

Agriculture **CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS**

centralkansas.ksu.edu **June 2025**

Upcoming Events

June

Jr. Dairy Show 20-21

July 4

Offices Closed



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Every Day Extension Podcast



Have you "herd"? This month on the Everyday Extension podcast, Justine Johns sits down with Dr. Cassandra Olds, the K-State Entomologist and discuss the significant challenges that cattle producers face with flies and ticks. In the episode, "Biting Back: Managing Ticks & Flies in Your Herd", they explore how these pests affect animal health

and production, and provide insights on recognizing fly problems, building an integrated pest management plan, and the role of spring burning in controlling

pest populations. The conversation also highlights innovative methods for fly control, the importance of dung beetles, and the complexities of insecticide resistance. Listen in on where ever you stream your podcasts, snapping a picture of the QR code, or visiting our website. We can't wait for you to join the conversation!



Meet the New Member of the Central Kansas District Team!



Hi! My name is Ava Zerger and I am the summer intern. I am so excited to be a part of the Central Kansas District Team! To tell you a little about myself I am from right here in Saline County and am currently attending college at Fort Hays State University where I am studying Animal Science and Communications. At Fort Hays, I am currently a part of clubs such as Block and Bridle and the Sigma Alpha sorority. Through these clubs, I help put on events in the community such as our university stock show and participate in the "Ag in the Classroom" philanthropy.

I decided to seek out an internship in extension as I love being a part of a community and learning aside others. I'm excited to learn under Justine Johns and Jay Wisbey this summer. I love the freedom that extension gives you and the passion that they have for their community and those around them.

As for my projects this summer I will be running the social media pages, keeping you updated on the happenings within the district, helping with the newsletter, producing small educational videos, and helping with fair.

I can't wait to see what the rest of the summer brings and to meet everyone in the community!

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Shade Allocation is Important for Growing Cattle Comfort and Efficiency

Dale Blasi, stocker, forages, nutrition and management specialists & AJ Tarpoff, DVM, extension veterinarian



Heat stress events across the Central Plains region can be devastating to finishing beef cattle. The use of shade has been evaluated as a mitigation strategy to improve animal comfort and growth performance, with very positive outcomes for the feed yard sector. However, limited information on animal comfort and growth performance for growing cattle when shade is provided is available. To address this lack of information, two growing studies

involving 852 head of heifers (553±62 lb) were conducted during the summers of 2021 and 2022 to evaluate the impacts of limit feeding and shade access as possible strategies to improve cattle efficiency, reduce water usage, and improve animal comfort in growing cattle. Only the main effects of shade allocation will be discussed within this article for brevity. Readers are welcome to review the full article at https://newprairiepress.org/kaesrr/vol9/iss1/3/

Before cattle arrival, two shade structures (40x40 ft) per block were randomly assigned to cover two pens per structure; for the two pens under a common shade structure, one pen was fed each of the two dietary treatments. Shade structures provided 77 ± 6.3 ft2 of shade per animal (Strobel Manufacturing Inc., Clarks, NE). To determine the effects of shade on animal comfort, animals were evaluated at 9:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. on days when the temperature humidity index (THI) was estimated to be greater than 74 (US MARC Animal Comfort Index). Using a method adapted from Guaghan et al. (2008) individual panting score was determined using respiration rate and breathing conditions. Three animals per pen were selected randomly at each time point to represent each pen. The three values were averaged to obtain a mean panting score for each pen. Water usage was measured via iPERL water meters (Lil' Spring 3000; Miraco Livestock Water Systems, Grinnell, IA) for each pen. The presented water usage and panting scores are only from year one.

Heifers provided with shade had heavier day 90 and day 97 body weights than those without shade access. Average daily gains from day 0 to 97 were greater for shaded heifers compared with non-shaded heifers. Calves fed for ad libitum intake in shaded pens had greater dry matter feed intake than calves in non-shaded pens for ad libitum intake, where as limit-fed calves in non-shaded pens and shaded pens did not differ in DM intake. Gain-to-feed was better for calves in shaded pens than in non-shaded pens. Calves in non-shaded pens had greater average panting scores than calves in shaded pens. We attribute this difference to increased animal comfort due to reduced solar radiation exposure in shaded pens, leading to lower heat load during the summer. Water usage was 11% less for shaded calves than for non-shaded calves. This can be attributed to a decrease in heat load of calves in shaded pens compared with calves in non-shaded pens.

