

# Kansas Flying Farmers

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## THE PREZ SAYS

Hello Flying Farmers,

First, I want to thank everyone that attended the Kansas convention in Newton and helped me through. A big "Thank You" to Harry, Monte and Diana for all their help. It was tough to be there without my Mom. She helped me a lot with preparing for the convention. I think she would have liked what we did.

Anyway, has our lives really taken a turn since then! It is scary how fast COVID-19 has changed our everyday routines. From going to the grocery stores by yourself, following "one-way" arrows on the floor, standing 6 feet apart in a line. It's just crazy to me. But I guess the biggest change for our house is no school. Oh, on-line learning is very challenging and takes a lot of discipline on all our parts. My daycare has also grown. I went to having my 4 littles to having them and 5 more school-age kids I wasn't prepared for until the end of May. I'm trying to help them with their schoolwork and getting on all their Zoom conferences with their teachers. By Friday, I am more than ready for the weekend.

My teenagers are also having a hard time dealing with the stay-at-home orders. Grace is finishing up her Sophomore year of college on-line. She also is trying out for cheerleader at the University of New Mexico for next year. She is having to do all her routines on-line too. Hopefully we will get on all clear by the end of May and she will be going to live with my sister Janell and her husband, Bobby in Albuquerque and getting ready to attend school in the Fall.

Trevon is busy still working 40 hours a week at O'Reilly's. He also is finishing up his Senior year of High School along with a few college classes. This virus really took a toll on him when the schools closed for the year. His senior year, no band banquet, no prom and mostly no graduation. But he has since gotten on with life, looking at the bigger picture, college. He is so excited to have been accepted on a full ride to Colorado College in Colorado Springs. He worked very hard through their enrollment process, we are very proud of the hard work he put in to be accepted. Now if they decide to do on-line classes in August, I'm sure he will not be excited.

Rylee on the other hand doesn't mind doing on-line learning. She sees it as a chance to work at her own pace and to be able to improve her GPA. Crowded classrooms are not her thing. The only thing is, she was upset about when schools closed, was that there would no longer be a swim team. This was her first year to try out for a sport. She has never had a swim lesson but wanted to give it a try. After 3 weeks she was getting it and super excited about her daily improvement.

Well enough about my family. I hope that each and every one of you are staying healthy and doing your part every day to help stop the spread of this virus. These are defiantly trying times for all of us, but with hope and prayer we will get through it.

Take care,  
Janean Harris  
KFF President

**Upcoming Events**  
**June 15-18, 2020**  
 Minnkota Convention  
 Brookings, SD  
**July 21-24, 2020**  
 IFF Convention  
 Mitchell, SD



## Kansas and Heartland Flying Farmers Convention

Hello, Flying Farmers, this was the first year that Kansas and Heartland combined Chapters to hold an annual convention. This year it was Kansas's turn to plan and hold the convention. I knew that no matter where we held it, people would have to drive a way, so I tried to select somewhere central in Kansas. That is how I came up with Newton, KS.

With the help from the Newton Visitor and Convention Bureau, my mom, Marilyn and Harry Bartel, I think we come up with something for everyone. I think it was a little different than traditional conventions of the past as we did not have a banquet room where we had our meals. We traveled to local restaurants to have our meals. We had originally planned to visit Weatherly Aircraft, but at the last minute they pulled out, so plans had to quickly change.

The convention started on Friday with a very nice lunch provided to us by the Newton Convention Bureau. It was held at the Carriage Factory Gallery. After lunch several of us traveled a short distance to Hesston, Ks to take a tour at AGCO. Their agricultural products are sold under the core brands of Challenger, Fendt, Massey Ferguson and Valtra, and are distributed globally through more than 2,800 independent dealers and distributors, in more than 140 countries worldwide. At this site they manufacture balers, mowers, rakes and combines. It is amazing the size of equipment that they assemble on a daily basis. Those that did not tour AGCO went antique shopping in downtown Newton. They have a nice downtown with lots of locally owned business.

That evening we had a taco bar for supper provided to us by Acapulco Mexican restaurant. I think everyone enjoyed a little something different as far as convention meals. After our meals we went back to the hotel conference room and enjoyed an ice cream social. The ice cream was really good, as there was a Braums ice cream store right next to our hotel where we purchased the ice cream and fixings.

