

Upcoming cattle and crops meetings; winter weather cattle feeding thought

Hey all, if you're reading this it means we ALL survived another year and are headed headstrong into a new one. I am looking forward to again working with those of you who have utilized the services of the Coffey County Extension Office in the past and would encourage those of you needing an information resource and have never contacted the Extension Office to give us a shot. We have access to a very extensive network of research based information and specialists on campus at Kansas State University as well as across the nation. That said, we are heading into the "informational meeting season" and do have several programs coming up in the near future.

Darl Henson
Coffey County
Extension Agent

Just a reminder to you ladies involved in the farm operation, we will be a host site for the Financial Skills for Kansas Women in Agriculture series being held across the state. This workshop is designed to teach the principles of financial record keeping to develop a balance sheet, as well as income and cash flow statements. The four-session series started on Wednesday, Jan. 15, and will be held at the Burlington Branch of the Coffey County Library. We still have room for a few more attendees in Burlington, so if you would like to join in - even though late - we can sign you up and get you caught up to begin attending at the Jan. 22 session. Give the Extension Office a call.

Also, wanted to let local cattle producers know the "Cattlemen's College" program scheduled in Burlington in December, but canceled due to weather, has been rescheduled. We were able to get our speakers to come back on Feb. 3 to try again to hold that program. Time will remain the same at 5:30 p.m., but we are changing the location to the Burlington Branch of the Coffey County Library. Topics will include presentations on: USDA Livestock Indemnity Program; Kansas Fence Law Basics; Forage sampling and analysis; Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training and producer certification. Coffey County KLA will also be on hand to discuss membership and their local youth education scholarship program. Re-mark your calendars for Feb. 3 and plan to attend. We are asking for pre-registration into the Extension Office by Jan. 27 to help with meal preparation.

One other program Coffey County Extension is helping promote is a regional K-State 2020 Winter Ranch Management Seminar. Area beef producers are encouraged to mark Feb. 27 on their calendar to attend that information and educational opportunity. The program will be held in Yates Center at the Woodson County 4-H Building. Registration is \$10 with RSVP due to Dale Lanham at the Woodson County Extension Office (620) 625-8620 by Feb. 20. Topics of discussion will include: Value captured from improved production practices; forage sampling and testing; understanding pregnancy loss; and "Townhall" Q & A session with KSU Extension Beef Specialists.

As I write, the weatherman is talking about a "winter weather warning" meaning we're about to be hit with some freezing temps and nasty environmental conditions. Producers are reminded that animal performance is affected when temperatures are out of their "thermal neutral zone" and fall below a critical temperature. In the winter, normally when it is dry and a cow has developed a "good" winter coat, that critical temperature is around 18 degrees Fahrenheit. Under wet winter conditions that temperature could actually be as high as 59 degrees. For cows in the third trimester of pregnancy this effect could be substantial if sustained for a lengthy period of time. The need under these circumstances is for increased energy, not protein. Traditionally producers try to provide for the increase by putting out more hay or feeding more of the current supplement. Depending on the supplement, this may not help increase energy consumption and just over feed protein. The general rule of thumb for animals in good body condition is to increase the energy density of the ration by 1 percent for each degree (Fahrenheit) below the lower critical temperature. Livestock managers should consider offering a relatively higher-quality hay than the current forage being grazed or a small amount of grain mix with the normal amount of protein supplement being used. Just "food for thought" (pun intended).

Crop producers in the area have not been forgotten as The Department of Agronomy and K-State Research and Extension, in partnership with Kansas Corn and the Kansas Soybean Commission, are planning to host six Corn and Soybean Management Schools in 2020. These schools are designed to provide in-depth training for crop producers across Kansas. While each school's agenda is tailored for the location, the schools will connect with an overall theme of maximizing advancements in your operation by cover a number of issues facing soybean growers including: weed control, crop production practices, nutrient management and soil fertility, insects, disease management, and market outlook. Participants will have the opportunity to hear the latest research and production information, get updates on corn and soybean issues and network over a sponsored meal.

Both the corn and soybean schools are free for farmers to attend. The closest remaining corn school for Coffey County producers will be Feb. 7 in Olathe at the John Deere Ag Marketing Center 10789 S Ridgeview Rd. The program will run from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The closest soybean school for Coffey County farmers will be in Emporia on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the Anderson Building on the Lyon Co Fairgrounds. Onsite registration begins a half hour prior to the program start time. Online pre-registration is requested to help with materials and meal planning. For more information, contact the Coffey County Extension Office. Hope to see you at one of these educational opportunities in the near future.

