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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

AG STUDENT

MAY 1968



"Is there a Prairie Park in Kansas' Future?"...Page 6

Looking Ahead

on

Kansas Farms



Four K-State agriculturalists look into the future of crops and livestock in Kansas.

By Jerry Engler

WHAT enterprises will Kansas farmers find the most profitable in the next few years, and on into the future? Will feed grains and meat animals become more important than wheat? Will soybean acreage continue to grow in eastern Kansas?

Dr. Orlan H. Buller, assistant professor of economics; Dr. Elmer H. Heyne, professor of agronomy; Dr. John A. Johnson, professor of grain science and industry; and Dr. Philip A. Phar, assistant professor of animal husbandry extension and nutritional management specialist, agree that wheat will continue to be one of the most important crops in Kansas.

Wheat is easier to grow

Heyne says wheat is the easiest crop to grow in Kansas and the re-

turns are good. The seedbed is easier to prepare, there are no weed problems, it harvests easier, and is easily stored.

Heyne notes Kansas farmers have always raised as much wheat as government allotments would allow. This has varied around 10 million acres since 1918. The amount of other crops raised in Kansas tends to be regulated by the wheat allotment.

Johnson predicts allotment restrictions on wheat will be removed, possibly within the next 10 years. He thinks pressure from hunger in foreign nations will necessitate more wheat production in the United States. Whether American farmers will benefit depends on political and economic change. Countries needing wheat the most now don't have

money to pay large prices, he claims.

He says by the year 2000, unless population growth is slowed by birth control or disaster, the world will need the most energy possible per food unit. Food will have to come directly from plants because energy is lost in conversion to animal products. There will still be a place for livestock in places that can't be utilized by crops, and in consuming the byproducts of industry. For Kansas, this will mean a big stepup in the production of wheat. The large wheat reserves have been used up, and now the United States has only a "comfortable reserve."

In the immediate future Kansas will have a large growth in hog and cattle production, Phar says. Irrigation in western Kansas and improved

Kansas' staple crop, wheat, next to a field of grain sorghum underlines the basic decision facing farmers: what to plant next year.



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grain sorghum production technology will greatly increase the amount of feed grains produced, he adds.

Buller says the feed grain-meat animal combination in eastern Kansas probably has a comparative value over wheat now. He doesn't think there will be much change in eastern Kansas, but he expects continued growth in the number of feed lots in the West.

Cattle numbers increase

The Kansas cattle on feed report for January 1, 1956, showed 30-thousand head in commercial lots and 152-thousand in farm lots. The January 1, 1968, report showed 338-thousand in commercial lots and 272-thousand in farm lots. Total Kansas farm income in 1967 was \$1,711 million. Of this, livestock and livestock products accounted for \$970 million; farm crops \$529 million; and government subsidies, \$212 million. In terms of farm value of grains for 1966, the ratio of the value of wheat to that of feed grains was 1.51. In 1957 this ratio was 1.27, and it has been as high as 2.91 in 1961. This ratio has stayed proportional to the wheat allotment.

Phar looks for the feed lot industry in Kansas and other Southwestern states to surpass the cornbelt states. Besides their great capacity to produce sorghum grains, he says drier climates with less mud make feed lots easier to operate.

Phar says there will be an expan-

sion of the swine industry in a few years. There are two or three swine producers in Kansas now feeding 7,000 to 8,000 hogs annually.

He says the packing industry is recognizing the new trend, and is building new plants in Kansas towns that each slaughter at least 500 cattle per day.

Food market shifts

Buller says there are two more reasons for the feeding industry's growth in Kansas. A more affluent consumer is demanding and paying more for red meat. Also, there is a shift in the American population to the West. Since Kansas is closer than the cornbelt to this huge food market, it and states such as Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado will become bigger exporters to the West.

Heyne doesn't think feed lot and feed grain growth means any decline in wheat, however. He says feed grain that was being shipped out of state will now be used to produce livestock in Kansas. Animals that used to be just pastured in the state now will be finished here.

Soybeans push west

Soybeans are also an important part in this complex picture of Kansas agricultural growth. Even though they're far more important in the eastern part of the state now, Heyne says development of varieties adapted to drier climates will push them west to Hutchinson within the next 10 years.

About the cover—Gazing into an expanse of rolling natural prairie are K-Staters Don Jameson, agronomy senior from Holton, and Lana Sims, home economics sophomore from Oakley.

This scene can be found northeast of Tuttle Creek on a tract of land once destined to become a prairie national park. This month's Ag Student tells what happened to the prairie park proposal and if there is still a chance that such a park could be created in Kansas.

Editor John Gerstner

Adviser Lowell Brandner

The growth of soybean acreage is due primarily to more export demand. Before World War II China supplied 90 percent of the soybeans traded in the world. The United States now supplies over 90 percent. Use of beans has also greatly expanded.

Soybeans have nearly replaced oats in eastern Kansas. Heyne says soybean acreage has reached a plateau in eastern Kansas, and crop acreages appear balanced now.

Farmer must choose crops

All four scientists agree that the individual farmer must decide what crops are best for himself and his farm. Each farm has its own characteristics, and a farmer may not like some crops.

The farmer must choose between diversification and specialization. Diversification has the advantage of knowing that if one crop fails the others may come through. Buller says for each diversified farm there is a combination of crops that will give maximum profit, but this varies with time.

Phar says too often a farmer will diversify and do good in one area while neglecting others. By specializing in one crop a person can give it maximum attention and make more profit on it. He noted that livestock need a lot of attention, and they may do better in a large commercial feed lot run by a producer without other interests.



Imitation Milk

The Dairyman's Newest Challenge

By John Gerstner

AS IF the dairyman didn't have enough problems, now a new and possibly most serious challenge threatens his existence. The new foe is imitation milk, and dairymen are welcoming the competitor with all the warmth of a new outbreak of mastitis.

