FARM & RANCH SUCCESSION CONFERENCE PLANNED ACROSS THE STATE

The transfer of ownership, management and leadership from one generation to another is an important issue for farms, ranches and rural communities across Kansas. This winter, K-State Research & Extension and Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services will offer one-day succession conferences designed to educate and support families as they prepare for the future of the enterprise.

The conferences will take place at five sites around the state and bring together a network of K-State Research & Extension professionals offering comprehensive insights for families transferring their farm or ranch. Each one-day conference will begin at 9:00 am and includes an overview of the succession planning process; developing a vision, mission and goals for the operation; family dynamics and communications; financial planning; legal issues and power transfer. Cost at each location is $60 for the first family member and $40 per person for each additional member.

Beyond the conferences, succession tools will be accessible online in the form of videos and other electronic sources. Trained facilitators will also be available to guide families through the succession planning process.

Succession conferences are set for:

January 5, 2015 - Allen Community College in Iola
January 10, 2015 - Pratt Community College in Pratt
January 16, 2015 - Kansas Farm Bureau Plaza in Manhattan
January 17, 2015 - Flint Hills Technical College in Emporia

March 3, 2015 - KSRE Agricultural Research Center in Hays

All who are involved with a family agricultural operation are encouraged to attend.

Register online at: ksre.ksu.edu/kams

Funding for this project was provided by the NorthCentral Extension Risk Management Education Center and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Award Number 2012-49200-20032. Additional partners include: Frontier Farm Credit, Kansas Bankers Association, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Farm Management Association, Kansas Farmers Union and the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Tom Maxwell, Crop Production Agent, 785-309-5850

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December
02 - Saline County 2014 Farm Bill Informational Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Kenwood Hall, Salina
10 - K-State Emergency Preparedness for Livestock Seminar, Salina
16 - CKD Cattle Handling & Livestock Facilities Workshop, Minneapolis
16 - Saline County 2014 Farm Bill Informational Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Kenwood Hall, Salina

January
14 - CKD Calving School, Webster Conference Center, Salina
15 - K-State Winter Ranch Management Conference, Beloit
20 - The 2014 Farm Bill: Making the Decision Meeting, Ambassador Hotel, Salina
22 - CKD EPD & Bull Buying Workshop, Salina
22-23 - KARTA 18th Annual Agriculture Technologies Conference, Salina
27-28 - No-Till on the Plains Conference, Bi-Center, Salina

February
03 - K-State Soybean Production School, Ambassador Hotel, Salina
CALVING CONSIDERATIONS

One day I was visiting with an experienced cowman. From his wrinkled brow, to his calloused hands, and in his words rich with experience one thing was clear: this man had seen a lot come and go in the cattle industry. When asked what development or break-through most helped the beef cattle industry he said with emphasis, “Calving ease bulls.”

This response surprised me. I had expected to hear about wormers, vaccines, antibiotics, ionophores, or maybe even screwworm eradication. Instead of a scientific breakthrough genetics was the game changer that trumped all the rest. Since that day I’ve often reflected on what this gentleman said.

Today many bull sale catalogs and AI booklets have sires with calving ease claims. Since my grandfather’s days of herding cattle to now we have bulls siring heavier calves that arrive much more easily. Thanks to genetics and cattle breeders with foresight. Unfortunately, we have not totally eliminated calving difficulties. First calf heifers are still a concern for cattle producers. These gals are naive to the hormonal and physical demands of parturition, giving birth. Heifers must be managed to reduce the odds of a difficult or assisted birth.

EPD’s, Expected Progeny Differences, are a great tool to minimize the risk of calving difficulties. For years birthweight was the best predictor of calving ease. Bulls with a higher accuracy low birthweight had the lowest odds of causing calving trouble. This make sense. It’s easier to deliver a 70 pound calf than a 100 pound calf, right? This idea prevailed for years and was the best tool. Thankfully someone built a better mousetrap, or EPD. Most breeds now feature a Calving Ease Direct, CED, or Calving Ease Maternal, CEM, EPD. Lot’s of letters. Go ahead and re-read those a couple times. I sure had to when I wrote this.

