

*KANSAS HORSE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER.
NEWS FOR KANSAS AND THE EQUINE INDUSTRY.*



July 2021 EDITION



News, announcements and events from around Kansas, regarding the Kansas equine industry. Legislation, Insurance, Equipment & Retail discounts are just some of our membership benefits! Visit our website to learn more.

Join our herd!

Visit our Website

2021 Upcoming Events and Calendar

For additional events throughout the year visit:
Calendar of Submitted Events

Any questions regarding events, please call us at
785-776-0662

If interested in more information or to register for an event, please email us at
director@kansashorsecouncil.com

Bunker Hill Founders Day Parade

With everything opening back up again, it is time to start going back out into the world. What better way to do that then a parade

full of interesting and fun horse attractions!

The town of Bunker Hill in Russell County, KS is putting on a parade for their 150th anniversary!

Come help them celebrate!

If you would like to have an entry in the parade to participate, contact Parade Chairman, Alison Foos. Information on attached flyer below.

Image: REMINDER TO BUY LOCAL ADVERTISED BACK IN THE DAY DURING PARADE



MAKE A LITTLE HISTORY BY PARTICIPATING IN THE BUNKER HILL
FOUNDERS DAY

150th ANNIVERSARY PARADE!

Horses, carriages, horse drawn floats, in hand, under saddle, come out to
Russell County Kansas to help this little town

celebrate a milestone!

PARADE DATE JULY 31st , START TIME 1pm

Beginning on the north end of Elm Street

Parade entries will assemble on east end of 5th street at noon.

MUST BE ENTERED TO PARTICIPATE

Contact Parade Chairman, Alison Voos at 785-483-8126

WOULD BE GREAT TO SEE LOTS OF HORSES ENTERED!

Kansas Ag Summit



SAVE THE DATE!!

Equine Session
July 28 from 2:00 - 4:00pm.
via zoom

Sixth annual Kansas Ag Summit
August 26 at the Manhattan Conference Center

[Click the link to register!](#)

[Register Here](#)

Agenda for Equine Session



Equine

July 28, 2021 (Wednesday), 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Welcome & Overview of Session Ground Rules	Janelle Dobbins, KDA Justine Staten, KS Horse Council
Spotlight on Patrick Gottsch	Patrick Gottsch, RFD TV and Cowboy Channel
Purpose and Function for CVB/DMO	Danielle Crouch, Western State Bank Expo Center
Thinking About Starting an Equine Business	Roger McEowen, Washburn Law Professor
State of State 4-H and FFA	Shane Potter, KSRE & Mary Kane, FFA Foundation
United Horse Coalition & Right Horse Initiative – Who are They?	Dr. Tom Lenz, AAEP & Dr. Emily Weiss, ASPCA
Parks Report for 2021	Trent McCown & Ted Craig, KDWP
Rapid Fire Infrastructure Development & Renovation	Dr. Jackie McClaskey, American Royal Sen. Ed Berger, Kansas State Fair
Questions from Chat Submissions	Olivia Hoots, KDA
Vote on 2022 Objectives & Session Adjournment	Justine Staten, KS Horse Council

Thank You

Register now for the Ag Growth Summit: Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021
www.agriculture.ks.gov/Summit

More Equine Events Going on Throughout July:

OTHER EQUINE EVENTS IN KS

KQHA:

- July 12-14: Youth Excellence Seminar. Amarillo, TX
- July 28-Aug 7: AQYHA World Championship. Oklahoma, OK.

Domer Livestock Arena,

Topeka, KS:

- July 7: KS 09 Barrel Race

Bar K Bar Arena, Lyons, KS:

- July 24-25: KPTHA Show. Sunflower Showdown

Central KS Youth Rodeo Assoc:

- July 10-11: Tom Miller Arena, Canton, KS

KS Junior Rodeo Assoc:

- July 10-11: Rodeo in Emporia

KS Paint Horse Association:

- July 10-11: at Hutchinson, KS

Kansas Rodeos:

- July 9: Tri County Free Fair Rodeo, Herington, KS
- July 13-14: Ellis County Fair and Rodeo, Hays, KS
- July 13-14: American Legion IPRA World Rodeo
- July 16: Franklin County Fair and Rodeo
- July 16-17: Northeast Kansas Rodeo
- July 16-17: Junction City Rodeo, Junction City, KS
- July 21-22: Kansas Largest Night Rodeo, Pretty Prairie, KS
- July 24: Topeka NBHA KS 01, Topeka, KS
- July 30: Meade County Fair Ranch Rodeo, Meade, KS



JOIN TODAY! 785-776-0662

You may also join or renew online at
www.kansashorsecouncil.com

Kansas Horse Council Foundation Presents Scholarships To Encourage Youth Advancing Their Equine Endeavors

By Frank J. Buchman

Youth with lifetime interests in horses and plans to work with and serve the equine industry have received stipend recognition. Thirteen young horse enthusiasts received Kansas Horse Council Foundation Scholarships at the awards ceremonies in Wamego. Hosted by the Kansas Horse Council (KHC), the program was moderated by Justine Staten, KHC executive director. "The Kansas Horse Council provides the state's equine industry with leadership and direction through education, promotion and public policy advocacy," Staten said.

