

# Kansas Hay Market Report

Hay market activity slow to moderate; demand moderate to good for alfalfa and moderate for grass hay. Offerings of grinder hay light and continually difficult to locate, with prices trending higher for alfalfa and firm for grass hay. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Abnormally dry conditions (D0) have expanded into western Kansas, and northeastward into Nebraska. Areas of moderate drought (D1) deteriorated to severe drought (D2) in south central Kansas, adjoining the already severe drought condition in north central Oklahoma. Abnormally dry conditions were expanded across the remainder of southeastern Kansas. Moisture there is less than half of average. Soil moisture levels are down and surface water supplies, including stock ponds, are shrinking. The abnormally dry (D0) category increased to 99.11 pct, moderate drought (D1) increased to 20.58 pct and severe drought (D2) is 1.85. If you have hay for sale, and/or need hay here in Kansas, use the services of the Internet Hay Exchange: [www.hayexchange.com/ks.php](http://www.hayexchange.com/ks.php).

### Southwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grass hay, grinding alfalfa and ground/delivered steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, small squares 240.00-250.00. Dairy, .85-.95/point RFV, Supreme 155.00-175.00, Premium 155.00-165.00, Good 135.00-155.00. Stock or Dry Cow alfalfa, 110.00-120.00. Fair/Good grinding alfalfa, 120.00-130.00. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots and dairies, 140.00-150.00. Grass hay: Bluestem large squares 80.00-90.00. Brome, none reported. The week of 12/10-12/16, 9,085T of grinding alfalfa and 750T of dairy alfalfa were delivered. Cornstalks: large round

55.00-65.00.

### South Central Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grass hay, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered steady, alfalfa pellets steady to 5.00 higher; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, small squares 240.00-245.00. Dairy, .85-.90/point RFV. Supreme 155.00-165.00, Premium 150.00-160.00, Good 130.00-150.00. Stock cow alfalfa, 130.00-135.00 delivered. Fair/Good grinding alfalfa, 100.00-110.00 with instances at 120.00-125.00. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots 130.00-140.00. The week of 12/10-12/16, 4,454T of grinding alfalfa and 622.5T of dairy alfalfa were delivered. Alfalfa pellets: Sun Cured 15 pct protein 170.00-175.00, 17 pct protein 180.00-185.00, Dehydrated 17 pct 207.00-217.00. Grass hay: bluestem, large rounds 65.00-70.00; Brome: large rounds 70.00-75.00, small squares 105.00-115.00. Sudan large rounds 80.00-90.00. Teff, small squares 6.25-6.75 per bale, large squares 115.00-125.00 delivered, large rounds 65.00-75.00. Cornstalks: large rounds 55.00-60.00, cornstalks ground and delivered 60.00-70.00, Straw large squares 50.00-60.00, large rounds 50.00-55.00. Milo stalks 50.00-55.00.

### Southeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grass hay, grinding alfalfa and ground/delivered steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse or goat, 210.00-220.00. Dairy .80-.90/point RFV. Stock cow alfalfa 100.00-110.00 with an instance at 125.00-135.00. Fair/Good grinding alfalfa 90.00-100.00. Ground and delivered, 105.00-115.00. Grass hay: bluestem, premium small squares 105.00-120.00. Good, mid and large squares 80.00-100.00, large rounds 60.00-70.00. Brome: small squares 6.00-8.00/bale. Good, mid and large squares 100.00-120.00, large rounds 75.00-85.00. Oat hay, large squares 120.00-130.00. Straw, mid squares 50.00-60.00.

### Northwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa and ground/delivered steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: small squares, 5.00-6.00/

bale. Goat, 170.00-180.00. Dairy, Premium/Supreme .80-.95/point RFV. Stock cow, fair/good 90.00-100.00. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, 85.00-95.00. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots and dairies, 100.00-105.00.

### North Central-Northeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa steady, grass hay, ground/delivered steady, movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, small squares 9.00-10.00/bale. Dairy .95-1.05/point RFV, Supreme 175.00-195.00, Premium 170.00-185.00, Good 150.00-170.00. Stock Cow, good 110.00-120.00. Fair/Good, grinding alfalfa, 100.00-110.00 with an instance at 120.00. Ground and delivered, 125.00-140.00 Grass hay: bluestem, small squares 5.00-6.00/bale, large squares 95.00-105.00, large rounds 65.00-75.00. Brome: Good, small squares 6.00-7.00/bale delivered, mid and large squares, 105.00-115.00, good large rounds 75.00-80.00. Sudan large rounds 70.00-75.00; Milo Stalks: large rounds 40.00-55.00; Straw: small squares, 4.00-5.00/bale, large squares 75.00-85.00, large rounds 65.00-75.00. Certified weed-free grass mulch small squares 4.00-5.00/bale, large rounds 45.00/bale.

\*\*\*Prices are dollars per ton and FOB unless otherwise noted. Dairy alfalfa prices are for mid and large squares unless otherwise noted. Horse hay is in small squares unless otherwise noted. Prices are from the most recent sales.

\*CWF Certified Weed Free

\*RFV calculated using the Wis/Minn formula. \*\*TDN calculated using the Western formula. Quantitative factors are approximate, and many factors can affect feeding value. Values based on 100% dry matter (TDN showing both 100% & 90%).

Guidelines are to be used with visual appearance and intent of sale (usage).

Source: Kansas Department of Agriculture - Manhattan, Kansas Kim Nettleton 785-564-6709

Posted to the Internet: [www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/DC\\_GR310.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/DC_GR310.txt)

# K-State researchers make key discovery in ongoing fight against wheat stem rust

Kansas State University researchers have characterized the mechanism used by wheat to defend against the devastating stem rust disease, a finding they think can help them stay ahead of future disease outbreaks.

Their work, which is published in the Dec. 22 issue of *Science Magazine*, characterizes the relationship between a gene in the fungus that causes stem rust, and the gene in wheat

that provides resistance to the disease.

“This is one of the first wheat rust avirulence genes characterized where we know the fungal protein and corresponding wheat resistance gene that is interacting with this protein to trigger the resistance response,” said Eduard Akhunov, professor of plant pathology.

Wheat stem rust is a devastating disease caused by the fungus, *Puccinia graminis* f. sp. *tritici*.

The disease made headlines in 1999 when a particularly virulent strain, Ug99, was discovered in Uganda and quickly spread to the surrounding regions. That outbreak caused yield losses of 70 percent or more.

At the time of the Ug99 discovery, the United Nations’ Food and Agricultural Organization estimated that 80 to 90 percent of global wheat cultivars were susceptible to this particular fungal strain.

The K-State scientists found that a specific protein encoded by a fungal gene – also called an avirulence factor (Avr) – ultimately can lead to the death of the fungus when it interacts with a resistant gene in the wheat crop.

The scientists dubbed the fungal gene AvrSr35, because it makes the fungus susceptible to resistance gene Sr35, a gene identified by Akhunov and his team in 2013 that is known to provide resistance to Ug99 stem rust.

“This protein (AvrSr35) is secreted by the fungus early in the infection stage, and once Sr35 senses the presence of this protein, it triggers the immune response,” Akhunov said.

During this response, Sr35 is able to prompt a cell death pathway in the

wheat, essentially cutting off nutrients to the fungus until it dies.

“The plant sacrifices some groups of cells instead of compromising the entire tissue,” said Andres Salcedo, a graduate student who was instrumental in the discovery and is the lead author for the article appearing in *Science*.

But fungi are hardy characters and eventually they find a way to overcome the resistant genes, leading to new strains of the disease. Sometimes this happens because the fungus no longer contains a trigger gene, such as AvrSr35, which means the resistant gene – Sr35 – no longer senses the presence of the fungus.

“You have this cycle where you have breeders developing new varieties with resistant genes, and over time fungi learn how to overcome these resistant genes,” Akhunov said.

This ongoing tit-for-tat battle means that scientists and wheat breeders are constantly on guard against developing strains of the disease.

But Akhunov says that the identification of AvrSr35 by K-State’s researchers and AvrSr50 by a team of researchers from Australia (published in the same issue of *Science Magazine*), “gives wheat geneticists an opportunity

to develop new avenues of resistance.”

“These discoveries provide valuable tools for pathogen surveillance and early detection of virulent strains, and can guide the selection of complementary resistance genes in future varieties of wheat to maximize the durability of the deployed resistance gene cassettes.”

He added that knowing pairs of avirulence and resistance genes is “one of the first steps to detailed understanding of the disease resistance mechanisms and a deeper understanding toward devising new strategies to developing disease resistant crops and protecting yield.”

