



Take care with soybean and alfalfa inoculants



This photo illustrates the problem McClure found in the alfalfa field that he later attributed to inadequately inoculated seed.

**By Greg McClure,
Agriculture and Natural
Resources Agent**

Today's column is the result of a farm visit a recently to look at a newly planted alfalfa field with big, wide, yellow stripes throughout the field. The alfalfa was planted last fall and the stand is perfect. But, it looks like someone made several passes through the field with a 15-foot-wide sprayer filled with a glyphosate mixture.

The first third of the field is striped every 15 feet. There is nice, tall, dark green alfalfa in the first 15 feet. Then, the next 15-foot strip is only about two inches tall, yellow, and sickly looking. And the pattern continues for awhile before turning into a big wide patch of good stuff. Unfortunately the big wide patch of good

stuff gives way to an even bigger and wider patch of sorry stuff to finish out the pattern in the field. When the producer described the field to me over the phone I told him I would bring a probe to check for compaction problems. But, when I got to the field and saw how wide and uniform the bad strips were, I knew I had guessed wrong.

The field actually had been sprayed with glyphosate — it is Roundup Ready alfalfa — so I followed that path of investigation for awhile. The pattern just didn't make sense though. A sprayer boom would be more like 90 feet — 15-foot-wide strips weren't likely.

I thought for a while that maybe part of the seed wasn't really glyphosate tolerant. And, when I counted

rows, it appeared that there were 24 good rows, then 24 bad rows. Now I was getting somewhere. It was definitely a seed-related issue. I hadn't totally ruled out varietal differences, or even the glyphosate tolerance theory, when I finally decided to dig a hole. Bingo. There was the answer. The pathetic looking plants had absolutely no nodules.

Now, to prove my point to the farmer (who still hadn't arrived in the field), I dug up some good plants. As expected, I found plenty of nodules on the healthy, dark green plants. Mystery solved. Something had gone wrong with the inoculation process on part of the seed.

When the farmer finally arrived, I learned that he had started planting with two different varieties of seed in

the drill, not mixed, but one half of the drill with one variety and the other half with the other. He ran out of seed and re-filled the drill with what turned out to be the good (properly inoculated) variety. Then he ran out again and found more bad stuff to plant.

I'm still not sure how this is going to play out, but I'm hoping I don't end up in the middle of an argument between the farmer and a seed supplier.

I tell that long story because I think it will convince you to be very particular in how you handle and store seed inoculants, or seed that is already inoculated. I can tell you to take care, but if I show you a picture (or describe it well enough), you might actually believe me.

Alfalfa and soybeans are both legumes that require inoculation with rhizobia at planting to promote nitrogen fixation. The strains of rhizobia, by the way, are crop specific. Alfalfa inoculum won't work on soybeans and vice versa.

Now, if a soybean field has been planted to soybeans sometime in the previous two or three years, there is a chance there will be enough rhizobia present in the soil to do the job. And likewise with alfalfa. But if there is any doubt, an inoculant needs to be applied.

Whether you choose to plant pre-inoculated seed, or you choose to use a hopper box treatment, it is important to handle the seed or inoculant in a way that will ensure that

the rhizobia is alive when the seed is planted. Essentially, that means that inoculant needs to be kept in a cool environment during shipping and storage. Alfalfa seed that is leftover from the previous year needs to be re-inoculated before planting.

If you're using a hopper box treatment, you'll also want to avoid tossing the bag on the dash of your pickup where it would be exposed to both heat and sunshine. Ultraviolet rays and heat will kill the bacteria. Remember, rhizobia cells are living bacteria that must be kept viable until planting. If you have any questions, you can reach me at the Riley County Extension Office at 785-537-6350, or you can send e-mail to gmcclure@ksu.edu.

Is stocking rate so important?

**By R. Dwayne Rice,
Rangeland Management
Specialist
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
(NRCS)
Lincoln, Kansas**

Selecting the correct stocking rate for a pasture may be the most difficult, but also the most important, decision a manager can make. The problem would be greatly simplified if forage yields from pastures were the same year after year or fluctuated only between narrow limits. It is this unpredictability of forage yield that causes the difficulty. Hitting the magic 50 percent use of annual forage production is the goal, but what happens when the degree of use is consistently above 50 percent for 3-5 years? We know that plant responses to grazing are conditioned by past history, as well as environmental conditions; however, at the end of the season, it is stocking rate that will ultimately determine the potential forage production for several years into the future. This year's stocking rate, the choice of the manager, will directly affect next year's forage production, plant community, livestock production, and economic return from the pasture.

How much can the stocking rate affect forage production?

A number of research studies across the country have been conducted to measure the effects of stocking rate on forage production. Several of these studies have been conducted in the Kansas Flint Hills, where drought is not much of a concern, and near Hays,

where precipitation is more variable. The results from these studies, regardless of where or when they were conducted, are remarkably similar. After 3-5 years, heavy grazing (the annual removal of 60 percent or more of the production of the primary forage species) resulted in less forage production in the pasture the following year compared to a moderately grazed pasture (the annual removal of 40-50 percent of the production of the primary forage species). Over a 25-year period, repeated heavy grazing resulted in a 20 percent decline in forage production while moderate grazing had no effect on forage production potential. It is important to note the difference between heavy grazing and moderate grazing is a mere 10 percent greater degree of use of the primary forage plants within the plant community. As would be expected due to selectivity of cattle, the most important productive and preferred forage species are the first to decline in production and number.

