



**FARMERS WORRY ABOUT** repopulation of the black-footed ferret because it feeds on prairie dogs, which they say tend to overrun protected land and get into neighboring farms.

— U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# Counties argue ferret program

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**  
sdecamp@nwkansas.com

The two new county commissioners dove right into work at their first meeting, first taking the oath of office, then agreeing to keep incumbent Commissioner Stan McEvoy as chairman of the board.

Commissioners Sid Metcalf and Brad Marcuson sat on either side of Mr. McEvoy on Jan. 15 as the three casually voted to make Mr. Metcalf the vice-chairman over the noise of the festivities for outgoing Commissioners Ralph Unger and Gene Gallentine in the hall outside.

And the first order of business? Why, the black-footed ferret, of course.

“There is an effort underway,” Noxious Weed Director Gaylen Huntley said sighing, “to save the black-footed ferret. And the only area we have in Kansas with them is in Logan County.”

Mr. Huntley explained that a landowner in Logan made an agreement with the U.S. Department of Fish and Game to set aside anywhere from 1,500 to 3,000 acres of his own land for the ferrets. The agreement is part of a plan to get enough land for about 1,000 wild ferrets today to become 3,000 before lifting them from the endangered species list.

The commissioners decided to sign and send a letter of opposition to the Safe Harbor Agreement, which is being proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, an alliance of western states including Kansas.

The concern, the commissioners said in the letter, is for the rights of landowners who live near a site where the ferrets would be released. Ferrets feed on prairie dogs, which tend to reproduce a lot faster than

their predators, commissioners said, and consequently end up infesting not just the land where the ferrets are released, but surrounding farmland as well.

The letter asked those crafting the proposal to consider making it so that if prairie dogs do encroach on neighboring land, that owner can then ask the county to take care of the problem, and the county, in turn, would then bill the landowner who is reintroducing the ferrets.

The letter said specifically that the commissioners would like for those seeking help in the fight against prairie dogs be able to appeal to their county government, as opposed to a federal agency.

Mr. Huntley said that the reason Decatur County should be concerned is that it will be under the same rules as Logan County, should the measure go through, and should someone decide to put ferrets on his or her land here. Once the federal government comes in to do something like this, he said, neither the state nor the county would have any say in what happens to the land.

“This agreement lets them put a finger in the pie,” said Mr. Huntley, “and lets them go a step further. I have no problem with the black-footed ferret, but I don’t want the federal government involved.”

In other business, commissioners:

- Appointed Sheryl Unger to the Health Advisory Board, which fills that board.

- Approved a motion to pay \$1,500 to the Kansas County Association Multi-line Pool (KCAMP) for liability insurance for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. on the county’s policy.

# Free screenings for cancer available

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**  
sdecamp@nwkansas.com

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment offers free, regular screenings for both cervical and breast cancer to uninsured low-income women in Decatur County.

To see if you qualify for the free screenings, said Rita Davenport, clinical nurse manager for the Early Detection Works program in Topeka, run by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment under a grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Women should call the centers’ toll-free number, (877) 275-5302, where they will be asked about their income and size of their family. If you qualify as low income, you can call the Decatur County Health Department to make an appointment at (785) 475-8118, she said.

The centers say breast cancer is the most common in women, and the second leading type of cancer that results in death. In contrast, cervical cancer is now considered a “preventable” disease, highly curable when found early.

“The program serves women from ages 40 to 64,” Ms. Davenport said, “who have no insurance and (qualify as low income). For example, a single person living alone can make up to \$23,925 a year. For a family of four, the maximum is \$48,375, and a family of eight can make up to \$80,875....”

Women under 40, she added, also may qualify if they meet income guidelines and have had an abnormal pap test. Every participant needs to re-qualify every year.

Ms. Davenport said that women should be aware that the guidelines for screening cervical cancer (via a “pap test”) in particular have changed.

“If a woman is under 21, she shouldn’t have pap tests,” she said. “For ages 21 to 65, they should receive pap tests every three years. That’s if they just do paps alone. If they co-test with a human papillomavirus test, and it comes back normal, then it’s every five years.”

The virus is a common sexually transmitted disease which may have no symptoms. It is known to cause cervical cancer.

Ms. Davenport said that once a woman is 65 or older, if all of her previous tests have been normal, or if she has had a hysterectomy, than there is no need for her to keep getting them.

The American Cancer Society recommends that women over age 20 have a clinical breast exam and a mammogram X-ray every year and do a self examination every month. An annual mammogram and clinical exam are free for women over age 40 enrolled in the program.

An additional measure you can take to prevent cervical cancer is the Gardasil vaccination against the human papillomavirus (also known as HPV), the leading cause of cervical cancer. This is also available through the health department. Most insurance covers it, said Karen Eskew, office manager for the department, but if you’re paying out of pocket it costs a total of \$426–\$142 for each of the three shots required. The vaccine is recommended for all ages and both sexes, she said.