“All of these secreted fungal proteins, including AvrSr35, have targets inside the plant cells that they bind to and somehow interact with,” Akhunov said. “This interaction is important for the fungus to grow and feed on the plant.”

According to Akhunov, once scientists know which target in the plant cells that the fungus is trying to change, they can implement new strategies to develop disease resistant plants in the future.

“For example, we can modify this target in wheat using biotechnology or CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing, so that this target is not

recognizable by the fungus,” he said.

Salcedo, a native of Colombia, has been with the project since the beginning. He will complete a doctoral degree from Kansas State University next year.

William Rutter, a former postdoctoral research associate in Akhunov’s lab who currently works at the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service Vegetable Laboratory in Charleston, South Carolina, was another lead author in the study. K-State researchers worked closely with scientists from the USDA’s Cereal Disease Lab in St. Paul, Minnesota and the Hard Winter Wheat Genetics Research Unit in Manhattan, Kansas.

Akhunov also credited a team of K-State and University of California-Davis scientists who have worked on the project, including experts in bioinformatics, protein chemistry, next generation sequencing, and confocal microscopy. The project began in 2011.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture, an agency of the USDA, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, one of the key partners of the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative, provided funding for this research.

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# CAB opts for USDA grading modernization

By Steve Suther

It's no big deal, literally, but grading rules that applied needless discounts to a tiny fraction of carcasses are no more for most beef. As of Monday, Dec. 18, all graded beef in the U.S. can be evaluated for the most youthful "A" maturity category based on dentition as well as traditional skeletal metrics when assigning quality grades.

After input from industry stakeholders citing research and economics over the past year, USDA announced the change to modernize grading standards in that way.

Quality grading assesses both marbling and maturity. "Nearly all of the large beef processing plants have

been using dentition for more than a decade to meet export requirements," says Clint Walenciak, director of packing for the Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) brand. "Roughly 95% of all fed cattle are graded to inform consumers on tenderness, juiciness and flavor, and this minor rule adjustment shouldn't affect the number graded."

Studies showed beef ruled "A" (under 30 months of age) by dentition but with advanced skeletal maturity (B and C) was just as palatable as beef that did not exhibit such skeletal traits. Under the previous rules, those few carcasses with conflicting traits for maturity were valued at the discounted rate common to older maturity beef.

The new standard allows carcasses under 30 months

as determined by dentition to be classified as "A" maturity as long as skeletal maturity has not advanced to the oldest categories of "D" or "E." Cattle found to be older than 30 months can still be graded using current standards for lean and skeletal maturity.

Branded beef companies that specify maturity may opt for the updated standard by request, and CAB had done so to maintain currency with the greater beef industry. That minor tweak in one of the brand's 10 carcass specifications should have little impact on supply and none on quality and consistency, Walenciak says.

"The consistent eating satisfaction associated with our brand is still defined by all of those specifications that trace back through our 40 years of history," he says.

## Getting ready for the future: K-State animal science students engage in research

With an eye toward their future in industry, ranching, academia or other pursuits, undergraduate students showed off their work at the Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry Undergraduate Research Symposium on Dec. 12.

The symposium, hosted at Weber Hall on the K-State campus, highlighted research conducted by undergraduate students during the fall 2017 semester. The students presented posters illustrating their work.

This year's symposium and the Undergraduate Research Awards distributed during the event were sponsored by the Dr. Mark and Kim Young Undergraduate Research Fund in Animal Sciences and Industry.

Five students were awarded \$1,000 scholarships based on their scientific abstract, poster and presentation of data. The scholarship winners were: Gage Nichols, Russell; Madison Smith, Hutchinson; Alexis Pedro, Richmond; and Katelyn Thom-

son, Riley. Carrie Cromer, Churchville, Virginia, was awarded the People's Choice award voted on by students, faculty, and stakeholders who attended the symposium.

Undergraduate research provides an opportunity to perform in-depth study, gain transferable skills, develop critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, define academic and professional interests, and form relationships with mentors, professors, and other students. The program gives

students the opportunity to work with ASI faculty and graduate student mentors on a project that is rewarding and helps them prepare for their next goals.

Research projects help students understand the value and constraints of data. Whether they go on to graduate school, return to the ranch, or venture into industry, students will use data to make decisions. An undergraduate research experience helps them understand how to value that data during de-

cision-making.

"Participating in research has provided me with a real-life experience to decide if I want to continue with research in the future, along with seeing the benefits we can make on the industry," said Dean Klahr, ASI junior from Holton.

Two groups of students participated in the forum, members of the class who did research as a team, including animal science and food sciences classes, and individual participants. Twelve of the

undergraduate research students will present their research at regional or national meetings.

A complete list of student participants, their projects and mentors is posted online at [http://www.asi.k-state.edu/news/17\\_undergraduate-search.htm](http://www.asi.k-state.edu/news/17_undergraduate-search.htm)

More information for students or potential sponsors is available by contacting Cassie Jones, the program's coordinator at 785-532-5289 or [jonesc@ksu.edu](mailto:jonesc@ksu.edu).

## Moving firewood long distances can spread pests, disease; Kansas Forest Service, USDA promote buying and burning locally

Whenever you purchase or harvest firewood,

it's a good idea to burn it within about 50 miles of

where you obtain it. This reduces the risk of spreading tree disease and insect pests.

Cut wood is predominantly used for outdoor cooking in the summer as well as in fireplaces and wood-burning stoves in the winter. For the most part, our parents and grandparents didn't give a second thought to driving a trailer or pickup a couple hundred miles, loading up on wood, and bringing it back home. But that thinking has changed in recent years.

"Any time you move firewood, you're increasing the risk of moving both known and unknown forest pests and diseases that could threaten the trees in

your community, as well as rural forests and even farm windbreaks," said Ryan Armbrust, a community forester with the Kansas Forest Service. "Insects and disease pathogens can hitch a ride on that firewood and move a lot farther a lot faster than they ever could through natural spread."

Armbrust cites the twig beetle as a textbook example. Twig beetles are known for spreading canker disease to black walnut trees. "The twig beetle is a very poor flyer — it'll maybe fly a quarter of a mile on a good day," said Armbrust. "But if you have a walnut log on the back of a trailer moving down the interstate at 70 miles an

hour? There's no limit to where it could go."

The technical term for this is human-vectored movement — when people unwittingly become taxi drivers for animals, insects, plants or disease pathogens. These drivers won't realize any income from their passengers, however, and the cost to their local environment could be staggering.

The most famous example of this is Dutch Elm disease. Totally alien to the United States at the turn of the last century, the disease arrived with European beetles that hitched a ride on a load of logs shipped to Ohio around 1930. The unstoppable, incurable disease spent the next several decades spreading throughout the New England area, before moving south and west. Millions of elm trees in community parks, urban areas and home landscapes were lost.

The ounce of prevention to this can be summed this way: "Buy it where you burn it."

Conversely, if you're traveling more than 50 miles to a campsite or a getaway cabin, wait until

you arrive to seek out a local source of wood.

"Try to keep it within 50 miles, is what we ask," Armbrust said. "But realize that there's the compounding factor of regulatory boundaries. Most often those will be state lines. It's 30 miles from Pittsburg, Kansas, to Joplin, Missouri, but there's a state line you cross, which means different state regulations."

The Kansas Department of Agriculture regulates commercial firewood sales on this side of the border. When purchasing packaged firewood, look for labeling.

"If it's prepackaged firewood there's usually going to be a USDA label or stamp, and potentially a Kansas Department of Agriculture label or stamp, as well. The labels will certify the origin of the wood, and that it's been heat treated to reduce the risk of any sort of insects or diseases."

Beyond that, Armbrust cautions that it's the little things that can sometimes make the biggest difference. "Say you're going to a cabin in the mountains for a week or two, you buy firewood when you get there. You're loading up to go back home and you think, 'I have a few pieces of wood left over, I'll take them back home for the fireplace.'"

"It's those few sticks of leftover wood tend to travel the farthest," he said.

For more information on wise firewood practices, visit [DontMoveFirewood.org](http://DontMoveFirewood.org).



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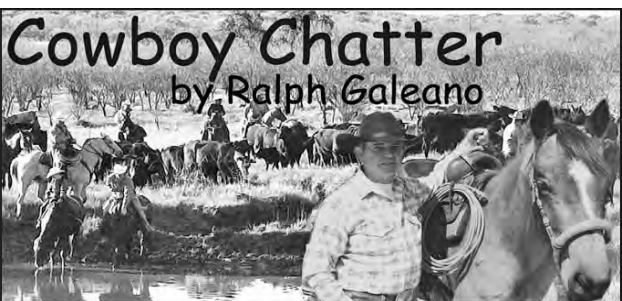
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## Cowboy Chatter

by Ralph Galeano

## The Cow Horse

Some horses have it and some don't. A good cow horse — I mean a really good cow horse—has an intense desire to interact with and control something that moves in front of or away from him. He wants to stop or turn that thing with such intensity that whatever it is he's after will be stopped in its tracks with such force that it will be completely dominated and intimidated by the horse's defensive moves.