Why does this reduction in the primary forage species occur?

Heavy grazing affects more than just the defoliation of the primary forage plants. The effects of heavy grazing manifest themselves over time, reducing the amount of mulch and increasing the amount of bare ground exposed to direct sunlight. Ground cover, or mulch, has a moderating effect on soil moisture and temperature. Soil organisms are most active and efficient when the soil is moist and the temperature is between 86 and 95 de-

grees Fahrenheit. Soil exposed to direct sunlight is hotter than ambient air temperature and can reach levels lethal to these organisms. As the number of soil organisms is depleted or their activity slows, so does the availability of nutrients, the second most important limiting factor to forage production on rangelands.

Soil moisture, which is the most important limiting factor to forage production, is also affected by grazing intensity. Adequate mulch levels increase the rate of rainfall infiltration. One study conducted at Hays by J.L. Launchbaugh, showed infiltration rates of 0.73 and 1.19 inches per hour for heavy and moderate grazing systems, respectively. Run-off also increases as the amount of bare ground increases. The impact of a raindrop on bare soil looks like a micro-bomb, dislodging fine soil particles that seal the surface of the soil, resulting in less infiltration and moisture available to plants for forage production during the growing season. Mulch is a critical component in minimizing evaporation, moderating soil temperatures, and getting precipitation through the soil surface and into the soil profile where it is available for plant growth. Removing more than 50 percent of the annual production of the primary forage species reduces the amount of mulch available to protect the soil surface.

How does a reduction in forage quantity affect animal performance and the potential for economic return?

Both forage quality and

quantity are factors in individual and per acre animal performance. Average individual animal gains of steers over a seven-year study at Hays by Launchbaugh, using high, moderate, and light stocking rates was 122, 188, and 217 pounds of gain per steer, respectively, during the summer grazing period. As would be expected, animal gain per acre was highest under the high stocking rate at 61 pounds of gain per acre while moderate stocking showed gains of 55 pounds per acre and light stocking produced 43 pounds of gain per acre. The bigger point to be made was the rate of gain was not sustainable: within 3-5 years there were significant changes in the plant community and the amount of bare ground increased resulting in less forage production and forage availability in the heavily stocked pastures. The heavily grazed pastures also had higher annual fluctuations in forage production during the study.

Another study, conducted by Jim Gerrish in Missouri, measured the nutrient quality of the available forage at heavy, moderate, and light stocking rates. Nutrient density per pound of forage consumed was highest in the heavily stocked pastures due to young plant material having a higher nutrient density than older plant material. However, the gains per individual animal were once again lowest in the heavily stocked pastures and highest in the lightly stocked pastures. Gerrish attributed the poor individual animal perform-

ance of the heavily stocked pastures to the lack of forage quantity rather than quality. The amount of forage available to the grazing animal was inadequate to meet their requirements for body maintenance and growth. Conversely, forage quantity was not limited in the lightly stocked pastures, and the animals through selective grazing could meet their requirements for maintenance and optimum gain. The moderately stocked pastures produced individual animal gains higher than the high stocking rate pastures and had higher gains per acre than the low stocking rate pastures. Gerrish concluded that moderate stocking rates produced the best combination of forage quality and quantity for individual animal performance and gains per acre, making the moderate stocking rate the best for sustained economic returns to the manager.

How do we know when pastures are being moderately grazed?

What gets measured gets managed, so begin by measuring how much is grown, how much is grazed, and how much is left. Stocking rates are unique to each individual pasture so there is not a standard average for a particular county or area. A couple of well-placed grazing exclusion cages, a yard stick, and a camera are all that are needed to determine the degree of use within a pasture. Designing and implementing an annual monitoring plan to measure and record forage production and degree of utilization within a specific pasture is crucial to maintaining adequate mulch levels, healthy belowground root systems and microbial populations, forage production, and animal performance. With measured information, managers can make timely adjustments in stocking rate decisions that will maintain productive native rangelands well into the future. If you would like assistance in monitoring your pastures, contact your local NRCS office.

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Advanced harvesting equipment premiered in Denver

Feedstox™ (a KABB company) and Kelderman Manufacturing debuted the largest bale picking truck (BPT) in the world at the International Biomass Conference and Expo in Denver, Colorado, April 16-18.

The 600-horsepower, eight-wheel flotation-tired bale picking truck is the first of its kind. It is designed to dramatically reduce the field collection cost of square biomass bales by accumulating

nearly three semi-loads of square bales per hour. Without exceeding soil compaction standards, the BPT collects a semi-truck load of 3' x 4' x 8' bales and stacks them in one unit at the side of the field for highway transport by a self-loading trailer (SLT). The BPT is one of three pieces of a biomass supply system manufactured for KABB by Kelderman Manufacturing of Oskaloosa, Iowa. This equipment joins the Feedstox fleet of

advanced harvesting equipment available for lease to interested parties. This state-of-the-art fleet can increase farmer profitability, reduce fuel consumption and related emissions, and improve logistics processes through greater efficiency and speed compared to traditional harvesting equipment.

