

Commission/ from page 2

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:59 a.m. with no action taken.

Human Resources Officer Felicia Strahm presented the pay resolution, which includes a fifty-cent per hour cost of living increase and the updated pay scale, for the board's approval. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2026-11, granting a fifty-cent per hour cost of living increase to all county employees, effective January 26, 2026, seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve the new grade and step scale, which includes the cost of living increase granted, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Strahm provided time clock maintenance agreements pricing information. The board agreed to renew for a three year agreement.

Debora Smith moved to approve tax abatements 2026-08 and 2026-09 in the amount of \$1,364.88, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Health Nurse/Administrator Mona Buttenhoff requested that the board appoint her as the county's Public Health Officer. Debora Smith moved to appoint Mona Buttenhoff as the Lincoln County Public Health Officer, seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried. Buttenhoff related that she has requested assistance from the hospital on lab draw days for the next couple of months. Buttenhoff inquired about the status of the department's vehicle, as staff had notified her that they don't drive it out of town due to mechanical issues. It was suggested that the vehicle be taken to a shop for evaluation.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for twenty minutes for the purpose of discussing Highway Department evaluations, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel

matters of nonelected personnel to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 11:03 a.m. Time out: 11:23 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:23 a.m. After reviewing employee evaluations, Debora Smith moved to grant a one-step increase to Wes Thrun and a two-step increase to Mike Hansen, effective January 26, 2026, seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried.

Administrators' report: Robertson provided an update on Public Works activities; is receiving bids for a backhoe at the landfill; has contacted the company that installed the guttering at the nursing home for pricing; the district court clerk is requesting bids to paint the courtroom; update on emergency management activities; discussed quotes received to replace the courthouse roof; update on the legislative request for a one percent sales tax increase; interviewed for the custodian/maintenance position; noted assistance provided to the health department; planned to meet with Scoulers representatives and economic development concerning the county owned property; CINTAS will be completing fire extinguisher maintenance; plans to meet with Tony Lamia concerning the recycling center; and will inquire about invoices questioned by the board.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing public works applicants pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam

Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 12:24 p.m. Time out: 12:39 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 12:39 p.m. with no action taken. Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing public works applicants pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 12:40 p.m. Time out: 12:50 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 12:50 p.m. with no action taken. Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for twenty minutes for the purpose of discussing public works applicants pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Ken Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 12:52 p.m. Time out: 1:12 pm.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 1:12 p.m. with no action taken. Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes from the February 2 meeting, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes for the February 6 meeting, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Insight - Kansas Farm Bureau - opinion Counting cows

Greg Doering
Kansas Farm Bureau

There's a routine to spring calving season based on numbers. Once tiny hooves start hitting the cold ground, a rhythm takes over until the last mama cow has delivered her baby. Each day is different, but they're all based on counting.

I can still picture being sandwiched in the middle of the bench seat between my grandparents as we made the rounds through pastures to check on the progress. My grandfather kept one hand on the steering wheel with a pair of binoculars ready in the other.

We would slowly roll through the field, stopping abruptly for my grandfather to take a closer look at a cow. He'd raise the binoculars and quickly read off the number on the ear tag as my grandmother dutifully recorded the information in a spiral-bound notebook.

When a calf was spotted, we'd ease close enough that my grandfather could quickly get out, lasso it and tag it all while keeping an eye on the mama cow, especially if she was a first-time mother. They could get a little angry during the ordeal.

We checked the herd five or six times each day, starting with the morning feeding and ending well past dark if weather or other circumstances demanded. The vast majority of field checks happened without incident. All the cows were readily spotted along with the same number of calves from the previous count.

The adventures started when the numbers didn't match up. While most mothers were more than happy to show off their calf, occasionally there'd be one who had witnessed the roundup procedure and took it on herself to keep her progeny hidden. Thankfully, cows aren't masters at hide-and-seek.

While a mama might not show off her calf, she didn't stray far from it so a hidden calf also meant the mother was away from the herd as well. In the main calving pasture, this usually meant the pair was hunkered down near the edge of a thin stand of trees. Spotting the mom didn't present much of a challenge, but it was incredibly easy to mistake a fallen limb for a black baldy if its white face was tucked away.

