

AGRICULTURE FOCUS

December 2019/January 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

**Ford County
Extension Office
100 Gunsmoke
Dodge City, KS 67801**

Agent:

Andrea Burns,
County Extension Agent,
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Hours:

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 (Noon)
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Phone:

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E-Mail:

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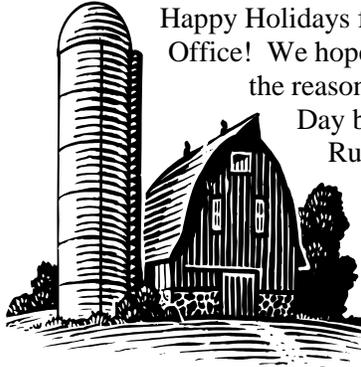
Web:

www.ford.ksu.edu

K-State Research and Extension is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision or hearing disability, or a dietary restriction please contact Andrea Burns at 620-227-4542 or e-mail aburns@ksu.edu.



THE NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK...



Happy Holidays from the staff of the Ford County Extension Office! We hope you and your family can take time to enjoy the reason for the season. We will be closed Christmas Day but open the rest of the week.

Rumor has it that the KSU/OSU Farm Bill Decision Making Tool will go public after the first of the year. Be watching for more information about another public meeting and then call me if you need help deciding what program to elect for the next two years!

Also encourage any women you know involved in Agriculture to sign up for our upcoming Women in Ag Program!

Andrea

Supplementing Protein When Winter Grazing

Bruce Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Every day you can graze corn stalks or winter pasture saves you fifty cents to a dollar compared to feeding hay or silage. Protein supplements are critical to your success, though.

Winter grazing saves lots of money and usually takes less labor than feeding cows all winter. But these advantages become meaningless if cows don't stay healthy or loose condition due to a lack of protein.

Why is protein so important? In ruminants, like cattle, protein is used twice – first by the microbes in the rumen that are digesting the fiber in the corn stalks and winter grass and secondly by the animal.

For the microbes to digest these low quality forages the diet must contain at least seven to eight percent protein. Otherwise the microbes become protein deficient and are unable to work effectively. When this happens, the amount of energy the animal receives from the forage is low and then animal becomes energy deficient. So one major reason to supplement protein with winter forages is to make sure the microbes are fed properly so your animal does not become energy deficient. In other words, protein increases energy.

The protein supplement you use is important. Many cheap protein sources contain mostly urea and other forms of non-protein, but other sources also work well.

Instead, use supplements that contain more all-natural protein. Alfalfa often is the cheapest natural source of protein, but other sources also work well.

Winter grazing can reduce winter feed costs and labor. Feed the right protein with it, and you will be successful.



SHEEP & GOAT WELLNESS CLINIC

January 16, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.

Gray County 4-H Building

Cimarron, Kansas

Presenter:

Dr. Meredyth Jones, DVM, MS, DACVIM-LA

Dr. Jones received her DVM from Oklahoma State University in 2002. She entered private mixed-animal practice in Brandenburg, Kentucky, later completing a residency in Large Animal Internal Medicine-Emphasis Food Animal and received a MS degree in Veterinary Biomedical Sciences at Oklahoma State University. She then taught food animal field services at Kansas State and Texas A&M. She is the owner of Large Animal Consulting & Education, an online continuing education company. She joined the food animal faculty at Oklahoma State in the fall of 2018.

Watch for more information

K-STATE | Gray County
Research and Extension
620-855-3821



Farm Financial Skills for Kansas Women in Agriculture

A statewide program to address financial risk amid a struggling farm economy

Jan. 15th, 2020

Jan. 22nd, 2020

Jan. 29th, 2020

Feb. 5th, 2020

Held at 32 sites across Kansas!

