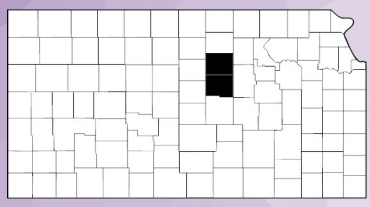

Agriculture

CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS

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October 2017

Upcoming Events

November

3 K-State Cover Crop Field Day, Manhattan

9 CKD Cow Supplemental Strategies

13 Modern Poultry Production

16 Stocker School, American Ag Credit, Salina

December

7 Sunflower Production Information Meeting, American Ag Credit, Salina

12 Kansas Forage & Grassland Council Mtg., Salina

19 Farming for the Future, Salina

January

11–12 K-State Farm Financial Workshops, Salina

23 2018 K-State Soybean Production School, Salina

K-STATE Research and Extension

ksre.k-state.edu

The Spotlight Is On Cover Crops At The 2017 Agronomy Field Day, November 3

Exciting advances in cover crop research will be featured at the 2017 Agronomy Field Day on November 3 at the Ashland Bottoms Research Farm in Manhattan. Topics will focus on understanding the role cover crops play in water quality, weed control, soil quality, and more.

The full list of topics and K-State speakers:

- Using cover crops for weed suppression – Anita Dille, Weed Ecology
- Improving soil quality with cover crops – DeAnn Presley, Soil Management Specialist
- Protecting surface water with healthy soils, cover crops, and fertilizer management – Nathan Nelson, Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management
- Soybean yields and cover crops – Ignacio Ciampitti, Crop Production Specialist and Doug Shoup, South East Area Agronomist.
- Ten years of cover crops in a no-till wheat-sorghum-soybean rotation – Kraig Roozeboom, Cropping Systems Agronomist
- Cover crops and nitrogen management – Peter Tomlinson, Environmental Quality Specialist

The field day will begin with registration at 9 a.m. and wrap up at 1 p.m. Sessions include two concurrent one-hour tours in the morning, starting at 9:30, followed by a poster session during and after lunch.

There is no charge to attend, and a complimentary lunch will be available. Preregistration is requested by October 30th so that a lunch count can be made. To preregister online, see: https://agron-field-day-2017.eventbrite.com. You can also preregister by calling Troy Lynn Eckart at 785-532-5776. On-site registration will also be available.

Directions to Ashland Bottoms Research Farm:

From Interstate 70, take Exit 307 and follow McDowell Creek Road 3.6 miles north before turning left (north) on W. 40th Ave and follow it 1.2 miles north.

Stocker School

By *Anthony N. Ruiz,*
Livestock Extension Agent
Central Kansas District

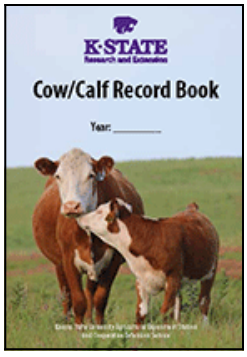
A majority of Kansas calves are born in the spring and weaned in autumn. Basic economics dictates increasing supply mixed with steady demand causes prices to decline. For years producers have added value to spring born calves through backgrounding. The aim is to enhance calf health and provide economically efficient cost of gain. Whether eventually going to grass or developed to heavier weights on feedstuffs, successful stocker cattle production requires sound management practices.

On Thursday, November 16th at 6:00 pm Central Kansas District Extension will host "*Stocker School"* at American Ag Credit's meeting room located at 925 West Magnolia Street in Salina, next to Menards. Attendees will get the chance to discuss cutting edge animal health and research-based stocker cattle management from K-State Research & Extension and Boehringer Ingelheim specialists.

The evening will begin with a complimentary meal at 6:00 pm and a presentation by Boehringer Ingelheim's animal health specialist at 6:30 pm. Next, Ron Graber, KSRE Watershed Specialist, will discuss what producers should look for and consider in new and existing feeding sites. Ron helps producers throughout central Kansas make wise decisions and avoid costly construction mistakes as they build and expand their facilities. If you are considering redoing or adding to your feeding locations, Ron has tips to help you do it right the first time. Dr. Dale Blasi, K-State Beef Cattle Nutrition and Management Specialist, will be sharing with guests effective management strategies for commingled calves and how to incorporate feed bunk scoring into their management routine. Dale manages the K-State Beef Stocker Unit and is well versed in receiving and backgrounding calves of unknown or diverse histories. Dale's talk will showcase management approaches producers can immediately add to their tool box.