Scholarship recipients this year include Jodi Banks, Caitlyn Champaign, Collin Champaign, Courtney Clinesmith, Morgan Clinesmith, Marcus Hetherington, Chancy Johnson, Ryan Klamm, Kirsten Miessler, Megan Miller, Megan Newlon, Brook Staten and Shelby Taylor.

"The Kansas Horse Council Foundation managed by a board of directors is a 501c3 nonprofit group founded in 2003," Staten said. "Mission is encouraging learning and higher education pursuits of individuals involved in the equine industry." Scholarships are funded by an auction during the Equifest of Kansas, as well as by private donations. "It really makes an impact when we have returning support from benefactors such as the Weary Family Trust," Staten said. "Caren Dumler was an outstanding auction supporter this year, but she passed away so will not be a recurring contributor." Amount of the KHCF Scholarship varies from year to year. "We never have the same amount to award, and we don't set a limit on number of recipients," Staten said.

Celsey Jo Crabtree, KHCF Scholarship recipient as an undergraduate, challenged the youth as they move forward in their equine pursuits. Now working toward a K-State graduate equine degree, Crabtree credited the scholarship for assistance in her diverse horse activities. Joyce Troyer, active KHC member, introduced scholarship recipients during a slide presentation relating comments from their essays.

Jodi Banks, daughter of Dean and Angie Banks at Muscotah, is a recent graduate of Atchison High School. She will be attending the University of Kansas with plans for a digital mapping career while becoming a professional horse trainer.

Caitlyn Champagne, daughter of Chris and Carolyn Champagne at Lawrence graduated from Perry-Lecompton High School. She will attend Kansas State University and intends to become a physical therapist traveling to other countries helping those in need.

Carolyn's brother, Collin Champagne is currently a junior at Kansas State University majoring in construction science and management. With his career as a construction industry contractor or engineer, Collin intends to also pursue horse training and automotive work.

Courtney Clinesmith, daughter of Bill and Stephanie Clinesmith at Cimarron, graduated from Cimarron High School. She will be attending Kansas State University majoring in secondary education to teach English while also coaching cross country and track.

Courtney's older sister, Morgan Clinesmith is a sophomore attending Colby Community College (CCC) majoring in horse production and management. Morgan plan to remain heavily involved within the horse industry and have a breeding and training operation.

Marcus Hetherington, son of Brandon and Julie Hetherington of Valley Falls, is attending Pratt Community College studying electrical power technology. Marcus intends to become an electrical lineman supervisor while working on the family farm and showing horses.

Chancy Johnson, daughter of Chad and Janon Johnson at White City, is the valedictorian graduate of White City High School. She will be on the Northeastern Oklahoma A&M (NEO) Rodeo Team at Miami, Oklahoma, and plans to become an agriculture accountant.

Ryan Klamm, son of Andy and Liz Klamm at Hutchinson, is a junior studying food science at Kansas State University. Currently an intern for Ardent Mills Food Plant, Ryan plans to work in research for the pet food industry while serving as a 4-H horse project leader.

Kirsten Miessler, daughter of Ronald and Heather Miessler of Seward, graduated from Great Bend High School. She will attend Colby Community College in youth education bringing her love of horses and children together giving lessons to disabled youth.

Megan Miller, daughter of Mike and Wendi Miller at Oskaloosa, is a sophomore majoring in agriculture business and accounting at Colby Community College (CCC). She plans to attain a Kansas State University accounting master's degree and then continue community service.

Megan Newlon, daughter of Jeff and Vicky Newlon at Hugoton, is a Oklahoma State University sophomore in agricultural communications Megan hopes to manage a Texas breeding barn facility and will continue developing her own media and marketing business.

Brook Staten, daughter of Tony and Justine Staten at Olsburg, is a Chadron State College freshman in rangeland wildlife management. After adopting a wild horse, she wants to help develop balance between nature and wild horses in the Bureau of Land Management.

Shelbey Taylor, daughter of Todd and Becky Taylor at Kansas City, attends the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Intending to develop a mixed animal veterinary practice, Shelbey will continue working with children increasing their horse knowledge.