The really good ones have that desire, the average ones get the job done but they don't thrive on the challenge of cutting, stopping or turning whatever you have pointed them to, whether it is cattle, a mechanical cow, flag or other devices used for training. To the good

ones, it's just a job they can do well and they use their talent to make the rider's job easier and the day shorter.

The really good ones not only get the job done but they do it with such grace, athleticism and talent that it is simply awesome to watch them work. If you happen to be the rider when one of these exceptional horses goes to work, you are treated to one of the greatest thrills being on horseback has to offer.

Some horses have a natural instinct to work cattle. With others, you have to develop that talent. To begin with, you have to have something to work with. The best way to get something to work with is to remember that history repeats itself.

Take advantage of history to get a good cow horse. If you, or someone else has an exceptional cow horse, consider breeding to the animal to try and replicate the talent. If you have a mare that has proven to be super-cow, find a stallion that has the same traits and breed your mare to that stud. The chances of the offspring developing into a good cow horse are greater since you know the sire and dam have the talent you are trying to duplicate.

It can happen that the firstborn just isn't interested in chasing cows. But their offspring can surprise you with their ability and desire. We had a filly born to a cowy mare and sired by a champion cutting horse. When the filly was three days old, we were moving cows and the baby was running along with us chasing the cows back and forth. I thought that she was showing what I wanted—the desire to work cattle. Well, when she grew up and we started riding her, she had absolutely no interest in cattle. In fact, if you pushed her too much, she

started bucking to show her dislike of punching cows. So, she didn't get much exercise when we had cattle to work, but she was a good horse otherwise, so we kept her around.

In her later years, we bred her to a friend's cutting horse. The stud was Boonsmal Cee Lena, a horse winning in the show pen and ridden by Greg Welch, an icon of the cutting world. She gave us a filly that was a cow-man's dream. The filly developed the talent, desire and intensity of a great cow horse. The young horse went on to win a national title in the Reined Cow Horse Hackamore Class when she was only four years old.

We bred the mare again to the same stud and were rewarded with a horse colt whose eyes lit up when you put him in front of a cow. He's turned into one of those horses you like to brag about. When you ride him, you are always looking for a chance to show off his abilities.

So our first breeding to cow horses with a track record produced a mare that didn't give a hoot about cows but her babies

turned into exceptional cow horses that you are absolutely proud to ride and also had the ability to win in the show pen.

There are a lot of factors that must come together to make a good cow horse. As I've mentioned, good breeding is the first prerequisite. You have to have a good foundation to start with and selective breeding can put the odds more in your favor. Brains are another important factor. The horse has to have above average intelligence. He must have the ability to open the door to training without a fight. A nervous or apprehensive horse is hard to train. If they don't have the right temperament, they will miss a lot of the basic techniques the trainer attempts to instill in them.

Good students pay attention and try to understand what is being asked of them. Tiger Woods and Joe Montana had a few things in common. They were gifted with super athleticism, a keen desire to master their trade and the intelligence to use logic when performing their specialties. Horses are the same way. Not every horse has

the perfect attributes to make an exceptional cow horse but once in a while a horse comes along that has what it takes to put a smile on your face and give you bragging rights at brandings, roundups or cutting shows.

You never know if one of your foals has what it takes to make one of the elite cow horses until you get it in training and start working it. If you're not comfortable with your own training abilities, take the youngster to a trainer that has a proven record for developing good cow horses. Give the trainer time to work the colt for five or six months so he has enough time to evaluate the horse's potential. Good basic training is the most important part of developing a young horse's career.

Not every horse can be expected to rise to the top of the list as a champion but the more important factors they possess, the higher the caliber of their worth as good cow horses in the show pen or on the ranch.

Contact Ralph Galeano at [horseman@horsemanspress.com](mailto:horseman@horsemanspress.com) or [www.horsemanspress.com](http://www.horsemanspress.com)

# Five steps farmers should take in response to tax bill

The national ag accounting and business advisory firm K-Coe Isom said the tax bill passed by the U.S. Congress presents opportunities for many farmers but only if they develop plans taking into consideration changes to the tax code.

"Most farm businesses will want to take a step back and be careful about how they file their taxes this year and what type of planning they should do early in the first quarter of 2018," said Doug Claussen, a principal and CPA with K-Coe Isom.

In consultation with their tax professional, farmers should consider the following year-end strategies:

1. Defer income to next year and pay deductible expenses this year. Depending on your individual circumstances, you could have lower tax rates in 2018.
2. Pay all assessed 2017 property tax and any likely amount of personal 2017 state income taxes. Note however that payments could be subject to limitations if you are subject to the alternative minimum tax.
3. Make year-end purchases of new and used equipment. Under the tax bill, 100% bonus depreci-

ation starts for property placed in service on or after September 28, 2017. This includes used equipment so there could be advantages to year-end purchases.

4. The ability to carry-back net operating losses for farming operations will be reduced from a five year carryback to two years after 2017, so this year will be your last opportunity to recoup some income taxes from five years ago.

5. Make your charitable donations in 2017. If you are going to make charitable donations in 2018, consider making some or all of them in 2017 in case your standard deduction is more beneficial next year.

In addition to year-end tax planning, K-Coe Isom recommends that businesses take a fresh look at their operations in 2018 and think about whether restructuring or adjusting operations will make sense in light of the changes in this bill.

"The changes in the tax code made by this bill are complex and could affect farmers in unexpected ways," added Claussen. "We encourage every ag business to take a fresh look at their operations early in 2018 and consider whether there are further adjustments they should

make in light of these changes to the tax code."

"We will be working closely with leading ag businesses to assess their individual tax situations and look at operational changes they may want to make given this significant rewrite of the tax code," said Brad Palen, a Principal and CPA with K-Coe Isom. "This bill doesn't make things simpler – in many respects it actually raises new questions for ag businesses. While some farmers may see reduced taxes from this bill, many more will need to carefully evaluate their individual circumstances to take advantage of these changes."

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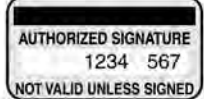
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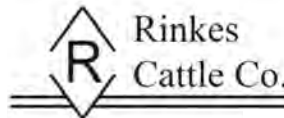
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**Cowboy Up**  
**by Ron Wilson**  
**Poet Lariat**

**Yale?**  
“They are coming in from where?” I asked incredulously into my cell phone.  
“I repeat,” the voice replied. “These are women from the Yale University basketball team, and we want to see if they could visit your ranch.”  
“Yale University?” I repeated. “As in, way back east? As in, Ivy League?”  
“Yes,” came the patient reply once again. Hmm, I thought to myself. “You do realize that we are in Manhattan, Kansas and not Manhattan, New York, right?” Was I being pranked? Who is this really?  
This is not the kind of call I get every day. More frequently, I get calls from people selling things – or from my kids (In both cases, they want money.) But we have had a number of groups, even from overseas, who have come to visit the ranch. We enjoy showing them the Flint Hills, preparing Kansas beef for them, and sharing some cowboy poetry.  
But this was a first. We’ve never been contacted by an Ivy League school before. Back in my college days, I managed to graduate from K-State in agriculture. I wasn’t exactly recruited by Yale. Come to think of it, where is Yale exactly? It’s in one of them little states up there toward the right-hand corner of the map, right?  
This was not a prank. It turns out that there was a logical explanation. The Yale women’s basketball team was playing the University of Kansas women’s team at Lawrence in mid-November. One member of the Yale team is from a farm in south central Kansas. Her family wanted her teammates to be exposed to Midwestern farm and ranch life while in the region. There wasn’t time to travel to her home in Kansas so they looked for a place closer to Lawrence. With a little help from Google, they stumbled upon us. Once got over my disbelief, we agreed to host them for a visit.  
We looked forward to welcoming these women from Yale along with their coaches and families. It caused me to do some homework, because I don’t know much about the Ivy League schools. I’m more comfortable in a feedyard than Harvard Yard.  
I learned that Yale is located in New Haven, Connecticut. It is one of eight schools in the Ivy League, a bastion of high-class eastern culture. I also learned that Yale was founded in 1701. Think about that one for a minute. The American Revolution wasn’t until 75 years after that. Yale was founded 86 years before the U.S. even adopted the Constitution! Kansas State University is a relative newbie, being founded much later in 1863 (No, kids, that was not my graduating class).  
We planned a good beef dinner for our guests. Then we found that there were going to be some vegetarians among the group. That’s okay, we have veggies on the menu too. We’re an equal opportunity kind of place.  
Then I got the disappointing word. For logistics or whatever reason, they could not come west to be with us after all. We missed our chance to host the Yalies.  
Maybe it’s all for the best. The only culture that I know about is agriculture.