Regardless if you graduated decades ago or if you still have a functional student ID, Central Kansas District's *"Stocker School"* on Thursday, November 16th is designed to provide practical, science-based knowledge to benefit you and the stocker cattle you manage. Make plans to attend today. Contact 785-392-2147 or anruiz@ksu.edu by November 13th to reserve a spot at the feed bunk.

Calving Books



By *Anthony N. Ruiz,*
Livestock Extension Agent
Central Kansas District

Folks, fall is here. Winter is knocking on the door. Spring is around the corner. Looking at the Kansas Mesonet Freeze Map some of you reading this received your first freeze as I write. Are you geared up to effectively manage your cattle herd moving forward?

One handy device for producers are calving books. These pocket-sized record keeping systems are universally accepted as the bee's knees for recording and tracking calving

data. The original calving records from generations ago proved so beneficial they have spawned a large array of calving books. Your local, friendly Central Kansas Extension District offices in Minneapolis and Salina have three versions available to you. Below are some details on what we have and how to obtain your very own set of calving books.

Option 1 - *Integrated Resource Management K-State Red Books*
"Red Books" as most cattle raisers know them are the Cadillac of pocket calving books. A durable red cover has proven to be a worthy design after years of abuse from wet calving conditions, agitated washing machines, and less than friendly mama cows. Red Books fit conveniently in a shirt pocket and feature facts, a yearly calendar, breeding records, supplemental feeding records, note pages, herd health records, and so much more. This well-built tool is sought after by cattlemen each year. Some order multiple red books; one for each herd or an "official" copy that stays in the office and one that lives in a dusty work truck. A drawback is these are only good for one year: i.e. 2017. Leftovers from previous years have limited usefulness once the ball drops in Times Square. As with anything good, it is rarely free. CKD's "Red Books" sale for $6.00 a piece and supply is limited. Reserve your copy quickly!

Option 2 - *K-State Field Record Books*
Affectionately known as "White Calving Books" in our office these paper-backed calving books are a streamlined version of "Red Books." Designed to serve a specific purpose without excess "White Calving Books" are much less durable and have much less space for recording information. Good news, though; they are free. We give "White Calving Books" away because we believe in equipping cattle producers with the tools to effectively manage their herds. Many producers return year after year to procure their set of "White Calving Books." Some use them in conjunction with a "Red Book" and others use them with an electronic record keeping system. Either way, "White Calving Books" are priced right. Price directly correlates with demand and we have a very limited supply. If you want "White Calving Books" please speak for your set soon.

Option 3 - *K-State Cow/Calf Record Book*
Goldilocks didn't like the porridge too hot or too cold. Somewhere in the middle was just right. After listening to producer feedback across the state K-State's Livestock Program Focus Team, PFT, created a calving record book somewhere in between the cadillac "Red Books" and bare bones "White Calving Books." The K-State Cow/Calf Record Book is printed within K-State's domain and features a stiff, thick paper shell. This lends itself to a greater useful life and makes writing legibly without a desk or hard surface easier. K-State Cow/Calf Record Books also have larger boxes and text which aids in reading the notes you took afield. As a person with poor handwriting and aging eyes I truly appreciate these features! Too, K-State Cow/Calf Record Books have more forms and pages for total herd management records, similar to Red Books. Generally, the Livestock PFT took the positive traits from both record books and made their own cost-effective design. I salute them for their efforts actively seeking out producer input, and incorporating that input into a finished product. All totaled K-State Cow/Calf Record Books are for sale in our offices for only $4.00.

As a Central Kansas District stakeholder your livestock needs and wants drive livestock programming here. For years cattle raisers have relied on calving record books to manager their

herd and measure data points used to track profit or loss. Call, email, or stop by the office today to kick the tires on our three options. Remember, you can't manage what you can't measure.

Sunflower Production Information Meeting

Thursday, December 7, 2017

American Ag Credit
Basement meeting room
925 W. Magnolia
Salina, KS

Meeting begins at 1:30 p.m.

Introductions
Sunflower Agronomy 101 – Ron Meyer, Extension agronomist, Colorado State University

- Fertility
- Planting depth
- Planting window
- Soils

Identifying Markets – Karl Esping, President, National Sunflower Association
Sourcing seed – Karl Esping and seed company representatives
Questions???

All interested persons are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Tom Maxwell, CKD at 785-309-5850 or tmaxwell@ksu.edu.

Best Options for Controlling Pigweeds in Soybeans

Pigweed control in soybeans used to be easy before the development and increase in glyphosate resistance, but those days are now in the past. Many fields have been overgrown with pigweed in recent years, however the pigweeds weren't quite as bad in 2017 as in previous years. Grower adoption of new management strategies and technologies (with maybe a little luck from weather) has probably helped with pigweed management, but control continues to be a challenge.