The dairy industry has good reason to be concerned. Imitation milk has plenty of advantages and has scored well in test sales in Western states.

Imitation milk looks, tastes, and is packaged like whole milk. Indeed, a taste panel of 100 dairymen at Louisiana State University could not distinguish the imitation product from authentic milk.

Price attracts attention

Of course, price is attracting the most attention. Most processors figure the cost of the basic ingredients is 11.5 cents less per half-gallon than whole milk. This shows up in retail prices for imitation milk which are up to 16 cents less than brand name homogenized milk.

"This certainly is the most serious threat that has ever confronted the dairy industry," sums up the late Frank Neu, director of public relations for the American Dairy Association.

"Just a few months ago we were talking about imitation milk primarily as a Western states problem. Today it is a coast-to-coast problem. It is being sold or is ready to be sold in at least 15 states. This figure could

be higher, since things change from day to day," he says.

Strictly speaking, there are two so-called substitutes for whole milk: imitation milk and filled milk. Filled milk contains a heavy element of skim milk with the butterfat removed and replaced by a vegetable fat substitute. Imitation milk contains no milk ingredients except for caseinate.

Recipe for imitation milk

In general, the imitation products are made by combining coconut oil, fluid skim milk (or nonfat dry milk powder), and an imitation milk base mix, which contains the emulsifiers and stabilizers. Soy protein is also used as a base mix ingredient.

Imitation milk is made using the same processing equipment and techniques used in processing fresh fluid milk. Since processors can produce either product equally well, they're going to process the one that's most profitable. Hence, the imitation milk problem is saddled on the dairyman.

Nutrition equals whole milk

As to nutritional value of imitation milk, it's generally considered equal to regular whole milk. The imitations claim more protein, more B-vitamins, and for weight-watchers, fewer calories. The imitation product is, however, lower in calcium.

To attest to the quality of imitation milk, one major dairy company

has been test marketing an imitation beverage at a premium of two cents per one-half gallon above the price of regular homogenized milk.

The imitation milk boom, if it has reached those proportions, started in the West. So far, the major competitive sales test has come in Arizona, where, according to the most recent figures, imitation milk sales totaled 4.1 percent of all fluid milk sales.

ADA studies the situation

The American Dairy Association (ADA), now studying the situation, reports 65 percent of the people in Arizona are aware of imitation dairy products, 23 percent have tried them, 18 percent are still buying, and 6 percent plan to buy soon.

According to Dr. G. G. Quackenbush, associate director of market research for the ADA, buyers queried reflect a favorable image for imitation milk relative to regular milk.

"A possible exception is taste, but even here about 60 percent rate imitation milk equal to or better than regular milk," says Quackenbush.

Prices less for imitation milk

In April, 1967, retail prices for imitation milk ranged between 37 and 47 cents per half gallon in Arizona. This compared with 43 to 53 cents per half gallon for processors' label whole milk.

Quackenbush finds the buyers of imitation milk to be fairly well distributed over the population. There



A K-State dairy plant employee boxes cartons of milk for the Union. No imitation milk products are manufactured or sold in Kansas. (Below) A sampling of imitation milk now on the market in Western states.



was little difference due to income, age, or family size.

A smattering of imitation milk was also sold in California and Oregon. In California, monthly sales of the imitation product represented about .05 percent of the average monthly fluid milk sales.

In Oregon, imitation milk sales were brisk when the price was 39 cents a half gallon but when the cost increased to 45 cents consumers stopped buying.

Sales climbing steadily

Imitation milk sales have climbed steadily each month in Arizona, and most officials have little hope that total imitation milk purchases will taper off or remain steady.

To date, statutes surviving from the 1923 Federal Filled Milk Act make the sale and shipment across state lines of filled or imitation milk illegal in most states.

Most ADA officials feel this obstacle is only temporary, however, as most of these laws are now being contested. It is possible many courts may decide an imitation product can be sold if it is designated or labeled in such manner as to indicate it is not milk and does not carry the words "imitation milk" on the carton.

Legislative blockade crumbling

So with the legislative blockade crumbling, with the imitation product tasting better all the time, what's to keep the new competitor from replacing the cow?

"I do not foresee the imitation product completely destroying this segment of the fresh fluid milk industry," answers Herbert Moede of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service.