In summary, the results of this study demonstrate that during periods of heat stress, the provision of shade improves average daily gain by 7%, increases feed intake by 6%, improves feed efficiency by 4%, and improves cattle comfort (measured by panting scores), as well as reducing water usage (consumption) by 11%.

Be Aware of Cattle Rabies

Gregg Hanzlicek, DVM, Veterinary Diagnostic Lab

Over the last nine years, there have been 17 cases of bovine rabies in Kansas (See map below). In several of those years, cattle were the most common domestic species diagnosed with rabies in our state. Any bovine observed to have to have neurologic problems: head pressing, constant vocalization, choking, staggering, etc. should be considered rabid until other diseases are ruled out.

Human infection occurs through a rabid-animal bite or saliva contamination of an open wound. Several cases of human exposure have occurred when producers have attempted to relieve an apparent choke or while attempting to force feed a rabid animal.

The number of human-bovine hands—on interactions is greater in herds who participate in livestock shows. Because of the heightened interactions and that bovine rabies is relatively common in Kansas, we recommend that all show cattle be vaccinated against this disease.

Rabies vaccines are one of the least expensive and most clinically effective vaccines available in veterinary medicine. In Kansas, a licensed veterinarian must administer this vaccine. Please contact your veterinarian to schedule a time to have your show animals vaccinated before the show season starts this year.



Confirmed Bovine Rabies in Kansas: 2016-2025 by Zip Code Some locals contained multiple cases as reflected by bubble size.

Junior Dairy Show



Join us in supporting the youth in the 2025 Junior Dairy Show, June 19-21! Where: Saline County Livestock & Expo Center, 900 Greeley-Salina, Kansas 67401 When:

Thursday, June 19th

Arrival beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Friday, June 20th

Judging contest begins at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 21st

Fitting and showing contest begins at 7:30 a.m.

More details about timing and events can be found at https:// www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/dairy/dairyevents/jr-dairy-show/

Early Summer Control of Sericea Lespedeza using Herbicides

Tina Sullivan, Northeast Area Agronomist Walt Fick, Emeritus Rangeland Management Specialist

Sericea lespedeza is a major invasive species of concern rangeland, pasture and some CRP acres in Kansas. This Category C noxious weed infests over 465,000 acres in Kansas as of 2022. The species is primarily found in southeastern US, but is expanding west and north (Figure 1). Category C noxious weeds are well-established and known to exist in large or extensive populations. Control efforts should be directed at reducing or eliminating new infestations and using approved control methods on established populations.



Figure 1. Distribution of sericea lespedeza in the U.S. Source: EDDMaps(2025)

Sericea lespedeza is a perennial legume with trifoliate leaves. The leaves are club or wedge-shaped (Figure 2). Plants are usually about 3 feet tall but can grow to several feet in height under ideal conditions. Plants will start to bloom in August with white to cream-colored flowers with a purple throat. The most seed production occurs in September.



Figure 2. Trifoliate, wedge-shaped leaflets and flowers of sericea lespedeza. Photo by Walt Flick, K-State Research and Extension.

Prescribed burning stimulates the germination of sericea lespedeza seed. Mid-May to June is a good time to control new seedlings and established sericea lespedeza plants that are at least 10-12 inches tall, using herbicides. At this time, sericea lespedeza is in a vegetative growth stage (Figure 3) and is rapidly growing. By the end of June, plants will begin to branch and become woodier.



Figure 3. Vegetative growth stages of sericea lespedeza. Photo by Walt Flick, K-State Research and Extension.