Site City:	Site Name:	Site address:	Local Contact:	Phone #:
Abilene	Sterl Hall	619 N Rogers St	Tony Whitehair	785-263-2001
Beaumont	Beaumont Depot	11724 SE Beaumont Rd	Lindsay Shorter	620-583-7455
Belleville	Republic County 4-H Building	901 O Street	Monica Thayer	785-527-5084
Burlington	Burlington Library	410 Juniatta St.	Darl Henson	620-364-5313
Chanute	Chanute Agronomy Center	3030 S. Santa Fe	Joy Miller	620-223-3720
Council Grove	Morris County Courthouse	501 W. Main	Shannon Ney	785-324-0714
Dodge City	Ford County Fair Building	901 West Park Street	Andrea Burns	620-227-4542
Emporia	Lyon County Extension Office	2632 W Hwy 50	Brian Rees	620-341-3220
Great Bend	American Ag Credit	5634 10th St	Alicia Boor	620-793-1910
Hepler	Hepler Community Building	105 S Prairie Ave	James Coover	620-724-8233
Highland	Highland Community College	606 West Main	Matthew Young	785-742-7871
Kinsley	Edwards County Extension Office	212 East 6th	Marty Gleason	620 659 2149
LaCrosse	WCED office in LaCrosse	702 Main	Jared Petersilie	785-222-2710
Lawrence	Douglas County Extension Office	2110 Harper St	Mallory Meek	785-843-7058
Manhattan	Pottorf Hall, Cico Park	1710 Avery Avenue	Greg McClure	785/537-6350
McPherson	McPherson County Extension Office	600 W Woodside	Jana McKinney	620-241-1523
Olathe	Johnson County Extension Office	11811 S Sunset Drive	Jessica Barnett	913-715-7000
Oskaloosa	Colonial Acres Event Center	8998 US Hwy 59	Jody Holthaus	785-364-4125
Paola	Marais des Cygnes Extension Office	104 S. Brayman	Abbie Powell	913-294-4306
Parsons	Southeast Research-Extension Center	25092 Ness Rd.	Adaven Scronce	620-331-7690
Phillipsburg	Phillips County Fairbuilding	1481 HWY 183	Cody Miller	785-543-6845
Salina	American AgCredit	925 W. Magnolia Rd.	Cade Rensink	785-392-2147
Selden	Selden Community Center	110 N. Kansas Ave.	Alyssa Rippe-May	785-475-8121
Scott City	Wm. Carpenter 4-H Building	608 E. Fairground Rd.	John Beckman	620-872-2930
Smith Center	Smith Center Courthouse	218 S. Grant	Sandra L Wick	785-282-6823
St. John	Stafford County Extension Office	210 E Third Ave	Amanda Staub	620-549-3502
Stockton	Fairgrounds, Harding Hall 4-H Building	918 S. Elm St.	Rachael Boyle	785-425-6851
Sublette	Haskell Township Library	700 W. Chouteau Ave.	Kristin Penner	620-675-2261
Sycamore	Sycamore Township Hall	4122 Co Rd 5400	Wendie Powell	620-784-3337
Syracuse	Fairgrounds-4-H Building	806 S Main Street	Lora Horton	620-384-5225
Ulysses	Grant County Civic Center	1100 W. Patterson	Elizabeth Kissick	620-356-1721
Winfield	Cowley County Courthouse	311 E. 9th Avenue	Kelsey Nordyke	620-221-5450

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2018-70027-28586.



**NORTH CENTRAL
EXTENSION
RISK
MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION**



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

K-STATE
Research and Extension

**KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Department of Agricultural Economics

Program Description:

K-State Research and Extension, recognizes the financial stress that farmers and ranchers are experiencing due to low commodity prices and high input costs. More than ever, financial management of the operation is critical to long-term sustainability.

This workshop series will teach principles of recordkeeping to develop a balance sheet, income statement and a cash flow statement. Participants will work with a case farm to do performance analysis and understand how these statements can help with management decisions.

Other special topics will include managing family living expenses, coping with mental stress and developing a whole-farm financial management plan.

The program will be a combination of broadcasted keynote speakers, local speakers, and facilitators to assist in completing the hands-on activities.

The goal is for participants to acquire financial management skills they can apply directly to their farming or ranching operations.

This program is just one example of K-State Extension's commitment to diversity and inclusion. While the program is designed to highlight women's issues in agriculture, it is open to any participant without regard to sex.

For more information, contact Robin Reid, K-State Agricultural Economics at 785-532-0964 or LaVell Winsor, K-State Farm Analyst Program at 785-220-5451.

