

Dave Kehler's Final Shoppers Guide Article

To the readers of the Butler County Extension weekly articles.

After more than 7 ½ years of writing or coordinating this weekly article, I am writing my final one. I have appreciated the opportunity to provide you with research based information thru this column. I want to thank the Shoppers Guide for extending the invitation to submit weekly articles and for allowing us to do so since the beginning of 2010. I want to also say a big Thanks to the El Dorado Livestock Auction for their very generous sponsorship of the space for these articles. I also want to acknowledge my co-workers Charlene Miller, Larry Crouse, and Barb Roths for submitting articles in this space and to our office professionals Staci Lewis and Jane Doornbos for always making sure that I remembered to submit the articles.

I am ending my contribution to these articles because I am retiring from Butler County Extension effective September 28th, 2018, but with the accumulated leave that I have, my time in the office during September will be very limited. Charlene Miller, your Butler County 4-H agent and Extension Director will be moving into the Ag position with my retirement and she will be taking over the writing and coordination of this space. Maybe she will occasionally let me submit an article related to my other educational effort.

While I am retiring from County Extension work after almost 43 years, I will continue employment with K-State Research and Extension thru Extension Ag Economics as a Farm Analyst and Farm Transition Facilitator, working out of my home here in Butler County. As one of five Farm Analysts in Kansas, I will work with individual farm operations in the central part of the state to provide a complete analysis of the financial situation and to look at possible alternatives to improve the situation. Farm Analysts use a financial planning and analysis software program designed to help producers understand their financial situation and make informed decisions. FinPack is not a record keeping system. It provides tools to effectively use farm records to make business analysis, long-range goals and cash-flow planning as complete and meaningful as possible.

While my Farm Analyst work may involve helping an operation to take a look at their current future situation for planning, I also work with operations who have contacted the Kansas Ag Mediation Service for assistance in solving a financial challenge that includes a debtor/creditor challenge.

Another one of the “Hats” that I am wearing is that I also assist farm families by facilitating discussions and decisions that are essential to the planning of a successful transition of the family farm or ranch to the next generation. If anyone is interested in learning more about these programs, they can contact me by my email: dkehler@ksu.edu or the information is available at: agmanager.info/programs/ksu-farm-analyst-program and ksre.ksu.edu/kams.

I have greatly enjoyed my time serving folks thru my County Extension work in Douglas, Cherokee, and Butler Counties and will always value all the people that I have worked with and the friendships/relationships that have been formed and I am looking forward to continue working with Ag operations in Butler County and the central Kansas region.