We didn't have to assist with many births, but it was always a tense time when pulling a calf was necessary, especially if there wasn't time to move the cow to a temporary pen. Even more rare was finding a lonesome calf rejected by its mother. I only remember a handful of calves that were brought to the barn for bottle feeding, one of which didn't make it.

Other times calves were lost to coyotes, weather or birth defects, and a few cows succumbed to injuries sustained while giving birth. The losses were never easy to take, but they were also strong reminders of why we counted. Every cow. Every calf. Every time.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

KDA Announces Specialty Crop Grant Opportunity

MANHATTAN, Kansas — The Kansas Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for the FY26 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. Funds for the program are awarded to the agency by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.

The grant funds are in turn granted to projects and organizations to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops by leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers. Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as "fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture."

Applications will be evaluated by a team of external reviewers. The team will rate proposals on their ability to successfully enhance the competitiveness of the specialty crop industry in Kansas and make a positive impact on the Kansas economy. Those recommendations will be submitted to the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, who will make the final awards.

Applications are due to KDA no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 17, 2026. For more information, please download and carefully read the 2026 Kansas Request for Applications document from the KDA website: agriculture.ks.gov/grants.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding from USDA-AMS is awarded to states based on recent value and acreage of specialty crops in the state. In 2026, Kansas is expected to receive approximately \$325,000.

The vision of the Kansas Department of Agriculture is to provide an ideal environment for long-term, sustainable agricultural prosperity and statewide economic growth. The agency will achieve this by advocating for sectors at all levels and providing industry outreach.

We Appreciate Our Readers
& We Need Your Support!



R&B Farms, Inc. EQUIPMENT AUCTION
Monday, March 9th, 2026 – 10:30 am
35838 County Road G, Yuma, CO 80759
2 Miles South of Yuma, CO on Hwy. 59 to Road 36, East 1 Mile to Road G, South 1/8th Mile to Sale Site



On Site Auction with Live and Pre-Auction Internet Bidding.
Items **Without** Internet Bidding capabilities start at 10:30 am,
items **With** Internet Bidding capabilities sell at approx. 1:00 pm.