Program Schedule:

January 15th, 2020:

- 5:30 pm Dinner
- 6:00 pm Local networking activity
- 6:30 pm Recordkeeping & Activity**
- 8:30 pm Session ends

January 22nd, 2020:

- 5:30 pm Dinner
- 6:00 pm Balance Sheet & Activity**
- 8:00 pm "This is different stress"
- 8:30 pm Session ends

January 29th, 2020:

- 5:30 pm Dinner
- 6:00 pm Income Statement & Activity**
- 8:00 pm "Managing Family Living Expenses"
- 8:30 pm Session ends

February 5th, 2020:

- 5:30 pm Dinner
- 6:00 pm Cash Flow & Activity**
- 8:00 pm Goal Setting
- 8:30 pm Session ends

****Note that times listed are in Central Time Zone. For the Syracuse location, all sessions will start at 4:30 pm Mountain Time*****

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Rich Lewelyn, (785) 532-1504 or Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, (TTY) 785.532.4807.

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in fulfillment of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914 as amended. Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating. J. Ernie Minton, Dean and Director

Registration:

This program will be run as a series, so each night will build upon the material from the previous sessions. As such, participants will register for the entire 4-session series.

\$40.00 registration fee* will cover all meals and all program materials
*local scholarships may be available

Register for the series by visiting: **www.AgManager.info** under "Events" or contact the local location listed on the back of this brochure

Registration Deadline Dec. 31st!

First 500 participants to register will receive a free Farm Financial Management Book!

Participants in this series will also receive FSA Borrowers Training credit!



AG EVENTS

Calving School

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Edwards County Fair Building, Kinsley, KS

In anticipation of calving season, Kansas State University faculty and staff are planning an event to help boost producers' chances of a successful year.

Interested persons are asked to pre-register for the calving schools by contacting the Edwards County Extension Office at 620-659-2149 or e-mail Marty Gleason at mgleason@ksu.edu. The workshop is hosted by faculty from K-State's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and K-State Research and Extension.

The program will outline calving management that includes stages of the normal calving process and tips to handle difficult calving situations. K-State Research and Extension beef veterinarian A.J. Tarpoff said the event will increase knowledge, practical skills and the number of live calves born.

"Our goal is for producers to leave better prepared for calving season," Tarpoff said. "We will discuss timelines on when to examine cows for calving problems, and when to call your vet for help if things are not going well. It's an excellent program regardless of experience level."

Presenters will also demonstrate proper use of calving equipment of a life-size cow and calf model. The meeting will also cover such topics as body condition scoring cows, colostrum management and animal health product storage and handling.

The Calving School will be held the evening of Thursday, January 9 at the Edwards County Fair Ground in Kinsley. For more information, contact the Edwards County Extension Office at 620-659-2149 or e-mail Marty Gleason at mgleason@ksu.edu.

K-State Corn Production Schools Scheduled for Winter 2020

Six schools across the state will focus on each region

K-State Research and Extension, in partnership with Kansas Corn, is hosting six one-day Corn Production Schools at locations across Kansas this winter.

Three Corn Management Schools will be offered in early January 2020 in Montezuma, Parsons and Wichita. Three will be held in February in Oakley, Salina and Olathe. Each school is free to attend and will provide in-depth training targeted for corn producers in those regions.

The overall theme of this year's schools is "Maximizing Advancements in Your Operation."

"The schools will cover a number of issues facing corn producers in each region including Farm Bill options, weed control, insect resistance, fertility management, disease management and late-planting seasons. These events have a long-standing tradition and reputation in offering a solid set of topics of great relevancy to our corn growers across the state of Kansas," said Ignacio Ciampitti, associate professor and corn specialist in the K-State Department of Agronomy.

Kansas Corn Director of Industry Relations Stacy Mayo-Martinez said the theme across the schools is about helping participants move forward into the new decade and discuss key issues with a variety of speakers, including other farmers.

"At the corn schools, we will feature farmers from each area who will talk about how they are maximizing advancements in their operations and looking toward finding success in tomorrow's production agriculture," Mayo-Martinez said. "At each school, we will also give an update from Kansas Corn on our 2020 priorities and our market development goals going forward into this new decade."