**A League of Their Own**  
**By Ron Wilson, Poet Lariat**  
In the ranks of universities are the big Power 5 schools, Organized in several conferences with their athletic rules. Then in the far northeastern region of our wonderful nation Are the Ivy League schools which feature private education. One is Yale University, a name which everyone would know, Which was founded in Connecticut more than three centuries ago. In the prestigious Ivy League, Yale is an honored college, Where ancient ivy grows and urban students soak up knowledge. By contrast, I grew up out here on the Kansas plains, Where growing food is the pursuit which most pertains. It was surely a time of less academic diversity, Where higher ed meant studying at the land grant university. Our league is the Big 12 in the heart of the Midwest, Where research to feed the world seems to be the highest quest. So I was excited to host some visitors from Yale, And to share some cowboy culture, out here near the Chisholm Trail. But in the end, they couldn’t make it, to add to the intrigue, Which is maybe just as well: You might say, I’d have been out of my league. Happy Trails! www.ronscowboypoetry.com © Copyright 2017

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# Calving school planned for January 18 in Alta Vista

In anticipation of the 2018 calving season, local K-State Research and Extension offices are planning to host the popular K-State Calving School on Thursday, January 18 in Alta Vista.

The program topics include outlining the normal processes of calving, increasing the number of live calves born if they need assistance, and discussing how to successfully maintain a healthy calf.

The school will also share tips on abortion-causing agents, when and how to intervene to assist the cow and how those

times may be different when dealing with young heifers, and scours control. In addition, a demonstration will show the proper use of calving equipment on a life-size scale.

Speakers for the event include K-State Extension Beef veterinarian A.J. Tarpoff and Mill Creek Veterinary Services veterinarian Amy Bandel.

Pre-registration is requested by Friday, January 12th to your local Extension office. The \$5 registration fee, which includes the brisket meal and all materials, may be paid at the door on Thurs-

day, January 18. The Calving School is to be held at the Alta Vista Baptist Church (402 Main St, Alta Vista). Doors open at 5:45 p.m., supper is served at 6:00 p.m., and the program begins at 6:20.

To register, please contact one of the following Extension offices and agents hosting the event: Flint Hills Extension District (Lori Bammerlin, 620-767-5136), Geary County Extension (Chuck Otte, 785-238-4161), Wabaunsee County Extension (Karaline Mayer, 785-765-3821).

# Prescribed Burn Workshop to be hosted in north central Kansas

K-State Research and Extension is excited to announce that the Post Rock Extension District will host a prescribed burn workshop in 2018. Thursday, January 11th, Extension agents Barrett Simon (livestock) and Sandra Wick (agronomy) will team up with state specialists to cover a wide array of topics regarding prescribed

fire management. Areas to be covered are: Burning Management, Weather Impacts, Fire Types and Techniques, Planning and Conducting, and of course, a good amount of time to be spent in the Question and Answer seminar. They look forward not only sharing the basics of prescribed burning, but also look to spur conversation and thought-provoking experience from producers.

Join them at the First Christian Church in Downs on January 11th to take part in this educational event. They are scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. and

conclude around 2:30 p.m. A notebook on prescribed fire, refreshments and a meal will all be provided. Cost is \$15 to attend. Thank you to Osborne County Pheasants Forever for helping make this event possible. RSVP's are requested by Friday, January 5th and can be done online at [www.postrock.ksu.edu](http://www.postrock.ksu.edu) or by contacting any Post Rock District office in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne, or Smith Center. Further questions regarding the burn workshop can be directed to Sandra Wick ([swick@ksu.edu](mailto:swick@ksu.edu)) or Barrett Simon ([barrett8@ksu.edu](mailto:barrett8@ksu.edu)).

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**EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR 12/28/2017**

17 HOLSTEIN STRS	500-700#	WV	53 BLK STRS/HFRS	550-750#	WV	HR
13 HOLSTEIN STRS	550-600#	WV	80 BLK STRS/HFRS	550-750#	WV	HR
15 HOLSTEIN STRS	550-600#	WV	6 BLK HFRS	600-650#	WV	HR
4 HOLSTEIN STRS	600-700#	WV	30 BLK STRS/HFRS	600-700#	WV	HR
25 HOLSTEIN STRS	650-700#	WV	30 BLK STRS/HFRS	600-800#	WV	HR
15 HOLSTEIN STRS	700-800#	WV	120 BLK STRS/HFRS	600-850#	WV	HR
15 MIX STRS/HFRS	450-550#	WV	82 BLK STRS	700-800#	WV	HR
31 BLK STRS	500-650#	WV	60 BLK STRS	850-875#	WV	
11 MIX STRS/HFRS	500-700#	WV	25 BLK STRS	850-875#	WV	
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# Frontier Farm Credit to distribute \$11.5 million cash-back dividend for 2017

Frontier Farm Credit, a financial cooperative owned by farmers and ranchers, approved a 2017 cash-back dividend of \$11.5 million for its eligible customer-owners.

Frontier Farm Credit has returned more than \$80.7 million to producers in eastern Kansas since 2004.

“Cash-back dividends demonstrate the value of our unique cooperative business model,” said Mark Jensen, president and CEO of Frontier Farm Credit. “As agriculture works through a tough economic cycle, our customer-owners are sharing in the cooperative’s success, and can invest the dividends in their operations and local communities.”

The Board of Directors considers a number of business and economic factors in determining the amount of each year’s cash-back dividends, including the cooperative’s financial strength. The earnings retained by Frontier Farm Credit are used to build the cooperative’s financial capacity to continue serving agriculture.

The 2017 dividend checks will be mailed to eligible customer-owners in March 2018. The Board of Directors has approved a cash-back dividend for 2018, with the amount of the distribution to be decided in December 2018.

# Improvements to crop insurance continue in 2018

Changes to the federal crop insurance program initiated in 2017 will continue into 2018. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) continues to improve the program, increasing its availability and effectiveness as a risk management tool while safeguarding the integrity of the program.

In 2017, RMA had a number of accomplishments in the areas of program integrity, program efficiency, expanded options, and customer service. These accomplishments include the way RMA develops new pilot programs, and makes policy changes based on stakeholder feedback.

“RMA has a responsibility to producers to provide flexible and available crop insurance,” said Robert Johansson, USDA’s acting deputy under secretary for Farm Production and Conservation. “We also have a responsibility to the American taxpayer to ensure the federal crop insurance program is actuarially sound and uses their tax dollars in an efficient and effective manner. 2017 was a great year for RMA in supporting these efforts.”

Some highlights from 2017 are:  
Customer Service – RMA worked with Approved Insurance Providers, agents, and stakeholder groups to respond to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, as well as a number of severe wildfires and other disasters throughout the year. For example, emergency procedures were implemented to streamline the claims pro-

cess, allow for flexibility, and respond to specific commodity and regional issues. More than \$3.4 billion in indemnities have been paid thus far for 2017.

Expanded Options – RMA provided increased flexibility to producers to customize their insurance coverage to best meet their risk management needs. This flexibility is especially important for producers having both irrigated and non-irrigated farming practices within the same operation.

Program Efficiency – RMA revised the conservation compliance provisions of the crop insurance policies to remove the certification deadline of June 1. This revision eliminates an unnecessary burden and provides greater flexibility to producers, agents, and Approved Insurance Providers to show compliance with the conservation requirements established in the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Program Integrity – RMA has worked diligently to reduce the improper payment rate for the Federal crop insurance program. RMA has reduced the improper payment rate from 5.58 percent in 2014 to 1.96 percent in 2017, a decline of 65 percent. As a result, RMA received the Office of Management and Budget’s approval to remove the program from the improper payment “high-priority” program list.

Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov).

# Women in Agriculture series to be held in Concordia

The Women in Agriculture educational series is open to all ladies involved in agriculture in any way. The program is designed to provide information and training on a wide variety of farm management topics that are catered directly to farm women. Participants are provided a comfortable environment where they feel free to ask questions and learn critical skills. Women with any level of experience in farm management or with any degree of farm involvement are invited to attend; there is something for everyone to learn. You must sign up to attend the entire series. Sessions will be held on Thursdays, beginning February 1st, from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. at CTI Meeting Room, 1441 Union Rd, Concordia. Topics include:

Session 1- February 1st: True Colors (personality profile), Telling Your Ag Story  
Session 2- February 8th: Ag. Marketing and Risk Management, Cost of Production, Global Ag Economy  
Session 3- February 15th: Horticulture Production, Farm Tech/Dicamba Control, FSA and NRCS Programs  
Session 4- February 22nd: Quick Books for Farm Record-keeping, Working with your Lender  
Session 5- March 1st: Livestock Management, River Valley Leases, Developing Equitable Farm Leases  
Session 6- March 8th: Family Communication, Farm Succession and Estate Planning  
The last session will also be open for family members of participants to attend at no additional

cost. Registration for the series will continue until a maximum of 25 participants is reached. You must register to reserve your seat. Please contact any River Valley Extension District office for more information or to register. The Concordia office can be reached at 785-243-8185.