We have flipped the calendar to a new year, and that also means the "silly season" of politics is starting in earnest. This year promises to be an even sillier year than most because of state and national elections. More than just about any year I can remember, there is more at stake for our nation, state and, most importantly, for rural Kansas.

Insight



Glenn Brunkow
Pottawatomie
County Farmer
and Rancher

Increasingly we are seeing our population drop in most of rural Kansas, which means our political influence also is shrinking. We are seeing a shift of political power swing to more populated portions of the state. This could spell trouble for agriculture as many of those in more urban areas are more removed from agriculture and often don't fully understand our point of view or how issues affect us.

Stronger together

That is why it is so important for us to tell our side of the story, for us to let our views and stances on critical issues be known. If we don't advocate for ourselves no one else will, and our interests will be forgotten.

I know many of you are like me. I feel like I am so bogged down in my day-to-day activities and work that I don't have time to get involved. It is hard to know how to make your opinion heard and even harder to know how to make your vote count. It seems awfully lonely out here in rural Kansas and in agriculture.

I agree — it is hard to make your voice heard as a lone citizen. It is possible, and it is something we should not ignore. But often a lone voice is not very effective. That is why being a member of Kansas Farm Bureau is so critical for all of us in agriculture. It is a way for us to combine our voices and make them louder.

When we come together as a group, we magnify our power and influence. However, this does not lessen the im-

portance of each one of us or our individual influence over our own elected officials. That is why it is also important to not only join Kansas Farm Bureau but to be an active member. In the coming weeks and months we will have an opportunity to voice our opinion and to help educate and influence our elected officials. Through the elections we will also have the chance to decide who many of those officials are.

I ask that you take the time to find out how you can be an active part in the efforts of our Kansas Farm Bureau. Sign up for alerts and contact your elected officials. Kansas Farm Bureau is the most influential farm organization in our state, and that is because we are a grassroots organization of farmers and ranchers who band together for a stronger, louder voice.

—"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansas through advocacy, education and service.

Kansas Soybean Yield-Contest placers average 77 bushels

While a cold, stormy fall delayed harvest, further complicating late plantings and lagging crop development, the best agronomic practices and wisely selected varieties still contributed to Kansas farmers' producing high-yielding, valuable soybeans in 2019.

"The annual Kansas Soybean Yield and Value Contests recognize outstanding Kansas farmers and provide fun incentives for them to improve," said Greg Strube, Horton, who chairs the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) contests committee. "They also allow our association, thanks to checkoff funding from the Kansas Soybean Commission, to share what participants learned to benefit all Kansas soybean farmers."

LarMar Inc., Robinson, led the dryland division with a no-till entry of 94.01 bushels per acre. Love & Love Farms, Montezuma, topped the state-

wide irrigated division with a no-till entry that made 88.82 bushels per acre. Longenecker Farm, Abilene, won the value contest with 66.4 cents per bushel of increased value (7.2 percent over the cash price). This year, for the first time, the highest protein content also earned special recognition, and that went to Chris Bodenhausen, Muscotah, whose entry was 37.3 percent protein.

The yield contest included 25 entries, down four from 2018. The 22 winners in 11 categories had verified yields averaging 77.20 bushels per acre, compared to the reported state average of 44 bushels per acre in 2019. The contest winners' average decreased by 4.67 bushels per acre, while the state average increased 1 bushel per acre from 2018.

The value contest had 18 entries, three fewer than in the previous year.

For their combined protein and oil contents, the top three entries averaged 62.1 cents (6.7 percent) in increased value over the \$9.24 base cash price. In 2018, that average was 99.3 cents (11.5 percent) above an \$8.60 cash price.

Robert Litch, Melvern, won the east central district no-till, dryland competition with 73.32 bushels per acre.

In southeastern Kansas, Bradley and Emily McVey, Fredonia, won the district no-till, dryland competition with 66.76 bushels per acre.

KSA presented the state and district winners with plaques or certificates and monetary prizes from the Kansas Soybean Commission at the Kansas Soybean Expo, Jan. 8 in Topeka. The highest dryland and irrigated yields in the state each received a \$1,000 award. In each district, first place won \$300, second earned \$200, and third received \$100.

