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O-LINE A QUESTION MARK
Packers are keeping their options open for starters on the offensive line. » **PAGE B1**



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EVENT CITY ENTREPRENEURS



Kristin McAdow, Katie Knitt, and Tim McAdow take a sample of Gourmet Grassfed dried meat snack made from grass fed beef. The Gourmet Grassfed stand operated by Ben Kramlich is located in the 500 block of the Oshkosh Farmer's Market. JOE SIENKIEWICZ/OF THE NORTHWESTERN

Postal cuts hurt rural outposts the most

13,000 offices stand to have hours reduced

By Meghan Hoyer
USA Today

The Postal Service, reeling from its failure Wednesday to make a \$5.5 billion payment toward employee benefits, continues to move ahead with plans to cut hours at more than 13,000 rural post offices.

The proposed reductions are poised to strike the deepest blows in rural areas, many lacking broadband Internet and reliable cellphone service — places where businesses depend on the mail and residents use the mail to receive everything from prescriptions to correspondence.

"In a way, the communities who need and use the post office the most are being hurt the most," said Evan Kalish, who blogs about at-risk and rural postal outposts.

An analysis shows the states with counties that have the highest concentration of affected offices are on the Appalachian Trail: Maine, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont and West Virginia.

In some West and Plains states — Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas and Alaska — more than 60 percent of offices are on the block for reductions, as counter service drops to six, four or two hours a day. Most urban areas are not affected.

Included in the plans:

» In Westmoreland County, Pa., 50 post offices — the most of any single county — could see hours cut. County Commissioner Tyler Courtney said that as residents move from former steel-producing centers toward Pittsburgh, some cuts were necessary.

» West Virginia's McDowell County will see the most post offices — 13 — drop to just two hours a day. Another 14 post offices in the former coal-mining center will operate four hours a day.

» In South and North Dakota, about three-quarters of all post offices are on the proposed list.

Mark Schumacher makes boots and saddles in Wolsey, S.D., and uses a post office across the street to get his products to customers. Counter service would drop to four hours a day.

"That's a pretty small window for me to get things done," he said.

The proposed cuts, affect more than 42 percent of the Postal Service's nearly 31,000 offices and branches, were a relief for some. Last year, the service proposed closing 3,700 post offices.

BUILDING BETTER BEEF JERKY

Grass-fed cows producing quality snack

By Jeff Bollier of The Northwestern

Ben Kramlich and Andrew Sell may be the only beef jerky retailers who openly encourage people to consume less meat.

The pair behind Gourmet Grassfed Meats encourage people to put quality before quantity as they promote organic, sustainable farming and foods throughout the Fox Valley. Contradiction, it seems, is built into their business plan.

"Our goal is to source our meats from as many farmers in the Fox Valley as are willing to conform to our sustainability model and then build the same network in other markets around the country," Kramlich said. "We want Gourmet Grassfed jerky in every Target in the country, but with the assurance that the meat will come within a 200-mile radius of each store."

Kramlich and Sell produce enough jerky to stock 30 to 40 co-ops in Wisconsin, Chicago and Minneapolis. They also sell at area farmers markets and online. Silver Creek Specialty Meats, run by Kramlich's parents, processes Gourmet Grassfed's locally-sourced, grass-fed beef into their bold original and cherry chipotle flavored jerky.

The duo worked with local farmers to improve the quality and care of their cattle to meet their specifications. In working with multiple farmers throughout the Fox Valley, Kramlich said the company can have a more significant impact than if it tried to do everything from raising the cattle to processing the beef.

"You could only do so much with one farm, but we can incentivize existing farmers to adapt, adopt and

conform to more sustainable practices this way," he said.

The pair also make sure what's left of the cow after they take their cuts is put to good use.

"We source a whole animal from the farmer and find markets and people who want the other cuts, bones, skin, et cetera," Kramlich said.

Eventually, they'd like to set aside funds to guarantee higher prices to grass-fed beef farmers, invest in sustainable agriculture infrastructure and offer grants to farmers and co-ops interested in sustainable practices.

"We hope to produce a responsible market, good prices and encouragement for people to do what they love without having to only worry about the bottom line," Sell said.

Jeff Bollier: (920) 426-6688 or jbollier@thenorthwestern.com.



ABOUT THE BUSINESS

GOURMET GRASSFED

» **Owners:** Ben Kramlich and Andrew Sell

» **Founded:** April 2011

» **Products:** Bold Original and Cherry Chipotle jerky with new flavors Apple BBQ, Teriyaki and Northwoods Berry in development.

» **On the Web:** www.gourmet-grassfedmeat.com

» **Contact:** info@gourmetgrassfedmeat.com

» **Where to get it:**

On the 500 block of North Main Street at the Oshkosh Saturday Farmers Market. Also available in Oshkosh from Nutrition Discount Center, Festival Foods, Gardinas, and from Red Radish in Neenah, Free Market and All Things Jerky in Appleton, Village Market in Fond du Lac.

Source: Ben Kramlich and Andrew Sell

INSIDE



GOLDEN GIRL

High-flying Gabby Douglas won the women's all-around gymnastics gold medal at the London Olympics Thursday.

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\$1.00 Retail
For home delivery pricing, A2

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TODAY'S WEATHER

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