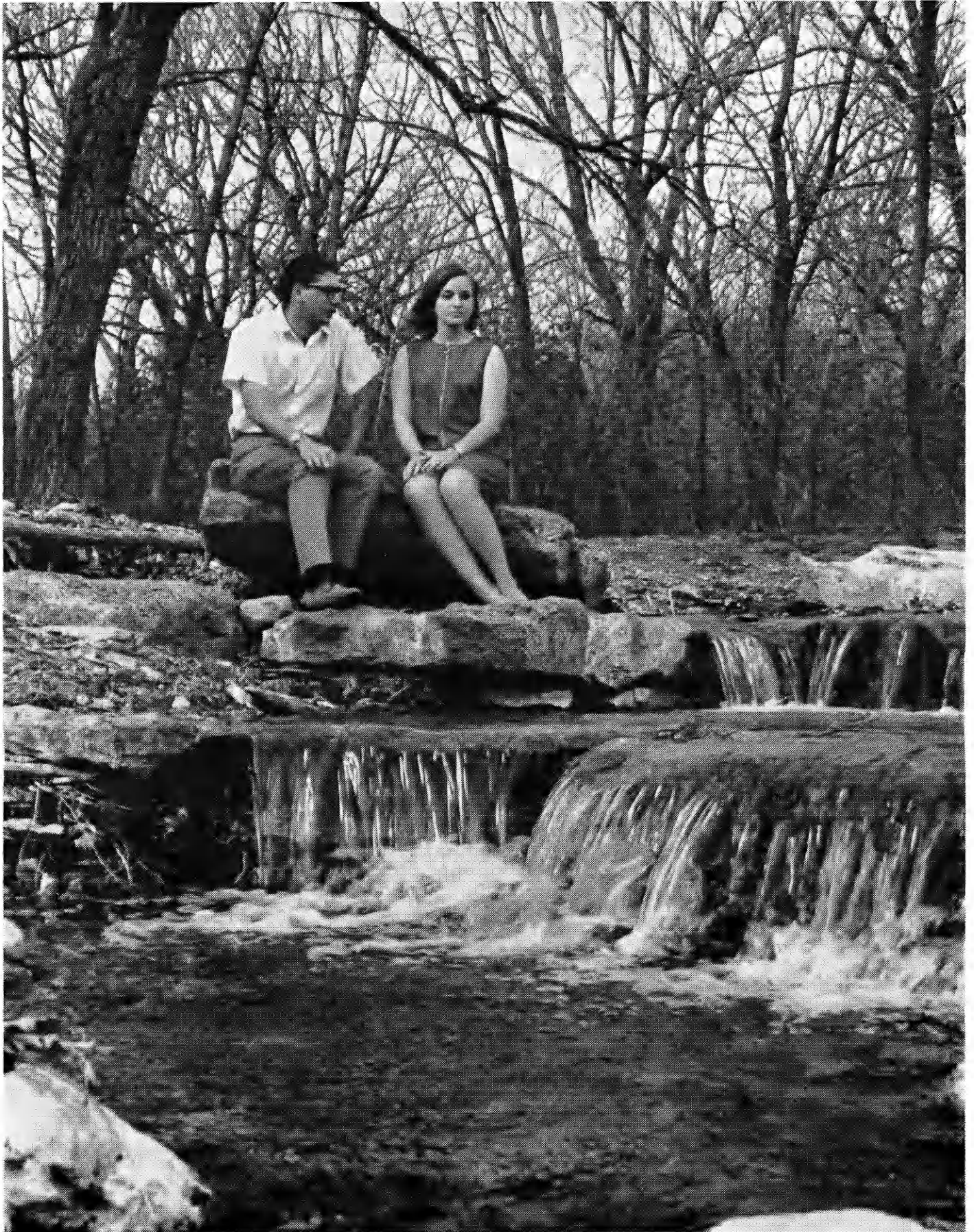
"The imitation product does, however, have the potential in terms of taste, texture and price to become a significant threat to the future of retail sales for fresh fluid milk.

"The sale of this type of product will undoubtedly intensify market competition within the fresh fluid milk industry, and may also bring the day much closer when more of the value of market milk will have to be carried by its nonfat-solids component rather than the milkfat portion."

Meanwhile, the men milking the

(Continued on page 13)

Rise and Fall of Prairie National Park





By Don Zimmerman

IS THERE a possibility of Kansas getting a prairie national park?

There's no bill in either the Kansas or the national legislature to establish a prairie national park in the state's Flint Hills, one of the few places where true prairie remains undisturbed.

However, in 1958 many persons were interested in preserving some of the tall bluestem grass prairies near Manhattan. Interest and support peaked in 1963 when the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior held hearings at Manhattan and inspected sites to be considered for the proposed prairie national park.

Park proponents still organized

But opposition reduced state and federal governmental interest in the park. Interested citizens are still organized. They are waiting for a favorable opportunity to spur support for a prairie national park.

What killed the prairie park proposal? Here's what happened:

The kickoff for a prairie national park was a community park conference dinner in February, 1958. The meeting, called by the Manhattan Park Board, proposed that a Manhattan Area Park Development Association be organized to improve park systems and the recreational area around Tuttle Creek Reservoir.

Three days later, the Manhattan Area Park Development Association began to outline its constitution and bylaws and to recruit support for a prairie national park. Dr. Herschel Gier, K-State professor of zoology, was elected president.

A prairie chicken and coyote in their natural habitat are examples of wildlife which would inhabit a prairie national park.

The Manhattan Area Park Development Association began soliciting support for a park near Manhattan, unaware that Dr. Raymond Hall, University of Kansas professor, was backing a proposal for a prairie park in Chase County, Kansas.

Legislative support sought

The Manhattan Area Park Association moved swiftly. Bill Colvin, editor of the Manhattan Mercury and member of the Board of Directors, worked on news coverage and to gain legislative support for the proposed park.

That Dwight D. Eisenhower was president and his brother, Milton, had been president of Kansas State seemed to favor the Manhattan area. Also Fred Seaton, former Manhattan resident, was Secretary of the Interior.

The Area Park Association began to solicit support of national organizations to back the proposed prairie national park. In July, 1958, a pre-

liminary federal team spent two days inspecting two sites near Manhattan.

The Department of the Interior was interested.

By December, 1958, the National Park Service had prepared a proposal for a true prairie national park in Kansas. They said the area must have about 30,000 acres to meet the minimum requirements. It must have plenty of grass and some historical, geological and general interest value.

Three areas considered


Three areas were being considered. One was the site eventually proposed in Pottawatomie County just east of Tuttle Creek Reservoir; the second was south of Manhattan; the third, in Chase County.

Fred Seaton, Secretary of the Interior, announced April 27, 1959, that the National Park Service Advisory Board had recommended the establishment of a 34,000-acre grass-

(Continued on page 14)

From Hoof...