"The BPT is designed to revolutionize the harvesting of crop residues such as corn stover and

wheat straw as well as crops such as switchgrass, miscanthus and alfalfa," said Gary Kelderman, owner and President of Kelderman Manufacturing.

"The BPT quickly and efficiently accumulates and stacks what we believe is the basic commodity unit of trade in the biomass industry — a semi-

truckload of 42 bales," said Jeff Roskam, CEO of KABB.

"We believe that advanced equipment could reduce supply chain costs as much as thirty cents per gallon on a cellulosic ethanol basis," Roskam added.

Kelderman is also providing a self-propelled baler (SPB) and self-load-

ing trailers (SLT) as part of the agreement to supply advanced biomass supply chain equipment to Feedstox.

"No one else has this piece of equipment," said Russ Gottlob, Feedstox Operations Manager. "We can't wait to see the increase in productivity that will result from the consistent use of the BPT."

Making hay with new technology

At more than \$200 per ton, hay is a precious commodity, which is why getting the most high-quality product from each acre has never been more important.

"We're seeing a reduction in hay acreage across North America," says Dr. Kevin Shinnners, Professor of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "Because of high commodity prices in grain, we've seen a lot of hay ground plowed under and put into row crops. With acreage dwindling, hay and forage producers have to do everything possible to get all we can out of every acre. That means drying the crop as quickly as possible by conditioning it well, getting it off the field and into storage, and keeping it protected so we can maintain its value," he adds. "Especially when hay prices are \$200 to \$300 per ton, baling when the moisture content is too high or storing hay poorly has real negative economic impacts."

Shinnners sees a trend toward more sophisticated, efficient equipment such as self-propelled har-

vesters, as well as custom harvesters handling more acreage. He says for larger producers and custom harvesters, it's all about productivity, rapid road transport, and efficiency — which requires highly productive, reliable harvesting equipment to get through acreage as quickly possible.

Case IH hay and forage marketing manager, Brett DeVries, agrees. "Whether you're a large commercial producer out west or a dairy farmer out east, at the end of the day, most guys need the same thing: reliable equipment to get the most hay up in the shortest time." He says hay tools have been evolving to do exactly that. "Machines are bigger, with wider cutting widths so you can get more done in one pass. At the same time, we're improving overall efficiency."

For instance, Case IH recently introduced a new disc header for self-propelled windrowers — the RD 193 — that's 19 feet wide, and requires less horsepower to operate than previous models. "It's the largest disc header in

the industry, it saves fuel and it maximizes cut quality," DeVries notes. "With a 19-foot rotary disc head, we can cut a lot more hay."

Saving time also is important, which is where baling large square bales or round bales that don't require tying comes in.

And when it comes to baling, Case IH large square balers and round balers let you work faster with their high capacity pick up. "On a Case IH round baler, you can choose twine or net wrap with the push of a button," DeVries adds. "On the large square baler there's an auto loop system, so you don't have to grease the baler every day. It greases automatically, saving time and money."

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Vermeer introduces Net and Rebel Net

Vermeer Corporation has introduced the newest partner in its forage product line with Vermeer brand netwrap – Vermeer™ Net, available for 4' and 5' balers, and Rebel™ net, designed for Vermeer Rebel® Series Balers. Featuring superior net strength for ultimate bale protection, Vermeer brand netwrap is produced in a unique green,

black and white color scheme for easy identification of the Vermeer quality. "Vermeer balers are one of the toughest in their class, and we are excited to offer a Vermeer brand netwrap that matches that durability," says Joe Michaels, Vermeer Director of Forage Solutions. "Vermeer strives to help producers make the best looking

bale in the least amount of time, and the strength and reliability of Vermeer brand netwrap offers another valuable tool in making that possible." Vermeer brand netwrap is produced with heavy-duty HDPE for a stronger tape than standard netwrap, and both Vermeer Net and Rebel Net offer optimum net spread to cover square

shouldered bales with little net stretch, improving bale appearance. "In addition to enhancing the bale quality, Vermeer Net and Rebel Net offer convenient features to help producers improve efficiency," says Russell Beyer, Vermeer Project Lead. "Handgrips on the Vermeer Net packaging provide for easier handling, and the smaller roll length and weight of the Rebel Net makes loading and unloading easier."

Vermeer Net is offered in a variety of lengths and is suitable for most round balers in today's marketplace. Visit your local Vermeer dealer for more details.



Kuhn debuts new mower

The GMD 8730 FF is a rear-mounted triple disc mower that delivers a clean cut with a wide cutting width. This mower provides high reliability and quick cutting to help produce quality forage. Each mower has a low, smooth cutterbar profile (and computer-designed discs) to ensure a close, consistent cut. This machine combines the strength and durability of the "lubed-for-life" Optidisc® cutterbar, the sim-

ple, precise ground adaptation of the Lift-Control® suspension system, and the heavy-duty, yet lightweight support of the high-strength steel frame. Designed for use with the GMD 802 F-FF, this new mowing unit will cut up to 28'7" using as little as 120 PTO horsepower. The Fast-Fit® blade retention system allows the operator to quickly change blades with the use of a simple tool, yet still achieve the optimum

cut quality and blade life seen with the standard system. Kuhn North America, Inc., of Brodhead, Wisconsin, is a leading innovator in the field of agricultural and industrial equipment, specializing in spreaders, mixers, hay tools and tillage tools. Kuhn and Kuhn Knight brand products are sold by farm equipment dealers throughout the United States, Canada, and many other countries.

