

Agriculture

CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS

centralkansas.ksu.edu

March 2021

Upcoming Events

March

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 | Cattleman's Day |
| 13 | Beef Exhibitor
cheek in |
| 15-20 | Junior Meat Goat
Producer week |

Calving Season Reminders

March is upon us and calves are hitting the ground left and right. Whether you're still calving or all finished up, there's still a lot to think about. Here are some important points and some topics to thinking about over the next few months.

Things to remember:



Colostrum- Calves that fail to get an adequate amount of colostrum are 6.4 times more likely to get sick as neonate, 3.2 times more likely to get sick pre-weaning, and 5 times more likely to not survive.

Cold Stressed Calves- Normal body temp of a calf is 101-102°F. A body temp below 100°F is indicative of hypothermia and even lower temperatures can cause severe negative impacts on the body. In the case of a cold calf, the main goal is to warm the calf back up to normal temperature by floorboard heaters in pickups, heat lamps or blankets, warming boxes, or warm water IV fluids. Warm water immersion can also be used, but should be done by gradually warming water to 100°F and the calf should never be put directly into the hot water.

Biosecurity- Calve in clean environments and minimize contamination by moving shelters during the season, spread out feeding areas, replace bedding often, and decrease the contamination in areas they tend to congregate in.

Management Considerations- A reliable response to vaccines happens at about 2-3 months of age. The recommended time to vaccinate is during branding at 2-4 months of age. When castrating, most veterinarians recommend the knife cut method and suggest its done earlier in life. If banding is the chosen method, 97% of veterinarians suggest a tetanus shot be given at that time.

Weaning - Weaning can be one of the most stressful times for young beef cattle. During this time, calves are experiencing social and nutritional stress. You can reduce it by handling cattle before the weaning period, using soft weaning practices like fence-line wean and 2-stage wean and acclimating them to the new environment.

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Managing Forages and Livestock to Improve Soil Health

March 25-26, 2021
Hilton Garden Inn
3320 South 9th St., Salina, KS



Day 1: Introduction to plant science, soil health, forages and grazing systems

Day 2: Improving the health and performance of soil, crops and livestock by managing farming practices, forage selection, livestock and grazing.

Registration:

- \$30 per day – Includes lunch & refreshments
- Register at <https://www.kglc.org/>
- Register for one day or both
- Payments can be given to an agent at a CKD extension office or at the door the day of the event.

Schedule:

Registration starting at 8:00

Class starts at 9:00 - 12:00

Lunch 12:00 - 1:00

Class with Discussion 1:00 - 4:00

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Powell at mary@kglc.org or (785) 562-8726

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 at 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.

Thoughts Going Into Spring

Alfalfa- If you plan on using herbicides to control pigweeds in your alfalfa stand, several options like Velpar Alfamax need to be applied before spring green-up.

Wheat- It will be a while before we know if the extremely low temperatures harmed our crop. Leaf burn is visible now though that is not an indication of crop damage, the growing point down in the crown is what we are concerned about. A positive is the majority of the fields I have been in did have decent surface moisture and some snow cover. The concerning factor is that many of our fields have small wheat due to dry conditions leading to late emergence, and snow cover was sporadic.

Soybeans- Please communicate with your neighbors to determine where sensitive areas are related to the fields you are planting, extend (dicamba) soybeans. The new regulations this year include larger 240 ft borders next to sensitive zones. It is best to

have this planned out before the seed is in the planter.

Remember, it is much easier to kill the weed you do not see, so now is a good time to figure out your pre-emerge herbicide program.

Sunflowers- The Goodland ADM sunflower crushing facility will be closing this month, which was a very significant market for sunflowers. Despite that setback, Karl Epsing (Kansas Sunflower Commission) is still very optimistic about the future of sunflowers in our area. He mentioned a strong birdseed market in Hutchison and Sedgwick, Kansas, and an oilseed market at Colorado Mills in Lamar, Colorado. Even stated there are talks about potential destination locations in Kansas for further away mills.

Producers will need to learn more about who and where you will take sunflowers in the future. After talking to Karl, it sounds like more market-related information will be available soon.

Virtual and In-Person Tractor Safety Opportunities

This summer, thousands of Kansas teenagers will begin their first job working for a farmer or rancher. For those who are ages 14 or 15, they must complete a tractor safety course to be legally employed.

Youth will have three different opportunities to attend tractor safety this season. The first date is Saturday, March 27, 2021, 8:00 A.M to 4:45 P.M., located at KanEquip in Ellsworth, KS. The second class will be hosted in a virtual format Saturday, April 10, 2021, at 8:30 A.M. This class will operate in a ZOOM format to allow students to participate in the session from nearly anywhere that has a reliable internet or cellular connection.

In addition to the virtual meeting, CKD is teaming up with the Minneapolis High School to hold an in-person tractor safety class. That class will be on May 22, 2021. More information will be coming out about the exact time and location.

These courses will meet the U.S. Department of Labor's Hazardous Occupations Order for Agriculture (HOOA) requirements. The HOOA regulations state that youth 14 and 15 years of age, who wish to work as a hired employee for someone other than a parent or legal guardian and operate a farm tractor that is 20 HP or greater, must successfully pass a tractor safety training program. This year the local curriculum will combine at-home study with an interactive distance presentation.



AT THE

56th Annual Mid America Farm Expo

MARCH 23-25, 2021
SALINA, KANSAS

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

Federal Legislative Update

10:30-11am; 4H Building

David Schemm, Ag Advisor

Office of U.S Senator

Roger Marshall, M.D. (KS)

Kansas Dept. of Agriculture Update

1:30-3pm; 4H Building

Mike Beam, Sec. of Agriculture

Kansas Dept. of Agriculture

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

Keep your Discipline in Rallying Markets

10-11:30am; 4H Building

Matt Bennett, Commodity Analyst

Ag Market.net

Marketing 101

1:30-3pm; 4H Building

Matt Bennett, Commodity Analyst

Ag Market.net

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

Precision Ag and Ag Data

1:30-3pm; 4H Building

Jeff Allison, Integrated Solutions Manager

PrairieLand Partners

www.SalinaKansas.org/midamericafarmexpo.html

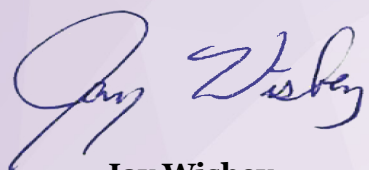
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Minneapolis Office**

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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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