Front Row, Left to Right: Megan Newlon, Megan Miller, Jodi Banks
Back Row, Left to Right: Collin Champagne, Caitlyn Champagne, Chancy Johnson, Kirsten Miessler
Not Pictured: Courtney Clinesmith, Morgan Clinesmith, Marcus Hetherington, Ryan Klamm, Brook Staten, Shelbey Taylor

Equine Owners and Enthusiasts!

The Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health is wanting equine owners to start taking proactive measures to prevent VSV, Vesicular Stomatitis Virus.

Last year, there was an outbreak across Kansas of VSV. This year, the KDA and KHC want owners to be aware of the symptoms and signs of the virus to help prevent another outbreak from occurring.



Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) in Horses

Vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) is a viral disease that primarily affects horses and cattle and occasionally swine, sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas. Humans can also become infected with the disease when handling affected animals, resulting in flu-like symptoms, but this is a rare event. Time from exposure to the onset of clinical signs is 2-8 days.

Infected premises are placed under quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. VSV is a state reportable disease.



Symptoms:

1. Excessive salivation
2. Lesions in the mouth & nose
3. Lack of appetite
4. Lesions around the feet
5. Lameness
6. Teat, prepuce & ear lesions

Report:

Vesicular stomatitis is a reportable disease. To report VSV, call the Kansas Division of Animal Health at 785-564-6601.

Prevention:

1. Strict fly control in and around the farm
 - Manure management and elimination of fly breeding areas
 - Appropriate insecticide use for horses, barns, and outdoor areas
2. Do not share equipment, tools, or tack
3. Separate suspect animals immediately and report
4. Shows, fairs, and rodeos may institute new entry requirements
 - A health certificate issued within 2-5 days prior to an event can be beneficial in reducing risks



Widespread Community Volunteerism And Support Bring Western Action Back To Odin Rodeo Grounds

By Frank J. Buchman

"Life has returned to the largest most elaborate rural rodeo grounds in one of the smallest towns in the Midwest." After hosting the top rodeo in the state for several years, the outstanding facilities set idle for almost two decades. "It was a sad shame for such a great rodeo grounds being unused and so rapidly deteriorating," exclaimed Deidre Moran.

In Barton County, close-by Great Bend, Odin has population less than 100 strong in volunteerism matched from a wide area. "I helped park cars at the rodeo on my Pinto pony when I was just a little girl," Deidre said. "The arena has always been important to me, so I was quite pleased they asked me to oversee the renovations." Coronavirus last year slowed initial progress, but activities at the Odin Rodeo Grounds are now full steam ahead. "We've had several activities including the Sidewinders Bulls and Barrels series and the Odin Rodeo returns September 10-11," Deidra said.

A community effort from get-go Bones Prosser is credited as brainchild for the rodeo grounds. "Bones just one day in the late 70's decided Odin should have a rodeo and started working to make it a reality," Deidre said. "Edgar Jacobs at the Odin Store gave his immediate support and people from miles around joined in." The 150-foot-by-250-foot arena is situated on 17 acres of Bones Prosser's property. "Appropriately, the Odin Saddle Club named it the Prosser Arena," Deidre noted.

With ample spectator parking area plus two well-designed grandstands and several portable metal bleachers there's seating for 2,000 rodeo guests. "It was ahead of the times built above and beyond what's expected in a small community like Odin," Deidre declared. "Contestants and spectators alike came from many miles for the great rodeo action commenting about the elaborate facilities."

The Kansas State Rodeo Association (KSRA) recognized Odin as the Rodeo of the Year four years straight from 1987 through 1990. Despite renowned success, area interest and support dwindled with nothing at the arena after 1999. "I'm uncertain all of the reasoning," Deidre admitted. "But the cost of upkeep, insurance, fewer volunteering to help and people weren't going to rodeos as much." However, support semblance of olden days has resurged for refurbishing the Odin Rodeo Grounds still owned by Bones Prosser's family. "It's really heartwarming how so many individuals and businesses have come forward to assist," Deidre credited. "Bones' son Abe Prosser and Edgar Jacobs at the Odin Store have been a big help. I won't try to name everybody because I'd leave somebody out and I so appreciate all of the support."

Businesses from throughout the county and beyond have donated materials, paint, labor and much more. "Just about whatever we've needed somebody somewhere has been anxious to offer assistance," Deidre said. "One detriment has been the

increased cost of lumber and steel due to the coronavirus. Yet generosity of so many has enabled us to move forward." A professional horse trainer and owner of Wild Wind Productions, Deidre coordinated a couple Odin Rodeo Grounds events last fall. "In addition to training horseshow champions, I have produced several horseshow circuits and bull manias throughout the years," she said. "So I worked with Jason Bell of Bell Bucking Bulls at Hedville to have the Sidewinders Bulls & Barrel series."

