

THE HUTCHINSON NEWS



'HAWKS STRUT PAST HUSKERS
SPORTS

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN DEFEATS LITTLE RIVER IN OVERTIME, D1

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A DONATION WITH HEART

Woman uplifted by potato discovery



By KATHY HANKS

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Susan Bradbury had been feeling pretty depressed. "I've been down and out for a while," she said.

Things haven't been going her way; work has been hard to come by for the 58-year-old. She's good at maintenance work, but she has done everything her landlady needs to have done. Almost broke, she has been scrambling for odd jobs to pay the upcoming rent.

Tuesday night was the first time Bradbury found herself at Laundry Love. That's when families and individuals can come to Giant Cleaners, 430 N. Adams St., and wash up to five loads of laundry for free. The owner,

See UPLIFTED / A7

RESTAURANT TO OPEN IN DODGE CITY

Bar and grill is the first feature of a multi-phase development, C1

BOY SCOUTS CAMP OUT 650 FEET UNDER

Boy Scouts enjoyed a private tour, worked to earn merit badges, A3

LOCAL 3-DAY OUTLOOK

TODAY	Monday	Tuesday
44 22	50 21	33 16

TV LISTINGS	B5	OBITUARIES	A9
CLASSIFIEDS	E1	CROSSWORD	E4
LOTTERIES	A2	SPORTS	D1
BUSINESS	C1	WEATHER	D6

INTERCEPTED LETTER

Susan Bradbury finding 'sweet' potato

Dear friend,

We're happy your lucky discovery fed your soul.

Yours, Hutch



Farmers sow and hope



NICKERSON – Geoffrey Burgess filled his grain drill with more seed as the sun faded on a fall afternoon – a new season on the farm is just beginning and all the hope is there.

First-generation farmers, he and his wife, Jenny, had just harvested their best wheat crop in their eight years of farming. Four months later, however, it is evident that elation has disappeared. As he plants the wheat he will harvest in June, he admits sometimes it is tough to be optimistic. Even when you're a farmer.

Their bumper wheat crop didn't make them a penny.

Cash-strapped, with bills piling up, the Burgess' sold their wheat over the elevator scale at harvest – taking the low prices instead of holding on for an uptick.

"It was the best growing season I ever had," said Geoff, then added in his soft-spoken manner, "It's hard to get excited."

They are among the 2 percent of the population who make their living on the farm, said Jenny. But she also knows much of the rest of America – becoming more removed from their agricultural roots – have no idea the struggles occurring in the Farm Belt.



INSIDE

- Meetings set to discuss bad farm economy, A8
- Difference between the current farm crisis compares to the 80s, A7
- Facts about this year's agriculture, A6

"It literally cost us to grow wheat this year," said Jenny.

Even veteran farmers affected Sowing a new crop of wheat typically brings renewed hope to the rural plains. Yet, across this same landscape, the stark reality is evident in the mountains of grain piled high on the ground.

In May, the Kansas Farm Management Service reported net

See FARM / A6

Story by Amy Bickel The Hutchinson News Photos by Sandra J. Milburn

ABOUT THE SERIES

Kansas Agland Editor Amy Bickel delves into the impact on the current farm economy on Kansas farm families.

Today

- Farmers grow concerned about ag

economy

- K-State ag economist, peers to reach out to producers amid uncertainty
- A look at the 1980s farm crisis

Monday

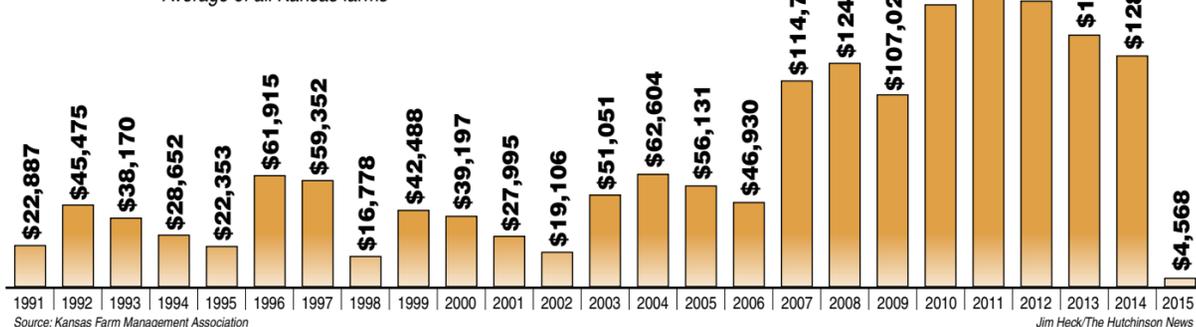
- As ag crisis reminiscent of '80s

emerges, dealerships adapt, aware that lean times will 'cycle'

- PrairieLand Partners looks at leasing program
- K-State program helps producers, lenders with financial mediation

Accrual net farm income 1991 - 2015

Average of all Kansas farms



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