

Agriculture

CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS

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April 2021

Upcoming Events

April

- 1 YQCA -Salina
- 13 YQCA - Minneapolis
- 17 Central Kansas Classic Beef Show

1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Cattle Conversations Part 2

May

- 4 Silage School
- 22 Tractor Safety Course— Minneapolis
- 28 CKD Wheat Plot Tours

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It's Time for Breeding Soundness Exams

Lets be real. You'd never send Patrick Mahomes into the super bowl, Brad Keller into the Royals bull pen, and Mike Tyson into the boxing ring without making sure they are in good health and ready to perform to the best of their ability.

So, if you wouldn't do that to a human athlete, why would you do it to your bulls at the beginning of breeding season. After all, they are athletes too.



In order to most effectively evaluate if bulls are ready for the upcoming breeding season, Veterinarians perform Breeding Soundness Exams (BSE) approximately 30-60 days before bull turn out. The test helps determine the reproductive potential of that sire and included an examination of general physical examination (special attention paid to the feet, legs, eyes, and sheath), inspection of the genital organs (scrotal circumference), body condition score, and assessment of sperm production and quality. Though BSE's are not a direct evaluation of fertility, the semen test can tell you the volume and sperm concentration (which allow for the calculation of the total number of sperm in the ejaculate), sperm motility, and the percent morphologically normal sperm.

Just like any professional athlete, physical exams, conditioning and training, and maintained diets are some of the most important parts of preparing for the season. For bulls, each portion of the BSE is important. Every test and attention to detail at each step will ensure that sub-fertile bulls in your herd are identified.

Since the weather was hard last month, lower than normal temperatures may have increased the incidence of frost bite to the scrotum. The resulting damage of this kind of weather may be temporary, or in more severe cases, cause permanent sterility. Severe frost damage to the testicle and epididymis may cause tissue adhesions, affecting mobility and circulation within the scrotum.

The best way to test for this? You guessed it, a BSE. The evaluation of possible frostbite damage is best accomplished by a BSE within the first 45 to 60 days after the injury occurred. So, don't send your finest athletes out to do their job unless you've made sure they are in good health and ready to perform.

Justine Henderson, Livestock Production Agent

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Tractor Safety Meetings Bring Thoughts of Farm Safety Questions

In the planning process of the upcoming tractor safety meetings, it occurred to me how much this information applies to farmworkers of all ages. Most producers have been immersed in the farm operation so long that they have forgotten what it was like not to know of many of the dangers and hazards of a farm or ranch. We all learned at some point in our life, many of the most memorable times, it was the hard way. A discussion that heads off even one mistake is a productive one, and keeping safety a priority in our work is essential.

So I have created a list of conversation topics that you can review with your farmworkers. The intention is to bring others up to speed with your operation with safety in mind. This list will certainly not include all the possible troubles as that would fill a book. Remember, dangers are present for people of all ages and experiences. Keeping safety a continuous dialog and open conversation makes everyone alert.

Emergency Contacts and other significant phone numbers: Make sure that everyone has the phone numbers programmed into their cell phones before needing them; it might save some time when it is needed.

Individual Equipment overview: Every tractor, truck, combine... is different. Learning the quirks buttons, transmissions, GPS, gauges, and more all take time and experience.

Fire Safety: Do you have fire extinguishers? Where are they? Do you have fire stories to tell? Often, we learn from bad experiences, and remembering how people responded, either good or bad, is helpful to reflect on.

Electrical dangers: Be aware of power lines, buried cables, and fuse boxes.

Where to park? At the farmstead or the field, understand hazards and blind spots.

Hand signals: Ensure everyone understands what each signal means before feeling the bang or the next signal becomes obscene.

What do you call it?: Identify field names, tractors, trucks, implements, tools. The list could be extensive though it helps to keep everyone on the same wavelength.

Road Hazards: Between points, A and B can be loaded with obstacles, both expected and unexpected—understanding stopping distances, vehicle widths, bridges, turning radius, and other drivers. It seems like our roads are full of dangers. Make sure everyone understands that.

Field Obstacles: Which entrance to use, where is the spring, ditch, gully, rocks.

Maintenance: Go over tires, fluids, grease zerks, bearings, filters. Even if it is not their responsibility to do service, having more eyes, ears, and even noses paying attention to machines could prevent bad results if caught in time.

Grain Storage and handling: PTO, Augers, Dust, Do not enter the Bin, grain bridging.

Stored Energy: Secure implements and headers. Hydraulics and springs contain stored energy.

Center of gravity: Understanding tipping points and how fast you can get in trouble.

What did I miss? Let me know by calling, texting, or emailing Jay Wisbey at 785-587-7987 jwisbey@ksu.edu This list will be posted on our web page, and I will certainly add to it.

