

2023 BEEF EMPIRE DAYS

JUNE 2-11, 2023



2023 OFFICIAL PROGRAM GUIDE

NOTHING SATISFIES LIKE BEEF -



For more than five decades, Beef Empire Days has been a mainstay in Southwest Kansas. Built around the Beef Empire Days live and carcass show, it was a vision of John Dohogne, in 1967. Mr. Dohogne, the Plant Manager at Garden City's Producers Packing Company, collaborated with Earl C. Brookover and together they began the first Beef Empire Days Live and Carcass Show in 1969.

So what is "the beef empire"? "Beef Empire" was prompted by a study conducted at Oklahoma State University in the late 1960's. The study labeled an area 100 miles on either side of a line drawn from Lubbock, TX to North Platte, NE, as the Beef Belt of the U.S. Realizing that Southwest Kansas (Garden City in particular) is located in the heart of that area, this was recognized as the groundwork for a salute to the Beef Empire.

The now 10-day celebration provides approximately 16 events geared to the cattle feeding industry, the arts and humanities, and the athletics of the High Plains area. Each of these events is made possible by dedicated volunteer chairs and sponsors, and the cooperation of Finney County and the City of Garden City.

Throughout the years, Beef Empire Days' original goals have remained. They include: advancement in the production and quality of beef; improvement of communications; and continued education and promotion of beef. These are the goals that guide the Board of Directors and the many volunteers who work diligently to organize the events that make up Beef Empire Days.

So come celebrate with us because **NOTHING SATISFIES LIKE BEEF, WE "STEAK" OUR FUTURE ON IT!**

In order to comply with state and alcohol and beverage control regulations, Beef Empire Days is not allowed to sell or distribute tickets to reception or dinners at the door of these events. Therefore, **TICKETS TO RECEPTIONS AND DINNERS MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO THE EVENT.** Beef Empire Days event tickets are available at the Beef Empire Days office or online at www.beefempiredays.com

WELCOME



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**COVER AND WELCOME BANNER
IMAGE BY MAKAYLA WHITE, 2023 FEATURED
ARTWORK CONTEST CHAMPION**

PROGRAM GUIDE DESIGNED BY

 **HALF CENT**
CREATIVE

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President: Brian Price - Garden City, KS
Vice President: Jacob Jenkins - Garden City, KS
Secretary: Dominic Stephens - Scott City, KS
Treasurer: Edwin Cooper - Garden City, KS
Past President: Chase Gleason - Scott City, KS

MEMBERS:

Jason Rios - Kingman, KS
Todd Grothusen - Scott City, KS
Trevor Cox - Scott City, KS
Jeremy White - Garden City, KS
Marisa Kleysteuber - Garden City, KS
Issa Sommer - Garden City, KS
Shelbi Wiggs - Garden City, KS

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS:

Mark Sebranek, Historian
Garden City, KS
Southwest Kansas State Research Center
Justin Waggoner
Garden City, KS
SWKS Cattle Women
Calie Hazen
Sublette, KS
Executive Director
Bonita McClure

For questions concerning information in this guide, please
contact the Beef Empire Days office at :

**206 E. Fulton Terrace, Garden City, Kansas 67846,
(620) 275-6807**

**Director@beefempiredays.com
www.beefempiredays.com**

EVENT CHAIRS

Please call the numbers provided with any questions related to an event.

EVENT	CHAIR	PHONE
Beef Empire Days Cutting Horse Show	LeeAnn Bates	620-664-7230
Tennis Tournament	Heather Kneeland	620-290-1999
Summer Reading Kick-off & Community Children's Petting Zoo	Finney County Public Library	620-272-3680
Specialty Risk Insurance Ranch Rodeo	Todd Grothusen/ Dominic Stephens	620-214-4675/ 785-824-8015
SCA Grill Master Cook-off	Ryan Klaus	620-287-1659
Western State Bank Beef Beer & Boots	Downtown Vision/ Steckline Communications	620-276-0891/ 620-290-7210
Sunflower Livestock Show-down hosted by BED	Hannah Morales	620-290-4484
Loewen Farms Riding & Roping	Scott Vander Hamm/ Kashly VanPetten	620-408-6740/ 620-521-0530
Merck Animal Health Live Show	Cole Crawford	620-640-0182
Beef Empire Day Sponsor Reception	BED Directors/ Stephanie Sebranek	620-275-6807
Cattle Working Contest Finals	Adolfo Cardoza	806-463-8509
Beef Empire Days Awards Banquet	BED Directors	620-275-6807
Western Motor Parade	BED Directors/ Finney County CVB	620-275-6807
Commerce Bank Chuck-wagons	BED Directors/ Marisa Kleysteuber	620-275-6807
Praise in the Park	First Christian Church/ Ellen Mangan	620-275-5411
Cattle Crawl	Katie Cornelius/ Anne Lampe	620-275-6807
Stampede @ Southwind Golf Tournament	Ross Miller / Jeremy White	620-271-2121/ 620-260-7377