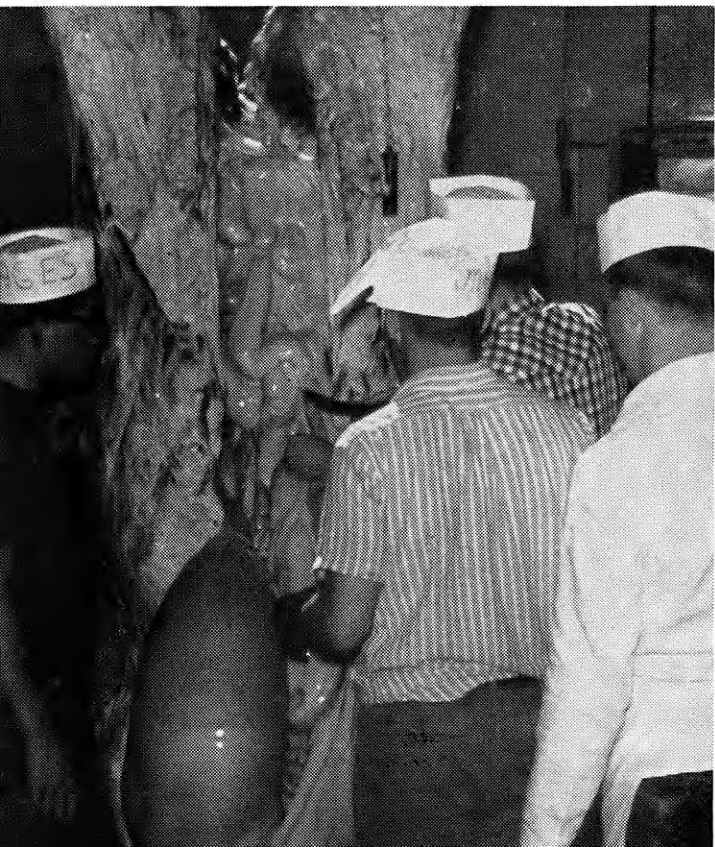
By Jerry Engler



AN EXAMPLE of one of the non-production livestock courses offered at K-State is shown on these two pages. In meats courses, students learn humane slaughter methods, butchering procedures, meat cutting, cut identification, packaging, processing, preserving techniques and meat cookery.

They learn the science of meat such as chemical effects of the environment on myoglobin, the purplish-red oxygen-carrying pigment of muscles.

Students also get a firsthand look at the anatomy and



Students examine the intestines as they remove them from a steer.



Surgery in the slaughter room begins as student meat inspectors watch federal meat inspector.

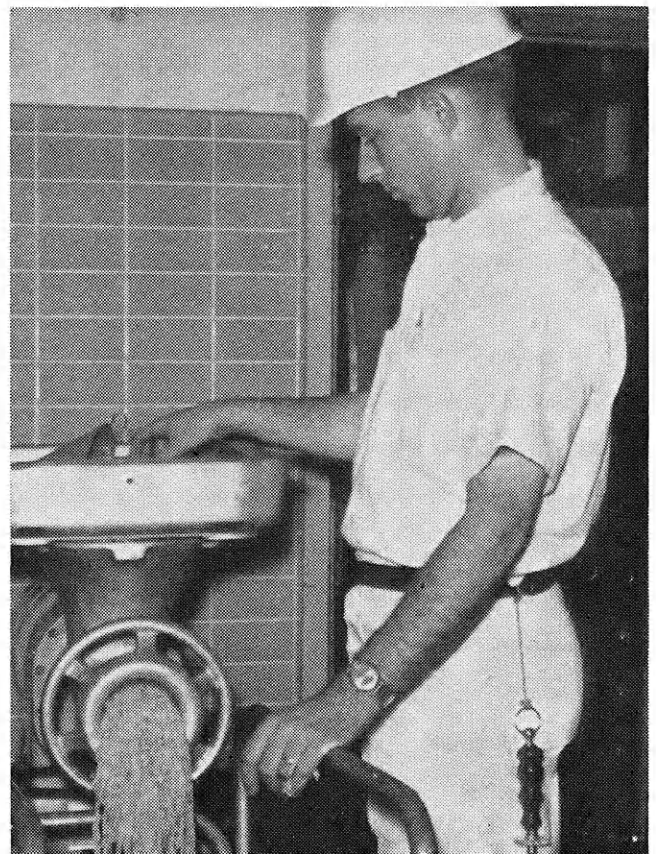
... to Hamburger

physiology of animals. The lab provides practical work for student meat inspectors under the supervision of a federal meat inspector. They examine the meat and all organs.

Experiments with meat foods may provide new consumer products. Many kinds of sausage are produced and tested. Different cookery methods are tried for optimum meat flavor and tenderness.

The slaughtering room is located in Weber Hall and is open to spectators.

In a final processing step, lean trim is ground into hamburger.





Alfalfa Weevil Hits Kansas

By Bob Stallbaumer, Jr.

A NEW CROP pest that can no longer be ignored, the alfalfa weevil, is spreading across Kansas.

Here's its record, from the west: 1960, Cheyenne and Hamilton counties; 1966, nine western Kansas counties; 1967, 30 counties; 1968, unknown but the trend is expected to continue.

Finney county is the only major alfalfa county to suffer significant economic damage so far, however. The county reported alfalfa weevil damage in local fields last year.

The alfalfa weevil has not reached the major alfalfa-producing counties in central Kansas yet, but with an-

other year like last, they could be in every Kansas county in one or two years.

The alfalfa weevil has a larval stage and an adult stage. The larvae are found in early spring about the time of the first cutting of alfalfa.

Here's how to identify them

Larvae are about three-eighths inch long when fully grown. Their heads are black; their bodies are green. They have a wide white stripe running down the middle of their backs, paralleled by two faint white stripes on either side.

The adults of the alfalfa weevil are

snout beetles and are about three-sixteenths inch long. At first they are brown, with a broad dark stripe extending down their backs from the front of their heads to more than half the length of their bodies. As the weevils age, many of them become uniformly dark brown or almost black.