K-State Research and Extension

Round 2

Join us for the 2021 “Cattle Conversations Series”.....ONLINE

10:00 a.m.
Thursdays
April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Details

- Online sessions, Thursdays, beginning April 1
- 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. each Thursday through April 29
- One 25 minute session each week with five topics
- NO COST

Register ONLINE at: <http://bit.ly/CattleConversations>
(Once you register you will receive the link to participate.)

Schedule:

Thursday, April 1: Walt Fick - KSU Agronomist– Spring burning practices

Thursday, April 8: Keith Harmony – KSU Range Specialist - Pasture weed control

Thursday, April 15: A.J. Tarpoff – KSU Beef Vet. - Troubleshooting pasture lameness

Thursday, April 22: Jody Holthaus– KSU Livestock Agent – Green-algae studies/research

Thursday, April 29: Will Boyer and Ron Graber – KSU Watershed Specialists – Providing adequate water to grazing livestock



This program is a collaboration with K-State Research and Extension Districts:
Central KS, Cottonwood, Midway, Post Rock and River Valley.

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 Sandra L. Wick (785-282-6823). Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Central Kansas Classic



Saturday, April 17, 2021

Saline County Expo Center

900 Greeley

Salina, Kansas

This is a Blow and Go Show

Show Schedule:

- 7:00 a.m. Barns open
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Market (Steer & Heifer) weigh in and heifer check in Barn 1
11:00 a.m. Prospect Beef Show (Showmanship, Breeding heifers, *CKD heifer class, Market Steers & Heifers, *CKD Market Steer & Heifer class)

* There will be a special class for the 4-H'ers enrolled in a club in the Central Kansas Extension District.

General Rules:

1. The show is open to any bonafide 4-H and FFA members who have not yet reached their 19th birthday before January 1, 2021.
2. Entry fee is \$15.00 per head. After April 8, 2021 the entry fee is \$20.00 per head.
3. Entry fee must accompany form. No refunds.
4. Each exhibitor must provide own supplies and bedding.
5. Exhibitors must be present to show their animal(s).
6. A minimum of 3 animals per breed required for breed class; otherwise they will be entered into the AOB class.
7. Steers must have appropriate papers to show in breed class. Papers must be shown at weigh in.
8. Breeding heifers will be divided by age within a breed. Registration papers required on all except commercial heifers. Heifers without papers will be shown in the commercial class.
9. Breeding heifers must be born between September 1, 2019 and December 31, 2020.
10. All animals must be stalled in the barns or exhibitor must clean outside area used.
11. All market animals must have an identification ear tag in their ear.
12. Showmanship is free to all who pay entry fee, classes are: Sr. 14-18, Int. 10-13, Jr. 7-9.
13. The decision of the judge is final. Protests for any reason must be submitted in writing and accompanied by a \$100.00 fee.
14. **This is a Blow and Go show.** Blow and Go indicates using no adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products.
15. All steers will be judged as show prospects, not finished animals.
16. Individuals mishandling animals will be asked to leave the show and forfeit any entry/prize money.
17. The committee has the right to make changes.
18. This show will follow the National Code of Show Ring Ethics.

***** Valley Vet Trailer for prizes and supplies.**

Directions: I-135 – exit Crawford Street, go east to Ohio Street, turn left onto Ohio Street, turn left onto Greeley. I-70 – exit Ohio Street, go south and turn right onto Greeley.

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K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

Tractor Safety Course 2021

BY: National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program



River Valley Extension District, Post Rock District, Central Kansas District, Midway District, Cottonwood District

will be conducting the Hazardous Occupations Training/ tractor and machinery safety training. The Training provides trainees with knowledge of tractor, machinery, and other farm hazards to reduce the farm accident rate. It also provides sufficient

information to pass a written examination and an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to pass a safe tractor driving examination. **Participants must be 14 or older to receive certification, though 12 and 13 year olds may take the course for education purposes only.**

Federal Law requires youth to participate in a Hazardous Occupations Training and become certified in order to work for hire for anyone other than their parents.

Sign up go to- https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1HaTQ8m15e4da4e

Fee for the course is \$20 which covers materials and handouts for in-person trainings. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Pay at your local Extension Office or the day of the course. Please pick up book at your local Extension Office PRIOR to the course.

April 10th – Virtual (\$20 for copy of book. An “online” version of the book is also available for virtual only.)

May 8th – Smith Center

May 22nd – Minneapolis



River Valley District- 785-527-5084- Rebecca Zach zrebecca@ksu.edu

Post Rock District- 785-282-6823 - Sandra Wick swick@ksu.edu

Central Kansas District- 785-309-5850 - Cade Rensink crensink@ksu.edu, or

Jay Wisbey jwisbey@ksu.edu, or Justine Henderson jwh04@ksu.edu

Midway District- 785-472-4442- Clinton Laflin cllaflin@ksu.edu or Craig Dinkel cadinkel@ksu.edu

Cottonwood District- 620-793-1910- Alicia Boor aboer@ksu.edu

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 Rebecca Zach, River Valley Extension District #4, 1815 M Street, Belleville, KS 66935. Phone: 785-527-5084.