Part of the difficulty in achieving season-long pigweed control is their biological characteristics. Waterhemp and Palmer amaranth are both prolific seed producers, so many fields have extremely high seedbanks due to past control failures. The pigweeds also have a fair amount of seed dormancy and will start to germinate in April, but continue to germinate through the entire growing season. Once emerged, plants can grow rapidly, so the window of opportunity for effective postemergence control can be very short.

The most successful and consistent pigweed management programs in soybeans will be an integrated approach that utilizes a diversity of herbicides and timely applications, along with good cultural practices. One of the keys to managing pigweeds is to stay ahead of them. There are a number of good residual soybean herbicides for preplant and preemergence pigweed control. However, they require good rainfall for activation and

rarely provide complete season-long control.

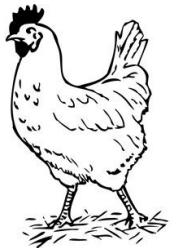
In a no-till situation, you may want to consider a split application of residual herbicides, with a preplant application in mid- to late-April followed by another application at planting time. This approach provides a better chance for activation and control of early emerging pigweed, along with extended residual control later into the season.

Postemergence treatments need to be applied before pigweeds exceed 3 to 4 inches tall. Whereas, glyphosate used to control large pigweeds, no other postemergence herbicide is consistently effective once pigweeds exceed 3 inches. An overlapping residual also can be included in the postemergence treatment, especially if a split application wasn't used before and at planting time. Sequential postemergence treatments also may be an option depending on product guidelines.

There are many different herbicide options that can be fit into the program. In addition, several different herbicide resistant traits are currently available, or likely will be available in soybeans in the future. Each trait has its unique strengths and weaknesses, but a multiple pronged approach utilizing a diversity of herbicides and timely applications will be critical for success regardless of trait technology. A program approach utilizing different herbicide modes of action will also help sustain the effectiveness of the new technologies further into the future.

The Big Game

By *Anthony N. Ruiz,*
Livestock Extension Agent
Central Kansas District



Each fall millions celebrate the return of football. Nights and weekends suddenly become packed with excitement, friends, and shouts of emotion when their favorite team scores a touchdown or fails to convert on fourth down. To celebrate Americans often tailgate, host watch parties, or grab a bite after a game. No food has become more ingrained in our football psyche as chicken wings. We love them. We devour them covered in spices and dipped in delicious sauces.

Once a year football fans collectively tune into television sets to spectate the big game, the Super Bowl. In 2015 Denver's beloved Broncos defeated the Carolina Panthers. Von Miller, Denver linebacker, was awarded the Most Valuable Player award. America ate 1.33 billion chicken wings that Super Bowl Sunday.

Von's success landed him in the spotlight. During the influx of press attention many were shocked that Von, the MVP on the field during our keystone sporting event, has a plan for the future: raising chickens. Truly; Von majored in Poultry Science at Texas A&M University and intends to produce chickens for consumption after his football career.

Besides delicious wings America loves a whole host of meat products from chickens. In 2016 you, me, and the rest of the country consumed 89 pounds of chicken per capita. That is 35 pounds more than our second most popular meat: beef. It took 8,776,700,000 chickens to produce enough chicken meat for our plates.

On average, modern chickens are raised to just over six pounds and are younger than 10 weeks old. These birds are very efficient and require slightly more than one pound of feed, grains mostly, to gain one pound in live weight.

Recently, poultry production has been on the minds of many folks in Kansas. Grain producers have asked about the effects increased local grain demand to feed new poultry operations. Farmers have inquired about opportunities to utilize their land and equipment for poultry production. Local residents have asked about the effect on local grocery store prices. Citizens of central Kansas are interested in learning more about modern poultry production and how it affects them.

On Monday, November 13 at 6:30 pm Central Kansas District Extension and the Salina Community Economic Development Organization will be hosting an educational program titled, "*A Discussion On Modern Poultry Production."* Speakers will be Dr. R. Scott Beyer, K-State Associate Professor of Poultry Sciences, and Dr. Peter Tomlinson, K-State Assistant Professor of Agronomy. The event is being held at the Salina Chamber of Commerce Annex located at 120 West Ash Street in Salina, Kansas. It is a free event, but attendees are politely requested to RSVP to ensure adequate snacks and seating. Please contact Anthony N. Ruiz at 785-392-2147 or anruiz@ksu.edu by Tuesday, November 7 to RSVP. Early buzz indicates a robust attendance; make sure you have a seat reserved today!