Sponsors to make this educational series possible include K-State Research and Extension, Tallgrass Veterinary Hospital, Clay Hills Ag, Wilbur-Ellis, Citizens National Bank, AgMark, Kansas Crossroads RC&D, Nelson Seed Sales, FMSI, Cloud County Farm Bureau, Cloud County Co-op, Concordia Terminal LLC. A special thank you goes out to the organizing committee of Tamie Buckley, Tatum Couture, Carrie Fraser, Stacey Forsee, Katelyn Brockus, and Kelsey Hatesohl.

# K-State Swine Profitability Conference set for February 6

Kansas State University’s 2018 Swine Profitability Conference is planned for Tuesday, Feb. 6. This year’s event will be hosted at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan.

Each year the Swine Profitability Conference focuses on the business side of pork production. “Attendees will have a chance to learn ideas for improving their businesses from leading producers, veterinarians and economists,” said Mike Tokach, K-State Department of An-

imal Sciences & Industry distinguished professor and swine Extension specialist. “This conference is designed to help producers stay competitive in today’s swine industry.”

The conference will feature speakers from an array of swine-related businesses, including:

- Dr. Doug MacDougald, Southwest Vets, will discuss managing pig health with minimal antibiotic use in commercial pig production.

- Ben Woolley and Ben

Keeble, Sunterra Farms, will address opportunities and pitfalls of producing antibiotic-free pork.

- Terry Nelson, Husky Hogs, will share his story of rebuilding after a catastrophe.

- Dr. Gary Louis, Seaboard Foods, will focus on future trends impacting the swine industry.

- Dr. Lisa Tokach, Abilene Animal Health, will provide life lessons learned while practicing with Dr. Steve Henry, who recently retired after more than 40 years in swine practice.

The conference will take place at the Stanley Stout Center, 2200 Denison Avenue. The day begins with coffee and donuts at 9:15 a.m. and the program starting at 9:30 a.m. Lunch is included in the conference, which will end at 3 p.m.

Pre-registration is \$25 per participant and due by Jan. 30. Attendees can register at the door for \$50 per participant. More information, including online registration, is available at [KSUSwine.org](http://KSUSwine.org) or contact Lois Schreiner at 785-532-1267 or [lschrein@ksu.edu](mailto:lschrein@ksu.edu).

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## Grain for Good Program supports growers and local community organizations

The Bayer Cereal Experts want to help growers give back to their community. Starting in January, cereal growers can enter to win the Grain for Good™ Sweepstakes, sponsored by Bayer Cereal Experts. Growers can win \$5,000 to donate to a local nonprofit organization of their choice.

Starting in January, ce-real growers can enter to win the Grain for Good™

## NSP announces annual yield contest winners, Gamble inducted into Sorghum Yield Contest Hall of Fame

National Sorghum Producers is proud to announce the winners of the 2017 NSP Yield Contest. Farmers from 24 states entered to win this year's contest. Producer yields are highlighted in ten differ-ent categories with this year's top yield at 228.07 bushels per acre.

“Congratulations to the 2017 NSP Yield Contest Winners. I look forward to meeting each one at the upcoming Commodity Classic,” said NSP board of directors Chairman Don Bloss. “The yield contest highlights the continued efforts of sorghum grow-ers and their dedication to yield and production enhancements across the nation.”

The 2017 first place win-ners of the NSP Yield Con-Test were Winter Johnston of Pennsylvania in the Dry-land Conventional-Till cat-egory with a yield of 228.07 bushels per acre; Steph-

Sweepstakes, sponsored by Bayer Cereal Experts. Growers can win \$5,000 to donate to a local non-profit organization of their choice.

“We are very excited about the launch of this program for our cere-al growers,” said Kayla Brugman, western region campaign manager. “Many growers are active in their local communities, and we think it is important to

help support these com-munity organizations. The Cereal Experts are always eager to help growers, with any cereal crop con-cerns and now by giving back.”

Growers can enter to win January 1, 2018 through March 31, 2018 by either mail or at www. grainforgood.com. There is no purchase necessary and the entry is limited to one per person. Winners

will be selected randomly by a third party and will be announced in April 2018.

Sweepstakes details:  
· Entrants must grow 250+ acres of cereal crops, including spring wheat, winter wheat, durum,

barely and/or sorghum

· Eligible states: Colo-rado, Idaho, Kansas, Min-nesota, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, Oregon, South Dakota and Wash-ington

There will be ten win-ners who will each receive

\$5,000 to donate to a local nonprofit of their choice.

The Bayer Cereal Ex-perts are excited to see all the ways the donations will help communities. To help out your local com-munity, visit www.grainfor-good.com.

## High-tech camera helps protect sows and piglets

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists and collaborators are using 3-D imaging to pro-tect newborn piglets by monitoring adult female pigs' behavior.

Nearly 15 percent of pre-weaned piglets die each year. According to U.S. pork producers, many are crushed by sows. Mod-ifying the sows' stalls or crates may help reduce piglet deaths. The first step, according to ARS ag-ricultural engineer Tami Brown-Brandl, is to evalu-ate sow and piglet behav-ior in their stalls. Animal behavior contains vital clues about health and well-being that producers can use to better manage their livestock.

Brown-Brandl and a team of scientists from

China, Iowa Select Farms and Iowa State Universi-ty developed a system to automatically process and analyze 3-D images of sows. A camera mounted over birthing crates cap-tures images to determine a sow's behavior and pos-ture: if she's eating, drink-ing, standing, sitting, or lying down.

The system, which ac-curately classifies behav-ior, could potentially help prevent sows from crush-ing their piglets, accord-ing to Brown-Brandl, who works at ARS's Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska.

This technology al-lows swine producers to better monitor their pigs and determine whether management adjustments,

such as changes in crate size or pen arrangement, are needed, Brown-Brandl adds. The data could also help producers locate sick animals more quickly.

Read more about this study in the December issue of *AgResearch*.

## K-State ASI Junior Sheep, Beef Days scheduled in March

The Kansas State University Youth Livestock Pro-gram, K-State Research & Extension, and the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry will be hosting two junior producer days in the spring of 2018. Junior Sheep Producer Day will be Saturday, March 17 and Junior Beef Producer Day will be Saturday, March 24.

Both events will be hosted in Weber Arena on the Kansas State University campus in Manhattan. The ju-nior day programs are a one-day educational opportunity for youth, parents, project leaders, agents, and other adults to increase their knowledge about youth livestock production and management. All ages are welcome, but all attendees must register. These are biennial events, with sheep and beef days hosted in even years and the swine and meat goat in odd years.

The cost for each junior day is \$15 per person for those who register by the early deadline, and \$20 per person for those who register after the deadline. Please note, any registrations received after the early deadline cannot be guaranteed a t-shirt.


There are two methods available to register: 1) down-load the flyer at http://bit.ly/ksujrproducerdays, complete the bottom portion of the flyer and mail it with payment; or 2) complete the online registration at http://bit.ly/ksua-siregister. Early registration for Junior Sheep Producer Day is Feb. 23 and March 2 for Junior Beef Producer Day.

More information is available at www.youthlivestock.ksu.edu. For questions, please contact Lexie Hayes, youth livestock coordinator, at adhaves@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264.




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# Angus Foundation raises \$43,500 in Las Vegas

The Angus Foundation beneficiaries hit the jackpot in Las Vegas. Supporters raised more than \$43,000 (gross) of unrestricted funds for Angus youth, education and research at the 2017 National Finals Angus Sale on Dec. 10. Hosted by Decades of Excellence Group, Linz Heritage Angus and American Angus Hall of Fame, the sale featured five unique packages at auction.

“Generosity abounds this holiday season,” said Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president. “Our many thanks to the package donors, buyers and contending bidders for helping make this fundraising activity successful. We are thrilled to be able to put these funds to good

use in 2018 toward Angus youth scholarships, leadership training, producer education, beef cattle research projects and other programs.”

