

# SERVICEMEMBER AGRICULTURAL VOCATION EDUCATION (SAVE)



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## *Announcement*

Starting August 1<sup>st</sup>, Golden Prairie Honey Farms and SAVE will be selling honey at the Fort Riley Post Exchange. Join us by supporting our efforts.

Attention graduates! Looking for SAVE students to show their skills and apply the knowledge obtained while in the program. Read more about these employment opportunities in this month's newsletter!

Fall Semester is here! If you haven't enrolled, the deadline for enrollment is closing fast. It is key that you remember, it is essential for you to be present to be part of the program.

## *Inside This Issue*

### **PG. 2 Hereford Cattle, did you know?**

With the addition of our new bull to the herd, here is an opportunity to see what you know about the breed.

### **PG. 3 Sweet Taste of the Season**

Honey extraction time at Golden Prairie Honey Farms. Read about what is buzzing around the shop.

### **PG. 4 Incubator Farm in Lawrence, KS**

Read about the success story happening at the Incubator Farm in Lawrence, KS.



## *Hereford Cattle, did you know...*

Hereford is a British breed of beef cattle that originated in the county of Herefordshire in the West Midlands of England. The breed was first exported from the United Kingdom in 1817, initially to Kentucky, and spreading across the United States and Canada. Today, Hereford cattle dominate the world scene. They originally found popularity among ranchers in the American Southwest where they proved to thrive in much harsher climates than the cool, moist Britain where they originated.

The breed supposedly descended from Roman Briton's small red cattle from centuries passed. They are usually red with white patches. Calves sired by Hereford bulls almost always have the distinctive white head, and many farmers find this kind of identification to be an advantage in the selling market. Bulls weigh on average 2,645 lbs. with cows weighing around 1,764 lbs.

Herefords have well-sought-after qualities such as early maturity and a high libido. The gestation period for calves is shorter than the average for a cow of its size, making it an easier process for some farmers as it reduces the costs involved in tending to a pregnant cow. Great fertility and dams reliably wean one calf per year. Even if low-quality or decreased volumes of forage are available to them, they still wean very successfully. Conception usually occurs from around two years of age.

The temperament of Hereford cattle is a docile and pleasant. This type of behavior is a desirable concept for farmers who may have only themselves working on the farm. The average finishing age for Hereford is approximately 18-20 months. The cattle convert their forage-based diets into muscle in an ideal time, gaining weight with ease and providing a high-quality carcass.

## *Ranch, Rodeo & Agriculture Magazine*

The latest issue of Ranch, Rodeo, & Agriculture magazine features an article about The SAVE Farm, and one of our own, Steve Price. This article provides readings with a brief introduction to the Servicemember Agricultural Vocation Education Farm. Great job to the author, Mark Reamer.

In addition, this article gives us a glimpse of Steve's story. His background and growing up without any experience in agriculture turned into the event that led him and his family to their journey with agriculture. This life-changing story of Steve's and his family is a testament to how when one door closes, another one opens.

To read this story click here:

[https://issuu.com/rramagazine/docs/final\\_1.5\\_ea7a26344bda57/38](https://issuu.com/rramagazine/docs/final_1.5_ea7a26344bda57/38)



Hereford cows grazing. Signature white patched bodies.



## ***Golden Opportunities for Golden Prairie Honey Farms.***

We are venturing into new opportunities for Golden Prairie Honey Farms. Starting August 1, 2020, our honey products will be offered at the Fort Riley Main Post Exchange. Come out and support Golden Prairie Honey Farms!

## ***BEE BOOT CAMP***

Become part of a great experience. Golden Prairie Honey Farm offers Bee Boot Camp every month. If you are aspiring to become a Master Beekeeper or you just want to learn more about the unsung heroes of pollination.

Click on <https://www.goldenprairiehoney.com/product/bee-bootcamp/320> and register. The cost of \$10 will cover your breakfast and lunch meals.

Taught by our master beekeepers, you will learn about preparing to receive bees, bringing them home, caring for your bees, honey production and preparing your colony for winter.

Due to COVID-19, the class is limited to 50 participants. Attendance is \$10/person. Please purchase a seat for each person attending. Priority will be given to those signed up.

## ***Sweet Taste of the Season....***

It's that time of the year when we would gather and process the bounty that our honeybees have prepared. As of the end of the month, we have extracted over 5,000 pounds of honey from our hives and continue to look forward to opportunities to extract more in the weeks to come.