KUHN Krause, Inc. to expand manufacturing facilities

KUHN Krause, Inc., is pleased to announce the construction of expanded manufacturing facilities at its manufacturing location in Hutchinson. Construction ground breaking for a high-bay 70,000-square-foot building expansion is expected to begin in April, 2012. The project is scheduled for completion by calendar year-end. The expansion will improve manufacturing capacity, efficiency and quality with new, state-of-the-art technology and use of lean manufacturing strategies. This expansion complements other investments made in 2011 at Kuhn Krause, Inc. and constitutes yet another major commitment by the KUHN Group to manufacture and distribute high-quality agricultural equipment products in North America. The total cost of this construction project, along with related new machinery procurement scheduled for this year will be approximately \$5 million. KUHN Krause, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of KUHN North America, Inc., currently employs over 300 people at its Hutchinson location. KUHN Group acquired Krause Corporation and created Kuhn Krause, Inc. in May 2011.

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Raising sheep in cattle country

By Greg McClure, Riley County Extension and Natural Resources Agent

Late at night when I watch one of those old western movies where the meek sheep farmer is persecuted by the arrogant cowboys, I think of my dad. In the movies, the sheep herder is on foot, tending his sheep and minding his own business, when the cowboys ride up on their horses and start harassing him. I want to jump up and shout, "Leave my dad alone!" In those movies, the sheep herder is an outsider who has moved his sheep, and himself, to cattle country. The cowboy's justification for persecuting the sheep herder is that the sheep are going to ruin the grass. But, in reality, he isn't accepted because he isn't a cattleman, and because his isn't a local.

The similarities between that sheep herder and my dad probably aren't really that strong. It's true that Dad was a sheep herder, having 400 ewes when I was a kid. And, he was also an outsider, having moved 230 miles from his boyhood home to where my mom

grew up.

But, I don't think Dad ever really endured much taunting from the local cattlemen. Aside from an occasional snide remark about him getting a college degree so he could farm – this was roughly 60 years ago and nobody else in the neighborhood had done that yet – he was treated pretty well.

Nevertheless, one childhood memory that endures to this day is riding in the pickup truck with Dad, checking both sheep and cattle, while Dad extolled the benefits of multi-species grazing. "It doesn't hurt the grass," he told me. "Sheep and cattle don't even like the same kinds of plants."

Dad was right of course. As long as there are a variety of plants available, cattle and sheep will generally choose different plant species. As you might expect, cattle prefer grass. If they're given a choice, cattle will consume about 60% grass, 20% forbs (weeds), and 20% browse (trees, shrubs, and vines). But when you open the gate, they'll go to the grass first. Sheep, on the other

hand, will head toward the weeds first, then move to the grass, and eventually to the browse. A sheep's preferred diet is 40% forbs, 40% grass, and 20% browse.

Goats are the animal you need if you want to clean up brush and other woody plants. The order of preference for goats is browse first, then forbs, then grasses. Goats would eat 50% browse, 30% forbs, and 20% grass if given a choice. If a pasture is perfectly managed for cattle grazing, with annual burning and judicious spraying to keep weeds and brush at a minimum, then grazing just cattle might make sense. Both goats and sheep will eat grass instead of forbs and browse if there aren't enough "undesirable" plants to keep them going. Obviously then, adding too many sheep or goats to what a cattleman would consider to be a perfect pasture would just add to the grazing pressure.

However, if the pasture isn't perfect and contains plants that are less desirable to cattle, then multi-species grazing might

make sense. Even on excellent pastures you can usually add one or two goats per cow and not increase the grazing pressure. And, on brushy pastures, you can add two to four goats per cow without needing to decrease the number of cows. Someone switching from cattle to sheep could probably graze five or six ewes where they had previously grazed one cow if the grass is excellent. If it was brushy, then the pasture that supported one cow might support six or seven sheep.

Likewise, when switching to goats, you can figure six to eight goats to replace one cow on excellent pasture. And you can expect to be able to graze nine to 11 goats on a brushy pasture that would only support one cow.

So, what's the holdup? I'm guessing fencing and predators are a concern for some. Tradition might be guiding others. Tradition can be broken. Predators can be managed. And fences can be improved. The problems aren't insurmountable. In fact, they're probably just excuses.

Aphids apparent in Kansas wheat, but natural predators at work

Early April brought more than warm weather to Kansas farms. Aphid populations increased around the state due to immigration of the insects from the south and local reproduction, according to a Kansas State University entomologist.

The good news, said Jeff Whitworth, crops specialist with K-State Research and Extension, is that in the last seven to 10 days, most of these populations have, or are, decreasing due to the increase in parasitoid wasps and lady beetles.

"There are still aphids in most fields but not at treatment thresholds, for the most part," Whitworth said. "Insecticide treatments therefore should be carefully evaluated before application, especially because aphids have the ability to reproduce parthenogenetically, which means an unfertilized egg can develop into a new individual. So if there are a few resistant aphids, they will rapidly produce more resistant individuals, especially since the beneficial insects — the parasitoid wasps and lady beetles — will be decimated by the insecticide application."

For that reason, applying an insecticide with a fungicide "just in case" could cause more problems in the future.