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
May 13-14	Beef Empire Days Cutting Horse Show	GCCC Arena
May 19-28	WEEE Carnival	Fi Co Fairgrounds Parking Lot
Fri, June 2	Tennis Tournament	GCHS Tennis Courts
Fri, June 2	Summer Reading Kick-off	Finney County Public Library
Fri, June 2	Specialty Risk Insurance Ranch Rodeo	Finney County Fairgrounds Arena
Sat, June 3	Tennis Tournament	GCHS Tennis Courts
Sat, June 3	Sunflower Livestock Showdown hosted by BED	Fi Co. Fairgrounds West Pavilion & Show Ring
Sat, June 3	SCA Grill Master Cook-off	Stevens Park
Sat, June 3	Western State Bank Beef Beer & Boots	Stevens Park
Sun, June 4	Tennis Tournament	GCHS Tennis Courts
Sun, June 4	Sunflower Livestock Showdown hosted by BED	Fi Co. Fairgrounds West Pavilion & Show Ring
Sun, June 4	Lowen Farms Riding & Roping	Finney County Fairgrounds Arena
Tues, June 6	Merck Animal Health Live Show	Finney County Fairgrounds Arena
Tues, June 6	Scoular Grain Steak Cookout	Finney County Fairgrounds Grandstand Plaza
Wed, June 7	Beef Empire Days Sponsor Reception	Moonlight Harvest
Thurs, June 8	Cattle Working Contest Finals	Deseret Cattle Feeders
Fri, June 9	Tyson Carcass Show	Tyson Processing Plant
Fri, June 9	Beef Empire Days Awards Banquet - Speaker, Mitch Holthus "Voice of the Chiefs"	The Clarion
Sat, June 10	Western Motor Parade	Main Street
Sat, June 10	Commerce Bank Chuckwagons	Stevens Park
Sat, June 10	Praise in the Park	Stevens Park
Sun, June 11	Cattle Crawl	Baron's Steakhouse/The Clarion
June 17-18	Stampede @ Southwind Golf Tournament	Southwind Golf & Dining
Sept. 23-24	Beef Empire Days Intercolle- giate Meat Judging Contest	Garden City Community College

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Events that require an entry fee are marked with: **ENTRY FEE**
Events that require a ticket or admission are marked with: **TICKET/ADMISSION**

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SAT. MAY 13 - SUN. MAY 14

BEEF EMPIRE DAYS CUTTING HORSE SHOW • ENTRY FEE •

GCCC BRONCBUSTER ARENA • 9:00 AM EACH DAY

Two full days of National Cutting Horse Association approved shows with a full range of classes for all skill levels of horse and rider, including Youth. There will be a separate Feedyard-Ranch Cutting class on Saturday, May 13 at 6 pm. Call Secretary LeeAnn Bates for rules & entry form at 620/664-7230 or acrskansas@live.com. BECHA thanks event sponsors: Amos Construction, Inc; Dick Construction, Inc.; Loewen Farms Feed Store; and James Davis Cutting Horses.

FRI. MAY 19 - SUN. MAY 28

WEEE ENTERTAINMENT CARNIVAL • ENTRY FEE •

FINNEY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS PARKING LOT • 6:00 PM NIGHTLY

Weee Entertainment is a family-based, 3rd generation Kansas amusement company, part of the Ottaway Carnival family. They plan to provide the entire carnival experience including rides, midway games, and concessions. Weee Entertainment has purchased some of their equipment from Ottaway Amusements, so look for your favorites! Listen to the local radio stations for announcements on special wristband promotions and weather related closings.

** BED Carnival patrons to enter via Taylor Avenue to the West end of the parking lot and to use designated parking area.



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FRIDAY, JUNE 2

11TH ANNUAL GARDEN CITY OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT, JUNE 2-4 • ENTRY FEE •

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COURTS • 8:00 AM

The Garden City Tennis Association presents the 11th Annual Garden City Open Tennis Tournament, which will be held at the Garden City High School tennis courts starting at 8:00 a.m. each day. \$15 entry fee, all participants who register before the deadline receive a free t-shirt. Double elimination, 8 game pro set with Ad scoring and 12 point tiebreaker at 7 games all. Finals rounds 2 out of 3 sets with super tie breaker. C division will play 6-game pro set Awards will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each division with the tie breaker at 5-5 or race to 4, TBD. Visit the Garden City Tennis Association on Facebook for online entry forms or call Heather Kneeland at 620-290-1999 to register.