Tractors & Attachments & Forklift sell after equip (Online Bidding Available)—15 Case IH Magnum 340 MFWD, PS, 3pt, PTO, 5hyd, fnt suspension, Trimble RTK equip, 420/85R34 fnt dls, 480/85R50 rear dls, 5,135hrs, 2nd ownr•New Demco SideQuest 1000gal sddle tnks w/Magnum 340 mnts•06 Case IH MX305 MFWD, PS, 3pt, PTO, 3hyd, Trimble RTK guidance equip, 380/80R38 fnt dls, 480/80R50 rear dls, 10k hrs, 2nd ownr•Demco SideQuest 1000gal sddle tnks w/MX 305 mnts•300gal fnt tnk w/MX305 & Mag 340 mnts•300gal fnt tnk w/MX305 mnts•SB stalk stmptr for MX305•99 Case IH 9370 4wd, 4hyd, Timple WAAS guidance equip, 520/85R42 dls, 8,299hrs•SB stalk stmptr for 9370•2005 Case IH DX35 FWA w/LX116 ldr, bckt & pllt frks, 3pt, PTO, 2hyd, 714hrs, 2nd ownr• 76 lnt 1066, cab, 3pt, dl pto, 2hyd, 18,4R38 dls, 5,742hrs•52 Farmall M wd fnt, 3pt, pto, 13.6-38rub, older restrtn•Farmall A, PTO, older restrtn•40 Farmall M non-running trctr, tri-fnt, mtr is free, needs radiator rebuilt to run•AC ACP50 5k lb. frkflft, 2 stge mst, side shft, shittle trans•**Trucks, Trailers & Vehicles sell after tractors (Online Bidding Available)**—85 Pete 359 ext. hood conv. semi, 3406 Cat, 15spd, dl line wet kit, 683k mi showing•91 KW T600 day cab semi, 3406B Cat, 10spd, dl line wet kit, 83k mi showing•70 Chevy C50 tag axle w/18" steel grn bx, rear hoist, 350 V8, 5&2spd, 16,456 original mi•88 Timple Super Hopper 96"x42"x66" sides grn trlr, RO trp, sprng ride•81 Timple Super Hopper 96"x40"x66" sides grn trlr, RO trp, sprng ride•06 HMDE 80"x16" plus 2" dove BP FB trlr•06 HMDE 80"x16" plus 2" dove BP FB trlr•09 HMDE 5"x10" tilt bed utility trlr•11 Chevy Silverado 1500 Z71 4x4, 5.3L V8, auto, 4 dr, shrt bx, 141k mi•08 GMC Canyon Off Road 4x4, 5 cyl, auto, 4 dr, shrt bx, 207k mi•**Harvest, Planting, Tillage & Support Equip sell after ATV's (Online Bidding Available)**—14 Case IH 7230 AFS ombne, chppr & sprdr, lateral tilt, rock trp, elec aug spout, Trimble WAAS guidance equip, 520/85R42 dls, 5413/3997hrs, fresh out of CIH winter service•09 Case IH 3412 cm hd, high tin kit, auto height, Lankota stalk stmptr•B-B 36' hdr trlr•12 MacDon FD70 40' FlexDraper, CIH adaptor, PU reel, hyd. leveling, crop lifters, trans•Shelbourne Reynolds XCV36 strppr hd, CIH adaptor, stnlss fngs, ga whls•Brent 1082 grn crt, 20" aug w/swvl spt, RO trp•Westfield MK100-81 aug w/pwr swng hppr•Westfield TR100-71 aug w/swng hppr•Brandt 1545TD grn elev, 15"x45", elec drve, EZTrak hppr, 1 ownr•Case IH 1200 3pt 12R30" stack fld plntr, precision units, precision delta force hyd. down prsrre, individual unit shutoff, in-frw & 2x2 fert, 2020 Seed Sense precision mntr, trsh whps, WaveVision seed tubes, beet, com & soybean plts•NH P2060 10"x60" air seeder w/P1060 crt, shoe opnrs, AgIntelligent run blkge, bell prss, 3 cmprtmt crt, eagle beak pnts, isobus integrated, 2nd ownr•Case IH SDX40 10"x60" air sdr w/ADX2230 crt, dsc opnrs, all row run blkge, rub prss & clsg whls•CrustBuster 3200 TS33x12 hoe drill, split prss, in-frw fert runs•Patriot 220 seed tndr on trlr, Honda GX160 mtr w/elec. start, 2 cmprtmt bin, wireless rmtc•Quinstar FM749 49' Followmaster, wllng tndms, pckrs•GreatPlains 3000T Turbo-Till II 28' VT mchne, rear htch, weight pckge, C-flex gang hngrs, rolling bsks•Krause 1950 30' dbl OS dsc, rear htch•FlexKing KM3403 9x5 blde mchne, coulters & pckrs•Krause 3775 7x5 blde mchne, coulters, pckrs & rear htch•FlexKing 4x6 blde mchne, coulters & pckrs•Krause 4300 26' chsl, wllng tndms & FK pckrs•Sterling 30' soil pckr•Case IH/DMI 5310 3pt 12R30" strp till mchne, rear htch, rolling bsks, red balls, ga whls•New JohnBlue grnd drvn fert pmp•Case IH 2500 3pt 7 shnk inline rppr, coulters, steel ga whls, clsg whls, wng tips•FlekKing 24" rod wdr•JD VanBrunt 7.5"x11" SD grn drll•Rhino SD15 15' btwng rtry mwr•Brown 8' bx scrrp•Brown 7' bx scrrp•Cimarron 3pt 5' rtry mwr•Int 3pt 6' rtry mwr•JD 40 3pt 5' rototiller•ARPS 3pt 6' blde•3pt 50gal spry w/9' boom & hnd wnd•3pt hyd. log spltr•88" yard drag•**ATV & Trailer, Fuel & Product Tanks, Fertilizer & Chemigation Equip & Farm Attachments sell at Approx. 