Worried about lung cancer? The best prevention is to stop smoking. There’s a state program called KanQuit. If you call the toll-free number at (800) 784-8669, you’ll be paired with a “Quit Coach” who will help you through the process, the program’s website says.

# County bridges catch a break on regulations

For once, a change in a federal regulation is actually going to help a little.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman told county commissioners at their meeting last Tuesday that the definition of what constitutes a bridge in Kansas has changed, affecting many bridges in Decatur County.

A bridge is now a bridge – and therefore required to have a yearly inspection – only if the inside width of it measures 20 feet or more, he said. The county, Mr. Stallman said, has been paying

inspection fees for those bridges that measure 20 feet or longer on their outside width.

That has pulled somewhere from six to eight bridges off the list, he said, and the county’s inspector is now reviewing other bridges to see if there are more that no longer need inspections. The inspections generally cost about \$85 per bridge every two years.

Mr. Stallman said that there are at least two bridges that he plans on working on this year, one just north of the Traer Cemetery and the

other about eight miles east and 5 1/2 miles north of Oberlin.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Appointed Dori Pauls of Pauls Funeral Home to the High Plains Mental Health board.
- Approved a motion to appoint Michael Zollinger to replace the late Lawrence Jennings as the Pleasant Valley clerk.
- Heard from weed-control director Gaylen Huntley that recycling increased by two tons last year.

B  
U  
L  
L  
  
S  
A  
L  
E  
S


**For Sale**  
**Simmental and Simangus bulls**  
**by Klein Ranch, Atwood, Kansas.**

Sold on February 16, 2013 at Dixon Farms.



Check us out at  
kleinranch.net or  
contact Heath  
at (785) 626-4212.






**40th Annual Production Sale**  
**Tuesday, March 5,**  
**2013 - 1:00 PM**

At the ranch located eight miles north and one mile west of Guide Rock, Nebraska


4 YEARLING BULLS • 41 TWO YEAR OLD BULLS  
30 BRED TWO YEAR OLD HEIFERS

LOT 26 • S&S INVESTMENT 44Y



• Big growthy 2 year old bulls like this one who sells as Lot 26. They’ve been fed right and get plenty of exercise.

LOT 49 • S&S LADY CURLY 853Y



• Top bred heifers sell like this one who sells as Lot 49. All will be spring calvers and many are safe to their AI date.


**DVAuction**  
Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions

This sale will be broadcast live on the internet  
**www.dvauction.com**  
Real time bidding & proxy bidding available

View Our Catalog Online at: **www.schutteandsons.net**

**SCHUTTE & SONS**  
Ron and Nancy Schutte • 1417 Road 2100, Guide Rock, NE 68942  
Phone: (402) 756-3462 • Cell Phone: (402) 746- 4378  
Email: rnschutte@gtmc.net


**12TH ANNUAL**  
*"Dollars" and "Sense"*  
**"Production Sale"**  
**Friday, February 15, 2013**  
12:30 PM Central Time  
At the ranch 10 S & 3.5 W of Gove



“Lot 1 is an extra stout Final Answer son out of the 080 donor cow”

Offering Includes  
55 Angus Bulls  
(35 Yrlgs & 20 Virgin 2's)  
A.I. Sires: SAV Final Answer,  
TC Aberdeen & more!  
Also Selling  
30 Yrlg. Heifers

For more information, contact



**Larry & Anita Lundgren & family**  
3633 County Rd. 1  
Gove, KS 67736  
785-938-4404 • 785-673-9047  
**www.LundgrenAngusRanch.com**


**DIXSON FARMS INC**  
**Simmentals**

**Private Treaty Sale and Open House**  
**February 16, 2013**

**Selling:**  
**34 Yearling Bulls**  
**4 Coming 2-year-olds**

Carol Dixon, Kevin Dixon & Lyle Dixon DVM  
13703 Beaver Creek Rd. • Atwood, KS 67730  
785-626-3744 • [drlyle@live.com](mailto:drlyle@live.com)


Visit us on the web to see more pictures and sale updates  
**www.dixonfarms.com**  
*Your Western Kansas source for SimGenetics*



**S A V Final Answer**

ASA# 2320695  
EPDs: 21 -4.3 74 122 14 22 59 \$API: 154 \$TI: 80  
An outstanding set of black bulls featuring sons of Final Answer, Manifest, Dual Focus and DX Thunder.

**purebred & SimAngus™ Bulls**



**RFS Red Iron T20**

ASA#2409687  
EPDs: 8 2.4 73 101 11 29 65 \$API: 115 \$TI: 72  
Ten red bulls sell featuring a herd sire prospect by HSF High Roller. Other featured sires include DX Wonderboy, Shear Force and Red Iron.