More information about insects in Kansas is available at the Kansas extension entomology website: <http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=49>.

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Winners announced for Quality Beef Day

The 52nd Annual Quality Beef Day was held on April 14, at Hedstrom Hall in Marysville.

There were 87 head of livestock exhibited by 47 youth and adults from Kansas and Nebraska. The livestock were judged by Spencer Schrader of Wells. Fifty-nine youth and adults participated in the 4-H, FFA, and Adult Livestock Judging Contest.

“We had great weather for our 52nd Annual Quality Beef Day. There were many new faces at this year’s Quality Beef Day. Overall, we were very pleased with the number of spectators and participants. The weather was nice for exhibitors and spectators during the show, and we appreciate the financial support that our Marshall County area businesses provided at this year’s Quality Beef Day,” stated Michael Vogt, Marshall County Extension Agent and secretary for the Quality Beef Day Committee.

Winners were:
REGISTERED AOB (8): Champion Registered AOB Female 4-H/FFA, JW LeDoux, Agenda; Reserve Champion Reg AOB Female 4-H/FFA, Mason Runft, Scandia.
SHORTHORN (3): Champion 4-H/FFA Female,

Tyler Uhri, Dawson, Neb.; Reserve Champion 4-H/FFA Female, Claire Ohlde, Linn.

ANGUS (3): Champion 4-H/FFA Female, JW LeDoux, Agenda; Reserve Champion 4-H/FFA Female, Colton Banks, Effingham.

CHAROLAIS (8): Champion Bull 4-H/FFA, Eli Sheppard, Olsburg; Champion 4-H/FFA Female, Payton Runft, Scandia; Reserve Champion 4-H/FFA Female, Caleb Obermeyer, Marysville.

SIMMENTAL (4): Champion 4-H/FFA Female, Logan Marple, Westmoreland; Reserve Champion 4-H/FFA Female, Kaylee Ames, Wymore, Neb.

HEREFORD (18): Champion Bull 4-H/FFA, Kalli Valek, Agenda; Champion 4-H/FFA Female, Logan Marple, Westmoreland; Reserve Champion 4-H/FFA Female, Cameron Wilber, Belleville.

COMMERCIAL (7): Champion 4-H/FFA Female, Wyatt Durst, Washington; Reserve Champion 4-H/FFA Female, Brenna McGuire, Leonardville.

SUPREME HEIFER: Champion Supreme Heifer 4-H/FFA, Logan Marple, Westmoreland; Reserve Supreme Heifer 4-H/FFA, JW LeDoux, Agenda.

MARKET BEEF-

SHORTHORN (2): Champion Steer 4-H/FFA, Bailey Schroeder, Beatrice, Neb.; Reserve Champion Steer, Maggie Schotte, Marysville.

ANGUS (1): Champion Steer 4-H/FFA, Marshall Fike, Westmoreland; Reserve Champion Steer 4-H/FFA, none.

MARKET HEIFER (5): Champion Market Heifer 4-H/FFA, Maggie Schotte, Marysville; Reserve Champion Market Heifer 4-H/FFA, Reid Shipman, Manhattan.

CHAROLAIS (4): Champion Steer 4-H/FFA, Hadley Schotte, Marysville; Reserve Champion Steer 4-H/FFA, Hadley Schotte, Marysville.

SIMMENTAL (3): Champion Steer 4-H/FFA, JW LeDoux, Agenda; Reserve Champion Steer 4-H/FFA, Logan Marple, Westmoreland.

HEREFORD (6): Champion Steer 4-H/FFA, Marija Crockett, Atchison; Reserve Champion Steer 4-H/FFA, Haven Johnson, Washington.

CROSSBRED/ALL OTHER BREEDS (15): Champion Crossbred Steer 4-H/FFA, Shane Meenen, Hiawatha; Reserve Champion Crossbred 4-H/FFA, Kael Lange, Clifton.

SUPREME AND RESERVE SUPREME CHAM-

PION MARKET BEEF: Overall Champion 4-H/FFA, Shane Meenen, Hiawatha; Reserve Champion 4-H/FFA, Marija Crockett, Atchison.

SHOWMANSHIP (43): Champion Senior, Levi Lehmkuhl, Hiawatha; Reserve Champion Senior, Shane Meenen, Hiawatha. Champion Intermediate, Kati Fehlman, Junction City; Reserve Champion Intermediate, Justin Moser, Westmoreland; Champion Junior, Wes Denton, Blue Rapids; Reserve Champion Junior, Tobi Wilber, Belleville.

LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST: Top Youth Individual, Wyatt Durst, Washington; Top 4-H Club/FFA Chapter, Washington FFA; Wyatt Durst, Nathan Doss, Matt Bekemeyer, and Andrew Tiemeier, Washington; Top Adult Male, Pat Schotte, Marysville; Top Adult Female, Jane Studer, Frankfort.

“We are looking forward to planning and hosting the 53rd Annual Quality Beef Day,” Vogt stated.

For more information about Quality Beef Day, contact the Marshall County Extension Office at (785) 562-3531, or e-mail Mike at Mvogt@ksu.edu.

