

# Agriculture

## CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS

[centralkansas.ksu.edu](http://centralkansas.ksu.edu)

**September 2021**

### Upcoming Events

#### September

30 Beef Stocker  
Field Day

#### October

7 Old World  
Bluestem Field  
Day



### Almost Time for Testing

Fall is almost here. Which means the time for forage and hay testing is approaching. Whether your feeding it to your own livestock or selling it, knowing an accurate nutritive value of your feedstuffs is a vital tool for proper management practices.

When sampling hay, you'll want to ensure you are submitting a sample for each 'lot' of hay, which is defined as up to 200 tons of dry matter baled from the same field, cutting, and stage of maturity. For example, you wouldn't want to collect samples from hay that was cut at different times, even if it is from the same field, and vice versa. A silage lot is similar, in which it consists of forage from the same field, cutting, maturity, and harvest date.

#### A few things to remember

- When sampling forage or hay, collecting an accurate or well representative sample is extremely important.
- When sampling standing forage, it is suggested you collect eight samples at grazing or harvest height from a 1sq foot area at each of those eight locations. You can then 'sub-sample' from each to create one accurate sample.
- When taking sample of hay, always use a hay probe or core sampler. It is suggested you collect from 15-20 bales in that specific 'lot' of hay. You can then 'sub-sample' from each to create one accurate sample.
- When taking a sample of silage, collect 2 gallons from about 10 locations and mix them in a clean container. It is suggested that you remove 2 to 3 feet of the top silage to avoid sampling spoiled material. Combine all samples together and collect a subsample for analysis.
- Try and submit your sample for testing immediately or soon after you've collected it. This only increases the accuracy of the sample.

#### Testing at the extension office

1. Bring in a proper sample of the feedstuffs you would like to be tested to the extension office.
2. Feed will be transferred in to the proper bag to be sent off for testing.
3. Results & billing will come directly to you via email or mail.
4. If you need help interpreting testing results or developing a ration, feel free to give Justine a call at 785-392-2147.

For those that do not have hay probes, the extension office has two hay probes available for producers to check out. If needed, a \$100 deposit is required and will be returned once the probe is returned. Probes must be returned in good condition.

By Justine Henderson, Livestock Production Agent

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

K-State Research and Extension is an equal  
opportunity provider and employer.

[ksre.k-state.edu](http://ksre.k-state.edu)

## Maximizing the Value of Your Harvested Forages: Considerations on Proper Storage of Round Bales.

Harvesting forages for future use during the winter feeding period or during periods of drought represents a significant cost outlay for cattle operations. Previous research conducted at KSU suggests that large round bales composed of Wheat or Sudan hay can incur feed waste of up to 25% of a bale's weight when unrolled. Much of this loss can be attributed to factors associated with delayed harvest (reduced forage quality) and/or improper storage techniques prior to feeding.

Many producers do not recognize that with a 6-foot diameter large round bale, more than 1/3 the weight of a bale can be found in the outer 6 inches and 50% of the volume is in the outer 12 inches. Weathering losses in round bales stored outside unprotected are commonly found to occur up to 4 inches although hay type also influences the degree of loss due to weather exposure. For example, stemmy hays such as alfalfa, sudan, and mature small grains have a greater loss than grass hay. Moreover, areas that have higher rainfall also have a greater weathering loss than low rainfall areas. Unprotected hay that is stored outside has the greatest weathering loss, followed by covered hay stored outside, with the least amount of loss occurring with barn stored hay; however, there is still some storage loss found with storing hay in the barn, especially with an extended storage period.

### Management practices for large round bales

- Make a dense bale. A dense bale will sag less, have less surface area in contact with the ground, shed more precipitation and protect the inner bale from weathering, and make more efficient use of the bale wrap deployed. Bale density is affected by the baler, the experience of the operator, and the type of hay. Finer stemmed hays form denser bales. As a rule of thumb, the density of round bales should be a minimum of 10 pounds of hay per cubic foot.
- Store bales end-to-end to reduce storage loss. Tightly stacking bales end to end better utilizes the storage area and protects the ends of bales from weathering. If bales are not

stacked tightly against each other, rain will penetrate the ends and increase damage. Be mindful of positioning the hay bales on a well-drained site. A gently sloping site with a southern or southeastern exposure is ideal to maximize solar drying and encourage drainage away from the bales. To further reduce wastage on the bottom of the bales, some producers have elevated their bales using old tires, shipping pallets or stored on a base layer of 3 to 4 inches of crushed rock. When more than one row of bales is needed, be mindful to space adjacent rows at least 3 feet apart. This simple action will increase air flow and allow the sun to reach the back row.

