

## **Giving Thanks For What We Have**

### **AGRI-VIEWS**

by Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent

Like many people, I probably spend a bit of time, maybe too much time looking at social media. Facebook and Twitter are where I reside in the social media world, more so on Facebook. I've found it interesting that many (most) of the items that people post tend to fall into two camps: "Here's a photo of me doing something" or "I'm mad at the world, or some segment of it, and I'm going to tell you about it!" Now I'm not going to lie and say that I haven't gone off on an occasional tirade. Let's just say that most of the time it has to do with officiating of sporting events. But it seems like more and more everyone is offended by or upset with something. My world is not going well, woe is me, I'm going to tell you about it!

I think that we, as a society now - not pointing fingers at any one person, need a slap in the face and someone to tell us to snap out of it! Yes, there are people with real problems in their lives and I can tell you that most of them are not on Facebook. I'm sorry that you don't like a coffee cup at some coffee shop. My advice on that, don't go there! As a society we have more of everything than any time before and yet all we can do is gripe about what we don't have or that we feel that someone else is trying to take it away from us.

Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching. I wonder what would happen if no one posted anything on any social media site from now until after Thanksgiving? Instead of spending time cruising through social media land, set the phone aside or shut off the computer, and think about how blessed we are. Do we have issues in this country and our world? Of course we do. But we can't fix the world, we can only fix ourselves. So to set the tone for the upcoming week, let's start talking about what we are thankful for.

I'm thankful for my wife and our extended families. How she has put up with me for thirty years (as of September), I'll never know. But I am thankful every day that she does. I have a job I love and people that I enjoy working with. Who could ask for more than that. I've spent over thirty years doing what I do and getting to work with all of you and I don't regret a day of it!

I'm thankful for all the friends I've developed over the years. All those folks that accept me and all my quirks have to be the kindest people in the world. I make fun of them, they make fun of me, we laugh and move on. I don't worry about any ulterior motives that any of them might have. We know that we are all in this (life) together and if we all help each other, everyone will have a better life.

I'm thankful for the abundance of food that we have available (but I do worry about those that don't have access to adequate nutrition in our own community, state and country). I walk down the aisles of the grocery stores and marvel that there can be that many different kinds of cereals, or breads or even hot dogs. I have to laugh quietly to myself when I overhear someone complain that the store is out of this or that brand of food item. I smile, shake my head and walk on.

Sure, there are concerns of violence and terrorism, but I don't go to bed at night worrying about what might happen. I'm very thankful for the police, emergency responders and military that protect us in so many ways. Yes, bad things happen, but as long as we remain thankful for all that we do have, and continue about our daily lives, "they" don't win. So let's all spend the time from now through the end of the year being thankful, not living in fear, and not griping about what is not, and focus on what is! Happy Thanksgiving everyone!