Grain industry selects scholarship recipients

The Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) has chosen the following six Kansas high school seniors to receive college scholarships for the 2012-2013 school year:

Payton Delong, Admire — to study agronomy at Kansas State University

Paul Gutsch, Herington — to study accounting at Kansas State University

Kenneth Kays, Weir — to study agribusiness at Kansas State University

Christa Milton, Hudson — to study pre-veterinary medicine at Fort Hays State University

Roxanne Ochs, Russell — to study chemical engineering at Kansas State University

Kristen Powell, Pretty Prairie — to study business at Benedictine College

199 applications were received and considered by an independent Scholarship Selection Committee made up of association members.

Each year, KGFA awards one \$500 Dub & Inez Memorial scholarship and five \$1,000 KGFA scholarships. KGFA also awards one \$1,000 John Cranor Memorial scholarship, whose winner is selected by the Kansas State University Foundation.

The KGFA Board of Directors voted at their April 9 board meeting in Wichita to increase the number of \$1,000 KGFA scholarships from five to six for the 2013-2014 school year.

Founded in 1896, the Topeka-based KGFA is a voluntary non-profit, trade organization providing governmental representation, educational opportunities and a wide variety of other services to the vast and indispensable grain and feed marketing system. KGFA’s 900 members include country elevators, subterminal and terminal elevators, feed manufacturers, flour mills, grain merchandisers and allied industries such as grain exchanges, equipment manufacturers, insurance firms and railroads. KGFA is proud to represent 99% of the federal or state licensed grain storage in the state of Kansas.

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March	Salina Farm Show	September	Fall Harvest
April	Sheep & Goats	October	Winter Maintenance
May	Cattle Empire Edition	November	Holiday Gift Guide
June	Harvest	December	Kansas Beef Expo

Angus goes mobile

Managing an Angus herd – yeah, there's an app for that. The American Angus Association® recently launched a smartphone application, Angus Mobile, for iPhone, iPad and Android devices. As recordkeeping becomes increasingly online based, this app allows users to update herd data no matter where they are on their farm or ranch.

"A producer needs to know a lot more information about their calf when it hits the ground compared to ten years ago," says Lou Ann Adams, the Association's information systems director. "That's why we created the app, to help producers make the right decisions for their herd, and to keep their information organized and easily accessible."

Since its debut, the Angus Mobile app has had more than 500 downloads. The easy-to-navigate format gives users a way to quickly search for cow herd data, news updates and more. Currently, the iPhone version contains the most up-to-date features, and the Android will soon have all similar functions.

The Angus Mobile MyHerd option is particularly useful for producers, because it grants access into AAA Login, which is the Association's online record-keeping system. Through MyHerd, users can record calves as they are born and submit information through their phone while still standing in the pasture.

"This type of new technology is changing the way we as Angus breeders manage our herds," says Bryce Schumann, chief executive officer of the Association. "It is remarkable to think about how things have changed in just a few short years."

The Angus Mobile app is not only for producers, several other functions appeal to anyone interested in Angus cattle. Download the app, and gain access to the latest news, sale reports, show results and much more. More features will continue to be added, but now users can:

- Search for any registered Angus animal or member;
- View current news releases;
- Browse sale books and sale reports
- Show results and photos;
- Watch the latest Angus TV videos;
- View upcoming Angus events;
- Use date calculators for gestation and performance measurements, such as weaning and ultrasound;
- Browse National Cattle Evaluation Information; and
- View EPD/\$Value Percentiles, breed-average EPDs.

To download the iPhone app, visit the iTunes store or App Store when using an iPhone, iPod or iPad. A quick search for Angus will result in the application link. Click on install, and the icon will appear on the device's screen or desktop.

The Angus Mobile app is compatible with the iPhone 3GS, iPhone 4, iPhone 4S, iPod touch (third generation and fourth generation), and iPad. It requires iOS 5.0 or later, which can also be downloaded through iTunes and installed by connecting the iPhone to a computer.

To download the Android app, visit the Android marketplace on the device's home screen. Search for Angus and the application should appear. The Angus Mobile Android app was developed before the iPhone app, so a few functions may vary. However, an update is planned for later this spring.

High quality hay and haylage: conditioning is key factor

"You can't have a conversation about hay production and not mention the weather," says Dr. Kevin Shinnars, professor of agricultural engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As with any agricultural crop, that's the No. 1 challenge every producer faces. But with hay and haylage, weather problems can be even more acute, because of the extended field drying time often required.

There are important steps producers can take to dry hay faster. "One of the most important steps is to utilize the sun's energy to the maximum extent possible," Shinnars adds. "At cutting, lay that crop down as wide as you possibly can so that almost every square foot is occupied by drying crop. Anything you can do to get that crop to dry quicker so you can get it out of the field and miss a rainstorm, that's money well spent."

Shinnars says a mower conditioner is a good tool to speed dry-down. "Engineers have done decades of studies that show the advantages of mechanically conditioning the stem and what it does to improve drying rates," he continues. "A mower conditioner also gives you flexibility to produce either dry hay or haylage. It's a great tool in your arsenal for better quality forage."

Mechanically Condition Haylage
Shinnars admits his recommendation to always mechanically condition

haylage is currently controversial. "Some people suggest that by not conditioning the crop, they can slow the drying rate down and once it reaches the ideal chopping moisture content, it'll stay there for a longer period of time. However, without conditioning, the crop will take longer to get to the optimum moisture content, and you put the crop at risk of weather damage. I'm a proponent of conditioning at all times," he explains. "With conditioning, you shorten the period of time to get to the optimum moisture content, so we can get that crop off the field, ensiled and protected."