There were events in April, May and June; with a fourth competition set August 27. "The Sidewinders Bulls & Barrels Finals are at the Odin Rodeo Grounds on October 9," Deidre said. "A beer garden and concessions will be at both of the upcoming Sidewinders events." Each evening competition begins with mutton busting for the kids at 6 o'clock. "We have the first go round of 20 bull riders at 7 o'clock," Bell said. "Then the barrel races are run before the second round of bull riding." The Sidewinders series features Bell's bulls bucking semblance of the rattlesnake thrusting forwards in a series of flat S-shaped curves. "I've been raising bucking bulls for 22 years," Bell said. "I started out with one bucking bred cow from Jimmy Crowther and have built my own herd." Sponsoring bull riding jackpots throughout the Midwest, Bell also enters his bulls in bucking bull futurities, derbies and classics. "These competitions draw the best bucking bulls in the country, and my bulls have won several top awards," Bell said.

With only 20 bull riders in each Sidewinders event, cowboys have fared very low compared to the bulls. "While several of the best bull riders in the world have entered the series, we've only had a few qualified rides," Bell said. "Cowboys have come from five states and two foreign countries. Each pays an entry fee and with added money, the winner at the first event took home \$2,400." Bell Bucking Bulls are ranker than the rodeo bulls of earlier decades. "We had to build higher stronger chutes with more reinforcement for these modern bucking bulls," Deidre said.

Two superstars among Bell Bucking Bulls are especially close to the owner's heart. "I bought a white bull with black spots and named him Bradshaw Bourbon," Bell said. "This bull is really outstanding, so I contacted Terry Bradshaw and got permission to name my bull after his whiskey." Bells' Bad Boy is a ten-year-old solid black bucking bull that Bell raised. "He's only been ridden three times in his lifetime with the winnings scores of 91 points, 88 points and 86 points," Bell said. "This is Bad Boy's last year to buck. He'll be used as a breeding bull in the future." Main breeding bull for Bell's bucking cowherd now is called U30. "He is a money producing sire," Bell insisted.

"Children have really been excited about the mutton busting opening up each of the series," Deidre noted. "They pay an entry fee and we also have added money and buckles for each jackpot." Likewise, barrel racers of the highest caliber have come great distances for the series. "We have junior and open divisions, with entry fees, and added money and buckles to the winners," Deidre said. "We're hosting a July 3rd Benefit Party with Homebrew playing, a beer garden with food and fireworks display," Deidre said.

Plans are being finalized for the return of the Odin Rodeo, September 10-11, with Medicine River Rodeo Company of Greensburg supplying the livestock. "It'll be a Kansas Professional Rodeo Association (KPRO) sanctioned rodeo. Plus, we will also have a ranch rodeo and ranch horse competition on Saturday afternoon," Deidre said.

Odin Rodeo Grounds has come back to life with crowds of more than a thousand spectators at the Sidewinders events. "We are really excited about the progress we've made, but there is still a lot of work to do," Deidre clarified. "It is pretty impressive how so many have been so generous helping in so many ways. "We welcome everybody to come to the Odin Rodeo Grounds for true Western action at its best," Deidre invited.

Details can be found on Facebook and at www.odinrodeogrounds.com.

Fun Facts:

After setting idle for nearly a quarter of a century, Odin Rodeo Grounds in Barton County has been refurbished by generous donors and volunteers.

Ahead of its time when constructed four decades ago, the Prosser Arena at Odin featured two covered grandstands. The facilities have now been renovated and put back into use attracting competitors and spectators from a wide area for Odin Rodeo Grounds events.

Deidra Moran has been ramrod in renovation of the Odin Rodeo Grounds now hosting a number of Western activities. One of them is the Sidewinders Bulls & Barrels series featuring children's mutton busting. Dory Ruppe received a buckle and check as a mutton busting winner.

The Sidewinders Bulls & Barrels series is hosted by Jason Bell and Deidra Moran (right) at the Odin Rodeo Grounds. Carlos Menjizar of Brazil received a \$2,400 check for winning the bull riding in the first series competition this year.

This colorful top performing athlete owned by Bell Bucking Bulls is named Bradshaw Bourbon after Terry Bradshaw's popular whiskey.

KHC Foundation Scholarship Program

KHCF Quilt Raffle

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to own a hand-crafted, one of a kind quilt!!

Only \$5/ chance and all proceeds go towards the 2022 KHCF Scholarship Fund!