- Avoid stacking large round bales. Many producers will stack their large round bales in a pyramid formation with the thought of maximizing their utilization of space. However, this strategy will usually increase dry matter losses in the stack as a result of the trapped moisture and reduced air movement.
- DO NOT cover bales. Aside from adding cost, covering bales will potentially trap moisture the same as wrapping them in plastic. If high moisture hay (over 18 percent) is sealed under plastic, quality losses may result from excessive heating and mold development.
- DO NOT store bales under trees. During harvest, many producers will move the large round bales to the field perimeter with good intentions of moving bales to a central location when it is convenient. However, locating bales under trees will encourage degradation of their bales because of trapped moisture and the inability to dry from sunlight.

Forage production for future use as a consequence of dry weather conditions or winter feeding is an important element for all cattle producers who wish to insure the nutritional needs of their cowherd are being met. Proper attention throughout the entire hay harvesting process, including proper storage will pay future dividends towards this effort.

by Dale Blasi, Stocker, Forages, Nutrition and Management specialist and Jaymelynn Farney, Beef Systems Specialist, Parsons

# Upcoming Events

## **KSU Beef Stocker Field Day to be hosted September 30, 2021**

Stocker Field Day which will be hosted Thursday, September 30, at the KSU Beef Stocker Unit in Manhattan. The day will start at 9:30 a.m. with registration/coffee and conclude with a good old fashioned Prairie Oyster Fry and Call Hall ice cream at 5:30 p.m.

The schedule is as follows:

- 9:30 a.m. Registration/Coffee
- 10:15 a.m. Introductions
- 10:30 a.m. Results of the 2021 National Stocker Survey – Wes Ismael, Cattle Current, and Dale Blasi, K-State
- 11:15 a.m. What Has Worked for Us and What We See into the Future  
National Beef Stocker Award Recipients:
  - Mike Collinge, Hamilton, KS
  - Rich Porter, Reading, KS
  - Dave Steinbecker, Jr., Perryville, MO
  - John Paul Pendergrass, Charleston, ARModerated by Wes Ishmael, Cattle Current
- 12:30 p.m. Barbecue Brisket Lunch – View posters
- 1:15 p.m. Beef Cattle Outlook - Glynn Tonsor, K-State
- 2:00 p.m. Can You Manage BRD and Coccidiosis Effectively with Receiving Rations for Back grounding Stockers - Joe Dedrickson, Huvepharma Inc.
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. A Novel Approach to Starting Newly Arrived Calves on Feed - John Richeson, West Texas A&M University
- 4:15 p.m. Comparison of Multiple Castration Methods in Stocker Cattle - AJ Tarpoff, K - State
- 5:00 p.m. Cutting Bull's Lament 2021

The day will conclude with a good old-fashioned Prairie Oyster Fry and Call Hall ice cream. Pre -registration is \$25 and due by September 15. For complete details and registration, visit [www.KSUbeef.org](http://www.KSUbeef.org). For more information, contact Dale Blasi ([dblasi@ksu.edu](mailto:dblasi@ksu.edu); 785-532-5427) or Lois Schreiner ([lschrein@ksu.edu](mailto:lschrein@ksu.edu); 785-532-1267).



# Upcoming Events

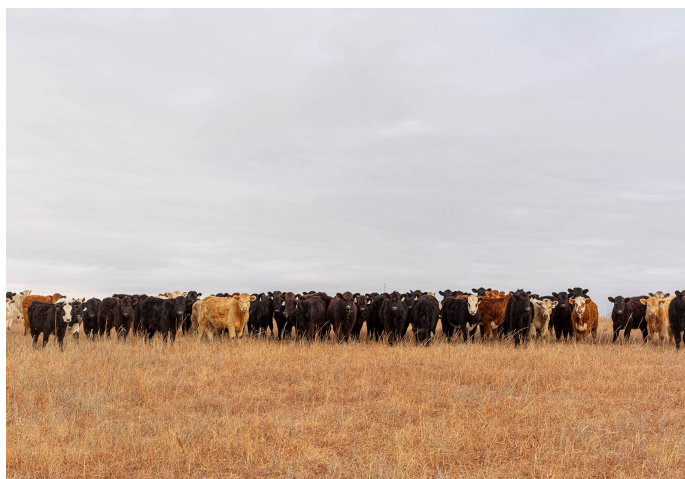
## **Save The Date : K - State Swine Day!**



KSU Swine Day held November 18, 2021. Pre-registration deadline is November 10, 2021. KSU Alumni Center. \$25 per person for advanced registration by November 10, 2021; \$50.00 at the door. No charge for students if pre-registered. Visit <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/events/swine-day/> for more information, including program details and registration. If you would like to view archived videos from the 2020 K - State Swine Day, go to <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/events/swinepresentations.html>.