High Productivity Equipment

According to Shinnars, there are three keys to quality hay and haylage: cut it at the right stage of maturity; dry it as quickly as possible; and be gentle on the crop. He cautions growers to avoid tedding or raking at times when the leaves are brittle.

"Progressive dairies are recognizing that the way to maintain forage quality is to have high productivity harvesting equipment. When the weather is right and the crop is mature, you can't plod along like Grandpa did. You need high productivity equipment to get through those acres as quickly as you can, and get into the next growing cycle. In Wisconsin, they're trying to cut haylage on a 28 to 30-day cutting cycle to have more

uniform crop quality and higher quality forage," Shinnars notes. Brett DeVries, Case IH Hay and Forage Marketing Manager, says it's a similar story for commercial hay producers in the western United States. "There, the rule of thumb is guys have to be able to get it cut and baled in three to four days – and they need the equipment to do that. On the irrigated land, they need to get the crop off as quickly as possible so they can irrigate and stay on schedule to optimize the number of cuttings."

DeVries says Case IH offers a full line of cutting, conditioning, raking and baling equipment that can be tailored to individual operations and needs. "We have steel-on-steel and rubber-on-rubber conditioning rolls, a flail conditioner, and high-contact rolls. The chevron design on the rolls helps evenly spread the material across the full width of the windrow, so you get better, more uniform drydown. And with Case IH equipment, it's easy to adjust the settings to get the right crimp on the stems for optimum dry-down."

Shinnars reminds growers to make sure the condi-

tioning rolls are set up correctly, to reduce the mechanical resistance of the moisture leaving the plant. "The roll clearance needs to be set so that the stem is cracked every three to four inches to open up routes for water to exit the plant."

Reliability is Essential

With hay acreage dwindling and prices high, both Shinnars and DeVries cite equipment reliability as another major factor in optimizing productivity. "Especially for larger producers and custom harvesters," Shinnars says. "You can't have workers sitting at the edge of the field waiting for the harvester to get back up. You need the assurance that when the crop is ready, the weather is right and the labor is there, they can get to work."

DeVries agrees: "Hay producers can't afford to lose a half-day. You can decrease the value of the crop significantly, so reliable equipment is huge." He says the Case IH Field of Deals sales event is a great time to visit your local Case IH dealer, "to learn more about what productive, reliable, red equipment can do for your hay or forage operation."



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Gardiner Angus Ranch reports on 33rd annual spring production sale

Technology is a great thing! Whether breeding registered seedstock or communicating with customers, embracing technology and being receptive to change most always results in a better product. This year, Gardiner Angus Ranch incorporated the use of video in their pre-sale promotion. By sale time, the individual YouTube® videos had been viewed more than 31,000 times. Lot One video, GAR Sunrise, had been viewed more than 1,000 times. His popularity among commercial and registered producers was evident as the bidding began. GAR Sunrise, Lot 1, truly represents the essence of the Gardiner Angus Ranch breeding program. Moderate stature, top 3% for calving ease, top 3% for early growth, top 4% for heifer pregnancy and top 1% of the Angus breed for end product merit places this young sire in rare air among all the Angus bulls to sell this spring. Realizing the value of this young sire, commercial beef producers and long-time GAR customers, Sellard Farms, Bucklin, and Randy Bayne, Protection, paid \$95,000 to invest in Sunrise. Other commercial cattlemen were among the contending bidders for Lot 1.

Lot 2, GAR Daylight, full brother to Sunrise, had an IMF ratio of 147 and offers the same immense opportunity for calving ease, early growth, maternal superiority and end product merit. Steve Hillhouse, LaGrange, Texas, had the winning bid and paid \$50,000 for Daylight. Lot 3, GAR First Light, ranks in the top 1% of the breed for \$F, \$G and \$B, combined with a +10 calving ease. Another repeat customer, Blake Crawford, paid \$50,000 to own First Light.

Canadian buyer, Doug Munton, Lethbridge, Alta., paid \$16,000 for Lot 215, a tremendous GAR Prophet son with a 133 IMF ratio, top 1% \$W and top 5% calving ease. Lot 272, GAR Progress A00, is the #1 bull of the breed for \$G, #9 bull for \$QG, #11 bull for marbling while ranking in the top 1% for CED. Robert Carnahan, Marshfield, Mo., did not miss this opportunity and paid \$14,000. Lot 10, GAR 28 Ambush 6550, sold to Greg Young, Keytesville, Mo., for \$13,000. The entire proceeds from the sale of Lot 10 will be donated to the Henry C. Gardiner Scholarship & Lecture Series at K-State University. Lot 4, GAR MC Progress J0211, a Progress son with outstanding CED and growth sold to Buck LeBus, Lexington, Ky. for \$12,000. Another popular Progress son, Lot 41, sold to Darrell Brobst, Stockton, for \$11,000.

Four bulls, Lots 21, 25, 44 and 481 sold in the \$10,000 range to Ronald Lehenbauer, Hannibal, Mo.; Kevin Windham, Jena, La.; Thaine and Anita Schickedanz, Fargo, Okla.; and Glen Gischclair, Cut Off, La., respectively. Two bulls, Lots 43, 59 sold for \$9,500 to Kent Cooper, Mt. Pleasant, Tex. and Rob and Sylvia Sellard. Long-time friend and customer, Sam Hands, Triangle H Land & Cattle, Garden City, purchased Lots 320 and 334 for \$9,500.

