

Shelley Donne McLeod, author of the Champy the Cowboy series, was invited to read at Circle Time at the Stevens County Library October 14. Champy may have short legs, but he is important! Everyone had a great time and sat for two whole books before singing Old MacDonald for Ms Shelley. Shelley's books can be found on Amazon or Etsy.











Wheat Scoop: Kansas wheat farmer investment helps trace wheat from field to loaf

Every acre of wheat has a job that extends beyond producing bushels. Those bushels become flour, bread and other foods that provide energy and nutrition to people around the world.

Wheat provides roughly 20% of the calories and protein consumed by people globally, making the crop an important piece of the challenge of producing more food while limiting agriculture's environmental footprint. New research from Kansas State University, supported in part by Kansas wheat farmers through the Kansas wheat checkoff, examined whether improved management could help accomplish both goals.

Published in the Journal of Cleaner Production, the study, "Intensifying wheat production increases bread yield with a minor increase in global warming potential: A life cycle assessment of Kansas wheat," followed Kansas wheat beyond the field to determine how management decisions ultimately affect the amount of bread produced and its footprint.

The project was partially funded through two awards from the Kansas Wheat Commission, putting checkoff dollars behind research designed to better understand how wheat can efficiently deliver food to consumers. USDA also provided funding, while milling and baking analyses were supported by U.S. Wheat Associates through the National Wheat Foundation.

The depth of the project sets it apart from many previous assessments of wheat production.

Researchers began with management information collected from 656 commercial Kansas winter wheat fields. Those fields were divided into four categories based on yield: low, average, high and top. Researchers then used the management practices associated with those groups to develop replicated treatments across 23 site-years during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 growing seasons. Locations stretched across Kansas wheat-growing regions, exposing the treatments to the range of soils and weather conditions producers encounter across the state.

Management packages varied by practices producers can adjust, including seeding rate, fertilizer rates, seed treatment, split nitrogen applications, fungicides and micronutrients. Researchers also accounted for differences between central Kansas and the more semi-arid western portion of the state.

But the research did not end when the combine crossed the plots.

Researchers measured grain yield, protein and crop residue before samples were milled and evaluated for flour yield and dough characteristics. The flour was then baked into bread using standardized procedures.

Finally, researchers conducted a life cycle assessment that considered the resources consumed and emissions associated with the journey from agricultural inputs and wheat production through grain transportation, milling, flour transportation, baking, retailing and transportation to the consumer's home.

"We see an increasing interest from different industry partners in quantifying the environmental footprint of wheat produced, with particular interest in Kansas", said Romulo Lollato, the leader of the study. "We demonstrated here that both goals of producing more food and being environmentally conscious can go together. Since yield drives profit in our wheat operations, hopefully we see these results further translated into grower profit as some of these programs add incentives for sustainable-grown wheat."

That farm-to-table approach revealed an important relationship between productivity and environmental impact.

Moving from the average to high management level increased wheat grain yield by 27%, from 49 to 63 bushels per acre. Improved management also increased grain protein concentration. Together, greater grain yield and protein production translated into more bread per acre in about 31%.

Producing more wheat required additional inputs, meaning global warming potential and energy use increased on a per-acre basis. But the increase looked different when researchers considered how much grain and bread those inputs produced.

From average to high management, global warming potential across the entire bread system increased in less than 4% per unit of bread produced (only from approximately 1.04 to 1.08 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilogram of bread produced). In other words, higher management intensity produced considerably more food without a proportional increase in environmental impact per unit of bread.

The results suggest that reducing inputs alone is not necessarily the answer for better environmental outcomes. Instead, the research points toward efficiently using inputs to increase productivity and quality while practically maintaining the crop's footprint.

Nitrogen management is one of the clearest opportunities.

Nitrogen was the largest driver of global warming potential and energy input differences during wheat production, accounting for 48% to 68% of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the wheat production phase as management intensified. Meanwhile, the impact of diesel, seed and pesticides declined on a per-unit-of-grain basis as productivity increased.

The study also showed there can be a point of diminishing returns. Bread yield did not increase from the high to top management level, leading researchers to focus their analysis on the transition from average management to a high level they considered a reasonable degree of intensification.

For producers, that confirms the value of matching management and inputs to realistic yield potential rather than simply maximizing inputs.

The research also puts the farmer's role within the larger food system into perspective.

Wheat production accounted for approximately 9% to 18% of greenhouse gas emissions through the bread supply chain evaluated in the study. Baking accounted for 44% to 49%, while transportation represented another 29% to 33%.

That means improving wheat production is one part of a much larger effort. From the farmer who grows the crop to the companies that transport, mill and bake it, each link in the chain has an opportunity to improve how efficiently food gets to consumers.

"We were not surprised with nitrogen being the largest footprint of the wheat production cycle; what really surprised us was the fact that the production system really only accounted for less than 20% of the total footprint of the bread," said Lollato. "This is an example on how collaborations across the value chain can be valuable in attaining a more sustainable product."

For Kansas wheat farmers, the study also demonstrates another link in that chain: investing checkoff dollars in research that starts with real-world Kansas production practices, subjects them using rigorous testing and returns information producers can use to make management decisions.

The result is research that measures more than bushels. It follows those bushels all the way to the loaf, helping answer how Kansas farmers can continue producing the calories and nutrition consumers depend on while using resources as effectively and sustainably as possible.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Hugoton Hermes, Thursday, October 22, 2026) 1t

NOTICE OF A REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A CONDITIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS TOWER AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT

Stevens County will conduct a public hearing on November 4, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. located at Stevens County Courthouse, Memorial Hall, 200 E. 6" Street, Hugoton, Kansas 67951 for the purpose of considering the Conditional Use Permit Application and Development Plan for Zoning Case 2026-01 petitioned by The Towers, LLC d/b/a Vertical Bridge together with Craig G. and Tia J. Bell. The address is TBD Road 20, Moscow, Kansas 67592.

