

Agriculture

CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS

centralkansas.ksu.edu

March 2022

Upcoming Events

March

- 9 YQCA -
Minneapolis, KS
- 10 YQCA - Salina, KS

- 21 Understanding
Soil Organic
Matter

- 23-25 Farm Show

- 30 Sheep & Goat
Management
Series

April

- 23 Central Kansas
Classic Beef Show

E- Newsletter Now Available



Central Kansas District is now offering an email option for the monthly Agriculture newsletters. Instead of by mail, each month you will receive the newsletter in a PDF format via email.

If you would like to sign up to receive our newsletters via email, please follow the link or scan the QR code.

If you have questions, call Justine at 785-392-2147.

Free BQA Training Sessions Scheduled At Five Kansas Locations

Five advanced beef cattle care and health training sessions will be hosted by the Kansas Beef Council (KBC) during February and March. These checkoff-funded sessions will provide beef producers with up-to-date standards and technologies to improve animal welfare and food safety. The trainings will be led by Kansas State University veterinarian A.J. Tarpoff.

Dates and locations:

- February 24, Mankato Livestock Inc.
- March 8, Fort Scott Livestock Market
- March 10, Herington Livestock Commission
- March 15, Pratt County Fairgrounds
- March 29, Fisher Community Center in Hiawatha

All the meetings will begin at 6 p.m.

Producers and veterinarians will receive Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training and information relevant to the cow-calf, stocker and feedlot segments. The information will include animal husbandry best management practices, downed animal care and humane euthanasia training. In addition, low-stress cattle-handling techniques will be reviewed. All producers and veterinarians who attend will earn BQA certification valid for three years.

Each workshop is free of charge and includes a complimentary meal. To register for one of the sessions, go to www.kansasbeef.org/bqa or call KBC at (785) 273-5225 one week prior to the date of the event.

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Understand hayfield nutrition management for long-term productivity

by Bruno Pedreira, *extension agronomist*, Parsons, KS

Producing hay is more than a simple agricultural activity. It requires soil, forage, equipment, and weather knowledge to put-up high-quality hay. The fundamental process behind a bale of hay is the harnessing of the sun's energy, water, and the supply of plant nutrients from the soil to produce plant biomass. There is not much producers can control regarding the sun's energy availability but there are a couple of actions that can be taken to improve plant nutrition.

The first step in knowing the hayfield yield potential is to understand more about the base of the system: the soil. Starting with the soil sample, besides the chemical information, we need to know the texture and if we are working a sandy, silty, or clay soil. There are 12 basic texture classes (Figure 1) (Ditzler, C., Scheffe, K. and Monger, 2017). Soil texture can be identified by a lab test or by searching NRCS soil survey maps, available freely through the Web Soil Survey (websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov).

Sandy soils do not have the capacity to hold nutrients that clay or loam soils have and building organic matter in sandy soil is always more difficult than in clay soil. For these reasons, the nutrient availability in a sandy hayfield will have a different dynamic than a clay hayfield. Thus, based on the known texture and nutrient availability, a fertility program can be designed to achieve the system's goals.

Is the goal for this hayfield to produce hay to be used on farm or to be sold? If the hay will be used on farm, define the system forage budget and a production goals for the field that considers the tradeoffs between quality and quantity for the intended animal use. If the hay will be sold, is the buyer more interested in quality or price? Nitrogen input can be increased to get a higher crude protein hay, but somebody needs to recognize it's value and pay for it. The trick here is to demonstrate that an 11% crude protein hay can reach animals' nutritional requirements that a 6% crude protein hay will not. Thus, by buying a higher crude protein hay, the supplement expense will be reduced.