CED is a percentage of likely unassisted births in first calf heifers. So, a sire with a higher CED is more likely to have FEWER assisted births in first calf heifers. CEM is a percentage of likely unassisted births of a SIRE’S daughters. The way I remember it is CED for Dad affects calving whereas CEM for Mom affects calving.

Sounds easy to remember, right? If you want to reduce pulls in next year’s heifers, choose a bull with high CED. If you want to retain females as replacements, choose a bull with a high CEM. D for Dad, M for mom. That’s who’s genetics will pass on the calving ease trait.

Why should you begin selecting bulls and replacement heifers with CED and CEM data instead of birthweight? Birthweight tracks one trait, weight. Difficult births can occur at any weight. If a doctor asked only one piece of information on the symptom chart, what could that tell them? “Patient X, I see here today you weigh 200 pounds.” That reveals very little about the person. Are they tall or short? Skinny or well prepared for winter? Male or female? Calving ease EPD’s tell the story of how a calf was born, not simply gravity’s effect upon it.

Calving ease EPD’s are better and more effective than birthweight EPD’s for reducing calving problems, especially in first calf heifers. Just like party telephone lines used to be the best thing since sliced bread, we’ve made huge leaps in the science of cattle genetics. Now, you can to make a call from the pasture or be left holding the phone at the hacienda on a party line? Which option do you prefer?

If you’d like to know more about calving and the proper way to assist with difficult births you are in luck! Central Kansas District is hosting one of five statewide Calving Schools. Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at Webster Conference Center beginning with a meal at 6 pm. Dr. Luis Mendonca, Extension Dairy Specialist, and Dr. Jaymelynn Farney, Southeast Area Livestock Specialist, will present on the process of labor, how to recognize calving problems, and showcase how to assist using their hands-on calving tool. You won’t want to miss this event! We are partnering with surrounding extension districts to provide this to our producers. Cost is $20 and due by January 7 to the Minneapolis office or anruiz@ksu.edu.
FARM SERVICE AGENCY & K-STATE EXTENSION present....

SALINE COUNTY
Producer’s Informational Meetings

NEW FARM BILL PROGRAMS

AGRICULTURAL RISK COVERAGE (ARC)
PRICE LOSS COVERAGE (PLC)

DECEMBER 2, 2014  DECEMBER 16, 2014
9:00 A.M.  6:00 P.M.

Expo Center-Kenwood Hall
900 Greeley
Salina, KS 67401

USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.
Persons with disabilities who require accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Brandi Broughton at 785-825-8269 or email brandi.broughton@ks.usda.gov by November 25.
Winter Conference and Annual Meeting
December 9th, 2014 – Manhattan, KS
Kansas Farm Bureau Headquarters, 2627 KFB Plaza

Are you part of or interested in livestock grazing, hay production/utilization or buying/selling Kansas grass and alfalfa hay? Do not miss this opportunity to hear about new technologies and strategies in forage production and utilization presented by experts and specialists from all aspects of the hay industry.

***** 2015 Alfalfa and Forage Outlook by Jim Robb, Livestock Marketing Information Center *****

Break–Out Topics Include

* Alfalfa: New Technologies
* Strategies To Minimize Nitrate Toxicity in Forages
* Grazing Management
* Hay Sales: Liabilities and Contracts
* Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan Update

* Fall Control of Alfalfa Weevils
* Growing & Using Summer Annuals
* Grazing Cover Crops
* Prescribed Burning in Kansas
* Hay Transportation Regulations Update

*****Interested in CEU for Certified Crop Advisors contact jlcarr@ksu.edu*****

Schedule
- 8:15-9:15 a.m. Registration
- 9:15-10:00 Hay Buyer/End User Panel
- 10:15-11:00 Breakout Session #1
- 11:15-Noon Breakout Session #2
- Noon-1:45 p.m. Lunch—2015 Forage Outlook
- 2:00– 2:45 Breakout Session #3
- 3:00 - 3:45 Breakout Session #4

To Register: Return the attached registration form, e-mail jlcarr@ksu.edu or call 316-323-7330 (Jenni)

Industry Vendors On-Site

Registration: $65 in advance
$85 at the door includes:
- 2015 KSFGC membership
- Lunch
- Conference Proceedings

Special rate for participants at the Four Points by Sheraton, (785) 539-5311; ask for the Kansas Forage & Grassland Council block.