Although the extraction process is a grueling one, we are glad to endure to benefit from the end product. Our beekeepers take extra special care in collecting of the combs from the hives to bottling that golden sweetness. Pure, unadulterated honey, homegrown by heroes! If you haven't experienced this sweet taste of the season, maybe you can make time to purchase a sample from the Golden Prairie Honey Farm and delight your taste buds.

## ***Meet Sydney, the Next Generation of Beekeeping***



Golden Prairie Honey Farms was introduced to Bee Girl Sydney in April. Sydney was instrumental in her family's decision to place bees on her family's property. Back in April, she suited up and explored the beehive for the first time. This month, she was able to harvest, extract, and bottle her honey at Golden Prairie Honey Farms to be sold. Sydney embodies the passion, excitement, and energy of a bright young mind willing to learn all she can about bees.





## ***Progress from Lawrence, KS!***

“The flowers are flowering at Incubator Farm in Lawrence, KS and the pollinators are loving it! You can see a lot of bees, butterflies, and goldfinches around. Now that August is here, the farmers are feeling grateful for some rain and a break from the heat.

Like always there is good and bad on a farm. Several of our farmers lost tomatoes to blight this year and we are battling a nasty case of Johnson Grass on one of our plots. Soon, it will be time to plant our fall crops! As manager, I have been working on improving some infrastructure, like shelving in our barn, a hand washing station, and a post-harvest wash station for our farmers to utilize. Looking forward to getting some hives on the farm!

These days it is mostly about harvesting for our farmers, who primarily sell directly to customers or to restaurants. Dave is counting on a late melon crop. Beau is harvesting his sweet corn. Traci is still harvesting her blackberries. Panta is experimenting with growing jicama this season.” – Kelley Coquillette

## ***Fundraising Efforts!***

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2020, the Servicemember Agricultural Vocation Education (SAVE) Corp began a campaign with ioby.com, a fundraiser that will enable us to obtain funds to expand our orchard, beekeeping, and livestock programs. These funds will directly benefit our students as they continue their college-accredited training to find a meaningful career in agriculture.

We would like to say thank you to those who have donated. Your support and efforts are always welcome and appreciated. You are a vital part of our success!

If you would still like to donate, it's not too late. We would be honored if you would consider assisting in this fundraising by going to <https://ioby.org/project/veterans-and-farmers-need-your-help> and making a donation. **All donations are tax-deductible.**

## **Help Wanted!!!!**

Looking for SAVE Students that are knowledgeable in Baling Operations from 15 August to 10 October 2020. Must be able to operate a tractor with the purpose of cutting, gathering, baling, and moving hay on and around Fort Riley. If anyone is interested, contact Scott Hoch at (785) 499-3533 or by email at [scotthoch67@gmail.com](mailto:scotthoch67@gmail.com).

## Work with CHS - Veterans Preferred - Agronomy Operations Manager

A job in Oklahoma - Military Veterans are Encouraged to Apply. CHS (in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, has an exciting opportunity in our Country Operations Division. We are looking for an Agronomy Operations Manager who has a strong understanding of the industry. You will oversee the agronomy plant in Kingfisher, OK. You must be a proven leader able to motivate and lead employees to accomplish plant goals.

You will: Manage a multi-million-dollar agronomy plant operation according to divisional objectives to provide patrons with prompt, courteous and effective service while maintaining the efficiency necessary to achieve a maximum margin of profit. Establish and implement a program for the agronomy plant to include housekeeping, safety and equipment maintenance to avoid breakdowns and limit safety hazards. Work with Location Manager on all safety and compliance issues. Educate both employees and patrons in the operations of the cooperative and CHS business objectives to enhance employee effectiveness and improve member relations. Establish and implement short-term goals that are consistent with long range plans for growth in operation, including facility, equipment, and personnel. Communicate with supervisor and appropriate divisional personnel i.e. General Manager, Location Managers, Credit Manager. Utilize personnel and equipment within CHS to provide excellent customer service and satisfaction Supervise full and part-time operations personnel through responsible training clear job assignment definition and explanation. Monitor the work of all employees to correct deficient performance and effectively reward and develop all employees. Assist in developing budget & asset needs, manage approved operating budget. Work extended hours as needed to meet business needs.

