



### Weather Conditions Enhance Attendance For Baldwin City's Maple Leaf Festival

It was a beautiful day for the 53<sup>rd</sup> annual Maple Leaf Festival at Baldwin City, according to Sharon Vesecky of the publicity committee.

With temperatures reaching into the lower 80s and no clouds in the sky, the annual fall festival may have seen its largest crowds ever, Vesecky indicated.

"Thousands of spectators watched the morning parade, and thousands more covered the streets all afternoon. It was incredibly successful," said Annie France, Maple Leaf Festival Committee chairman.

"We had incredibly beautiful weather. I saw a lot of people in shorts, t-shirts and sundresses. We really appreciated the nice weather. It's better than rain any day," France added

Advertised and promoted heavily on 580 WIBW, The BIG 94.5 Country and the Kansas Agriculture Network events calendar, festival attractions again featured the parade as the main draw Saturday morning. It lasted more than an hour as bands, politicians, floats, cars, tractors and horses entertained the crowd.

After the parade, thousands of visitors packed downtown streets of Baldwin City looking for crafts and food, and choices were plentiful.

The city's fall foliage and vendors may be the Maple Leaf Festival's attraction, but it is the hard working volunteers who make it a success, Vesecky emphasized.



### Champion Auctioneers Selected At Kansas State Fair Competition

The 100<sup>th</sup> Kansas State Fair at Hutchison was the ideal location for the 21st Kansas Auctioneer's Association Championship Auctioneering Contest, according to Ladonna Schoen-Gehring, executive of the state organization.

A preliminary contest was conducted during the winter convention of the auctioneer's group at Wichita. Ten auctioneers, many who regularly advertise their sales on 580 WIBW, The BIG 94.5 Country and the Kansas Agriculture Network, were selected to compete for the final championship.



Finalists included Eric Boone, Yates Center; Jeff Crissup, Helena, Okla.; Ed Dewey, Rossville; Lenny Mullin, Lenexa; Marty Read, Mound City; Donnie Stumpff, Cassville, Mo.; Jeff Temme, Petersburg, Neb.; Aaron Traffas, Sharon; Morris Yoder, Hutchinson; and Titus A. Yutzy, Nickerson.

Each contestant was interviewed on stage and sold three items to the Kansas State Fair crowd. Judges were Dan McVey, the 1991 KAA Champion Auctioneer; Mike Avery, representative of the National Auctioneer's Association, and Rob Hart, Ameribid chief operating officer. Judging was based on presentation, chant and "effective auctioneering," plus the interview session.

Left to right, Crissup was honored as the 2012 champion, with the reserve championship going to Mullin. Stumpff ranked third, with fourth going to Read, and Traffas came in fifth.

Additional information about the Kansas Auctioneer's Association can be found at [www.kansasauctioneers.com](http://www.kansasauctioneers.com).



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*Padre says:*

*"Every election is a sort of advance auction sale of stolen goods."*