Friday-Singles.

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FINNEY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, SUMMER READING KICKOFF EVENT

NORTH EAST LAWN AND NATURE CENTER OF THE LIBRARY • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The Finney County Public Library's summer reading program "All Together Now" kicks off.

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SPECIALTY RISK INSURANCE RANCH RODEO • ENTRY FEE •

FINNEY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS • 7:00 PM

Come see how the traditional cowboy works the herd. The Specialty Risk Insurance Ranch Rodeo is a FREE event to attend where traditional working cowboys gather to compete and demonstrate skills that are used every day in cattle ranching operations. Although there are some similarities to rodeos that people are normally accustomed to seeing, ranch rodeo events typically use combinations of roping, horsemanship, and ground work skills to create a more genuine presentation of real-life ranch work. This is considered to be a team event where everyone works together to get the job done. Teams consist of 3 members with up to 20 teams. Events are doctoring, mugging and penning. The event will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Finney County Fairgrounds Arena. Entry forms are available at www.beefempiredays.com. The Ranch Rodeo is made possible by the following sponsors: Baker Boot, American Implement, Winter Livestock, Heritage Beef, and Miller Aesthetic Medicine.



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SATURDAY, JUNE 3

11TH ANNUAL GARDEN CITY OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT, JUNE 2-4 • ENTRY FEE •

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COURTS • 8:00 AM
Refer to Friday, June 2 for additional information. **Saturday - Doubles.**

SUNFLOWER LIVESTOCK SHOWDOWN HOSTED BY BEEF EMPIRE DAYS • ENTRY FEE •

FI CO FAIRGROUNDS WEST PAVILION & SHOW RING • 3:00 PM
We are pleased for the second year to welcome a youth livestock show to our lineup. The Sunflower Livestock Showdown hosted by Beef Empire Days is a 4-H livestock show for youth in SW Kansas and surrounding area to competitively show beef, swine, sheep and goats. There will be Showmanship, Breeding, and Market classes. **The show Saturday will be BEEF only, and will start at 3 :00 PM.**
Chairperson: Hannah Morales620-290-4484 hkmorales89@gmail.com

WESTERN STATE BANK BEEF, BEER & BOOTS

STEVENS PARK • 2:00 PM
Beef Empire Days, Downtown Vision, and Steckline Communications along with WESTERN STATE BANK join to offer a fun family event with food, beer garden and music. Food trucks serve lunch starting at noon featuring the best in beef specialties and much more. The Beer Garden opens at 2 pm and the park will be packed with fun for the kids, cornhole tournament, live music and vendor booths. That delicious smell of sizzling beef comes from the Grill Master Cook-Off. Come see how the masters grill! We think you will find some music you enjoy as we're bringing half a dozen different performers. This marks 50 Years of Western State Bank - come help us celebrate our Beef, Beer & Boots event sponsor!

BEEF EMPIRE DAYS GRILL MASTER COOK-OFF • ENTRY FEE •



STEVENS PARK • 5:00 PM
Agriculture is the life-blood of our communities, and we celebrate the beef industry during May – Beef month, and Beef Empire Days the first week in June. Here is your chance to capture the title of “Beef Empire

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Days Grill Master". Klaus Wood Pellets and Outdoor Living promotes a Steak Cook-off Association sanctioned event to spotlight the amazing beef that we raise and process, along with a chance for contestants to show-off their "grilling chops". The cook-off is part of BEEF, BEER & BOOTS, Stevens Park, Saturday, June 3. For registration information contact Ryan Klaus at 620- 287-1659, or see Steak Cook-off Association at steakcookoffs.com. Thanks to sponsors Steckline Communications, Baker Boot, Western State Bank. **Meat provided by Tyson.**

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

SUNFLOWER LIVESTOCK SHOWDOWN HOSTED BY BEEF EMPIRE DAYS • ENTRY FEE •

FI CO FAIRGROUNDS WEST PAVILION & SHOW RING • 8:00 A.M.

The Sunflower Livestock Showdown hosted by Beef Empire Days is a 4-H livestock show for youth in SW Kansas and surrounding area to competitively show beef, swine, sheep and goats. There will be Showmanship, Breeding, and Market classes. **The show Sunday will be swine, sheep and goats starting at 8:00 AM.**

Chairperson: Hannah Morales 620-290-4484 hkmorales89@gmail.com

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11TH ANNUAL GARDEN CITY OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT, JUNE 2-4 • ENTRY FEE •

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COURTS • 8:00 AM

Refer to Friday, June 3 for additional information.