Considering the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) being North of the center of the Santa Fe Railroad in Section Twenty-seven (27), Township Thirty-one (31) South, Range Thirty-six (36) West of the 6th PM. The legal description is as follows: Commencing at the Northeast Corner of said Southeast Quarter; thence along the East line of said Southeast Quarter, South 01°33'17" West, a distance of 103.19 feet; thence leaving said East line, North 90°00'000" West, a distance of 527.15 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing North 90°00'00" West, a distance of 100.00 feet; thence North 00°00'00" East, a distance of 100.00 feet; thence North 90°00'00" East, a distance of 100.00 feet; thence South 00°00'00" East, a distance of 100.00 feet to the point of beginning.

Parties wishing to review the file on this matter should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at (620) 544-8782, or by email at svcohighwaydept@gmail.com or come into the Planning and Zoning Office, 510 W. 6" Street, Hugoton, Kansas 67951 during normal business hours. The Stevens County Zoning Board may continue this case to a later date without further notice.

Mr. Jeff Cox
Planning & Zoning Administrator
Stevens County, Kansas



Choosing Peace in the Rush

Late October marks the arrival of a season filled with swiftly approaching, and just as swiftly fleeting, holidays. While the upcoming months bring a flurry of busyness and obligations, we must remember that it is okay to protect our inner calm even when the world around us feels frantic. Although our calendars speak to endless preparations and responsibilities, anchoring our hearts in Christ allows us to embrace the genuine joy of the holidays while maintaining a quiet, steady peace throughout.

–James Stone

"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."
Isaiah 26:3 (NIV)

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Main and Second Street 620-544-2773
Tim Singer, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Life Groups Sunday Nights - 6:00 p.m.
Inside Out Kids Wed. - 6:30 p.m.
Student Ministry @ The Turnaround - Wed. 7:00 p.m.
HugotonAssembly.com

BETHEL FRIENDS CHURCH
11th & Jefferson - 620-544-8517
Pastor Chris Stanfield
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
Wed Evening Ministries - 6:30 p.m.
(Children, Youth, & Adult)

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1045 S. Van Buren - 620-544-2825
Tommy Craiker Home: 620-453-0965
Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service - 6:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
520 E. First - 620-544-2125
Sacrament - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School - 11:00 a.m.
Priesthood - 11:00 a.m.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
500 S. Van Buren - 620-544-2493
Pastor Dave Piper
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Evening Services - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
600 S. Van Buren - 620-544-2715
Pastor Bergan Morris
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Fellowship - 10:15 - 10:30 a.m.
Worship Hour - 10:30 - 12:00
Children's Church, 10:30 a.m.
Jr. High Youth Group, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Sr. High Youth Group, 7:45-9:00 p.m.
Information on small groups call 620-544-2715

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD
801 W. City Limits 620-544-2652
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Service - 6:30 p.m.
Facebook Livestream - First Church of God-Hugoton

HUGOTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Eighth and Main
620- 544-2210
Pastor Gary Stafford
Parsonage - 620-544-2295
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

LONE STAR FRIENDS CHURCH
14 Miles East of Hugoton on Highway 51
Church 620-624-3784
Home 620-624-3104
Pastor James Tower
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Blended Worship Celebration - 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Kid's Club - 6:30 p.m.

MY FATHER'S HOUSE
A Full Gospel Church
207 East 6th - Hugoton 620-544-2436
Pam Peachey, Pastor
Services Sundays 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

SOVEREIGN REDEEMER CHURCH
Tenth and Adams 620-544-6386
Pastor - Zachary Johnson
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Coffee/Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
www.sovereignredeemerchurch.org

ST. HELEN CATHOLIC CHURCH
1011 South Jefferson Street
620-544-2551
Sunday - 9:00 a.m. English Mass
- 11:00 a.m. - Spanish Mass

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
Terry Miller, Pastor
516 N.E. Avenue 620-453-2212
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
YOU ARE WELCOME!

HUGOTON METHODIST CHURCH
828 S. Main Hugoton 620-544-8715
Pastor David Kang
Wednesday Praise! Kids - 3:45 p.m.
Wed. Jr. High Youth Fellowship -6:00 p.m.
Wed. Sr. High Youth Fellowship - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.

MOSCOW BAPTIST CHURCH
620-598-2455 Church
1 mile S. of Moscow, 1/2 mile E. of Moscow/Hooker Rd.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Team Kids (Wed.) - 3:30-5:30p.m. Sept.-Apr.
Youth Study Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

MOSCOW CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
620-598-2426
Worship Leader: Patty Lahey 620-544-9365
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Kid's Club - Wednesday 3:30 p.m.

ROLLA PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH
Corner of Third and Adams, Rolla
Marcus Light, Pastor
Church - 620-593-4626,
Parsonage - 620-593-4796
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday night meal - 6:00 p.m.

ROLLA METHODIST CHURCH
620-593-4596
Pastor David Kang
Morning Worship - 9:00 a.m.

RICHFIELD COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Mary Kudakwashe
Morning Worship - 9:00 a.m.

CITIZENS STATE BANK
601 S. Main, Hugoton
620-544-4331
Member FDIC

GARNAND FUNERAL HOME
920 E. 11th St.,
Hugoton
620-544-4323

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES
Jeff C. Ramsey Agent
613 S. Main, Hugoton
620-544-4303

THE HUGOTON HERMES
522 S. Main,
Hugoton
620-544-4321

EQUITY BANK
502 S. Jackson, Hugoton
620-544-8908
Member FDIC

ALERT ALARM COMPANY
Moscow, Kansas
620-598-2564
AlertAlarmKansas.com