On Saturday morning the chapter meetings were held. Heartland held theirs separately from Kansas. The Kansas meeting was de-

layed awhile as we were waiting for President John Jenkinson to arrive. He had planned on flying into Newton from Lakin, but the winds did not allow, so he and his wife drove.

At noon, the ladies had their luncheon at the historic Wharton House. The home was beautiful. We had a tour after lunch with the director of the Newton Visitor bureau. The home was the original home of Bernard Wharton. He created what many would consider a business empire, he owned many businesses in Newton. A flour mill, three banks, a cement company, and one of three founders of Bethel College. But what he is best known for was Turkey Red Wheat from Russia. He thought it would be more suitable for the Kansas climate.

The men's luncheon was held at the hotel conference room with guest speaker, Brian Palmer, Director of Aviation at the Newton Airport. He spoke to us about the history of the Newton Airport, and how it came to be. He introduced us to several of the businesses that are based at the airport, and how they have grown, and support it. Being a former airline pilot, he discussed some of the issues he had seen, and how they were dealing with them at this point. Evidently, people enjoyed the presentation, as he had planned about a hour presentation, and it lasted for almost an hour and a half.

That evening supper was enjoyed at the locally owned Breadbasket. We all got plenty full on some very interesting German food. I believe that Harry was the one of the only ones that actually knew what we were eating. Newton is known for their Mennonites, that migrated to this area. There is still a large population of Mennonites in their community. After supper we headed back to the hotel for the installation of Officers and Queen Coronation.

This year Kansas nor Heartland chapters selected a Queen. Kansas did have a farmerette this year. It was Rylee Bigley, daughter of Walter Bigley and Janean Harris, granddaughter of Marilyn Bartel. She was farmerette last year, but now that she is 15, she will be able to represent Kansas at the IFF convention in Mitchell, South Dakota. The new Kansas Chapter officers were sworn in by Janna Jenkinson. She is County Treasurer for Kearney County Kansas.

I'm glad that we had our convention the first weekend in March, before the COVID-19 epi-

demic. I know that many chapters had to cancel their conventions due to stay-at-home orders. I hope that everyone is well and taking care of themselves. Only time, and people staying at home and praying will help this virus pass.

Janean Harris,  
KFF President

Harry Bartel,  
IFF President,  
Kansas Treasure

Hello Everyone! What a difficult time in our lives we are all dealing with right now. I can honestly say, the uncertainty of things leaves me with a very uneasy feeling. I know we will all come out of this stronger and hopefully more appreciative of our freedoms.

I have not been to town now, for over 3 weeks. I can't say I miss it, but it is just a strange feeling. When we do need things, either Monte or my kids go to the store, drugstore or anywhere else for me. I feel guilty, but with a weakened immune system because of the cancer many years ago, I need to stay home. I do go outside, when it's warm enough and that sure makes a difference.

I feel very fortunate that we were able to have the Kansas Convention as all conventions since then have been canceled. I have talked to a lot of members, but it just feels like such a disheartening feeling not getting to see everyone across the United States and Canada.

I want to give Janean Harris a big round of applause for the outstanding job she did for the Kansas Convention. We appreciate everyone who was able to come and make the convention a great success. With everything her and her family were dealing with, she did an awesome job. I am so proud and I know her mom is also, for taking on the Presidency for the next year. She will do a great job and she knows if she needs help, she can contact any of the members to help her.

As of today, the IFF Convention in Mitchell,

South Dakota is still on, but I am taking it one day at a time and will see by the end of this month what the future looks like. The executive officers and a few other members have met on Zoom and discussed issues we feel like we need to address right now. It is so nice to see everyone and it makes us feel closer to each other. Monte has been hauling grain and my sons keep working on equipment getting them ready for farming this year. We are very worried as to what we are going to be farming if we don't receive any moisture. I know it's like a broken record, but we are still extremely dry. Since January 1, we have had 8 tenths of moisture. That is not very much at all. The mountains have been getting a lot of snow and even areas on the plains have had a lot more that we have received. I'll just keep praying that we can get some rain now, since spring has officially arrived.

Just a reminder if anyone has any news just send it to Harry and he will put in in the newsletter. If he doesn't get anything, he can't print the news.

