

Agriculture

CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS

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July 2021

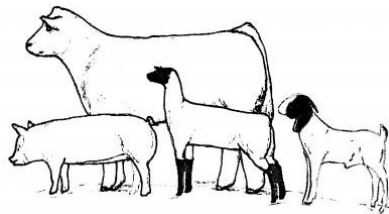
Upcoming Events

July

- 6 CKD Pullorum Testing
- 20-24 Fair
- 27 Small Animal Ruminant Tour
- 31 4-H Dog Show

August

- 12-14 Junior Dairy Show



Ottawa County Fair Livestock and Tack Stall Form

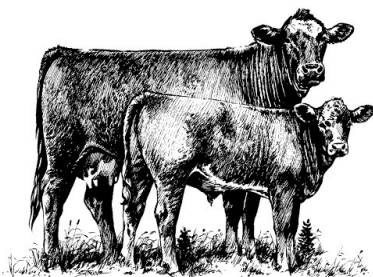
Below is the link to a form for you to fill out regarding the amount of animal stalls/pens and tack stalls you will need for the 2021 Ottawa County Fair. Please fill this form out by **July 14th** so we can make stall assignments as soon as possible.

Please make sure you request tack stalls separate and do not include them in the number of animal stalls.

Link: https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_39TlAOKEQ6JwbEq

You can also find this form on our CKD website on the Ottawa County Fair page. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Justine at

785-392-2147.



2021 Ottawa County Fair Super Cow Show

This year the Ottawa County Fair will hold a Super Cow Show open to any cow / calf producer residing in Ottawa County. Producers can enter in one cow and her natural calf (steer or heifer) that will be judged as commercial livestock.

Judging criteria will include type, structure, muscling, natural fleshing, soundness of udder, eyes, feet, and legs of the cow. In addition, cow weight and projected 205-day adjusted weight of the calf will be given to the judge (s) at time of evaluation. Due to this criteria, the age of cow and birth date of calf must be known. The calf birth date must be between January 1 and May 15 of current year. All animals must be exhibited in pasture condition. No fitting or halters will be allowed. Absolutely no bull calves allowed.

If you are interested in participating, entry forms are available at the CKD Extension Office in Minneapolis. All entries **MUST** be turned in by 5:00 pm on Monday, July 12.

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Tally Time- Thoughts on the Upcoming Spring Breeding Season

The timing and length of the breeding season are typically set and not reviewed on an annual basis. However, things can change over time and the range of weather conditions we have experienced in the past several months give us other reasons to re-visit those plans.

For operations calving during the extreme cold spell in February, the ability to manage was challenged even with the best of resources. A full discussion on the best time of year to start the calving or breeding season is beyond the scope of this article but a few points warrant discussion this year. Extreme weather events occur from time to time but there is some indication we should expect more variability and extremes going forward. This year reminds us to ask if the timing we have been using is still optimal for the assets available. Calving can be very physically demanding work and more so in harsh weather. What worked 20 years ago may not be the best plan today. It is OK to consider change.

In terms of this breeding season, given your grazing resources and the condition of cows this year, is the planned starting time still in order or would a short delay be advantageous?

Grazing resources – In parts of Kansas, grass growth has been slowed by cool temperatures and dry conditions. The start of the grazing season should be determined by plant growth so that there is sufficient plant leaf area to replenish carbohydrate stores lost over the winter and needed during green-up. Turning out too early can stress plants, allow weed encroachment, and reduce total production. It can also mean that cattle may not be able to find enough forage to meet nutrient requirements and grazing more hours of the day further increases energy requirements. A drop in nutrient intake from a calving diet (e.g. drylot ration meeting peak lactation requirements) to a marginal amount of grass could delay the resumption of normal estrous cycles. In yearling heifers, it could stop cyclicity until nutrient intake improves.

Cow condition. Several factors influence how soon cows resume normal estrous cycles after calving including body condition, age, and calving difficulty. Mature cows in adequate body condition should resume normal estrous cycles 45-60 days after calving. As cows are shedding winter hair coats, cows coming in heat may be obvious by a bald tail head. Depending on the past calving distribution it would be reasonable to see 2-3% of the group in heat per day the week before the planned start of the breeding season. If no sign of estrous behavior is evident and or cows are in poor body condition, few cows are likely to conceive early.

If only a small proportion of the herd calved in the first weeks of the calving season and grass and cow condition are marginal, delaying bull turnout will help tighten the next calving season.

The length of the breeding season may also be reconsidered if several conditions align to reduce numbers of cows conceiving early. Factors could be marginal cow condition, extended poor forage growth, or flash droughts. While a relatively short, front loaded calving season is optimal, if conditions result in poor early conception, leaving bulls in longer may increase final pregnancy rate. And even if late bred cows no longer fit your production system, a bred cow is worth more than an open cow. Monitor bull activity during the breeding season and expect it to start high and decline. Knowing when cows become pregnant during the breeding season can be valuable information for management decisions (drought destocking, routine culling). Discuss options and precision for staging pregnancies with your veterinarian and use the information to your advantage.

The start of the grazing season and breeding season should factor in current conditions. Growing conditions in some parts of the state have increased the situations where adjustments deserve consideration this year.

by Sandy Johnson, Extension Beef Specialist, Colby



Central Kansas Small Ruminant Tour

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

8:30 AM

Join us for a tour of three progressive sheep and goat operations in Ottawa and Saline Counties. Discussion will be had on everything from marketing, multi-species grazing, health, and fencing to economics, facilities and cover crop utilization.

Schedule (times are approx.)

- 8:30AM Stop #1: Max Trahan
1579 Sunset Rd
Delphos, KS
- 10:00AM Stop #2: Levi & Jessica Ebert
A) Sunset Rd & 180th Rd
Miltonvale, KS
B) 469 N 30th Rd
Tescott, KS
- 12:00PM Lunch: Lions Community Bldg
101 N Main St
Tescott, KS
- 1:30PM Stop #3: Weston Dent
1968 S Powers Rd
Salina, KS

Registration due by July 20

Cost of the tour is \$10.00 per person. To reserve your spot, please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/CKDTour>

or use your smartphone to scan the QR code below:



Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition



Central Kansas
District

For more information

Call the Central Kansas Extension District
at (785) 309-5850 or email

crensink@ksu.edu

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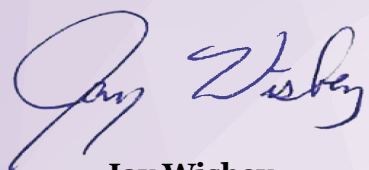
**Central Kansas Extension District
Minneapolis Office**

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

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