For more information: Contact Jenni Carr or go to the website, www.ksfgc.org

Advanced Registration due November 26, 2014

Individual:  Advanced $65 — At-the-door $85 (Includes 2015 KSFGC membership, lunch & conf. proceedings)
Vendors:  Advanced $200 — At-the-door $250 (Includes 2015 KSFGC membership, display table & 2 meals)

Please print: Use additional sheets if necessary

Name _______________________________ Name _______________________________
Address _______________________________ Address _______________________________
Phone _______________________________ Phone _______________________________
E-mail _______________________________ E-mail _______________________________

Number attending ___ @ $__________  Total Enclosed $__________

Clip registration form and mail along with your check, payable to KSFGC, to: Jenni Carr, 4507 211th Rd, Atlanta, KS 67008
MEET THE SPEAKERS

Art Barnaby

Dr. Art Barnaby was raised on a diversified farm, located in Elk County, Kansas. Art received his B.S. degree from Fort Hays State University, M.S. from New Mexico State University and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University. Art joined the Agricultural Economics faculty in 1979. He currently holds the rank of Professor. Art conducts national extension education programs on market risk, government commodity programs, crop insurance and public policy. Art was 1 of 30 people who were named on Top Producer Editors’ list of “Brave Thinkers: 30 Leaders Who Made a Difference” and on their list of “7 Economists, Bankers Who Challenged the Status Quo”. He has authored several research projects on crop insurance issues and their impacts on farmers. His research work with the private sector was the basis for the first revenue insurance contract. Art is an author on the KSU Risk Management page on Agmanager.info. Art is a past winner of the Excellence in Extension Award that included a $5,000 honorarium presented by the National Association of Public and Land Grant Universities. He is also a three time winner of the American Agricultural Economics Association Distinguished Extension Program Award. Art is a frequent speaker at professional, farmer-producer, ag lender, and insurance industry meetings. Art’s wife, Nancy, holds a B.S. degree from Fort Hays State in Nursing. Art and Nancy have two sons and two granddaughters.

Mykel Taylor

Dr. Mykel Taylor joined the Department of Agricultural Economics as an Assistant Professor in 2011. Her research and extension programs are focused in the areas of crop marketing and farm management. She grew up on a cattle ranch in Montana and attended Montana State University majoring in Agribusiness Management. Her PhD in Economics is from North Carolina State University. Mykel has worked in extension positions at both Kansas State University and Washington State University. Some of her current research areas include measuring basis risk for commodity grains, understanding the implications of food safety and country of origin labeling on meat demand, and estimating land values for crop and pasture land in Kansas.
The 2014 Farm Bill: Making the Decision
Registration
January 20, 2015
Salina, Kansas

Name: __________________________
City: _____________ State: _________
Email: __________________________

Registration Deadline: January 16, 2015

Fee: $25.00
Or obtain a complimentary ticket from our premier sponsors or the host county extension office.

Ag Risk Solutions
ARMtech Insurance Services
Farm Credit
ProAg

To Register:
Central Kansas Extension District
Tom Maxwell
785.309.5850 or tmaxwell@ksu.edu

SCHEDULE

1:00 Registration (rolls, coffee/juice)
1:30 The Nuts and Bolts of the 2014 Farm Bill (Agricultural Act of 2014)
   Dr. Art Barnaby
2:45 Making the Decision: Using the Texas A&M, University of Illinois and OSU/KSU Decision Tools
   Dr. Mykel Taylor
4:00 Break
4:15 Things You Need to Know USDA FSA
5:00 Conference Adjourns

K-STATE
Research and Extension
“Knowledge for Life”

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 Llewelyn, (785) 532-1504.