Forage yield and quality can be strongly affected by soil fertility (Lamond, 2002), and the greater the hay quality and yield, the greater the nutrient removal from a hayfield. Total removal can be estimated based on the amount of forage harvested multiplied by the nutrient removed in each ton of forage. Removals from 3.2 to 12 lb/ton of P_2O_5 , and from 8.7 to 60 lb/ton of K_2O can be expected from different forage crops (Table 1) (Leikam et al., 2003), which need to be considered in the fertility program to reach the system's goal.

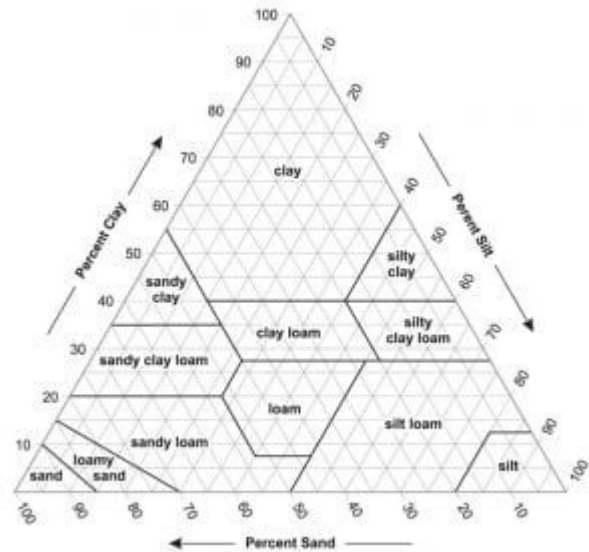


Figure 1 USDA textural triangle showing the percentages of clay, silt, and sand in the 12 basic texture classes.

Replenishing the nutrients removed every year will help maintain the soil fertility levels, otherwise year after year the nutrients will be exported from the hayfield and forage production will decline. Moreover, a hayfield deficient in macronutrients (N, P, and K) will not allow forage plants to grow to their full potential, giving weeds the chance to take over. By knowing the soil characteristics (texture and chemical), understanding the goals for each field, and monitoring yield, we will be able to set a fertility program to maintain the hayfield soil nutrition and production, assuring a long-term forage system.

Table 1. P and K removals from forage crops based on as fed forage yield.

Crop	P ₂ O ₅ (lb/ton)	K ₂ O (lb/ton)
Alfalfa	12	60
Red clover	12	50
Bermudagrass	12	40
Bromegrass	12	40
Tall Fescue	12	40
Corn silage	3.2	8.7
Sorghum silage	3.2	8.7

In 2022, with high fertilizer prices, there is no chance to have an economically efficient fertility program without a soil test report. The focus should be on efficiency. Target lime, or fertilizer application to pastures with the lowest values in the soil test because they will have greater potential for a profitable response. The main goal for 2022 will be to grow needed forage when and where you need it.

What is Price Risk? Price Risk Management for Calf Producers: Part 1

By Jennifer Ifft - KSU Ag Economics

Farmers and ranchers face risk every day. Individual producers have tools to mitigate risk, such as vaccination and irrigation, but never have complete control over production outcomes. Price risk is one example of the many types of risk that can influence farm income. “Uncertainty” characterizes a situation where outcomes are unknown, while “risky” characterizes situations where potential outcomes are known or understood, but different outcomes can occur.

For cow-calf producers that are calving now or within the next few months, production (breeding) decisions were made over 9 months ago. However, it will be another 6 months from today, or longer, that most producers receive any income. Predicting market prices at breeding is highly uncertain: it’s difficult to know what markets will be like a year and a half in advance. By calving, market predictions or expected prices for feeder cattle have been established through futures markets: this is a risky situation rather than an uncertain situation. While futures prices are not a guarantee of a particular market price, they provide information about likely price outcomes.

Price risk is not about whether expected prices are high or low, but whether market prices are different than expected. What does it mean for a price to be different than expected? Let’s say a producer calves in April and plans to sell in October. Today October feeder futures are around \$185/cwt. In other words, \$185 is the expected market price for October 2022, or \$185/cwt is best estimate we have for average national prices in October, based on currently available information. The price risk

faced by the producer is that when October arrives, prices may have dropped below \$185/cwt. If prices decrease by October, will the producer still be able to make a profit?