2018 Angus Foundation Golf Tournament Event Title Sponsorship—Donated by the Angus Foundation, the event title sponsorship includes farm/ranch/company logo display on banners at the event, in promotional brochures, on the Angus Foundation website, and in news releases and other media distributed about the golf tournament, as well as a complementary, full-page, four-color ad in the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) event program. Also included is four complementary rounds of golf at the tour-

namement at the Pleasant View Golf Course in Middleton, Wisconsin. Merck Animal Health of De Soto, Kansas, purchased this package for \$4,500.

Lathrop Livestock Transportation—In this package, Randy and Holly Lathrop of Lathrop Livestock Transportation in Dundee, Illinois, will provide hauling services for three lots of Angus cattle from a sale(s) to the buyer's farm or other destination in the U.S. agreed upon by the buyer and Lathrop. Farris Wilks and Dan Wilks, Wilks Ranch, Cisco, Texas, purchased the package for \$10,000.

Relax at the Biltmore—This package includes a four-day stay at The Inn on Biltmore Estate® near Asheville, North Carolina.

Package is valid June-September, 2018, and includes: two-night stay, daily chef's breakfast buffet, welcome basket of Biltmore wine, fruit and cheese in your room upon arrival, and estate daytime admission for the length of the stay. Initially, Lance Fenton of Lazy F Ranch, Bullard, Texas, purchased the package for \$6,000, Fenton then donated it back to the Foundation to be resold to raise more unrestricted funds for the Angus Foundation. The second buyer was Bill Sever of Bruiser & Blade Farms, Frankfort, Ohio, who purchased the package for \$2,500.

CMA Awards—This package was donated by the Angus Foundation and includes bronze-level tickets for the Country Music

Awards in November 2018; platinum package passes to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, including a tour of Studio B; round-trip airfare for two; three nights of hotel accommodations; and concierge service to assist in planning the getaway. Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Angus Foundation supporter Jerry Barnes of Diamond B Ranch purchased the package for \$9,500.

2018 Kentucky Derby Experience for Two—This Angus Foundation-donated package includes two tickets in luxury suite seating at the Kentucky Derby on Millionaire's Row on Saturday, May 5, 2018, including all food and alcohol; two tickets in premium reserved grandstand seating at the Kentucky

Oaks Race on Friday, May 4, 2018; and two tickets to the Taste of Derby on May 3, 2018, which includes a live chef cooking show-down and live entertainment. Lodging for three nights at the Galt House Hotel can be purchased for an additional \$6,000 above the winning bid amount paid to the Angus Foundation. Airfare not included. Lance Fenton of Lazy F Ranch, Bullard, Texas, purchased the package for \$11,000.

The next opportunity to support the Angus Foundation will be at the National Western Stock Show Angus Bull Sale on Jan. 10, 2018, in Denver. Contact Jenkins, or visit [angusfoundation.org](http://angusfoundation.org) for more information.

# NASS research, survey, and technology advancements in 2017 serve U.S. agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has advanced a number of programs in 2017 to serve U.S. agriculture with customer- and data-driven improvements. Among these enhancements are changes to the every-five-year census of agriculture, which officially launched at the end of November and is due in February 2018. For this census, NASS introduced an improved online questionnaire and included new questions to document changes and emerging trends in agriculture.

“America's 3 million farmers, ranchers and others involved in agriculture should receive their 2017 Census of Agricul-

ture questionnaire in the coming days, if they haven't already,” said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. “We ask that everyone respond promptly to represent themselves, their communities, and their industries, and to do so online, if possible. NASS heard customer feedback and worked hard to produce a user-friendly online questionnaire that saves time for producers and improves data quality.”

Those responding to the census of agriculture can now use mobile and desktop devices and readily access frequently asked questions. The form automatically calculates totals and skips sections that do not pertain to an opera-

tion. New census questions are a result of public requests. These include a new question about military veteran status, expanded questions about food marketing practices, and questions about on-farm decision-making to help better capture the roles and contributions of beginning farmers, women farmers, and others involved in running a farm enterprise. Responses are due in February 2018.

The census of agriculture is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches, and those who operate them. Conducted since 1840, it is the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every state and country in the country. Farmers

and ranchers, trade associations, government, extension educators, researchers, and many others rely on census of agriculture data when making decisions that shape American agriculture – from creating and funding farm programs to boosting services for communities and the industry. The census of agriculture is a producer's voice, future, and opportunity.

## Geospatial Data for Rapid Disaster Response

Another 2017 accomplishment for NASS in service to U.S. agriculture was rapid disaster response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. For the first time, NASS used a satellite with cloud penetrating capability from the

European Space Agency to provide geospatial assessments of impacted areas. This allowed the capture of real-time storm inundation over crop and pasture lands and the subsequent flood assessments. As a result, NASS was able to derive and provide a number of geospatial decision support products to help with response. These products included crop and pasture land inundated areas and percentages of impacted crops, estimates of precipitation totals, Cropland Data Layer (CDL) maps, and wind swaths or surface winds overlaid onto crop areas identified from the CDL product. Access to and use of the satellite technology will allow NASS to provide rapid response to help with future extreme weather events.

## New and Streamlined Honey Bee Information

NASS published new data on the economics of beekeeping in its annual Honey report in March 2017. New data included prices for queens, expenditures, and estimates on pollination and other incomes. Additionally, NASS has combined the annual Colony Loss and the Bee and Honey Small Operations Production, Disposition, and Income surveys into one survey to streamline data collection and reduce the burden on respondents. The name of the new survey is Bee and Honey Production and Loss Inquiry. Other honey bee surveys – the Bee and Honey Production, Disposition, and Income as well as the quarterly Colony Loss – remain the same.

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## JC LIVESTOCK SALES INC.

**Wednesday Sale, Hogs NOON • Cattle 12:30 PM**

**Light run due to Christmas Holiday!**

**UPCOMING SALE SCHEDULE**

We will NOT have a sale Wednesday, Dec. 27 due to Christmas Week!

Back to Regular Schedule: Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018!

*Merry Christmas to All  
and Wishing Everyone a  
Happy New Year in 2018!  
The Langvardts  
and JC Livestock Sales*



### CONSIGNMENTS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3:

110 Ang X Strs/Hftrs..... 500-700 lbs. ....Weaned, Vacc.  
70 Ang X Strs..... 775-850 lbs.  
120 mix Strs..... 850-900 lbs.  
60 Blk X Strs..... 900-925 lbs.

### CONSIGNMENTS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10:

- 438 Angus & bwf bred cows, 2-9 years
- 87 rwf bred cows, 5 & Up
- 24 Reg. Angus Bulls (Harms Genetics)
- Complete Dispersal of the Mashed O Ranch
- All females were raised on the Ranch
- Bulls will be semen & trich tested
- Bulls turned in May 9th for 60 days

*If you need assistance in marketing your cattle please call & we will be happy to discuss it with you.*

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## CLAY CENTER LIVESTOCK SALES INC.

**Cattle sales Tuesday, 11:00 AM.**

**Light run due to Christmas Holiday!**

**NO Sale Tuesday, December 26!  
Merry Christmas!**

Back to Regular Schedule, Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018

**Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Years  
from the**

**Langvardts and  
Clay Center Livestock Sales**



### CONSIGNMENTS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 2:

45 Ang 1st calf spring bred heifers  
- Bred to Low BWF Lyons Angus Bulls  
- Heifers are very gentle and weigh over 1,100 lbs.

140 Ang X Strs/Hftrs..... 750-900 lbs.

61 Ang X Strs/Hftrs..... 600-750 lbs.

60 Ang X RA Strs/Hftrs..... 650-800 lbs.

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**BULLS: \$72-76.00 light test**

HEIFERS		6 mix	730@147.00
4 mix	508@155.00	52 mix	821@147.00
7 mix	581@142.50	185 mix	831@145.50
11 mix	626@140.00	85 mix	821@145.00
17 blk	695@137.50	60 mix	827@145.00
11 blk	664@131.00	4 mix	850@143.00
3 blk	648@129.50	95 mix	891@140.00
4 blk	701@131.00	12 mix	907@145.00
STEERS		57 mix	953@144.25
4 bkbwf	596@154.00	3 blk	908@136.00
10 mix	691@146.00	50 mix	1031@145.25
4 mix	690@128.00		

**NO SALE DECEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>  
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!**

### EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR JAN 3<sup>rd</sup>

• 14 blk & red Angus bred hftrs, AI bred to Angus LBW bulls to calve mid to late Jan.

### ANNIVERSARY SALE JANUARY 17<sup>th</sup>

• 36 blk & red strs & hftrs, longtime weaned, 600-800 lbs  
• 62 blk & red strs, 750-825 lbs  
• 160 mostly red Angus strs, 850-925 lbs



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## Yard & Garden Tips

### By Gregg Eyestone

## An Ultra Violet Garden

The color purple will be making a big splash in 2018. Ultra Violet is the actual purple shade announced as the color of the year. This color will be appearing on upholstery, lipstick, shoes, watches, and about everything

imaginable. Anything that can be colored purple can be adorned, including the garden.