Thanks,  
Diana

# POST-TOUR FOR 2020 IFF CONVENTION MITCHELL, SOUTH DAKOTA

I'm finally getting the IFF post tour figured out, after the IFF Convention ends in Mitchell, SD. Ken Pierce's flying tour is planning on joining us, & then will fly on from Murdo. Who knows if we'll even get to have the IFF Convention-sure hope this crisis is done by then. This is what I have so far-

## Saturday-July 25

9 am-leave Mitchell for Chamberlain

10 am-arrive at Chamberlain Rest Area & view the statue "Dignity"

11 am-leave Chamberlain

11:30 am-arrive Presho-eat lunch at Hutch's Café

12:30 pm-leave Presho for Ft. Pierre

1:30 pm-arrive at Ft. Pierre Livestock Auction barn-they usually sell about 25,000-30,000 head of cattle every week in the spring & fall, although this is not their busy season.

2:30 pm-go to Casey Tibbs Museum-he was 9 times World Champion Saddle Bronc Rider & has made several movies.

4:30 pm- (depending on where I make arrangements for overnight in Ft. Pierre/Pierre, perhaps we'll get the RV's at the camp ground & we'll check into our motel)

5:30 pm-eat supper

6:30 pm-drive up & over the Oahe Dam (the world's largest earth-rolled Dam) & then on to our State Capitol (hopefully we'll have enough room in our cars, that the RV'ers & those flying can ride with us)

## Sunday-July 26

8:30/9:00 am-drive down to the Valburg's Ranch which we will tour & have a catered lunch. If you want to camp at the ranch, you can leave your RV there & ride to Murdo in cars.

2:00/2:30 pm-go to Murdo & tour the world's famous Pioneer Auto Museum. Whenever you get done or tired, you can go to the motel for the rest of the day/evening. If you want to go on from there, that is your choice.)

Please let the IFF office or me know if you're planning on going on this tour with us. If you have any questions.

please email <[bevalburg@goldenwest.net](mailto:bevalburg@goldenwest.net)>

or call 605-669-2637/no texts!!

You will be responsible for all your expenses as I'm not going to have a registration fee.

# FARMERETTE NEWS

Hi,

I want to thank you for allowing me to be your Kansas Flying Farmerette. I am super excited about being able to go to IFF in Mitchell, South Dakota in July. It was also something that my Grandma would want me to do. She really enjoyed Flying Farmers, all the traveling and seeing so many great people.

Well, as you know this COVID-19 has changed so many things. After the Kansas convention we had Spring Break and then the Governor decided to close all of Kansas schools for the year. So, we have basically been at home since March 9<sup>th</sup>. I have started doing all of my classes online. I don't know how much I am really learning, but my grades are going up, one 'B' and the rest are 'A's' so I can't complain too much. The only thing I really miss is the swim team. We

had been practicing for 3 weeks before it was cancelled. I was just getting into it and my swimming technique was getting better every day. But there is always next year.

During this stay-at-home time my sister and I have been busy helping mom with the daycare and also making sure that the school age kids are getting their studies done. But we spend a lot of our evening and weekends making puzzles. They are mostly 500-piece puzzles, but we are working on one that is a 2000-piece garden puzzle. When it is finished, we are going to frame it and put it above my mom and dad's bed.

Well, that is all that is going on right now. Hopefully we will be able to see all of you in July at IFF. Until then take care of yourselves and be well.

Your Kansas Farmerette,  
Rylee Bigley

## ATTENTION KFF MEMBERS

At IFF Convention this year, there are several items coming up that will require IFF members vote. So, think about these items, and talk to the IFF officers, tell them your opinions, and suggestions.

Should the IFF pursue changes to our website to attempt to lure younger members into our organization? One suggestion at this time would be to hire someone to rebuild the website, with a cost of approximately \$2500.

Are there changes you see that we should make to our By-Laws? Speak with one of the officers or regional Directors



BE SURE TO CHECK THE NEXT IFF MAGAZINE. I THINK YOU WILL SEE SOME INFORMATION FOR A WONDERFUL POST TOUR AT IFF CONVENTION.

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**Kansas Flying Farmers Officers:**  
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Ladies Vice - Kay Burghous  
Editor - Harry Bartel  
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