Regional farmers market workshops

MANHATTAN — The Kansas Department of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension will host six regional workshops in February 2020 to assist farmers market vendors and managers. Kansas farmers markets not only provide a fresh food source, but also stimulate the local economy. In 2019, 57 farmers markets were registered with KDA's Central Registration of Farmers Markets.

"Farmers markets provide growers a wonderful opportunity to have real interaction with consumers, and a chance to tell their farm's story," said Londa Nwadike, consumer food safety specialist with K-State Research and Extension and the University of Missouri. "It's also important for farmers to understand certain legal, safety and financial parameters before choosing to sell at a farmers market."

Workshop topics will vary slightly by location. Main topics include:

- Double Up Food Bucks Program and Accepting EBT
- Food Safety and Regulations on Selling Meat, Eggs and Poultry
- Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Certified Farmer Training
- Marketing Tips
- Produce Grower Panel

KDA's weights and measures program will also offer free scale certification at the workshops for attendees.

Dates and locations for the farmers

market events are as follows:

- Saturday, Feb. 1 — Iola: Allen Community College
- Saturday, Feb. 8 — Wichita: Sedgwick County Extension Office
- Friday, Feb. 21 — Olathe: KSU Olathe
- Saturday, Feb. 22 — Hiawatha: Fisher Center
- Friday, Feb. 28 — Beloit: Beloit First Christian Church
- Saturday, Feb. 29 — Leoti: Wichita County Community Building

Registration for the February workshops is now open. The cost is \$20 per participant to cover the cost of lunch. Lunch will only be guaranteed to

those participants who register prior to the respective workshop date. Registration for the workshops can be found at FromTheLandofKansas.com/FMworkshop or at local extension offices.

Onsite registration for the workshops will open at 8:30 a.m. and the workshops will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by 3 p.m. The Wichita workshop will begin onsite registration at 8:15 a.m. and the workshop begins at 8:45 a.m., concluding at 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Robin Blume, KDA's education and events coordinator, at (785) 564-6756 or robin.blume@ks.gov.

Kansas Farm Bureau honors tradition, heritage of family farms

MANHATTAN — Kansas Farm Bureau is recognizing "Sesquicentennial Farms" in conjunction with its annual "Century Farm" program. The Century Farm program honors farms with owners or operators related to the original farm owner/operator for 100 years by Dec. 31, 2020. The Sesquicentennial Farm recognition goes beyond that to farms in the same family for 150 years.

"Kansas farmers and ranchers have a lot to be proud of," Rich Felts, Kansas Farm Bureau president, says.

"One thing we take pride in is our value in the traditions and strong family ties of rural living. Kansas Farm Bureau is honored to celebrate those through the Century Farm and Sesquicentennial Farms programs."

The deadline for consideration to be part of the 2020 programs is May 15. Complete details for qualification and applications for both programs can be obtained at county Farm Bureau offices across Kansas or on the KFB website, <https://www.kfb.org/GetInvolved/Century-Farm-Program>.

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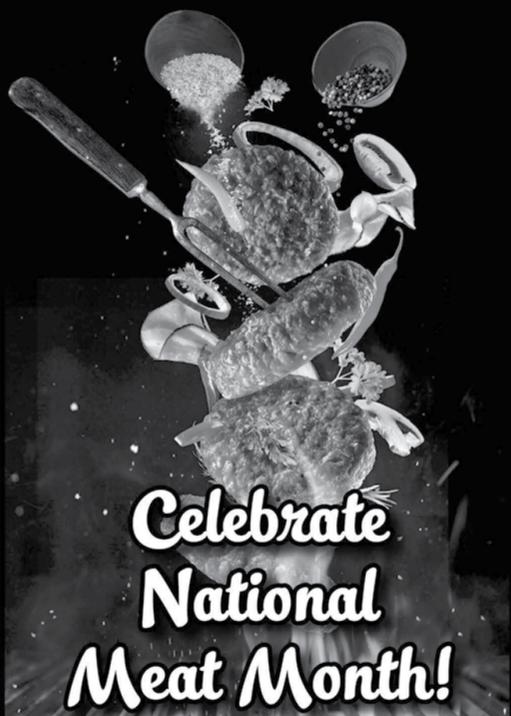
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