If interested click the link to register!!



[Register Here](#)

Empty Pews

A poem by Del Shields

He stared around at empty pews.
No foot stepped through the door.
No praise was offered through the air
No heads bowed to the floor.

The world outside was buzzing.
Activities of every sort.

There was coming and going of every kind, as if no one heard the report.

The book on the pulpit was open.

The words on each page set in stone.

As he stood and he waited for just one searching heart, the hours he passed all alone.

"The message of the cross is foolishness, to those who perish" says the word.

As a tear ran down his furrowed cheek, he mourned over those who had heard.

They heard but they had not listened.

They say but their eyes were blind.

Their hearts felt a twinge that soon faded.

Too soon overpowered by their mind.

Now the darkness has settled the bustle.

There's just the sound of the church bells that tone.

The Savior sets down in grief ore creation, at the right hand of His Father's great thrown.

Has it all been vain thinks the Master?

Can they not see my love and my grace?

Do they know of the cross where I hung just for them?

Do they not see my blood stained face?

Then I awake from this scene, I was dreaming.

In shame I fell to the floor.

My Lord please forgive me for failing.

And I'll follow to that far, distant shore.

So this message I tell each new morning, to men of each color and race.

Fall down and look up, for your Savior is waiting to give you His mercy and grace.



**Be sure to fill out the survey
for the
Kansas Horse Council!**

To request a paper copy, please call or email
KHC Office.



1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-564-6700
www.agriculture.ks.gov

Mike Beam, Secretary



900 SW Jackson, Room 456
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-3556

Laura Kelly, Governor

NEWS RELEASE
March 30, 2021

For more information:
Heather Lansdowne
785-564-6706
AgMedia@ks.gov

Kansas Horse Council Announces Equine Economic Impact Survey

MANHATTAN, Kansas — The Kansas Horse Council, with support from the Kansas Department of Agriculture, is seeking equine owners across Kansas to participate in an Equine Economic Impact survey to generate data and information regarding this segment of the Kansas livestock industry.

The equine industry in Kansas is relatively small, compared to production livestock; however, equine ownership positively impacts the Kansas economy and should be recognized for its contributions. The equine sector in Kansas is an evolving sector that typically includes all forms of Equidae (sometimes known as the horse family) and may include educational, artistic, sport, leisure, therapeutic, and working classes of equines.

As part of the Kansas Ag Growth Strategy, leaders from throughout the Kansas equine industry collaborated in the development and implementation of long-term strategic growth goals with input and discussion among key stakeholders. One published outcome includes completing an economic impact study which led to development of the Equine Economic Impact survey.

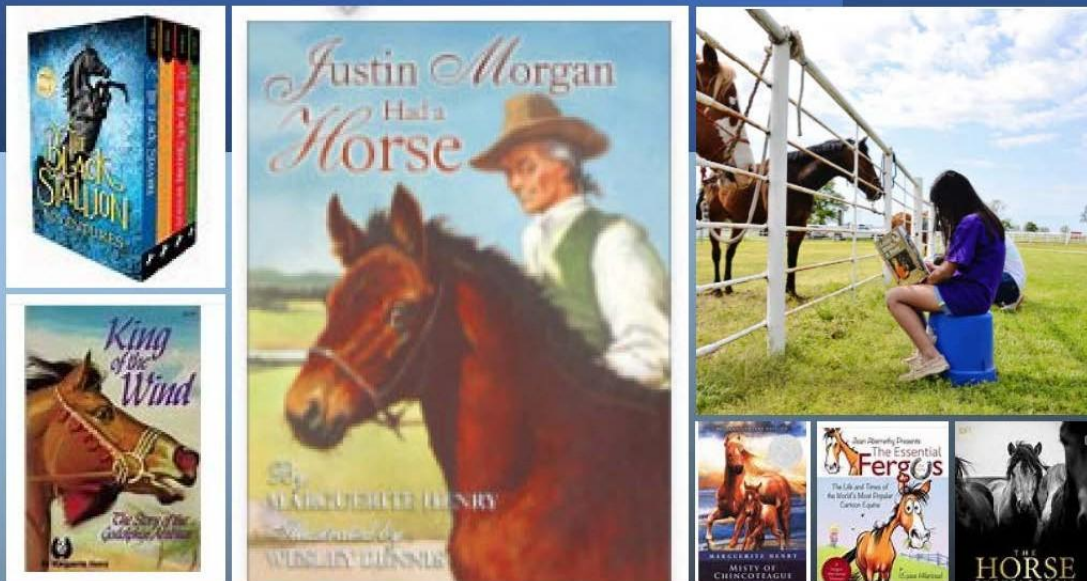
The purpose of this survey is to assess the current economic contributions of the equine sector to Kansas. The equine sector is an economically diverse industry, and this survey will include all horse ownership regardless of use. Direct ownership provides a ripple effect supporting sales and service industries by virtue of adjunct needs, such as grain, hay, transport services, real estate, fuel, truck/trailer/tires service and sale, veterinary, farrier and so forth. Information may help identify opportunities for new niche markets or expansion of existing business and services where needs might be identified. Data should reveal relevant information to help update labor statistics in the equine industry.