Most damage by larvae

The larval stage of the alfalfa weevil does the greatest damage to the first crop of alfalfa. Larvae feed within the plant tips, on the upper leaves as they open, and finally on the lower foliage, skeletonizing the

leaves. Damaged leaves dry rapidly and the alfalfa field takes on a grayish to whitish cast.

Following the first cutting, the larvae head to the new shoots of the second crop and continue feeding. They retard new plant growth and may seriously damage the second crop. Newly emerged adults also feed on and severely damage the new shoots.

The adult weevils become active in early spring and lay eggs in clusters of 2-25 eggs.

Weevil has four stages

The alfalfa weevil goes through four stages in its development. Adult weevils lay eggs that hatch into small worms or larvae which, when fully grown, change to pupae, which in turn develop into the weevil or beetle stage. This cycle takes one year.

Larvae feed on alfalfa plants three to four weeks. When they have finished feeding, the larvae spin cocoons about one-fourth inch long on the plants, or within the curl of fallen dead leaves, or in other litter on the ground.

They pupate within the cocoons and change to adults. The adult weevils emerge in one or two weeks. Most of the young adults leave the alfalfa field soon after emergence, and remain inactive during the summer in protected places nearby. They return to the alfalfa fields in the fall and mate at this time or the following spring.

The alfalfa weevil can be easily

confused with the clover leaf weevil, which is present in all parts of the state, says Dr. Leroy Brooks, extension entomologist at Kansas State University.

Identification of the larvae is difficult. Adult clover leaf weevils are twice as large as alfalfa weevils. Clover leaf weevils are almost one-half inch long (larger than a garden pea). Leaf damage by alfalfa weevils shows lacy patterns. Clover leaf weevils destroy leaves or cause distinct notches.

Insecticides primary control

Brooks says the primary control for alfalfa weevils is chemical insecticides. Several commercial materials are available and should be used when 50 per cent of the growing tips show damage.

Recent preliminary research at K-State with new compounds for chemical insecticides has shown excellent promise for controlling the alfalfa weevil, Brooks said, and they should be on the market in two or three years.

Kansas has an eastern strain of the alfalfa weevil located in Cherokee county and a western strain in several western counties, Brooks said. The two strains look alike and it is impossible to tell them apart.

The alfalfa weevil, first found in the United States near Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1904, poses a serious threat to farmers.

Here's the alarming statistics: Out

of about 30 million acres of alfalfa in the United States, the United States Department of Agriculture estimates 4½ million acres (about 15 percent) are weevil infested and at least two million are seriously affected. The weevil now affects alfalfa in 40 of the 50 states.

Dr. C. C. Blickenstaff, USDA entomologist of the Agricultural Research Service at Beltsville, Md., thinks there is a good possibility that a weevil-resistant variety of alfalfa may be developed within the next few years.

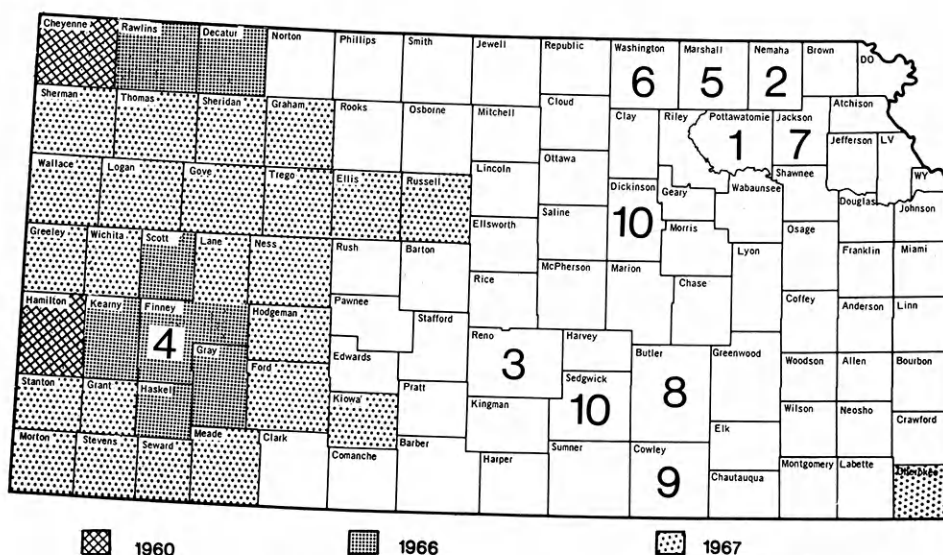
Good management can reduce insecticide requirements and help control damage by the alfalfa weevil larvae, the stage in which the insect is most injurious, Blickenstaff says.

Dense stands help

For example, farmers should grow dense, vigorous stands. Early harvest—at full bud stage—may save the day, when heavy infestation occurs, Blickenstaff says. Although a smaller crop may result, it will retain greater feed value than if harvested after the insects have consumed the most nutritious parts of the plants.

Although areas of alfalfa weevil infestation have increased rapidly in the state, no serious economic damage is expected in most areas within the immediate future, Brooks said.

Farmers are encouraged to check their alfalfa fields closely and report any sign of the alfalfa weevil to their county agent.