Items that come in the color purple are on my wish list every year. Garden tools for example. These are a little hard to

find. A can of spray paint comes in nicely.

There are many plants that either appear purple or have that color of flower. New varieties of plants appear each year to go with dependable standbys. A spring shopping list

may need to be developed along with the Christmas one.

Lilac is viable purple shrub for the landscape. A new release from Bailey Nurseries is named Virtual Violet. There is a range of heights and widths for lilac shrubs. My favorite that fits most landscapes is the Miss Kim. Another is the dwarf Korean. Both are five feet tall and round.

A worthy vine that can have a purple flower is the Clematis. Many of these grow on a trellis that is around six feet tall. They bloom best in full sun with evenly moist soil. There are many choices of colors.

My purple one is Jackmanii.

Many perennials have a violet shade for their bloom: Asters, Gayfeather, Meadow Sage, and Butterfly bushes, to mention a few. Purchasing these is bloom with allow you to get the best flower hue for your situations. The new Sky's Edge Scutellaria likes a dry sun spot in the garden.

There are several vegetables that have purple varieties. One with many varieties is eggplant. Beans, cauliflower, asparagus, carrot and peppers have purple ones. The blue potato which actually is purple is available.

Annual flowers are popular for the garden and can be changed each year along with the chosen color. Verbena, Petunia, Heliotrope, Angelonia and Salvia all have the desired color for 2018.

You can find out more information on gardening by going to Riley County's K-State Research and Extension website at [www.riley.ksu.edu/](http://www.riley.ksu.edu/) And you may contact Gregg Eyestone at the Riley County office of K-State Research and Extension by calling 537-6350 or stopping by 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan or e-mail: [geyeston@ksu.edu](mailto:geyeston@ksu.edu)

# USGC rolls out 2017/2018 Corn Harvest Quality Report

An excellent growing season resulted in record yields and good quality for the 2017 corn crop, according to the U.S. Grain Council's (USGC's) latest corn quality report, released this week globally.

The 2017/2018 Corn Harvest Quality Report is the seventh in the Council's annual corn quality survey. The report revealed that the majority of 2017 corn crop conditions were rated as good or excellent during the growing season, leading to strong plant health, good kernel size and a projected record yield of 370.3 million metric tons (14.58 billion bushels), the second-largest crop on re-

cord.

"The Council's mission is one of developing markets, enabling trade and improving lives, and as part of this mission, the Council is pleased to offer this report as a service to our partners," wrote Deb Keller, USGC chairman and farmer from Iowa, in the report's greetings. "We hope this report continues in its role of providing accurate and timely insight into the quality of the 2017 U.S. corn crop."

The report showed 95.1 percent of U.S. corn samples tested rated at U.S. grade No. 2 or better, largely the result of the extended planting period;

a warm, wet vegetative period; a cool, dry and prolonged grain-filling period; and a warm, wet and slow harvest.

Average test weight of 58.4 pounds per bushel (75.2 kilograms per hectoliter) was higher than the five-year average and indicates good kernel filling and maturation. Average 100-kernel weight of 36.07 grams was higher than the previous two years, signifying larger kernels than in previous years.

About 98 percent of samples tested below the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) action level for aflatoxins (20 parts per billion). One-hundred percent of

the samples tested below the FDA advisory level for vomitoxins for chicken, cattle, hogs and other animals.

The corn harvest quality report provides timely information about the quality of the current U.S. corn crop at harvest as it enters international merchandising channels. This information will be supplemented by a second report, the 2017/2018 Corn Export Cargo Quality Report, scheduled for early 2018, which will measure corn quality at export terminals at the point of loading for international shipment.

"The Council's series of quality reports uses

consistent and transparent methodology to allow for comparison with past years' quality," Keller wrote. "This enables buyers to make well-informed decisions and have confidence in the capacity and reliability of the U.S. corn market."

As the report is released, the Council is also beginning its annual roll-out events to present its findings to buyers around the world, starting in Southeast Asia. These presentations, meetings and conferences will continue through the first quarter of 2018 and aim to arm participants with clear expectations regarding the quality of

corn for this marketing year.

Recently-completed corn quality events in Colombia covered six cities and included participants representing major commercial feed producers, the country's largest broiler producer, the largest layer producers and traders, government representatives, port authorities and private customs agencies. The crop quality information was accompanied by presentations on U.S. corn grading and handling, which helped provide a better understanding of how U.S. corn is moved and controlled through export channels.

# Red Angus teams up With Kansas State University to publish valuable data from cow-calf veterinarians

Results from a detailed survey of cow-calf veterinarians compiling their recommendations on vaccine protocols, health management, and production practice recommendations were recently published in The Professional Animal Scientist, the publication for the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists. The study, "A Survey of Recommended Practices Made by Veterinary Practitioners to Cow-Calf Operations in the United States and Canada," was initiated by the Red Angus Association of America in partnership with the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station, and provides valuable insight into how these practices can be best applied in individual cowherds.

Gary Fike, RAAA Director of Commercial Marketing and lead author on the publication, stated, "Our purpose in conducting this survey was to learn what practicing veterinarians nationwide are

recommending to their clients. We know that the No. 1 cause of death loss in feedlots is respiratory disease. Despite the progress that has been made in the animal health arena at the farm and ranch level, we still have a long journey ahead keeping calves healthy further down the supply chain. There are a number of factors that play into this issue, including weaning protocols, vaccine use and timing, and proper intervals for administering the preventative vaccines. We addressed the gamut of those issues through this survey."

Vaccination and health-related management are vitally important to maintaining a thriving herd and in getting calves ready to leave home, regardless of breed, age or location. Unsurprisingly, 99 percent of surveyed veterinarians recommended vaccinations for IBR at the first processing before weaning, 98 percent recommended BRSV and 96 percent recommended

BVD Types 1 and 2. Those recommendations didn't vary much when transitioning to post-weaning processing, as BVD Type 2 and IBR were recommended by 97 percent and BVD Type 1 and BRSV were both recommended by 96 percent of surveyed veterinarians. Additionally, 99 percent of veterinarians recommended annual booster vaccinations for the cow herd, particularly for IBR, BVD Type 1 and 2, leptospirosis, PI-3 and BRSV.

It's important to note that the large majority of veterinarians recommended using modified live virus vaccines for processing calves, both pre-weaning (90 percent) and post-weaning (93 percent).

Results from the survey indicated that in regards to production practices, a majority of veterinarians (83 percent) recommended that all family members and employees involved with the operation be trained in animal handling and 75 percent

of veterinarians recommended administering a growth implant at branding.

When it comes to managing and marketing calves, 60 percent of veterinarians recommended backgrounding/feeding calves before marketing and 54 percent recommended that calves be bunk broke prior to marketing or shipping. The two most common weaning methods recommended by surveyed veterinarians were a specific number of days before selling (64 percent) and fence-line weaning (57 percent).

"The value of this research is in its application in individual cow herds," said Fike. "There is a plethora of research regarding recommendations from feedyard veterinarians, but much less at the cow-calf level, which is where a calf's lifetime of good health must begin. We encourage producers to read the full report and then discuss the key findings with their veterinarians.

# KUHN wins ASABE award

KUHN was recently awarded an AE50 award from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE).

The AE50 award was presented to KUHN for its MM 1100 Merge Maxx® hay merger, deeming it one of the year's most innovative designs in engineering products for the food and agriculture industries. The MM 1100 will be featured in the January/February 2018 special issue of ASABE's magazine, Resource: Engineering & Technology for a Sustainable World.

With 36' of pickup in a single pass, the KUHN MM 1100 hay merger is unique in the industry and unmatched in its simplicity of operation, durability and merging capabilities. Unique features like the merger's hydraulic drive system, large-capacity oil reservoir, floating wind-guard, crop netting and ISOBUS compatibility provide maximum efficiency for the operator in and out of the cab.

"The AE 50 award is a great achievement and reminder to continue to design, engineer, and produce



high-quality products," said Brandon Pfeuti, Kuhn North America Product Specialist, "Customers and operators can become more efficient and productive in their operations, as well as profit from a quick return on their investment with KUHN equipment."

Companies from around the world submit entries to the annual AE50 competition and up to 50 of the best products are chosen by a panel of international engineering experts. The judges select innovative products that will best advance engineering for the food and agriculture industries.