A complimentary lunch will be served at each school. CCA credits and commercial pesticide credits will be available where applicable. Participants are asked to pre-register before Jan. 3 for the January schools and before Feb. 4 for February schools. Online registration is available at kscorn.com/cornschoo. Participants can also register by phone by calling Kansas Corn at 785-410-5009 or by contacting their local K-State Research and Extension office.

Registration for each school is at 8:30 a.m. with welcome remarks to begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at approximately 2:00 p.m. More information about each school, including agendas, is available online at kscorn.com/cornschoo. The dates and locations are:

- **Jan. 6: Montezuma, Hy-Plains Feedyard (optional Corn-Fed Beef Seminar to follow), 7505 U.S. Hwy 56**
- **Feb. 3: Oakley, Buffalo Bill Cultural Center, 3083 US-83**
- **Feb. 5: Salina, Hilton Garden Inn, 3320 S. 9th St.**

For more information, contact Ciampitti at ciampitti@ksu.edu or 785-532-6940; or Mayo-Martinez at smayo@ksgrains.com.

AG UPDATE

K-State Beef Cattle Experts Discuss Tips for Raising Stocker Cattle

Cow-calf producers, stocker operators and feedlot managers all have the same end goal in mind: raise high quality beef profitably. Experts at the Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute say there are many ways that producers can do that successfully.

Stocker cattle are typically newly-weaned calves weighing between 300 and 800 pounds. They are often co-mingled with other calves and developed on a forage-based system with some feed supplementation before moving to the feedlots for finishing.

“Successful stocker operators do a good job of buying and selling the cattle, while keeping them healthy at an effective cost of gain,” said K-State veterinary medicine professor Bob Larson.

In respect to the markets, agricultural economist Dustin Pendell advises stocker operators to follow a buy low, sell high strategy. “There are a lot of considerations to include such as pricing inputs, output price and marketing strategies,” he said. “Producers need to have a risk management strategy when purchasing inputs and selling calves.”

Once the cattle arrive, identifying the appropriate feedstuffs is also going to be key to an operator’s success, according to Larson. “It is not just pricing feed on a per pound of feed basis, but looking at how much growth can come from that feed source.”

For some operations, it may be more cost effective to calculate a slower rate of gain by feeding a forage-based diet, and for others more feed supplementation may be needed to provide adequate nutrients for a faster gain.

K-State Research and Extension cow-calf specialist Bob Weaber also said there is another reason for supplementation. “Following a higher rate of gain may also allow operators to meet a marketing window due to the seasonality of feeder calves,” he said.

Along with market price considerations and feeding strategies, the experts agreed that it is vital to follow a health protocol for the calves.

“It is important to establish a logical plan of first and second treatments,” Larson said. “The veterinarian is going to help select an antibiotic that is a good match for the bacteria that is causing the disease.” Another part of the plan is to outline treatment frequency, and establish a second protocol for those that don’t respond to the initial treatment.

Larson stressed the importance of sticking with the treatment plan. “This is a protocol. Treat every animal the same so we can evaluate if this protocol is working,” he said.

Corn Stalk Quality after Weathering

Recent rainfall, and even snow, may be good for wheat and next year’s crops, but it does have its drawbacks. One challenge is this moisture’s impact on corn stalk feed quality.

Rain in the fall usually is welcomed despite the delays it causes with crop harvest. Pastures and alfalfa benefit from extra growth and winterizing capabilities. Wheat and other small grains get well established as do any new fields or alfalfa or pasture. And the reserve moisture stored in the soil will get good use during next year’s growing season.

But rain, as well as melting snow, also reduces the feed value of corn stalks in fields that were already combined, and even on standing stalks. Last week, many fields had some pretty heavy rain and snow on those stalks.

Moisture reduces corn stalk quality several ways. Most easily noticed is how fast stalks get soiled or trampled into the ground when fields are muddy.