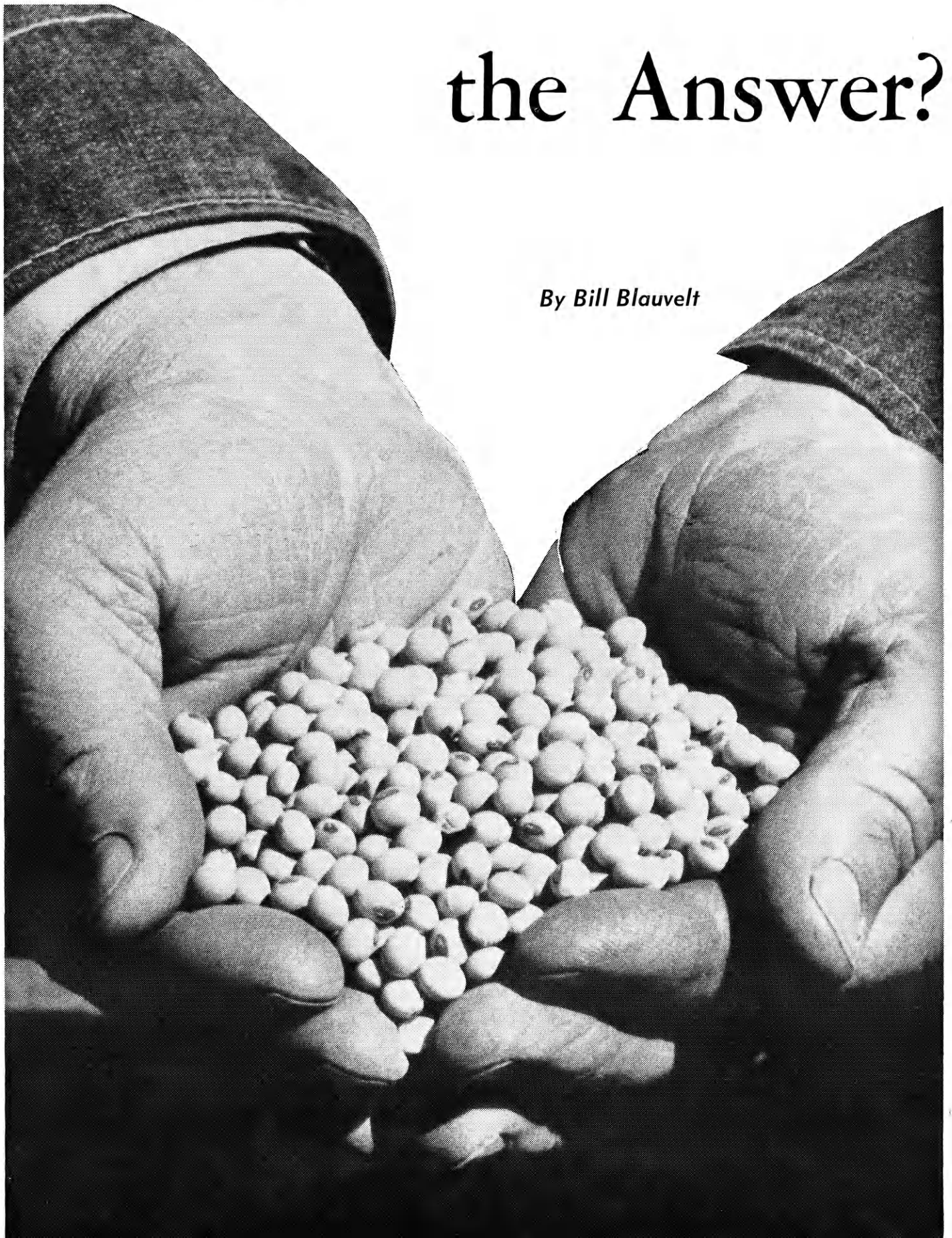


TOP 10 ALFALFA COUNTIES AND WEEVIL INFESTATION

Are Soybeans

the Answer?

By Bill Blauvelt



ARE SOYBEANS the answer to depressed Kansas farm incomes west of U.S. Highway 81?

Perhaps a Gypsy fortune teller could give you a definite answer—K-State agronomists can't. Dr. Ernest Mader, K-State soybean specialist, recommends that farmers east of 81 should seriously consider adding soybeans to their crop program. But he doubts they are the answer for farmers west of 81. Only during ideal years will they pay better than the crops currently being raised.

Lowell Burchett, superintendent of the North-central Kansas Experiment Fields, thinks soybeans will compete very favorably with wheat for total farm profit.

Rain limits soybean yields

Rain is the limiting factor. With sufficient rainfall, soybeans will grow throughout much of the United States. As a rule, if there isn't enough rain for corn don't plant soybeans.

This may be changing. Since 1962, dryland tests at the Mankato, Kan., experiment field has averaged 18 $\frac{2}{3}$ bushels per acre with Clark 63 and 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre with Kent. When the costs of raising soybeans vs. wheat or grain sorghum and the side benefits from soybeans are considered, it may be economically advisable to add soybeans to your crop rotation.

In Kansas, soybeans averaged 22 bushels per acre in 1967 contrasted to 68 bushels per acre for corn. Corn was selling for about \$1 a bushel and soybeans were going for \$2.50. At that rate, soybeans return \$55 per acre compared with \$68 for corn. Gross return does not present a complete picture, however. The costs for producing soybeans usually are less than those for corn, since soybeans normally do not require fertilizer.

Must beat state average

Mader says if either corn or soybeans are to be profitable you must raise more than the state average.

While soybeans rank fourth as a cash crop in Kansas, they are relatively new and most Kansas farmers are still learning how to raise them. Mader expects the average yield will increase as farmers learn more about them.

In some areas, the lack of a ready market is holding down production.

Since they are harvested about the same time as corn and grain sorghum, many small country elevators do not have facilities for the additional crop.

Large producers circumnavigate this problem by shipping in truckload lots directly to the processing plants. Currently, Kansas processors have excess capacity so don't expect processing problems in the near future.

Bean storage usually pays

On-farm soybean storage usually pays, as the market is glutted at harvest, reports Mader.

Your present grain sorghum or corn equipment will handle soybeans. Mader says narrow row spacing may increase yields but the difference is not sufficient to warrant using a row width different from that you are using for corn or grain sorghum.

A combine will harvest soybeans, although many producers say soybean harvesting is much harder on the machine than either grain sorghum or corn. For every inch above the ground the plant is harvested you will leave about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre.