Sunday - Mixed Doubles.

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LOEWEN FARMS FEEDLOT & SPONSORS TEAM ROPING & BARREL RACING • ENTRY FEE •

FINNEY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS • 10:00 AM

Area feedyard employees and locals that enjoy barrel racing and team roping are invited to attend this annual favorite at the Finney County Fairgrounds Arena beginning at 10 a.m. Cowboys and cowgirls compete in events that are open to any current Beef Empire Days sponsor or feedyard employee. This event is made possible by the following sponsors: Loewen Farms; Animal Health International; Baker Boot; Crazy House; Heritage Beef; American Implement; Miller Aesthetic Medicine; Parker Haskins Insurance; Global Animal Products and Feed-Lot Magazine. *Entry forms and information available at beefempiredays.com.*

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TUESDAY, JUNE 6



**MERCK ANIMAL HEALTH
LIVE SHOW • ENTRY FEE •**

FINNEY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS • 9:00 AM

The cattle begin arriving at dawn or before and the excitement level will peak by midmorning when the 55th annual Live Show takes center stage. Anyone with an interest in the cattle feeding industry is invited to be in the stands at the Finney County Fairgrounds at 9:00 a.m. when Live Show Judge Kelly Bruns begins the final judging of the top steers and heifers. Special thanks to our friends from LBS Scales who provide the weigh chute and scales for the Live Show and to TLC Trucking for their assistance in transporting the Live Show cattle to Tyson Fresh Meats. **A big thank you to Merck Animal Health for their continued partnership.**

LEARN MORE ABOUT DR. BRUNS ON PAGE 17.



**SCOULAR GRAIN CATTLEMAN'S
STEAK COOKOUT**



Cattleman's Steak Cook-Out sponsored by SCOULAR GRAIN gives you a taste of beef from the great beef empire. Merck Animal Health and Scoular Grain invite visitors and exhibitors from the Live Show, producers, and feedlot personnel and the general public for the noon lunch under the grandstands at the Finney County Fairgrounds. Nothing satisfies like beef - we "steak" our future on it! **Meat provided by Tyson.**

PUBLIC PICK 5 • ENTRY FEE •

FINNEY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS • 12:00 PM

"Can you beat the Judge?" Public Pick 5 is open to men, women and youth. Each person will pick five head during the steer division of the Live Show that they believe will be the top placers in the Beef Empire Days Index during the carcass show. The total of the Beef Empire Days Index of your five head will determine the winners. **Cost is \$10 per person to enter the day of the show.** The top three winners of the men's and women's divisions will be paid out. The youth division winner will receive an award.



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

BEEF EMPIRE DAYS SPONSORS RECEPTION • TICKET/ADMISSION •



MOONLIGHT HARVEST - 6:00 PM

Beef Empire Days, Inc. honors and appreciates the sponsors and their guests! This annual event provides an excellent opportunity to network with customers and clients while enjoying cocktails and beef buffet dinner by John Ross catering. **The evening begins at 6:00 p.m.** Bring your camera to catch the fun - Q97 & KBUF radio challenge you to "8 Seconds" on the mechanical bull. Test your skills at Haulin' Axes! Lewis Automotive sets the pace with country music from Josh Roesener DJ Service. And KCB will send you home with a "cool" reminder of all the fun. Guests will also "judge" the heifer jars for the heifer with the highest BED Index Score. Winners are drawn at the Awards Banquet and take home a beef bundle. **A special thank you to: Animal Health International, Equity Bank, Century Business Technologies, Miller Aesthetic Medicine, Nutrien Ag Solutions Inc., Heritage Beef and National Beef for their sponsorship. Meat Provided By Tyson.**

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PEOPLE'S CHOICE AUCTION • TICKET/ADMISSION •

MOONLIGHT HARVEST • 8:30 PM

The People's Choice Auction includes the top 25 placing heifers of the live show. The objective is to select the heifer with the highest BED index score. The top three heifers based on the BED index score, will be paid. Participants and buyers alike are invited to join in on the fun-filled event. Additional auction items will be offered as well!

