



**Missed Me**  
Jarod Ford avoiding the tag during the game against Hebron Senior Legion.  
*Cristy Newman Photo*

# Fresh from the Henhouse

by Ashley Walker



My big mistake with homeschooling my younger two, was not straying away from the book work more than we did. I felt a ton of pressure to get through their work books so they would learn what other kids their age would be learning and stay on track. Each day we did chores followed by school, then I allowed myself a bit of time to get what I needed to get done before it was time to start supper and evening chores. So, how was it a mistake not straying from the book work? We didn't do projects! They cooked and baked with me, took care of animals with me, read books with and without me, but we didn't do hardly any projects of any type. I felt so responsible for a good education, I forgot how important it was to put the books aside and venture into all the hobbies they love and how great that would have been to do with being in 4-H. We did run out and do photography when it was snowy, my youngest did start her sourdough starter, we made plenty of recipes, but we could have done more, and at the end of school, I started feeling how fast the fair would arrive. Not only do we love animal projects, but we love the static projects as well, the projects inside the building. Thankfully my oldest works on things year round, she's at the age where she's super independent and loves working on all of her hobbies, but the two I actually had at home, where I could have taken advantage of homeschooling, needed a lot of guidance on fair projects. So, since school has been out, we've been having lots of one on one time together to complete their project goals, a great way to spend each day in between chores, life, and the animal projects.

Things on my to-do list can really weigh on me until they are completed. I had ordered some meat

birds at the beginning of the year to be delivered in the spring. It was weeks before delivery date and I get a call from the hatchery saying they had extra birds they could ship right then to cover my order, if I wanted them early. I told them sure, and knew we'd have to build our meat bird "tractor" a little sooner. The past couple of years of raising meat birds, we kind of just fit them wherever we can. I was done with that, I wanted a chicken tractor just for them, something I could move all around the grassy yard to let them forage and eliminate the mess they make in a building. I started searching for plans for just what I wanted, an A-frame. I ended up getting a cheap poultry book off of Ebay that included plans for the perfect A-frame chicken tractor. There are a lot of things on my to-do list that I can't do, so they transfer to the honey-do list, which gets quite long. I was quite determined to get this chicken tractor done with the kids and without the help of the husband, as he has enough to do around working a full-time job. Supplies were bought and I kept looking for the opportune time to start it, knowing it'd take up an entire day at least for us to figure it out. Time went on and the husband did offer to take the time and do it, I, stubborn, told him no, I would get it completed. I knew the kids and I could do it, my son can run every saw in the woodshop, and my oldest is great at woodworking as well, but, they have their own projects that need attention and I needed the meat birds in their own pen soon. I broke down and asked if he could start on it with me. So, this Saturday, in between the random rain showers, he got everything ready to go. By the time I slipped over to help him, he had the frame well started. After a little fussing from me, saying I truly didn't want this whole thing to be

on him and that I was going to help, we got into a groove and had the thing done after the evening milking. I wasted just as many staples as the kids would have, so it looks like they helped even though they didn't. As the sun was going down, we threw a temporary tarp on part of it, until we get tin, put the wheels on and wheeled it over to the grass. I caught the growing meat birds and settled them into their new mobile home in the last light of the day. I stepped back and admired it in the sunsets golden glow, eventually wrinkling my nose at the smell coming from me and my shirt after handling the smelly meat birds. I absolutely love how the chicken tractor turned out and I absolutely loved working beside my husband on it. It was what I would call quality time with him and way better than any date we could have went on.

Find us on Facebook, "Vintage at Heart Homestead".

*If it ever gets dry enough to get harvest started, I can guarantee this homemade mayonnaise recipe will be used more than once or twice for some sandwiches in the field. We've been using this recipe for a couple of years and absolutely love it as well as how easy and quick it is to whip up. We always have some made up in the fridge.*

*1 whole egg  
½ tbsp lemon juice  
1 tsp white wine vinegar  
¼ tsp Dijon mustard  
¼ tsp sea salt  
1 cup avocado oil, or light-flavored olive oil*

**Instructions**  
*Add the egg, lemon juice, vinegar, mustard, and salt to the jar that came with your immersion blender. Slowly pour the oil on top and let it settle for a minute.*

*Place your stick blender in the jar and press it firmly to the bottom, making sure it's covering the egg yolk. Turn it on and keep it pressed against the bottom of the jar for at least 10 to 15 seconds, without moving it.*

*Once the mayonnaise starts to emulsify and thicken, slowly move the stick blender up and down to fully combine the ingredients.*

*Stir the mayonnaise and place in an airtight storage container in the refrigerator.*

# Post Rock Extension Column

by Sandra Wick

## Post Rock Extension District "Recorded" Wheat Plot Tour



**Crop Tour**

Well, it won't be long, and the combines and farm trucks will be rolling in the wheat fields around north central KS. The 2025 wheat crop has certainly been through a variety of conditions during the growing season with some looking pretty good while others not so good. Stay tuned and I will provide an update on our Post Rock Extension District Wheat Demonstration Plot Tours that were held the end of May.