How does soybean acreage fit into ASCS programs? To be sure, check with your county office, as the regulations change constantly. Currently you can't plant soybeans in lieu of corn or grain sorghum and still receive price-support payments. They now count against your conserving base. Prior to this year, many farmers were planting soybeans in lieu of corn or grain sorghum.

Soybeans improve soil

While it is difficult to measure, soybeans improve soil tilth and add to the reserve nitrogen supply.

Because different herbicides are used for soybeans and corn, adding soybeans to your crop rotations may aid in weed control.

The net return tests conducted in 1967 at the Cornbelt experiment field near Powhattan, Kan., showed corn and milo yields and returns were higher when they followed soybeans than when grown in succession.

Since very little cover is left after harvesting, old soybean fields are more susceptible to wind erosion.

Should you plant soybeans west of U.S. 81? We conclude—see your favorite crystal ball gazer if you want a definite answer, as K-State doesn't have definite proof for either raising or not raising.

Imitation Milk Dairyman's Newest Challenge

(Continued from page 5)

cows are rightfully concerned about the threat of imitation milk. A recent ADA survey of almost 500 large producers indicates that 83 per cent consider imitation milk to be a serious threat.

So what can be done? Most dairymen and the ADA signal thumbs down to any legislative means of keeping imitation milk off the grocers' shelves.

This attitude stems from the disheartening WW II legislative battle against oleomargarine. Today the "lower priced spread" commands more than two-thirds of the total butter-oleo market.

"That legislative approach," recalls Neu, "succeeded in casting the so-called 'dairy trust' in the role of villains trying to deny consumers the right of free choice, while oleo manufacturers picked up points by becoming champions of the consumers' interests."

Dairy industry mounts offensive

The dairy industry, then, is pledging to mount an offensive against imitation dairy products, not by legal or legislative means, but by development and promotion.

Other tactics include changing the values placed on fat and solids-not-fat, promotion, market testing, and advertising.

The ADA, bolstering its budget from \$8 million to \$55 million, is currently supporting an intensive research program to find new uses for dairy products. In addition, the association wants to place much more emphasis on promotion of "honest-to-goodness milk flavor and nutrition."

Speaking for the dairy industry in Kansas, Dr. Charles L. Norton, head of dairy and poultry science at K-State, says the industry has been through the substitute hassle before with oleo and now can rely on hindsight to help solve the problem.

"I believe the dairy industry is taking a reasonable and practical attitude toward this potential threat. We are just going to have to compete with imitation milk by putting out a better quality product, and through better advertising, promotion and merchandising," Norton says.

The Rise and Fall of Prairie National Park

(Continued from page 7)

lands park in Pottawatomie County, Kansas, just east of Tuttle Creek Reservoir.

Interest began to increase. The Association gained support of the influential Kansas citizens. State and national politicians, university professors, and presidents, editors and outdoor writers backed the proposed park.

Then problems began to develop.

Highway 13 poses problem

Construction of Tuttle Creek Reservoir had made it necessary to relocate several roads. New Highway 13 was to bisect the proposed prairie park southwest to the northeast.

Acting Director of the National Park Service Hillory Tolson sent letters urging the commission to consider another location for Highway 13.

The National Park Service thought Highway 13 was to be a major highway, and the Service limits roads. The Kansas Highway Commission agreed to develop roadways to enhance the Pottawatomie County site.

Chase County, the Service's second choice, met opposition because it would reduce the tax base for the county. The Pottawatomie site remained the number one choice. But opposition was mounting in Pottawatomie County.

Landowners protest park

In October, 1959, Acting Secretary of the Interior Elmer Bennett wrote Senator Frank Carlson regarding protests by some Pottawatomie County residents and landowners. Petitions later were circulated against the park.

Letters opposing the park were sent to senators, representatives, the Secretary of the Interior and the director of the Park Service by some landowners in the proposed site. Other owners in the park area, however, were not opposed to the proposed park.

Some ranchers, once moved by the

Tuttle Creek lake development, would be forced to relocate for the second time if the proposed area were a national park.

Other problems developed. The Park Service wanted a buffer area bordering Tuttle Creek free from construction and other developments.

Opposition mounted again. Extending the park to the eastern shore of Tuttle Creek Reservoir would prevent recreational and commercial development in Pottawatomie County.

Legislature boosts park in 1961

But in 1961 the proposed prairie park got a boost with a \$100,000 appropriation by the Kansas Legislature to start the park.

In July, 1961, the National Park Service released a colorful, 24-page illustrated booklet explaining the desirability of a prairie national park. The site east of Tuttle Creek was the first choice. The Ecological Society of America and the National Research Council also favored the park.

Pottawatomie site ok'd

The requirements for a prairie park were: a large tract of land to give the impression of the prairie; a large area to support wildlife species without outside influence; some scenic appeal. The Pottawatomie site met all requirements.

The area proposed was 57,000 acres, about 7 by 13 miles on the east side of Tuttle Creek Reservoir. East of Highway 13 that bisects the area is the largest unbroken tract of land in Kansas. No mile roads and few trails cross an area there of about 27,000 acres. The plant life, wildlife, geology and history of the area fit Park Service requirements.

In December, 1961, Glenn Miller, University of Kansas, reported on the business use in the proposed prairie park.

Park deemed big business

Using similar park areas, as examples, he estimated the day traffic

to the area would benefit commercial businesses in the surrounding communities by \$10 million in tourist-related business in 1970, if the park was established in 1965.

Studying the tax situation, Miller said a three-mill increase in the tax levy on the remainder of the county would offset revenue lost from the tax rolls to the proposed park.

Also backing the proposed prairie national park was the Prairie National Park Natural History Association, Inc.

