Mud Considerations
As we move out of winter and into spring, prolonged periods of mud and moisture can significantly hinder cattle performance and profitability.

For cow-calf producers, mud can negate the insulation value of the hair coat. Calves can become chilled by mud, trapped in it, or sickened by pathogens thriving in it. This is why it is so important to closely monitor calving, routinely check cattle, and move cow-calf pairs to fresh pasture soon after calving.

Mud and manure can cause contamination of udders and teats and make for poor hygiene conditions for the suckling calf. Another problem associated with extended muddy conditions is foot rot. Constant exposure to wet conditions can lead to breakdown of the skin around the hoof. This opens the tissues up to bacteria and can lead to infection. Swelling and lameness are usually the first signs that an animal has foot rot.

From a performance standpoint, with mud conditions of just four to eight inches, cattle dry matter intake is reduced by 15% versus what it would be under the same conditions without any mud. When severe mud conditions are present (1 foot or more) dry matter intake plummets by 30%. It’s no wonder that it becomes challenging to maintain good body condition on cows and desirable weight gains on calves when mud is all around.

From a feedlot or backgrounding yard prospective, when cattle are standing in four to eight inches of mud, gain can decrease by nearly 15%. A feedlot with mud that is belly deep can depress gain by 28 to 35%. Consequently, the negative impact of mud on feed efficiency can result in a 20 to 33% increase is feed:gain ratios and up to a 56% increase in cost of gain as more days on feed are necessary to reach an end target.

Managing mud is difficult. Frankly, it sucks. It makes for longer, dirtier chores and seems to slow everything down on the farm. While there is no silver bullet for getting cattle out of the mud, it can be managed to an extent. Hilltops, wheat straw, and speed movers should become our best friends over the next couple of months.
**Annual Dicamba Training**

Just a reminder that individuals are required to have additional label-required dicamba training when applying the restricted use pesticides (RUP) Engenia, FeXapan, or Xtendi-Max.

The labels of these products state that prior to applying this product in the 2019 growing season, all applicators must complete dicamba or auxin-specific training on an annual basis. So, even if you attended in 2018 you will need to attend a training again in 2019 prior to applying these products.

Many of you were able to participate in live trainings in January and February. For those that didn’t, though, all is not lost. BASF, Bayer and Corteva all now have online offerings available that will meet the label requirements. Those can be found at:

- **BASF**
  [www.engeniastewardship.com](http://www.engeniastewardship.com)

- **Bayer**
  [www.roundupreadyxtend.com](http://www.roundupreadyxtend.com)

- **Corteva**
  [https://tinyurl.com/yysd48p2](https://tinyurl.com/yysd48p2)

As a final note, anyone who applies RUP dicamba products must complete an approved dicamba training **AND** hold either a private or commercial applicator license. For more information on applicators licenses, please contact either CKD Extension Office.

**Mid-America Farm Expo**

**Dates:** March 26 - 28  
**Location:** Tony’s Pizza Events Center and Saline County Livestock & Expo Center, Salina

**PROGRAMS**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 26**

*Taking Care of Business*  
10:00 am – 11:30 am, 4-H Building  
Presented by: Dr. David Kohl  
(see next page for more info)

*Estate/Succession Planning Overview*  
10:00 am – 11:30 am, 4-H Building  
Moderated by KFRM Radio with a panel including representatives from Norton, Wasserman, Jones & Kelly and the Kansas Farm Management Association

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27**

*Horsemanship Clinic*  
10:00 am - 11:30 am, Agricultural Hall  
Conducted by: Curt Pate  
Sponsored by: Farmers & Ranchers, Salina

*Cattle Handling*  
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm, Agricultural Hall  
Conducted by: Curt Pate  
Sponsored by: Farmers & Ranchers, Salina

**THURSDAY, MARCH 28**

*Livestock and Grain Marketing Outlook*  
10:00 am – 11:30 am, 4-H Building  
Presented by: Naomi Blohm, Stewart-Peterson  
Sponsored by: American AgCredit
The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

is proud to present...

Dr. David Kohl

Tuesday, March 26, 10-11:30am
4-H Building • Saline County Livestock
and Expo Center • 900 Greeley

Dr. Kohl will present "Taking Care of Business", a session designed to contrast the best management characteristics of the top 40 percent of profitability compared to the bottom 30 percent of producers. The session will identify the financial management and risk management factors that place the business in the upper echelon of profits and sustainability. Come energize your business thinking with some practical tips and techniques that stand the test of time! The session is FREE and open to the public!

About the Speaker...

Dr. David Kohl is Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Finance and Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. Dr. Kohl currently energizes agricultural lenders, producers, and business people with his keen insight into the agricultural industry gained through extensive travel, research, and exposure during his career. He has traveled over 9 million miles in his career; conducted more than 6,500 workshops and seminars for agricultural audiences; published more than 2,250 articles; and writes for many leading publications. Dr. Kohl was recently inducted into the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Hall of Fame. Dr. Kohl’s personal involvement with agriculture and interaction with key industry players provide a unique perspective into future trends of the agricultural industry and economy.

The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank these sponsors who are making this session possible:

American State Bank

Bank VI

The Bank of Tescott

The Bennington State Bank

Central National Bank

First Bank Kansas

Solomon State Bank

UMB

FARM EXPO dates:
March 26, 27 & 28, 2019
Saline County Livestock & Expo Center • Tony’s Pizza Events Center
For more info, call (785) 827-9301
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,

Carl H. Garten  
District Extension Agent  
Director  
cgarten@ksu.edu

Cade B. Rensink, MS, PAS  
District Extension Agent  
Livestock Production  
crensink@ksu.edu

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

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

K-State Research and Extension 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, or a dietary restriction please contact the Minneapolis office at 785-392-2147 or the Salina office at 785-309-5850.