The Equine Economic Impact survey is voluntary. The survey will be open through December. To take the survey, please visit www.tinyurl.com/equineks. If you have a disability and are unable to complete the survey, but wish to participate, please contact Justine Staten at 785-776-0662 or director@kansashorsecouncil.com to receive a written survey or to take the survey over the telephone.

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LINK TO KANSAS EQUINE ECONOMIC SURVEY HERE!

Takes about 15 minutes. Together we can show everyone that horses are a vital part of the economy. Where would we be without horses?



St. Francis Ministries Book and Video Donations



St. Francis Ministries is a Non-Profit program serving 6 states, providing services of adoption, foster care, family preservation and more.

A state-of-the-art residential care campus is set among gentle rolling hills west of Salina where young people, ages 6-18 can heal from traumatic experiences and broken relationships. There they find hope and begin anew.

St. Francis Ministries helps youth overcome severe mental and behavioral health struggles,

often trauma related, so they can return to families and communities and lead healthier lives. An equine therapy program is one way St. Francis Ministries is providing healing to hurt children. Program Director, Angela Price, often looks for new ways to further develop a love for horses in these children. Her latest endeavor is a Book Drive for building a library in the barn.

Angela is requesting new and gently used horse themed books and videos for kids of all ages! She envisions the kids coming to the barn, learning about horses, maybe grabbing a book and spending time reading to a horse or taking a book or video back to the dorm where the learning and enjoyment can continue. All things horse is the source!

If you would like to donate any books or videos, Kansas Horse Council is a collection site. For questions and donations, call the KHC office, [785-776-0662](tel:785-776-0662), email director@kansashorsecouncil.com, or drop by the office at

8831 Quail Lane, Suite 201, Manhattan, KS 66502 or you can mail your gifts.

These will be hand delivered to the Saint Francis Ministries Equine Therapy Program. There is not an end of collection date yet, it will remain open until abundant inventory is acquired.

A tax-deductible letter can be provided for your donation value. Please provide your contact information, request for tax deductible letter and approximate value with donation.

To learn more about the program, read their online newsletter here:

[HiLites 2021: Spring e-zine · Saint Francis Ministries](#)

Kansas Horse Council Specialty License Plate

Kansas Horse Council license plates are available at your local County Treasurer's office. You don't have to be a member to sport one, on your car, truck or trailer! Show your love of horses with this colorful statement plate!

KHC License Plate Info



ENJOY THE RIDE WITH KHC!!

GET A KANSAS HORSE COUNCIL TAG

PROUDLY SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR KHC AND THE WORK IT DOES.

KANSAS HORSE COUNCIL PLATES are available to anyone who owns or leases an automobile, RV, truck or trailer with a gross weight of 20,000 pounds or less.

WHAT YOUR TAX DEDUCTION SUPPORTS

- RECREATIONAL AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE
- EQUINE HEALTH AND WELFARE
- EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

HOW TO GET YOURS:

- TROT over to your County Treasurers Office
- FILL OUT a Kansas Royalty Tag form
- PAY a one time production charge of \$50.00 plus title fees, registration fees, personal property tax and a \$30 donation to the Kansas Horse Council.

The \$30 tax deductible donation will appear on your paperwork every year when you renew. If the vehicle is currently tagged, the original plate must be returned and the current owner's registration and proof of insurance will need to be provided.

 **Kansas Horse Council**
www.kansashorsecouncil.com



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF KANSAS

What's the best way to stay informed of BCHKansas news and activities?

Follow Facebook.

There are several Facebook pages set up to keep BCHKansas members and all equestrians up-to-date on activities on several of our public trails. Here's a list:

Back Country Horsemen of America Kansas Chapter
Sunflower Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Kansas
BCHA Saddle Ridge Chapter
Big Hill Lake Riders
Friends of Randolph State Park
Friends of Rockhaven Park
Let's Ride—Perry Lake
Kanza Rail Trails Conservancy

Receive notifications of work days, or see reports on trail maintenance or campground improvements. Join in on work days whenever possible!

Follow the www.bchkansas.com website.