The female portion of the auction reflected the bullish market for high accuracy, proven genetics. The donor videos received more than 7,500 total views and provided interested buyers ample time to phenotypically appraise the females as well as analyze the genetic potential.

Lot 500, GAR Predes- tined 2358, definitely

moved the bar upwards when she sold to Kiamichi Link, Finley, Okla., for \$85,000. 2358 is the 4th ranked cow of the Angus breed for marbling and is a daughter of the record-selling, GAR Objective 2345, now at Deer Valley Farm. Kiamichi Link also purchased Lot 483, GAR 5050 New Design 118, for \$32,000. This tremendous female has a \$B value of +91.85 with marbling in the top 1% of the breed. Lot 487 is one of the rare females with marbling and REA greater than +1. She sold to Richard Jeppesen, Howey In The Hills, Fla., for \$29,000.

Allied Producer, Maplecrest Farms, Hillsboro, Ohio, added two tremendous donors to an already impressive cow herd with the purchases of Lots 483 and 487 for \$19,000 each. Don't be surprised to see a daughter or two in the MCF show string. Four females sold in the \$15,000 range. Lots 489, 490, 496 and 729 were purchased by Philip Gleason, Springville, Ala.; Mashburn Farms, Lindsay, Okla.; Robin Wilson, Jefferson, Ga. and Richie Longanecker, Lithia, Fla.

Bob Armstrong, Roswell, N.M., had the winning bid of \$14,000 for Lot 492. Nick & Roxanne Hull, Blackstone Farms, Stoughton, Wis. and Deer Valley Farm, Fayetteville, Tenn., added Lots 502 and 509, respectively, to their respected Angus operations with purchases of \$13,000 each. Jay Tinter, Marietta, Ga., paid \$13,000 for Lot 550 to become the top selling pair. Robert Carna-

han added to his load with his purchase of donor Lot 510 for \$11,000. Another top selling pair, Lot 565, sold to Jerry Beech, Lewisburg, Tenn., for \$10,000. The Spring ET Heifers always provide excitement toward the end of a long day. Williams Evans, Procter, Tex., was a determined bidder for Lot 1011 and it paid off. He purchased an impressive 454 daughter for \$10,500. Rowland & Mary Lou Gengelbach, Plattsburg, Mo., had the winning bid for the second high selling ET heifer at \$10,000. GAR Lucky Doc, a well-bred gelding from the GAR remuda, made a lot of friends after viewing a video showcasing his skills at such an early age. William Gift, Waynesboro, Penn., had the winning bid of \$4,000 on this popular colt.

After a full day of selling cattle on a beautiful spring day 292 buyers representing 36 states, South America, Mexico and Canada purchased cattle.

Volume Buyers—Bulls: James Bosler, Fort Worth, Texas.; Scott Gray, Grainola, Okla.; John Mazoch, Bueche, La.; Rob & Sylvia Sellard, Bucklin; Jody Chisum, Perryton, Texas. Volume Buyers—Registered Females: Steve Stratford, Pratt; Malm Ranch Co, Albin, Wyo.; Randy Browning, Appleton City, Mo.; David Ward, Grain Valley, Mo.; Josh Odom, Honey Grove, Texas.

Volume Buyers—Commercial Females: Daryl Sales, Valley Falls; Marion

Ramsay Lyman, Grand Bay, Ala.; Brian & Brandi Walker, Cameron, Mo.; David Pourciau, Jr., Jarreau, La.; Chair Rock, Shawnee Mission; Josh Odom, Honey Grove, Texas.

Notes of Interest:
• 61% of the bulls sold for \$5,000 or less
• 84% of the registered females sold for \$5,000 or less

• Proceeds from the sale of Lot 261, purchased by Scott Gray, Grainola, Okla., for \$6,500 will be donated to the All American Beef Battalion.

• Bulls in the sale had an average \$Beef Value of \$80.13

• The elite Spring ET Heifers in the sale had average \$Beef Value of \$81.81

Agribusiness industry awards scholarships

The Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA) has chosen the following five Kansas students to receive college scholarships for the 2012-2013 school year:

Kurtis Clawson, Satanta - studying agronomy at Kansas State University
Dalton Hodgkinson, Pratt - to study agribusiness at Kansas State University
Jeremy Houser, Solomon - studying agronomy at Kansas State University
Matt Kuykendall, Osage City - studying agronomy at Kansas State University
Katrina Sudbeck, Seneca - to study agronomy at Kansas State University

32 applications were received and considered by an independent Scholarship Selection Committee made up of association members.

Each year, KARA awards one \$500 Jim Lee Memorial scholarship, one \$1,000 Dr. David Whitney Agronomy scholarship and three \$1,000 KARA scholarships.

KARA is a volunteer organization whose membership includes over 700 agribusiness firms that are primarily retail facilities that supply fertilizers, crop protection chemicals, seed, petroleum products and agronomic expertise to Kansas farmers. KARA's membership base also includes ag-chemical and equipment manufacturing firms, distribution firms and various other businesses associated with the retail crop production industry.

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