Less noticeable are nutritional changes. Moisture soaks into dry corn stalk residue and leaches out some of the soluble nutrients. Most serious is the loss of sugars and other energy-dense nutrients, which lowers the TDN or energy value of the stalks. These same nutrients also disappear if stalks begin to mold or rot in the field or especially in the bale. Then palatability and intake also decline.

There is little you can do to prevent these losses. What you can do, though, is begin to supplement a little earlier than usual. Since this weathering reduce TDN more than it reduces protein, consider the energy value of your supplements as well as its protein content.

Weathered corn stalks still are economical feeds. Just supplement them accordingly.

K-State researchers make progress on work with industrial hemp

In first year, they've found that plants produce more CBD when grown indoors

After one year of growing industrial hemp in test plots, Kansas State University researchers say they've moved closer to providing guidance to producers interested in growing the alternative crop in Kansas.

In April 2018, Kansas Gov. Jeff Colyer signed a bill enacting the Alternative Crop Research Act, leading to the legal production of industrial hemp in the state. Kansas is one of 42 states approved to grow the crop; the Kansas Department of Agriculture reported that there were 207 Kansas growers in 2019.

None of those growers, however, had information available to show best practices for growing industrial hemp in Kansas soils.

"It's a brand new crop that nobody in Kansas should have legal experience growing," said Jason Griffin, director of the John C. Pair Horticultural Center, one of three sites where K-State's research trials have taken place this year (research was also conducted at K-State facilities in Colby and Olathe). "Since it was new, we needed baseline information on how to grow the crop successfully."

Griffin noted that "99% of the people growing industrial hemp in Kansas this year were growing for cannabidiol," better known as CBD. Cannabinoids have high interest among consumers because of their purported medical and therapeutic benefits in humans and companion animals.

CBD and other varieties are legal to grow if they produce less than .3% tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC. If the plant's THC level is greater than .3%, it is considered marijuana and not legal to grow or possess in Kansas. "We knew that Kansas farmers wanted to get into this industry," Griffin said, "and our job is to conduct research to help farmers be successful with the crop."

Griffin and the research team at the John C. Pair center planted seven CBD varieties, including five in high tunnels, which are plastic-covered structures that provide some protection from the environment compared to open field conditions.

"It's well-known that high tunnels in the specialty crops arena have certain advantages over crops grown outside," Griffin said. "For our purposes, it reduced solar radiance, reduced wind and reduced pest presence. But, specifically for hemp, we had our high tunnel completely enclosed in insect screens, which is a really fine netting. We wanted to see if the insect screen would reduce the amount of pollination inside the tunnel. And it appeared it did."

Griffin said that in the hemp industry, pollination "is a big deal. CBD is produced in the female flower buds, and if those female flower buds get pollinated, your concentration of CBD just tanks into the basement. You get almost none. So you have to keep pollen away from those female flower buds."

That caused problems for the hemp varieties that K-State grew outside, Griffin said, noting that pollen can travel as far as three miles. "I think it would be very difficult to have a large-scale, outdoor CBD production system successfully without somehow protecting those plants from pollen."

Because they were protected from insects and other pollinators, "the plants inside the high tunnel were just superior," Griffin said. "In that protected environment, they were larger and had more flower buds. Because they had more buds, they had a higher CBD content."

K-State's work also looked at various production systems, including growing the plants with organic and conventional fertilizer. Researchers also looked at the potential of growing industrial hemp for fiber and grain.

The university's work will continue in 2020, Griffin said. "This was our first year," he said. "We probably made some mistakes and we'll probably improve as any grower might as they get more experience with a crop."

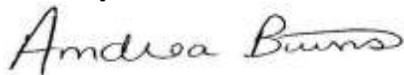
Griffin said updated information on K-State's research with industrial hemp is [available on Facebook](#). More information about the [John C. Pair Horticulture Center also is available online](#).

Ford County K-State Research & Extension
100 Gunsmoke
Dodge City, KS 67801

December 2019/January 2020

This newsletter contains information about the upcoming Women in Ag Program. Sign up deadline is December 31st. Also check out the calving school and other items of interest. Please call our office if you have any questions, to register for a meeting or to suggest a program idea!

Sincerely,



Andrea Burns
Ford County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources



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