## **Our turn to ask you questions - Cattle Conversations (Fall Edition)**

Earlier in the year, the Central Kansas, Cottonwood, Midway, Post Rock, and River Valley Districts hosted two virtual programming series that consisted of topics relating to the current season. In the winter series, we discussed topics such as: pregnancy issues, post calving nutrition, post calving vaccinations, and semen/sire collections. In the spring series, we discussed spring burning practices, pasture weed control, troubleshooting pasture lameness, green algae



studies and research, and providing adequate water to grazing livestock. Due to popular demand, we will continue this program. Before we do any planning, we'd like to ask you first. What do you want to hear? What kind of topics would you like us to focus on? If you have any topics or program ideas you would like to see incorporated into our upcoming fall series, please don't hesitate to reach out. Feel free to give Justine a call at 785-392-2147 or email at [jwh04@ksu.edu](mailto:jwh04@ksu.edu).



# Field Day: Control of Old World Bluestem and Pasture Renovation Project



Register here!



Caucasian old world bluestem comprised 51% of the vegetative cover of this large 240 acre pasture tract, and now this pasture has an old world bluestem cover of near 5%. We'll talk about the pasture history, steps taken to reduce the old world bluestem, and both the positive and negative outcomes of this and other projects.

**Speakers: Keith Harmony, Walt Fick, and Micke Ramirez, KSU**

**When: October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 1:30 pm**

**Where: 3.5 miles south and 1.5 miles east of the I-70 Westfall and 290<sup>th</sup> Road exit (exit 233)**

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

**Midway and Central Kansas Districts**



**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

## Four Day Grazing Seminar with Jim Gerrish

**Hilton Garden Inn - Salina, KS**

**3320 South 9th St**

**September 7-10, 2021**

**Registration at 8:00am to 9:00am**

**Seminar 9:00am - 4:00 pm**

**(Registration: \$30 PER DAY includes lunch & refreshments)**

**SIGN UP FOR ONE OR ALL DAYS!**

### **Day 1 topics – Exploring Small Ruminant Grazing**

- What is Management-intensive Grazing (MiG) & what can it do for you?
- Sheep, Goats, Swine, & Poultry on Pasture: What's right for your farm?
- Pastures & Parasites
- Fence & Water infrastructure for small ruminants

### **Day 2 topics – Getting Started; What You Need to Know**

- Grazing management based on ecosystem processes
- Creating excellent pasture from the soil up
- Grazing management for targeted animal performance

### **Day 3 – Grazing Matters You Should Plan For**

- What really determines profitability in ranching
- Creating drought resistant pastures
- Planning for & implementing year-around grazing

### **Day 4 – Designing a Grazing System That Works**

- Grazing cell layout & design
- Portable electric fence & stock water options for grazing cropland
- Using Google Earth and Web Soil Survey for planning your farm layout

## **Room Block for Reservations**

September 7-10, 2021 Salina Hilton Garden Inn, Hilton Garden Inn, 3320 South 9<sup>th</sup> St., Salina, KS

Phone 785-309-0440 Ext. 0 ~ Ask for Grazing Workshop Room Block

Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition Block Code: **GWJG9**

**Room block rate is \$96.00 + taxes and available until August 17, 2021**

This program is part of a multi-year Conservation Collaboration Grant from Kansas NRCS.







Questions Contact – Mary Howell    email ~ [mary@kglc.org](mailto:mary@kglc.org)    Phone or text ~ 785-562-8726 **Jim**

**Gerrish Bio:**

Jim Gerrish is an independent grazing lands educator, consultant and writer, providing service to farmers and ranchers on both private and public lands across the US and internationally through American Grazing Lands Services, LLC.

He currently resides in the Pahsimeroi Valley in Central Idaho and works with numerous ranchers using both irrigated pastures and native rangeland, as well as, working with livestock farmers in high natural rainfall environments.

His past experience includes over twenty-two years of beef-forage systems research and outreach while on the faculty of the University of Missouri. The University of Missouri-Forage Systems Research Center rose to national prominence as a result of his research leadership. His research encompassed many aspects of plant-soil-animal interactions and provided a foundation for many of the basic principles of Management-Intensive Grazing.

Questions Contact – Mary Howell    email ~ [mary@kglc.org](mailto:mary@kglc.org)    Phone or text ~ 785-562-8726

## SIGN UP:

<https://www.kgkc.org/calendar-of-events.cfm>

## QUESTIONS?

Call Mary Howell at 785-562-8726 Email: [mary@kglc.org](mailto:mary@kglc.org)

This program is part of a multi-year Conservation Collaboration Grant from Kansas NRCS.

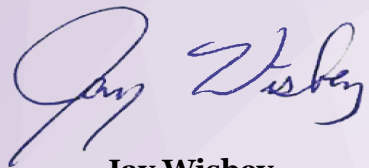


**Central Kansas Extension District**  
**Minneapolis Office**  
307 N. Concord, Suite 190  
Minneapolis, KS 67467-2129

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