Annually, the Post Rock Extension District conducts face-to-face tours of our wheat demonstration plots around the district, and this was held on Thursday, May 22 at our three locations. The variety signs will continue to be up on each of the wheat plots in Jewell, Mitchell, and Smith counties and the field locations are posted on our website at [www.postrock.ksu.edu](http://www.postrock.ksu.edu) under the "Crops" tab and then go to "Test Plots". So, we encourage you to go by and take a look at the varieties in any of the wheat plots closest to you.

We recorded the Smith County wheat demonstration plot tour, and it is posted on our "Crops" page, under "Test Plots." K-State Research and Extension agronomists along with myself provided information on each of the varieties along with conditions throughout the growing season including diseases.

"The wheat variety plots provide a visual demonstration of how crop varieties perform in a particular area of the state along with yield potential of that variety," Sandra Wick, K-State Research and Extension, Post Rock District, Crop Production Agent explains. "This is known as "seeing is believing!" "Producers who observe the demonstrations and the latest methods or practices, then may apply them to their own situations," added Wick. Producers can then compare the yield data from the many K-State Research and Extension experiment fields across the state of Kansas, to this local yield data, in selecting the most adaptive and productive wheat varieties.

Our Demonstration Wheat Plot cooperators take a lot of time out of their busy schedule to provide local yield data to producers of north central Kansas. A BIG thank you to Justin Angleton and Jason Ryan, Jewell Co.; Marty Fletchall, Mitchell Co.; and Mark Kuhlmann, Smith Co. If you would

like to volunteer as a Wheat Demonstration plot cooperator, contact Sandra at any of our Post Rock Extension District Offices in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center.

We especially would like to thank all of our sponsors for our Post Rock Extension District Wheat Test Plot Program including Ag Mark, LLC; CPI; Central Valley Ag; Kansas Wheat Alliance; Lang Diesel, Inc.; Midway Coop, Inc.; Phillips Seed Farms; Randall Farmers Coop Union; Sims Fertilizer & Chemical; Star Seed Inc.; and Trinity Ag Cooperative, Inc. We encourage all producers and agriculture businesses to take advantage of these educational opportunities from the Post Rock Extension District and K-State Research and Extension.

For more information on our Wheat Demonstration plot program, contact me at any of our Post Rock Extension District Offices in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center.

Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Sandra may be contacted at [swick@ksu.edu](mailto:swick@ksu.edu) or by calling Smith Center, 282-6823, Beloit 738-3597, Lincoln 524-4432, Mankato 378-3174, or Osborne 346-2521. Join us for our weekly "The Ag News Roundup Newsletter" by simply emailing me and getting on our weekly ag listserv. Also remember our website is [www.postrock.ksu.edu](http://www.postrock.ksu.edu) and my twitter account is @PRDcrops.

# Pushing the Limits

**BY JOLEEN BREWER**  
*Smith Co. Pioneer*

My sister, Judi. Judi is two and a half years older than I am. We were close growing up until around high school. We have different personalities and interests. I was into clothing and fashion, whereas Judi had no clue about anything that was in style.

As small children, we played well together. Judi was not into playing with dolls like I was, but we did play school and restaurant together.

No matter where we were, I felt a little safer with Judi there. We had our rooms, but I spent many nights sleeping with Judi.

We always had a great time when we traveled as a family. Judi and I would lie in the back of the van on the couch, made up into a bed. We would laugh at cars and talk about which ones we would like to have. We would play tag with the cars. We had a small TV that plugged into the cigarette lighter, and we would watch it whenever we could get reception.

We would do our schoolwork if we were away during the school season. Dad always helped us girls with any math, while Mom handled the rest.

Judi and I spent a lot of

time watching TV together. The show Alice was one of our favorites, along with Laveran and Sherley, and The Dukes of Hazards. The whole family would watch Dallas. Dad always loved watching Mama's Family, and later, he enjoyed the Red Green Show and Mr. Bean. In the evenings it was when we watched most TV, and it was Mom who was home during that time. I remember watching One Day at a Time with my mom and laughing at the building supper, Schinder all the time.

We had pets growing up, and Judi and I spent a lot of time playing with them. We both loved roller skating, riding our bikes, and swimming. We would go to a garage sale and walk downtown to Duckwalls. One time, we were walking home from downtown and found a glass bottle. We picked it up and threw it, causing it to shatter in the middle of the street. There happened to be an elderly lady who saw us do it and started yelling at us, telling us that every car that drove down that street would get at tires. Judi and I took off and headed home, taking a different route than we intended to throw the lady off, so she wouldn't know

who we were.

Judi was so much better at working at the Café than I was. She was always kind to the customers and would go out of her way to make someone happy. She would only complain to me about some of the customers. It was kind of our thing... talking about the customers and the help. The ones we liked and the ones we could do without. We had our nicknames for some of them. That way, we could talk about them without our parents knowing who we were talking about. Judi and I did not always share the same opinion about customers and the help as our parents did.

As Judi and I grew up and became adults, we grew apart. We lived in different towns. Judi moved back to Smith Center after being gone for around 30 years. She was gone so long that I had some people convinced that I was an only child. Only for her to come back and tell people she was MY LITTLE SISTER.

We still talk about how wonderful our childhood was and laugh at some of our silly times. There were many times when Judi would get on my very last nerve, but in all, Judi is a great big sister, and I am so very proud of her.

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