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

BEEF EMPIRE DAYS CATTLE WORKING CONTEST FINALE • ENTRY FEE •

DESERET CATTLE FEEDERS • STARTS 10:00 AM, LUNCH AT NOON

The Beef Empire Days Cattle Working Contest is open to all area processing crews and provides an excellent opportunity to learn the newest trends and test the latest equipment. In 2022 Beef Empire Days Cattle Working Contest restructured! It allows competing teams to be judged in a preliminary round in the comfort of their own processing facilities. Judges have been working with the registrants through April and May. The top 6 teams from the preliminaries are invited to compete in the Grand Finale on June 8th. Lunch sponsored by DATAMARS will be served at Noon after the competition.

The Cattle Working Contest is coordinated and made possible by the

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MEAT PROVIDED BY

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following sponsors: Animal Health International, Elanco, MJE, LLC and MJE Livestock Equipment, Axiota Animal Health, and DATAMARS.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

CHILDREN'S PETTING ZOO

FINNEY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY • 10:00 AM

This event is free for all and it's a great opportunity for children to discover how we interact with animals and how to enjoy them appropriately. Information is available by calling the Finney County Public Library at 620-272-3680.

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CARCASS SHOW AT TYSON FRESH MEATS

TYSON PLANT • 2:00 PM

The Carcass Show will take place at 2:00 p.m. The public is invited to view the carcasses. The Beef Empire Days, Inc. Board of Directors would like to say "thank you" to Tyson Fresh Meats and their staff for their contribution to the continuing success of the Beef Empire Days Carcass Show. MJE Livestock Equipment, and DATAMARS. **This year's carcass show judge is Clint Alexander. Learn more about Dr. Alexander on page 18.**

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AWARDS BANQUET PRESENTED BY AMERICAN AG CREDIT AND ZOETIS • TICKET/ADMISSION •



CLARION INN • 6:00 PM

The social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Clarion Inn Ballroom, immediately followed by the awards banquet. Guests will be served succulent Western Kansas beef and all the trimmings. Then, the excitement begins as all the Live and Carcass Show awards are presented, as well as awards for the Cattle Working Contest, Feedlot Special, People's Choice Auction, Public Pick 5, Ranch Rodeo and the Mary M. Hopkins Award for Volunteer Service. In addition, the Beef Empire Days Academic Scholarship recipients will be recognized and winners from the Sunflower Youth Showdown. The Awards Banquet is sponsored by American Ag Credit, KCB, Nutrien Ag Solutions Inc., and Zoetis. Meat provided by Tyson. Following The "winners" theme, we welcome the keynote speaker "Voice of the Kansas City Chiefs" Super Bowl LVII Champs, Mitch Holthus, sponsored by KanEquip. **Learn more about MITCH HOLTHUS on page 24.**

Call 620-275-6807 to purchase tickets: \$30/ticket

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MARY HOPKINS AWARD RECIPIENT



Pat Koons

Learn more about Pat on page 20.

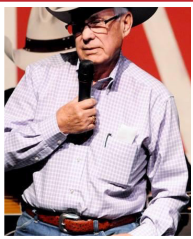
SATURDAY, JUNE 10

WESTERN MOTOR BEEF EMPIRE DAYS PARADE

MAIN STREET • 10:00 AM

"Nothing satisfies like beef, we "steak" out future on it!" is the theme for this year's annual parade. Garden City's largest parade is sure to be a crowd-pleaser with 100 plus entries. The parade begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. For entry information or to register, visit us online at [www. beefempiredays.com](http://www.beefempiredays.com) or contact the Beef Empire Days office at (620) 275-6807. The parade is made possible by Western Motor and sponsored in part by Nutrien Ag Solutions Inc. and Trailer Solutions

PARADE GRAND MARSHALL



Keith Downer

Learn more about Keith on page 22.

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COMMERCE BANK CHUCKWAGONS



STEVENS PARK • 11:30 AM

The aroma of sizzling beef beckons you to STEVENS PARK to sample the fun and flavors of the west with an old-fashion BBQ meal for **FREE**.

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The tender beef is slow-cooked to perfection to savor the flavors with all the fixings. Enjoy the true "out west" with chuckwagons, family entertainment, food, and just downright family fun. Serving begins immediately following the parade at approximately 11:30 a.m. Grab the kiddos, your lawn chair or blankets and join us! Thank you to our featured sponsors: Commerce Bank, Baker Boot, Big L Sales, Klaus Wood Pellets, KSN and United Wireless. **Meat provided by Tyson.**



SUNFLOWER CLASSIC BENEFIT TRUCK SHOW FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY JUNE 9-11 FINNEY COUNTY

Fairgrounds Expo Building **FREE ADMISSION**
For information, call Trevin Walck 620-271-2123