Many similarities exist between football and modern poultry production. Players and teams perform at a high level. Coaches prepare a detailed plan for effective and efficient management. Hours of hard work and dedication go into refining their strategy and skills. They even have a "safety" on their team. This year when you tailgate, host watch parties, or grab a bite after a big game be well informed on the methods that produced your chicken wings. Attend "*A Discussion On Modern Poultry Production"* Monday, November 13 at 6:30 pm in the Salina Chamber Annex. Give us a call or email to reserve your spot today.

Dinner Time

By *Anthony N. Ruiz,*
Livestock Extension Agent
Central Kansas District

A few months ago some friends and I had a serious discussion. Debate may be a better word. Dispute or argument may be even more accurate descriptors. Nonetheless, we were providing points and counterpoints on which meal is officially called dinner. That's right folks, we argued what time of the day dinner takes place; vehemently.

Both sides of the aisle made impassioned statements on how dinner was "obviously" also known as lunch or "clearly" supper means the same thing. As a natural peacemaker I urged the two parties to concede that whatever you called a meal, the key was it is delicious and served with sweet tea. We all agreed on that.

Cubing, haying, chorin', rolling, or feeding; no matter what you call it, providing feedstuffs to cows on pasture is called supplemental feeding. When grazing grass, crop residue, or other forages these represent the primary nutrition cows consume. Additional hay, cubes, lick

tubs, or feeds are supplementing a forage based diet. As pasture nutritional compositions wain managers must provide supplemental feedstuffs to meet cow needs. Pregnancy and eventually lactation enhance cow caloric demands.

How do you choose what to supplement? Which feedstuff(s) fits your herd best? Truth is, it depends. Storage facilities, feeding machinery, distance to cattle, and good old fashioned time all factor into the decision. Add in variable grain prices and sagging calf prices and the side of gravy with dinner gets murkier.

Economic data points out that as much as 40-60% of annual cow cost of production is feed cost. That figure can be staggering. Is it time to put your cows on a diet? Perhaps, doing some meal prep can save you dollars. On Thursday, November 9th Central Kansas District Livestock Extension Agent Anthony N. Ruiz will be hosting "*Cow Supplemental Strategies" in* Minneapolis, Kansas. Held at the Ottawa County Courthouse Basement Meeting Room, *"Cow Supplemental Strategies"* is free to attend. To accommodate guests two separate sessions will be held on Thursday, November 9th; one at 2:00 pm and another at 7:00 pm. Both sessions will address research-based information on cow nutrient requirements, reasons to supplement, and comparing commonly available feedstuffs. Please RSVP to 785-392-2147 or anruiz@ksu.edu to reserve your .

No matter what you call supplemental feeding it is a substantial cost associated with cow/calf production. Join us in Minneapolis on Thursday, November 9th at 2:00 pm or 7:00 pm to discuss "Cow Supplemental Strategies." Whether it is breakfast, lunch, or dinner providing your cowherd with appropriate supplemental nutrition makes you a winner!

Hay Testing

How will you know how much protein and energy your cows will get when you start feeding your hay and silage? Or how much supplement to feed? Find out by following instructions for sampling and testing. Correct sampling techniques, followed by lab tests of forage quality, are necessary for cattle producers who want to get the most value from their forages and profit from their animals. Maybe the most important step in sampling hay, and sometimes the most difficult step, is deciding which bales and stacks should be included in each sample. Ideally, each sample should include only bales that were produced under nearly identical conditions. Obviously, the place to start grouping is to separate different types of hay, like alfalfa or CRP or corn stalk or meadow hay. But each cutting of hay probably is different from the other cuttings also, so there is another separation. And no two fields or meadows are ever exactly the same, especially if they were cut more than two days apart, so that makes another grouping. And what if part of the field was rained on before it was baled? The hay made without rain damage probably will be different from hay with rain damage. After you've made all these separations, which could result in quite a few groups of similar bales, then and only then are you ready to sample. From each group gather a dozen or more cores from different bales or stacks and combine them into one sample. Be sure to use a good hay probe that can core into at least one foot of the bale. Finally, send these samples to a certified lab for tests of energy content and protein, maybe nitrates, and any other nutrients of interest to you.

Then use this information to feed your cattle as profitably as possible.

Bruce Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

K·STATE Research and Extension | Central Kansas District

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Salina, KS 67402-5040

Address Service Requested

The enclosed material is for your information. If we can be of further assistance, feel free to call or drop by the Extension Office.

Sincerely,

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