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Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating. John Floros, Director.

For more information, please visit: www.AgManager.info

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The Home Agency
Kansas Corn
Kansas Grain Sorghum,
Kansas Soybean Commission,
Kansas Wheat Commission and
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers

Central National Bank
The Davidson Agency
Harris Crop Insurance

Farm Bill Meetings Locations
Atchison          Ottawa
Dodge City        Phillipsburg
Emporia           Pittsburg
Frankfort         Pratt
Goodland          Salina
Hays              Scott City
Liberal           Wichita
McPherson
Good morning friends. Halloween has passed so that means it’s time for Christmas Music, everywhere! I’m dreaming of a white Christmas. Just like the only other one I’ve experienced.

A long time ago in a distant land Christmas got started in a barn. Shepherds, livestock, and a rural cast of characters took center stage as the events unfolded and changed history forever. I think it is only fitting we revisit the scene as I compile my 2014 Christmas wish list.

For the shepherds out tending their flocks by night I’d like new fences. As I travel through CKD, often times on backroads, I’ve come across cattle out wandering the roads. Whenever I step out of the vehicle to look for a hole in the fence they usually head for the hills with great vigor. Those bovine are most likely experienced in this game.

Fencing is an investment in an investment. One cow to car collision could pay for quite a bit of new fence. According to the 2013 Bluestem Pasture Report a five-wire barbed-wire fence with materials costs $25.40 per rod, 16.5 feet. At $1.54 per linear foot use Google Earth or Web Soils Survey to calculate fencing cost this winter. Good fences make good neighbors and good night’s rest.

I can not confirm this, but I’ve been told the hay used as bedding in the manger was high in nitrates. What else are you going to do with the stuff? I wish high nitrate levels were a thing of the past. In all seriousness this has been a whale of a year for nitrates. A wide variety of forage species tested high in nitrates throughout summer into fall. It is crushing to invest the time and money in a forage only to postpone grazing or harvest for fear of livestock loss. The only sure way to know is with a forage sample sent to a lab. If you have questions about trying to manage around elevated nitrate levels or want information on forage sampling, please feel free to call, email, or stop by our office. Testing forages doesn’t cost, it pays.

The cows depicted at the manger could use an end to BVD PI’s. Bovine Viral Diarrhea is the major culprit in Bovine Respiratory Disease, BRD. Persistently Infected, PI, cattle are born with BVD in their makeup due to maternal exposure during pregnancy. BVD PI’s are born, not made. PI’s wreak havoc as they constantly shed the virus infecting and re-infecting cattle through bodily secretions, most often nose to nose contact. Increased mortality and morbidity are the tell-tell signs of PI’s skulking through your herd. Commingling cattle from various origins is the best way to procure a dreaded PI animal although even the most highly managed herds can turn up a PI.

PI testing is cost effective, $3-5 per head, and is readily available. Most labs include supplies such as ear notchers, disinfectants, and plastic tubes with your fee. Check with your local veterinarian or use a well established lab to test your herd.

Lastly, I wish for a 2015 date book. With all the wonderful programs CKD is bringing your way next year I don’t want to miss a one. A wide range of topics is sure to peak your interest and equip you for the challenges a new year brings. CKD offers pocket sized red books for $5.40 or has white calving books for free. Both are sure to please.

As I write this an arctic front is heading our way. Winter will be here by the time I fall asleep tonight. As I doze off visions of sugar plums will dance in my head with hopes of new fences, nitrate free forages, a PI free herd, and a date book filled with educational and insightful agricultural programming events. Merry Christmas CKD family and friends!

Anthony N. Ruiz, Livestock Extension Agent 785-392-2147, anruiz@ksu.edu