786
Colby, KS 67701

Crew has new leader in Jennings

The Jennings ambulance service has a new supervisor.

Christina Green, 25, who has four years emergency medical technician experience, was appointed to the position at a meeting of volunteers last Wednesday. She replaces Sharla Ritter, who resigned when she moved to Oberlin. Ms. Ritter still is a volunteer for the Oberlin service. Mrs. Green, a native of Oberlin, has lived in Jennings the last five years. She and her husband Eric have two children, Malilah, 2 1/2, and Mason, 6 months.



C. Green