Encourage a new member to join BCHKS, and be entered into an end-of-year drawing.
([Membership Form Here](#))

Listed below are some BCHKansas sponsored activities scheduled this year:

June 5 - Randolph State Park BCHKS Informational Trail Ride, Tuttle Creek (Details pending)
Sept. 18 - 200th Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail Ride on the Flint Hills Trail, Bushong to Council Grove (Details pending)

Spring is here, get out and enjoy our Kansas public trails.
Be sure to thank the park managers and staff you see for making these trails and campgrounds possible, and definitely thank any trail workers you may run across!

First Annual Steve Lindsey Grant Recipient



Through Back Country Horseman - KS Chapter Cheryl Thomas was awarded the first ever Steve Lindsey Grant Award. She says that she has decided to have the proceeds go towards improvements for a well used trail-head on the London Trail. She wants to make improvements to the parking lot as there are lots of potholes making parking difficult for everyone.

Congratulations Cheryl!!!

The Lawrence Christmas Parade is one of the most unique parades in the nation. Authentic horse-drawn carriages parading down Massachusetts Street is the perfect way to kick off the holiday season. Cozy up with hot cocoa and blankets. Feel the true holiday spirit while

Need to know who is IN for 2021! Come Horseback, Driving or In Hand!

Marty Kennedy is president of the Parade board/committee, and she is asking who might be interested in participating in a 2021 Lawrence Horse



watching dozens of beautiful horses and wagons adorned in garland and bells. Join us to celebrate American heritage and keep our tradition alive this holiday season.

Parade on December 4th.
If you would be interested in participating this year or in the future, please contact Marty by email at martyk9541@gmail.com

It's Never TOO early to think about Christmas!

Kansas Horse Council Rewards Programs

DILLONS COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:

- When you shop at Dillons and use your Rewards card, KHC will earn a percentage rebate based on your Dillon's purchases!
- To link & register your rewards card click here: [Dillons Rewards Link](#) and log into your existing account. Search for Kansas Horse Council or enter our NPO number, KS920 and click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a *Rewards Card. *You must have a registered Dillons Food Stores rewards card account to link the Community Rewards program to Kansas Horse Council. (Cards are available for FREE at any Dillon's customer service desk.) SHOP: Purchases will not count towards rebates for KHC until you register your rewards card and link to Kansas Horse Council here: [DILLONS REWARDS LINK Registered Rewards Cards](#) must be swiped at checkout or use your phone number registered with your Rewards Card when shopping for purchases to count. This program does not affect your Fuel Points balance. Points will still accumulate for your personal use. Rebate program is based on purchases at Dillon's stores payable to Kansas Horse Council as a Non-Profit Organization. Thank you for your continued support to the voice of equine enthusiasts in Kansas!

AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM:

- Kansas Horse Council Foundation (Scholarship Fund) is also now enrolled in the Amazon.com Smile Program! When you shop Amazon.com you may select Kansas Horse Council Foundation as your Non-Profit charity upon Checkout! KHCF will receive .05% of your total purchase, of Amazon SMILE program eligible products! To learn more about this program and how it works go here: smile.amazon.com



IT'S TIME TO JOIN UP **EARN REWARDS**

WANTED ALL EQUINE LOVERS

THE KANSAS HORSE COUNCIL PRESENTS HORSEMANSHIP REWARDS PROGRAM

Earn rewards while working with your favorite equine friends!
This program is open to anyone who enjoys working with horses, minis, donkeys, ponies, or mules, including "grade" equines.

This program recognizes participation in Equine Activities such as riding, schooling, competing, showing, training, ground work, driving, exercising, and assisting in a Therapy Program or Rescue. The program does not include feeding, stall cleaning and maintenance.

PROGRAM RULES & REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be a current KHC Member.
- Must pay a \$35.00 initial program enrollment fee for the first year and then a \$15.00 annual program fee thereafter.
- May ride or handle more than one horse and it is not necessary to be the owner of the horse.
- Hourly log sheets may be submitted monthly, quarterly or annually. Annual submissions must be postmarked no later than December 31st.
- The KHC Member participant will need an Individual membership to track member rewards by name.
- Rewards points are not retroactive. Date of log begins on enrollment date.
- Rewards are subject to change based on availability.

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Longest Employee At Bluestem Farm & Ranch To Retire After 44 Years' Service

By Frank J. Buchman

Service of one of the most recognized and the longest tenured employee at the Emporia farm store is climaxing. Concluding more than 44 years working at Bluestem Farm & Ranch Supply, Bruce Burenheide will retire on June 25th. "It's been a great place to work for a family business always caring for their employees and customers," Burenheide said. "It was a difficult decision, but I decided now was the time. I'll miss the others I work with and serving the customers who are my friends from such a wide area."