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**Horse/Tack Auction- Every 1st Saturday**

**Tues., Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>- NO SALES**

**Tues., Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>- NO SALES**

**Sat., Jan 6<sup>th</sup>- Horse & Tack Sale**

**Tues., Jan 9<sup>th</sup>- Calf/Yearling Special**

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# Angus Foundation scholarship applications are now available online

Today's college costs are astronomical—it's a known fact. The Angus Foundation seeks to help Angus youth offset some of those steep costs by awarding undergraduate and graduate level scholarships.

"Angus youth are the future of our Association and the industry," said Milford Jenkins, Angus

Foundation president. "We want to help them get a head start in any way that we can, and awarding scholarships is one way to do that."

Undergraduate and graduate student scholarship applications are available online at [angusfoundation.org](http://angusfoundation.org) and are due May 1. Applicants must have, at one time,

been a National Junior Angus Association member and must currently be an active Junior, Regular or Life member of the American Angus Association®. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior or enrolled at a junior college, four-year college/university or other accredited institution and have a mini-

mum 2.0 GPA. Eligibility requirements and application guidelines are included. Applicants will want to strictly adhere to the guidelines and provide the information requested when submitting their application to the Angus Foundation. Applicants are required to submit the following for consideration:

the 2018 application form; three letters of recommendation; copy of current high school/college/university transcript; and applicant's Association member code.

In 2017, the Angus Foundation awarded more than \$213,000 in scholarships to more than 115 undergraduate and graduate students. When

combined with other endowed and non-endowed scholarship funds administered by the Angus Foundation, nearly \$300,000 was invested in more than 130 students pursuing their higher education.

For more information, please contact Jenkins at 816-383-5100 or [mjenkins@angusfoundation.org](mailto:mjenkins@angusfoundation.org).

## Wind farm proposal in Reno County draws attention

(AP) – An energy company is proposing a wind farm with 100 turbines in Reno County near Haven.

More than 100 people attended an open house this week to discuss the plans from NextEra Energy. The proposed farm would generate 200- to 300-megawatts of power, enough to power about 60,000 homes.

Project Director Sam Massey said the industry standard is to pay about \$4,500 a year per megawatt to landowners.

The *Hutchinson News* reports some landowners have already signed contracts with NextEra Energy but a few at the meeting said they were opposed to the project.

The company plans to sell its energy to wholesale companies but currently doesn't have a buyer.

NextEra Energy operates six wind projects in Kansas.

## Kansas milk production up 1 percent in November

Milk production in Kansas during November 2017 totaled 286 million pounds, up 1 percent from November 2016, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The average number of milk cows was 152,000 head, 3,000 head more than November 2016. Milk production per cow averaged 1,880 pounds.

Access the National publication for this release at: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/MilkProd//2010s/2017/MilkProd-12-19-2017.pdf>

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

## K-State to host 'Calving Schools' in several Kansas communities; meetings hope to increase number of live calves born, among other goals

With the new year, beef producers are anxious for the 2018 calf crop. In anticipation of calving season, Kansas State University's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and K-State Research and Extension are planning a series of calving schools in January.

The program will outline the normal processes of calving. A.J. Tarpoff, K-State Research and Extension beef veterinarian, said the goals of the calving schools are to increase knowledge and practical skills, and increase the number of live calves born.

The schools will also share tips on when and how to intervene to assist the cow and how those times may be different when dealing with young heifers. Presenters will demonstrate proper use of calving equipment on life-size scale.

"This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and review the calving process," Tarpoff said. "We will discuss timelines on when to access calving cows, and when to call for help if things are not going well."

Several of the meetings will also cover topics such as cow nutrition during the winter months, and managing cull cows.

Meetings scheduled include:

- Wednesday, Jan. 3, 6 p.m., Cloud County Fairgrounds, Concordia, Kansas; RSVP to the Washington County extension office at 785-325-2121.

- Tuesday, Jan. 4, 6 p.m., Oswego Community Center, Oswego, Kansas; RSVP to the Cherokee County extension office at 620-724-8233 or the Wildcat District extension office at 620-429-3849.

- Tuesday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m., Kansas Wetlands Education Center, Great Bend; RSVP to the Cottonwood extension office at 620-793-1910.

- Thursday, Jan. 11, Noon MST, Morton County Civic Center, Elkhart; RSVP to Crystal Bashford at 620-697-2558.

- Tuesday, Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m., Norton County 4-H Building, Norton; RSVP to the Twin Creeks extension office at 785-877-5755 (Norton), 785-675-3268 (Hoxie) or 785-475-8121 (Oberlin). The program will cover opportunities for marketing cull cows.

- Thursday, Jan. 18, 6 p.m., Alta Vista Baptist Church, 402 Main St., Alta Vista; RSVP to the Wabaunsee extension office at 785-765-3821.

More information about the calving schools is available at [KSUBeef.org](http://KSUBeef.org).

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23 blk str	461 @ 201.00	62 x-bred str	840 @ 153.00
1 blk str	460 @ 192.00	8 blk/red str	697 @ 152.00
4 blk str	495 @ 190.00	7 blk/char str	782 @ 152.00
3 blk str	503 @ 189.00	59 mix str	864 @ 151.60
11 blk str	486 @ 187.00	61 mix str	852 @ 151.00
3 shthr str	518 @ 174.00	62 mix str	841 @ 150.50
1 red bull	460 @ 171.00	10 blk/char str	883 @ 150.00
2 char str/bulls	473 @ 170.00	57 blk/bwf str	872 @ 149.75
2 blk bulls	518 @ 162.00	17 blk/char str	634 @ 149.50
3 x-bred str	452 @ 160.00	60 blk str	863 @ 146.75
<b>STOCKER &amp; FEEDER STEERS</b>		9 blk/red str	689 @ 145.50
13 blk/red str	617 @ 171.00	54 blk/bwf str	955 @ 145.50
3 blk str	573 @ 169.00	54 x-bred str	894 @ 145.00
4 blk str	666 @ 161.00	18 mix str	828 @ 144.00
12 blk/char str	653 @ 160.25	5 blk/sim str	817 @ 142.00
66 blk/bwf str	790 @ 156.75	<b>HEIFER CALVES</b>	
14 blk str	686 @ 155.00	2 char hfr	413 @ 164.00
60 mix str	843 @ 154.50	3 blk hfr	242 @ 160.00
59 blk/bwf str	849 @ 154.35	11 blk hfr	500 @ 160.00

12 blk/red hfr	541 @ 158.25	1 blk hfrt	970 @ 105.00	1 blk cow	975 @ 48.00
6 blk/bwf hfr	436 @ 157.00	1 blk hfrt	1125 @ 90.00	1 bwf cow	1220 @ 47.50
8 blk hfr	421 @ 151.00	1 blk hfrt	905 @ 75.00	1 blk cow	1160 @ 47.00
3 blk/bwf hfr	540 @ 150.00	1 blk hfrt	1270 @ 74.00	<b>BULLS</b>	
<b>STOCKER &amp; FEEDER HEIFERS</b>		1 blk cow	1110 @ 67.00	1 blk bull	2005 @ 78.50
13 blk/char hfr	585 @ 153.25	1 blk cow	1160 @ 66.00	1 blk bull	1335 @ 78.00
73 blk/bwf hfr	713 @ 153.00	1 blk cow	1130 @ 65.00	2 blk bulls	1463 @ 77.00
8 blk hfr	551 @ 150.00	1 blk cow	1295 @ 63.00	1 blk bull	1270 @ 76.50
9 blk hfr	607 @ 148.75	1 bwf cow	1210 @ 60.50	1 blk bull	2055 @ 74.50
4 blk hfr	593 @ 148.00	2 blk/bwf cows	1450 @ 59.00	1 blk bull	1415 @ 72.50
3 blk/bwf hfr	593 @ 147.50	1 blk cow	1570 @ 58.50	1 shthr bull	1505 @ 59.50
139 blk/bwf hfr	743 @ 145.25	1 char cow	1045 @ 58.00	1 blk bull	1710 @ 58.00
29 blk/bwf hfr	712 @ 143.00	1 bwf cow	1620 @ 57.50		
70 mix hfr	742 @ 143.00	1 red cow	1165 @ 57.00		
20 blk/red hfr	610 @ 141.75	1 sim cow	1390 @ 56.50		
15 blk/char hfr	803 @ 141.00	1 blk cow	1720 @ 56.00		
9 blk hfr	683 @ 137.50	1 blk cow	1320 @ 55.50		
3 x-bred hfr	887 @ 127.00	2 blk cows	1518 @ 55.00		
5 blk hfr	877 @ 121.50	2 blk cows	1025 @ 52.50		
6 blk hfr	939 @ 120.00	1 bwf cow	1415 @ 52.00		
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- 60 Angus steers, 800-825 lbs.

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