**Basic Qualifications:** (required)High school diploma or equivalency degree 5 plus years of agriculture experience Ability to work extended hours in season

**Preferred Qualifications:** (desired)Bachelor's degree in Agronomy or Agriculture related program Agribusiness/Location management experience Agricultural Retail Experience 2 plus years of supervisory experience Understand basic business principals of inventory management Auto req ID: 19607BRCHS offers a competitive total compensation package.

**Benefits include:** Health, Dental, Vision, Hearing, Life Insurance, Health and Day Care Savings Accounts, Paid Vacation, 401K, Company Funded Pension, Profit Sharing, Long and Short-Term Disability, Tuition reimbursement, and Adoption assistance. This position will have opportunity for growth.

CHS Inc. is a leading global agribusiness owned by farmers, ranchers, and cooperatives across the United States. Diversified in energy, grains, and foods, CHS is committed to helping its customers, farmer-owners and other stakeholders grow their businesses through its domestic and global operations. CHS supplies energy, crop nutrients, grain marketing services, animal feed, food, and food ingredients, along with insurance, financial and risk management services. The company operates petroleum refineries/pipelines and manufactures, markets, and distributes Cenex® brand refined fuels, lubricants, propane, and renewable energy products. CHS is an equal opportunity employer/disability/veteran. The CHS Talent Acquisition Team supports recruitment for positions within CHS as well as finding opportunities for candidates within our robust network of member cooperatives.

By applying for any position, you give CHS permission to review your application and contact you to discuss opportunities within our member cooperatives.

Effective January 6, 2020, the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) requires employers to conduct a pre-employment verification full query against the newly established License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse prior to beginning employment in a position that requires a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Candidates seeking employment in a position that requires a commercial motor vehicle license must voluntarily enter their information into the FMCSA and must provide disclosure authorization, at the time of offer, to CHS or an authorized third-party agent of CHS to verify information. Minimum Years of Experience Required: 5City: Kingfisher Division: LE - Ag Business Country Ops State/Province: Oklahoma Minimum Education Required: GED / High School Diploma Employment Status: ACTIVE FULL TIME Career Type: Manufacturing / Operations

## ***Dairy Herdsman / Farm Manager / Owner in Training - Military Veterans***

MILITARY VETERANS Minnesota dairy farmers are hiring! We are looking for serious employees to develop as managers and potential independent business owners. Are you ready to advance your career? Do you want to run your own dairy farm business? Formal Apprenticeship provides fulltime employment, work-based training, related classes, and a career pathway for motivated dairy employees to reach their farming goals. Business planning services and proven models of equity earning, farm start up, and farm transfer are also available. Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship (DGA) is a National Apprenticeship under the U.S. Department of Labor-Employment and Training Administration covering all aspects of operating a managed grazing dairy farm. The program consists of full-time paid training over a period of two years with opportunities for advancement upon completion. The comprehensive DGA Training Guidelines lays out the competencies that must be met to own and operate a managed-grazing dairy farm.

Major work categories are as follows: - Measure and manage pastures for optimal production - Manage dairy cattle in a grazing system - Manage milking operations - Manage dairy cattle nutritional requirements - Manage natural resources in a grazing system - Manage farm business operations to meet goals to enhance on-farm training and provide networking opportunities, the program incorporates related instruction, including: - Courses in Pasture Management, Milk Quality, Herd Health, Dairy Nutrition, Soil & Water Resources Management, and Farm Financial Management - Peer Discussion Groups, Pasture Walks, Farming Conferences, and Networking Opportunities - Holistic Management and Professional Development Training Each Master-Apprentice pair is assigned a local Education Coordinator, who monitors the mentoring relationship and provides educational support and on-farm technical services. Apprentices not only gain skills, knowledge, and experience but also develop relationships with Apprentices and Masters in their cohort as well as with other dairy farmers, agricultural professionals, and service providers in the local community. Apprentices graduate to certified Journey Dairy Grazier status, receive additional support services as they advance in their career, and have the option of eventually becoming Masters and taking on Apprentices themselves.

Minimum Qualifications - Must have high school diploma or higher or GED, or a composite score of at least 18, or comparable Accuplacer test scores in math and reading. - Must be at least 18 years of age. - Must be physically able to perform the work of the trade with reasonable accommodations and without hazard to themselves or others. - Must have reliable transportation to and from work and school.

Please apply online through link provided to make application profile available to Masters (employers) or direct inquiries [tomatthew@dga-national.org](mailto:tomatthew@dga-national.org) or contact a local DGA Education Coordinators: <https://www.dga-national.org/contact>