Growing up at Olpe, Burenheide helped on his family's small farming operation and worked for other area farmers. "I also worked at the Olpe locker plant and Crown S Farms so I had diverse experiences," he said. Graduating from high school in 1974, Burenheide attended Emporia State University majoring in business administration and psychology. "I started to work for Bluestem part time during college and then went to work fulltime when I graduated in 1978," Bruce remembered.

Already at its present location on West Highway 50 when Bruce started, Bluestem Farm & Ranch Supply opened in 1961. "Lee Nelson, farmer, implement dealer and former county agent, had a location on Commercial Street downtown," Bruce said. "Lee expanded Bluestem to new facilities here in 1968. He was always a hands-on boss who knew his employees and his customers and took care of them all."

Serving customers "on the floor" early in his career, Bruce worked in sporting goods, later tools and then paints departments. "I've done about everything there is at Bluestem one time or another moving up to the main office," he said. As the buyer manager for 25 years, Bruce assists in all phases of the business with many diverse duties. "I'm buyer for the three departments of the store that I worked in and help wherever else I can," he said. Handling much of the advertising and promotions for Bluestem, Bruce gets called upon to interview and hire new employees. "I've had the opportunity to work with a lot of good people throughout the years," he said. "A number of our employees have farm backgrounds which is an asset to work here."

Part time help is important to make sure there's a fulltime staff to serve customers. "Because I started working here during college, I have a soft spot for students who need a job," he admitted.

"Several employees worked here during and after college, and then their sons have been employees too." Long tenure working at Bluestem is common because it's such a family operation. "We're now in the third generation of Lee Nelson's family owning and operating the store," Bruce said. "They're all different but have followed Lee's philosophy of concern for employees and customers."

Next in line of seniority at Bluestem now is Lonnie Standiferd, the store manager who's worked there 37 years. "We have about 85 employees now, down from nearly a hundred as we've tried to become more efficient," Bruce said. There've been three major facility expansions at Bluestem in Bruce's career. "Customers wanted more and different merchandize, so we added on in order to accommodate them," he said. Common opinion in a wide area of farm country, "if you need it, Bluestem's got it," and that is normally true. "We have more than 155,000 items for sale and keep adding more," Bruce said. "If somebody needs a special item or part, we generally have it, or will be able to get what they want. "Although Lee started this as a farm store, our customers now come from all walks of life, There are a few things we don't handle, but not really very many," Bruce said.

While working at Bluestem, Bruce has maintained small farm operations and helped sometimes at his wife's H&R Block tax service. "Sheila (Combes) and I've been married 46 years, and raised two children," Bruce said. "We've kept busy going to their activities and now with 11 grandchildren keep on going."

Changes have been constant in Bruce's 44 years at Bluestem. "Oh, we have more, different and advanced merchandize," Bruce said. "But technology is the biggest transition I've seen and it keeps getting updated all of the time," Recent days, Bruce has been turning his four-decades-long Bluestem knowledge and experience over to fellow employees. "There's a lot to tell everybody about and there'll surely be many more things come up. I told them I was always ready to help if they give me a call," Bruce said.

Anticipating retirement, Bruce will have more time for the pastimes developed through the decades. "I have a new shop to work on my collector pickups that we take to shows around the area," he said. "We like to fish and have a new pond stocked and will visit our regular fishing holes more often. We have been to Alaska fishing several times and want to do more of that." Working at his wife's tax business during his Bluestem vacations for a number of years, Bruce will be called into that office more now. "Sheila has worked for H&R Block about 25 years, and owned the local franchise about 20 years," Bruce said. "I will probably work there fulltime during the spring tax season."

After what is now an unusually long career serving one place of business, Bruce repeated: "I will miss the people. That's been the best part of the job helping a customer find what they wanted, fixing their problems. I will really miss that and those who I've worked with so many years."



Bruce Burenheide has worked at Bluestem Farm & Ranch Supply in Emporia 44 years. As the longest tenured employee there, Burenheide will retire on June 25th.



Bluestem Farm & Ranch Supply opened in 1961 on Commercial Street in Emporia and has been at the present location on West Highway 50 since 1968



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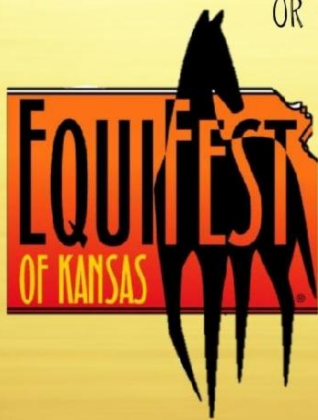
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