Chemical Control Options

The most effective herbicides to treat sericea lespedeza during the vegetative growth stage are Remedy Ultra (triclopyr) and PastureGard HL (triclopyr + fluroxypyr). Broadcast applications of Remedy Ultra at 1 to 2 pints/ acre and PastureGard HL at 0.75 to 1.5 pints should be applied in spray volumes of 10 to 20 gallons/acre. Another herbicide option would be Surmount (picloram + fluroxypyr) at 2 pints/acre. Surmount is a restricted-use pesticide and would be a good choice if you want to treat roughleaf dogwood or blackberry simultaneously. Once sericea starts to branch, metsulfuron-containing herbicides such as Escort XP (0.5 to 1 oz/acre) can be effective.

For spot application, mix 0.5 fl oz PastureGard HL per gallon of water or use a 1% solution of Remedy Ultra in water. Aerial applications of these products should be done with a minimum spray volume of 3 gallons per acre. Higher volumes, e.g., 5 gallons per acre, will generally be more effective.

There are no grazing and haying restrictions for livestock and lactating grazing animals following the use of Remedy Ultra and PastureGard HL. There is a 14 day waiting period prior to hay harvest using this two herbicides. If Surmount is used, there is no waiting period before grazing all livestock except for lactating dairy animals (14 days before grazing). Surmount also requires a 7 to 14-day waiting period before hay harvest, depending on whether the hay will be fed to beef animals or lactating dairy animals. There are no grazing or haying restrictions following the application of Escort XP.

As a noxious weed in Kansas, sericea lespedeza needs to be controlled. Sericea lespedeza has a tremendous seed bank that helps reestablish stands.

Herbicide treatments must be repeated every 2 to 4 years to keep this invasive species in check. Initial treatments should reduce dense stands to the point where spot treatment can be used in future years. Left untreated, serice lespedeza will dominate a site, greatly reducing forage production and species diversity.

They are Back! Warmer Weather Brings Ticks Out Early

Cassandra Olds, extension livestock entomologist

Ticks and pathogens they transmit are a significant concern for both humans and animals alike. Controlling tick populations can be difficult because a large part of their lives are spent off the animal or hosts we have little control over like deer, rabbits and other animals. Between feeding periods, ticks are found in brush or tall grasses, especially around water areas and streams. High humidity, the presence of protective leaf litter and animals moving through the area provide a perfect habitat for ticks.



Burning pastures in the Flint Hills can be significantly reduce tick populations, with burning early in the spring while ticks are still overwintering being the most effective (Salazar et al., 2024). The impact of burning is immediate, with reduced tick numbers lasting the growing season after the burn. Female ticks lay thousands of eggs and tick populations can rebound very quickly if burning isn't maintained. When burning, pay special attention to thickets and areas of dense plant growth. Eastern redcedars are a tick hot spot (Noden et al., 2021) and an area often visited by animals. Alarmingly, not only are ticks found in these areas, but they are also carrying more pathogens than those collected from surrounding pasture (Noden et al., 2021). Keep grass around buildings short and bushes trimmed and off the ground.

For on animal tick control, fly tags can help control ear associated ticks like Gulf Coast and spinose ear ticks. These are not effective for tick species that are on the body of the animal, like the American dog tick, which transmits Anaplasmosis. Sprays can be effective if they reach areas where ticks are attached and tick populations are not resistant. As seen with flies, rates of pesticide resistance in ticks is also increasing. Common tick attachment sites include areas under the tail, in folds of skin, under the belly/udder areas and dewlap. Pour-on's can also be effective but be aware that those containing macrocyclic lactone group chemicals will impact your dung beetle populations. Protect yourself and your family while outdoors too! Make sure you wear long pants tucked into socks and shirts with long sleeves, tucked into pants. Check yourself for ticks at the end of the day and remove any attached ticks as soon as possible. Dogs and cats should receive veterinarian prescribed tick control products. Be careful of 'natural' remedies found on the internet as these have not been tested for safety or efficacy. There has been a rise in garlic-base products for tick and flea control in dogs for sale on online retailers like Amazon. Garlic is not safe for dogs to consumer and should not be used for flea and tick control.



Central Kansas District

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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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