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Talking Wheat Plot Is Coming Soon

With the magic of an FM transmitter, you will be able to listen to commentary when your visit our wheat plot on your schedule. It will be deployed at Myers Plot ¼ mile North of Tim's house. From Minneapolis, take 106 highway south just past the Salt creek bridge and go west 2 miles to 90th road. 90th is a dirt road DO NOT visit following a rain event, or you will be stuck at the bottom of the hill.

The plan is to have in-person wheat plot tours; this feature will just add to the information and provide a more informative visit at your convenience.

Dicamba Trainings Available Online

Visit our Central Kansas Website Crops page to get links to the training.



LALLEMAND ANIMAL NUTRITION & KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY PRESENT:

POWER YOUR SILAGE PERFORMANCE

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 4
4 PM TO 8 PM

LOCATION: 4-H BUILDING
900 GREELEY AVE
SALINA, KS 67401

RSVP BY APRIL 23:
LAUREN KASTEN
lkasten@lallemand.com
or (414) 931-1058

In partnership with: **K-STATE**
Research and Extension

4:00 PM: WELCOME

Wade Patterson, Lallemand Animal Nutrition & Justin Waggoner, PhD, Kansas State University

4:15 PM: THE REAL VALUE OF ACHIEVING DENSITY PACK AND HOW

Becky Arnold, Key Account Manager - Custom Harvesters, Lallemand Animal Nutrition

4:45 PM: SILAGE MANAGEMENT FOR MINIMAL SHRINK

Renato Schmidt, PhD, Technical Services – Forage, Lallemand Animal Nutrition

5:15 PM: 15 MINUTE BREAK & KERNEL PROCESS DEMO

5:30 PM: INTERPRETING SILAGE ANALYSIS

Mike Brouk, PhD, Professor & Extension Specialist, Kansas State University

6:00 PM: IS STARCH DIGESTIBILITY IMPACTED BY THE INCLUSION OF FIBER LEVELS & TYPES?

Kip Karges, PhD, Product Manager – Feed Additives, Lallemand Animal Nutrition

6:30 PM: 10 MINUTE BREAK & FECAL SAMPLE DEMO

6:40 PM: CLOSINGS

Wade Patterson, Lallemand Animal Nutrition & Justin Waggoner, PhD, Kansas State University

7:00 PM: DINNER

Alfalfa Weevil Emergence

Alfalfa weevils are beginning to hatch. Kansas State University's recommendation to spray for alfalfa weevil is at thirty percent infestation. If you take ten stems and shake them in a bucket and find three worms, the field is at treatment levels. It would be best if you repeated that check a few times throughout the field to get a representative sample.

Watching the weather forecast can be helpful as well. Applications followed by warm weather will increase your chances of success.

The Kansas Mesonet has our area running ahead of normal with 278 GDU's as of March 26th, and you will need to begin sampling in the 300 to 450 range. Hopefully by the time you are reading this newsletter, it will be just in time to start.



Saline County Conservation District

**2022 Cost Share Program Sign Up
April 1-May 31, 2021**

Cost Share Practices Include*:

- Abandoned Well Plugging
- Access Lanes to pond for livestock
- Cover Crops
- Pond Fencing
- Pond Restoration
- Livestock Waste System
- Lagoons & Septic Systems
- Terraces & Grassed Waterways

*This is NOT a complete list of available practices.

Financial assistance is available to help with implementation of conservation practices on your land. An excellent opportunity to make improvements. "Funding provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund." Contracts are with the State of Kansas. For more information and to see if you're eligible, contact the office 8:00am to 4:30, M-F



1410 E Iron Ave, Ste 12
Salina, KS
785-825-8269 ext 3.

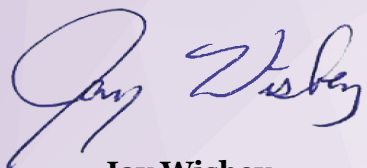
**Central Kansas Extension District
Minneapolis Office**

307 N. Concord, Suite 190
Minneapolis, KS 67467-2129

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,



Jay Wisbey
District Extension Agent
Crop Production
jwisbey@ksu.edu

Salina Office
K-State Polytechnic
2218 Scanlan Ave.
Salina, KS 67401-8196
785-309-5850
Fax: 785-309-5851



Justine Henderson
District Extension Agent
Livestock Production
jwh04@ksu.edu

Minneapolis Office
307 N. Concord, Suite 190
Minneapolis, KS 67467
785-392-2147
Fax: 785-392-3605