PRAISE IN THE PARK - CHRISTIAN MUSIC CONCERT

STEVENS PARK • 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Praise in the Park is a non-denominational music event open to the entire community. Praise and worship bands from around the region will come together to share their music and faith. The HOPE (Hands of Praise Eternal) Puppet Ministry will be kicking off this event and you won't want to miss them. There is no cost to attend this event. A concession stand will be available run by the Puppeteers. Bring your easy chair, bring your smile and come on down to the park. Located at Stevens Park from 7:00p.m.-10:00p.m. In case of inclement weather, the event will be relocated to the First Southern Baptist Church, 2708 N 3rd St, Garden City. The Praise in the Park is made possible by: First Christian Church.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

BEEF EMPIRE DAYS CATTLE CRAWL • TICKET/ADMISSION •



THE BARON'S STEAKHOUSE • 4:30 PM

Beef Empire Days 2023 winds down with amazing food and refreshing adult beverages -- you're invited to a progressively delicious dining experience with the spotlight on some of Beef Empire's prime selections served at several of our local establishments. Participants meet at 4:30 p.m. at The Baron's Steakhouse. Board the bus and the adventure begins! Some of the finest local restaurants host our guests, and we're excited about this year's tour. Guests will be ferried from location to location aboard their own "stagecoach", courtesy of Garden City Community

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College. End the evening with an amazing dinner meal at Baron's Steakhouse where the "first round" of beverages is on Roto-Mix and BEEF IS THE STAR - Because nothing satisfies like beef - we "steak" our future on it! You'll take home a memento of the evening courtesy of Rabo Agrifinance.

Limit 100 tickets - \$70 each in advance only.

Contact BED office to purchase 620/275-6807 - **call now we will sell out**
The "crawl" is sponsored by K•Coe Isom. **Meat provided by Tyson.**

SAT, JUNE 17 - SUN, JUNE 18

**THE STAMPEDE @ SOUTHWIND PRESENTED BY
ANIMAL HEALTH INTERNATIONAL &
ELANCO ANIMAL HEALTH, HOSTED BY BEEF
EMPIRE DAYS INC. • ENTRY FEE •**



Join us for this 2-day 4-person scramble on June 25 & 26 at Southwind Golf & Dining in Garden City, Kansas. **Find out how to register on the page 29.**

SCHOLARSHIPS

We know that our future requires talented young people who value their agriculture roots, to continue the mission of producing and processing the highest quality beef products in the world. Our scholarship program is designed to honor that goal. High School Seniors in Southwest Kansas and the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandle areas of the High Plains who plan to further their educations full-time in an agriculturally related field are encouraged to apply for a Beef Empire Days \$500 Freshman Scholarship Award. Career fields include education, communications, production, research, engineering, or any other area involved with the beef industry. The scholarship program hopes to identify and encourage talented students who may emerge as cattle industry leaders. Five to seven graduating seniors will be selected to receive awards during the 2022 Beef Empire Days celebration. Thank you to our sponsors who help fund these scholarships Cobalt Cattle Company and Animal Health International.





DR. KELLY BRUNS LIVE SHOW JUDGE

Kelly Bruns grew up on a diversified livestock and cropping operation near Grand Island Nebraska. He received his undergraduate degree from University of Nebraska and his doctorate from South Dakota State University where he taught and conducted research in growth and development of beef cattle with an emphasis in management effects on carcass quality. He was a Professor of Animal Science at South Dakota State for 18 years. For 10 years he coached the livestock judging and meat animal evaluation team. During that time, he coached three National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Teams. In 2014, he accepted a position at the West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte, NE where he serves as director of the research and extension operations where nine PhD specialists who work in cropping systems and beef cattle research.

*University of Nebraska
West Central Research and Extension Center
402 West State Farm Road
North Platte, NE 69101
Office: 308-696-6702
Fax: 308-696-6740
Cell: 605-690-3620
<http://westcentral.unl.edu/>*

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DR CLINT ALEXANDER CARCASS CONTEST JUDGE

Clint Alexander serves as a Professor of Animal and Food Science at Garden City Community College, where he also serves as the head coach of the meat judging team and the director of the GCCC Meat Lab, Buster Red Meats. He also leads one of the largest online food science/safety programs in the US meeting the needs of the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service. He is originally from Satanta, Kansas, where he was exposed to the meat evaluation and processing world at a young age. He was a member of the 1990 State Champion Meats Team as a freshman in high school. Clint attended Garden City Community College and was a member of the 1993-94 Meats Team while earning an Associate of Science in Animal Science. He transferred to Texas Tech University where he was a member of the 1996 National Champion Meats Team and was voted as the Doug Hardison Award winner as the most outstanding judging team member at Texas Tech that year. He never placed lower than 5th in any contest during his judging career at Texas Tech.

