

N.E. Colorado farm story published by area native

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Northeast Colorado native Susan (Gertner) Davis, now of Inman, Kan., has detailed life on a small farm and as part of a big family in her recent book, "Small Farm & Big Family."

Davis has been a freelance writer since 1988 and has written hundreds of short stories, mostly for The Fence Post.

This is her first book to be published. The 149-page paperback contains lots of old photos and is a true-to-life story about Mark and Florence Gertner and their 10 children.

The family began renting the small farm located between Iliff and Padroni when the first generation of Gertners retired and moved into town.

The story begins in 1957 when workhorses were still used to get some of the farming done. Sugar beets were a vital part of their family's income. The crop took a lot of manual labor to get it from seed to the beet dump.

Promoting her publication, Davis issues the invitation to join the Gertners in the beet field, walk into their old barn where they hand milked cows, share a game of horseshoes with them, plus much more.

Davis is a sister of Tom Gertner of Holyoke and Mary Michael of Julesburg. They, along with the rest of their brothers and sisters, as well as their parents, are included in the book.

Susan is married to Ben Davis, formerly of Holyoke. Their daughter Sarah is a graphic designer and created the book's cover.