Park efforts end in 1963

The efforts to bring a national park to the area east of Tuttle Creek climaxed with hearings in Manhattan in the Spring of 1963 by the Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and Director of the National Park Service Conrad Wirth.

Carried nationally in the news media was the Twin Mounds incident, when a rancher ordered the two officials off his land during the on-site inspection.

Later that spring several states were recommended by Udall for national parks. Kansas was not one of them.

To finalize opposition to the park, the Pottawatomie County Commissioners went on record opposing the park in May, 1963.

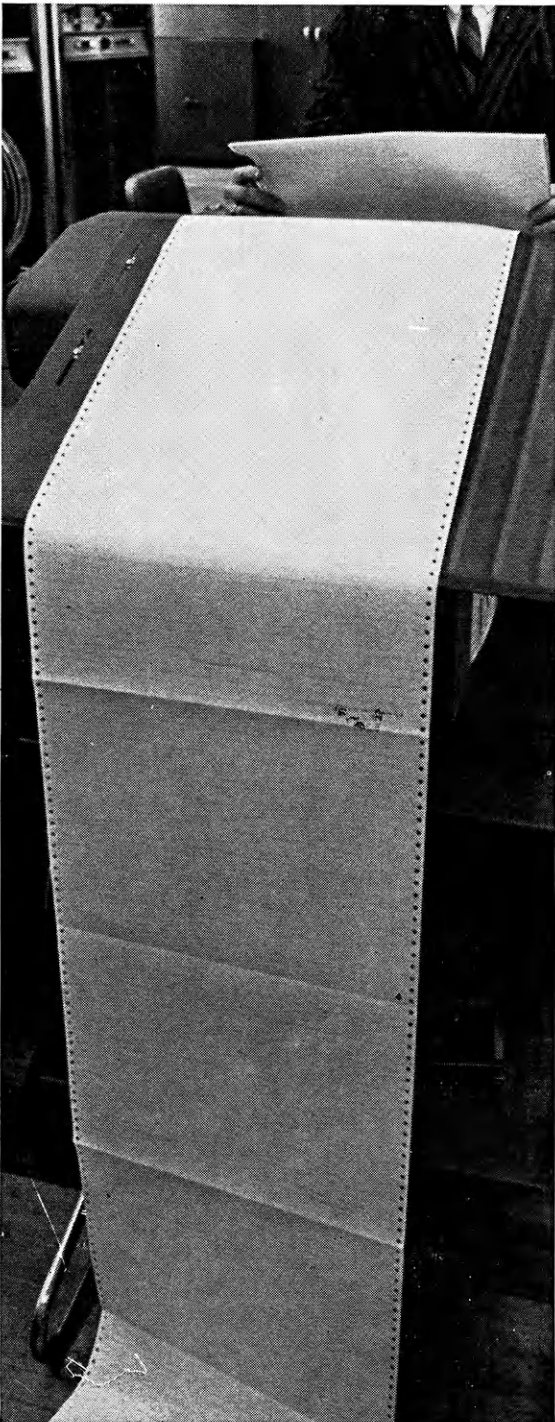
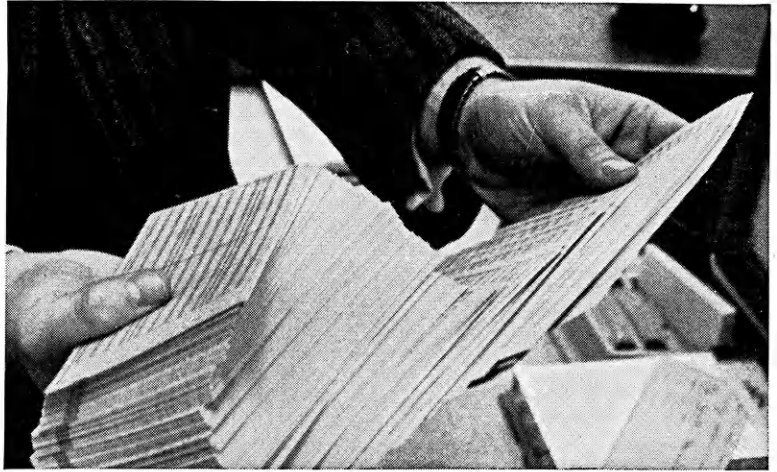
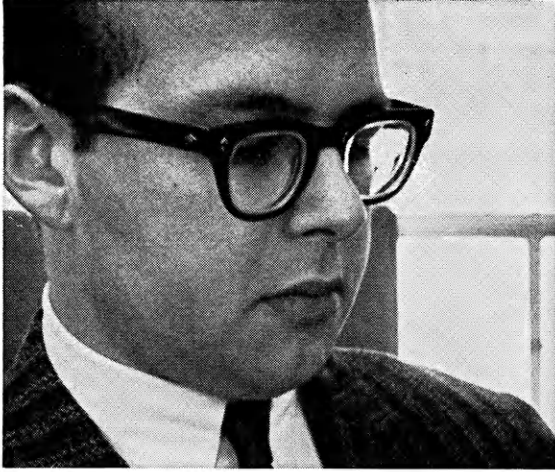
Commission opposes park

The Commission opposed the park on several points including increased federal acquisition of lands for flood control and a reduced county tax base.

A 1963 bill was re-introduced with few changes from the earlier bill, except two local people would sit on the board to determine boundaries. The Commission also opposed taking of private lands already developed for the establishment of a park.

Thus 1963 may have marked the end for the prairie national park in Kansas. Still, members of the Prairie National Park Natural History Association, Inc., have hopes for a park.

At a March, 1968, meeting they elected Dr. Hall of KU president and Dr. Gier of KSU vice president. They are still interested in preserving a piece of the tall bluestem prairie and are ready to move with little encouragement. Could Kansas still perhaps get a prairie national park? Only time can tell.



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