In some years, prices decline or stay the same. The largest decline in recent years was in 2015. In April 2015, October feeder cattle futures were around \$214/cwt. By October, prices had declined to around \$183/cwt. Some producers might have still made money at \$183, but this was substantially less than the expected price in April. Prices were similarly high in April 2014: October feeder futures were over \$230/cwt. Actual 2014 October prices were a little higher than this. In 2020 expected and actual prices were also similar, around \$140/cwt.

Actual prices can be higher than expected. While this is technically a form of price risk, or “upside risk”, most producers are more worried about price declines, or “downside risk”. In April 2013, the October feeder cattle futures price was around \$144/cwt, but the actual price ended up around \$160/cwt. Likewise, in 2017, the actual October price was almost \$10 higher than expected.

Producers may also face unexpected declines in local prices, that may not be reflected in national or futures markets. This type of risk is often referred to as “basis risk”. Basis risk is defined as the difference between the current (or nearby) futures price and local cash prices. For example, prices at the local sale barn may experience a larger decline than futures prices.

To summarize, price risk management is not just about getting a high price; it is about protecting yourself from declines in the expected market price. The next article in this series will discuss different price risk management strategies.

57th Annual Mid America Farm Exposition

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 - Friday,
March 25, 2022 CST

Tony's Pizza Events Center
800 The Midway
Salina, KS 67401

The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to the Annual Mid-America Farm Exposition March 23, 24, and 25, 2022, at the Tony's Pizza

Events Center and the Saline Country Livestock and Expo Center in Salina, Kansas. The Expo has grown to become one of the largest Spring Farm Shows in the Midwest and attracts over 8,000 people each year. Over 300 exhibits are on display representing approximately 275 companies from around the United States.



Sheep & Goat Management Series

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

5:30-8:45 p.m.

Ottawa County Courthouse Basement
Minneapolis, KS



Topics and Speakers Include:

- **Health, Nutrition, and Management Considerations for a Sheep and Meat Goat Enterprise** – Dr. Alison Crane, KSU Sheep and Meat Goat Extension Specialist
- **Managing Predation** - Dr. Drew Ricketts, KSU Wildlife Management Extension Specialist
- **Vaccine Storage and Handling** – Justine Henderson, Central Kansas District Livestock Production Extension Agent
- **30 - minute Q & A Session**



Scan here



to register!



RSVP by March 29th by following this link

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_ON81SkRJALD2CXQ, scanning the QR code, or contacting Justine at 785-392-2147 or jwh04@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 Justine Henderson, 785-392-2147. **Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.** K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Digging Deeper

Understanding Soil Organic Matter

Featuring KSU Soil Scientist DeAnn Presley

Including

What it is and how it is formed
How OM reacts with other nutrients and soil properties
How can you increase your soil organic matter

Monday, March 21st
9:30 A.M Coffee
10:00 A.M Presentation
Assaria Community Center
315 East Main Assaria KS

For more information,
Contact Jay Wisbey
785-309-5850



Central Kansas Classic



Saturday, April 23, 2022

Saline County Expo Center

900 Greeley

Salina, Kansas

This is a Blow and Go Show

Show Schedule:

6:00 a.m. Barns open
8:00 – 9:30 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, 2022.
 2. Entry fee is \$25.00 per head. After April 14, 2022 the entry fee is \$30.00 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, 2020 and December 31, 2021.
 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.
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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.

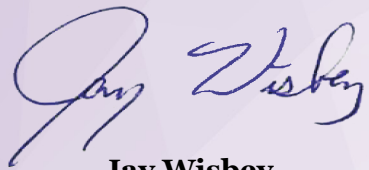
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307 N. Concord, Suite 190
Minneapolis, KS 67467-2129

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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