1:00pm (Online Bidding Available)**—2002 Arctic Cat 400 4 whlr, 4x4, 2969 mi•4"x6 1/2" tilt bed utility trlr•15' ATV wick bar•142gal slide-in 12v spry w/hnd wnd•Kingspan TruckMaster DEF tnk w/12v pmp•DEF shittle w/hnd & 110v pmps•500 & 1000gal hrzntl fuel tnks w/110v pmps•300gal OH fuel tnk•235 & 190gal rctngle fuel trnsfr tnks w/12v pmps•150gal hrzntl fuel tnk•1850gal cone btm poly tnk on stnd•2500gal black poly fert tnk•(2) 4,000 & (1) 6,000gal poly fert tnks•(5) Agri-Inject 34gal 1.9gph chmgttr•Agri-Inject 11gal 1.9gph chmgttr•Neptune 18, 30, 40 & 65gph fert pmps•Honda GX160 mtr & pmp w/ 35gal eductor & plmbng•New Banjo 3" pmp & Honda GX200 mtr•Banjo 3" pmp w/Honda GX200 mtr•Banjo 2" pmp w/Honda GX150 mtr•New Dura Pump 30gpm elec pmp•32' Degelman 3 bar hrrws•Navigator 3pt guidance htch•AccuTrak 3pt guidance htch•Friesen frk mlt bmk bag hndlr•**Shop Equip, Tools, Farm & Livestock Misc & More sells at 10:30am (No Online Bidding)**—JD ACI-8GH self-ctnd air comp•NAPA Performance upright comp•Craftsman 175 PSI upright comp•Alkota 420x4 prsrre wshr•Craftsman 10" radial arm saw•Craftsman tble saw•Ridgid drll prss•Ryobi dbl whl grndr on stnd•prts wshr•trctr dual jack•Hi Quality chrry pckr•oil drain•Lakewood 42" shop fan•metal rolling chp saw bnch•bttry chrg•rolling cbnt•mtl rack•brl crts•step & ext lddrs•pllt racking•triangle toolbx•Sun rolling tool crt w/vise•Proto rolling toolbx•Husky rolling toolbx•Remline toolbx•10' rolling shp bnch•several bolt bins w/new bolts•floor jcks, btble jcks & jck stnds•A/C fill kit•bttry chrgs & jmp pcks•assorted hnd & pwr tools•Coronado wrngr wshr•Whirlpool chst frzr•Blackstone griddle•(2) Traeger smkrs•Groundwork grn crt•Ace whlbrw•assrtd lmbng•grdn tools•Husqvarna & Sun Joe rototillers•Fimco ATV spry•Banjo fltr systm•Banjo vlvs & ftngs•Agri-Inject 340SD rate cntrlr•spry tips, drops & streamers• 11.2x38, 10.00-20, 11.2-24, 11R22.5 & 11R24.5 sprnktr tires•Case IH ombne sieves•implmnt tires•(2) 480/80R50 tires•(2) 520/85R42 tires•(3) 380/80R38 tires•mwr tires & rims•dead rods•Hiniker NH3 cooler & htch•Outback guidance systm•(12) Case IH 1200 stndrd seed bxs w/meters•Agense Field Commander•Trimble EZ-Steer mtr, 500 mntrs & Ag 25 recvr guidance systm•Trimble lght bar guidance systm•two-way radios•More•**Owners:** Randy & Beverly Wenger

Note: The Wenger family has been farming in Yuma County for four generations. Randy harvested his 49th crop in 2025. Randy & Beverly's children live out of state, and they have decided it is time to retire, they sold the ground and are moving to be closer to the grand kids. The tractors and combine have been shedded, the late model tractors & combine all are fresh out of CIH winter program. The majority of items are first or second owner pieces. Plan to attend! **Loadout provided on auction day and the next day 10am – 2pm.** Lunch available auction day.



Auctioneers Miller & Associates
Chuck & Bryson Miller
Brush, CO
970-842-5575
www.AMAAuctions.com



Norton Livestock Market, Inc.

Upcoming March sales for Norton Livestock are on Thursday starting at 1:00 p.m. as follows:

- Thursday, March 5** – Regular sale
- Thursday, March 12** – Regular sale
- Thursday, March 19** – Special bred heifer-stock cow-pair sale w/ regular sale
- Thursday, March 26** – Regular sale

For more information or to consign call:
Jan Tien, Market Manager, at 785-567-8515;
or Fieldmen: Doak Brooks 785-567-7006;
Kolton Harting 785-202-0085;
or Matt McClain 785-871-2342.
See www.nortonlivestock.com for further sale information.