After graduating from TTU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education, he started graduate school and was coach of the 1999 Meats Team at Texas Tech University that also won a National Championship. Upon completion of his Master of Science in Animal Science with an emphasis in Meat Science and Muscle Biology, he was hired at Garden City Community College in August of 2000. He has been the department leader and professor in Animal and Food Science for 23 years as well as the head meats coach. He was awarded the Most Outstanding Faculty Member at GCCC in 2006 as well as the NISOD teaching

**CARCASS
CONTEST
JUDGE**

award in 2018. In 2007, he was awarded a sabbatical from GCCC and enrolled at Texas Tech University to attain a doctoral degree. He was named an AT&T Chancellor's Fellow and a member of the Golden Key Honor Society during this phase of his education. He graduated in 2012 with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Animal Science with an emphasis in Meat Science and Food Safety.

During his tenure at GCCC, his meat judging teams have won 7 National Championships (2003, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2020 and 2023) and 6 Reserve National Championships (2001, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2018 and 2019), the Australian Championship (2014) and he has coached 33 All-American's since the award was created in 2002. With the opening of the GCCC Meat Lab in 2013, he has helped incorporate more layers of hands-on teaching and judging methodology to the coursework and judging team experiences at GCCC. He has meat judging alumni that are in all aspects of the industry from food safety experts, grading officials, teachers, pharmaceutical industries and even has an alumni that has interned with NASA. Along with teaching and coaching duties, he serves as a faculty advisor for over 200 students from around the country. He is an active member of the American Meat Science Association, including the President of the Intercollegiate Meat Coaches Association Board in 2019 and is a current A-division director on the board. He has one of, if not the only, Animal Welfare and Handling courses being taught at a community college and is introducing more courses each semester to be taught online to the USDA program students.

Clint, along with his wife, Paula, and their daughter, Paxton, reside outside Garden City. Paxton is involved in the Finney County 4-H program where she is involved in many projects, including livestock species of swine, sheep and goats.

CLINT ALEXANDER



NOTHING SATISFIES LIKE BEEF -



PAT KOONS MARY HOPKINS AWARD

Pat Koons, Burdick, Kansas, is the 2023 recipient of the Mary M. Hopkins Award. Pat and his family have been life-long supporters of the Kansas livestock industry and the Beef Empire Days with Pat serving on the Board of Directors from 1978-1980.

The patriarch of the family, Pat Koons, was born near Council Grove, Kansas. He attended Kansas State University and majored in Animal Sciences and Industry. He actively participated in many clubs, the Little American Royal, judging teams, and worked as well as lived at the purebred beef barn.

Upon graduation in 1964, Pat served his country in the U.S. Army for two years. In 1966, he returned to Kansas and assumed the position of purebred herd manager at the Dewey Ranch south of Manhattan. He then managed the OK Ranch south of Junction City, Kansas. In 1971, Pat went to work for CattleFax as a market analyst and developing grass roots producer support for a fledging entity.

In 1972, Pat assumed the general manager position of Kearny County Feeders Inc. near Lakin, Kansas. During the next 34 years Pat developed natural, NHTC, source and age programs, Bred Heifer Program and Auction, and was responsible for pricing options, feed yard operations and

customer relations. In his spare time, he served on the KLA Board of Directors, Feeder Council chairman, and the Beef Empire Days board of directors as well as president. Along with serving on the National Livestock and Beef Board, as well as sharing his time with the Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation.

Pat is a member of the Livestock and Meat Industry Council Royal Board and past president. Pat was the lead in raising funds for the construction of the Stanley Stout Center and part of the team that oversaw building this remarkably highly utilized facility.

In 2008, Pat chose to return to his roots in the Flint Hills and became a self-employed rancher overseeing a cow-calf and stocker operation. He continues to share his experience and insight of the cattle industry as a cattle feeding consultant.

Pat's family has played a vital role in Pat's life. Pat and his wife, Sharon, have been married for 39 years. His siblings are involved in agriculture and have been industry leaders. Pat's five children and now grandchildren maintain his presence at livestock shows and competitions. His children include:

- Vince Koons , wife Lisa children and children Amber, Ryan and Walker
- Bill Koons , wife Jennifer with children Baxter and Charlie
- John Koons, wife Marley with children Kirbe , Kipton, and Kolby
- Danny Koons , wife Jessika with children Kamryn, Presley, and Sawyer
- Betsy Gilchrist, husband David with children Grant, Jake, and Elly

Pat knows very few strangers and his easy laugh and appreciation of others fills any room he enters.



NOTHING SATISFIES LIKE BEEF -

KEITH DOWNER PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

Keith L Downer in 1933 Burrell and Alta May Downer traded a 1929 Chevy truck for a farm in Leach Oklahoma where Keith was born in 1935 .Grandpa "Dat" Downer came in 1936 and moved Beryl and his family back to the garden City area and Keith graduated from garden City high School in 1953 Keith grew up around horses and cattle he got his first cowboy job working at the garden City sale Barn for Pat Springer when he was 15 he worked all the odd jobs of the sale barn and corrals learning the cattle business every step of the way sorting doctor ring pin writing selling and loading. This would be the foundation for his future Earl Brookover and Jerry Chmelka bought the sale barn in 1957 this would be the beginning of a lifetime bond between these men Keith became order buyer for cattle at the garden City sale Barn in 1964 he met every cattleman and knew every sale barn for a 200 mi radius in 1963 a horse fell on Keith's left leg and shattered his ankle and leg bones his bones were reset but he lay in traction and casts for 15 months this gave Keith a permanent "hitch in his giddyup" Keith's next job was head cowboy for Brookover feed yards where he started in 1965 and worked in that capacity for 25 years.



Along the way he also found time to train and ride a huge steer named Big George Keith and Big George appeared in parades grand openings fairs and rodeos around the Midwest promoting beef and Brooke over feed yards his favorite horse was Katie who he rode for many years and kept after his retirement in 1990 he

continued to work as a cattle buyer owner and feeder he then worked for Elanco chemical as a liver checker for several years in beef packing plants in Holcomb, Dodge City and Liberal. Recording the condition of thousands of livers along the way, Keith took to poetry after his retirement and began to perform with a group of four old Western Kansas cowboys called the partners of the prairie they performed at shows and banquets schools and exposed across the Midwest while singing old western songs and reading their poetry to dazzle the crowds from near and far in 2000 they were invited to perform for the US troops in Illesheim, Germany where they met the troops and had a grand experience.

Keith published his own book of poetry in 2017 titled cowboy memories. He serves on the board of directors for the Finney County Historical Society assisting with the many projects demonstrations and fundraisers they have he recently was instrumental in getting access to and completing the purchase of the original guns of Fleagle Gang of Finney county these guns were used in the robbery and killing spree that occurred in Colorado and Kansas in 1928 Keith is a member of the Community Congregational Church and choir He's happily married to Candy his lovely wife of 37 years he will leave behind five generations of descendants Keith is small and stature but large in compassion honesty and character he has a sharp wit with an ever engaging personality and he has a million friends this was biography used in 2020 as the working cowboy Kansas Hall of Fame inductee.



NOTHING SATISFIES LIKE BEEF -

MITCH HOLTHUS BANQUET KEYNOTE

Mitch Holthus is the voice of the Kansas city chiefs and is the longest tenured and most decorated play-by-play "voice" in franchise history. He was on the call of super bowls 54 & 57 when the chiefs won their second and third super bowl championships. He also was on the call of super bowl 55 in February, 2021.

Holthus is also the host of the Hy-vee chiefs insider television show and the chiefs rewind post game show featured on several digital platforms. In addition, he originates the "Minute with Mitch" radio and television series which is seen and heard in five states. His work is also featured on chiefs.com.

Holthus is a member of the Kansas association of broadcasters hall of fame, the Kansas state university athletics hall of fame and in June 2022 was inducted into the Missouri broadcasters association hall of fame. As a result, he will be only one of three individuals in both the KAB and MBA halls of fame joining his former broadcast partner Len Dawson and the late Fred White.

Holthus has won five Emmys for his video and on-line work by the academy of television arts and sciences.

In addition, Holthus is a past recipient of the Kansas city sports journalist of the year. In 2018, he was listed with the voice of the Royals Denny Matthews as one of the top 13 "one-two" play by play pairs in America by the sports broadcast journal. He was also named the 2020 Missouri sportscaster of the year and has been the Kansas sportscaster of the year eight times.



he has served on the board of directors of the national sports media association and is a past president of the organization. Holthus has two degrees from Kansas state university, one in journalism and another in business administration.

he and his wife Tami who is originally from McPherson, KS have a son and daughter and two granddaughters.

Holthus is a native of Smith Center, Kansas.

BANQUET KEYNOTE

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.....

\$250/person- \$1000/team

36 team maximum

** 60 & older hit from yellows

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Save the Date!



MAY 31-JUNE 9, 2024

