

K-State livestock judging team nabs national runner-up

The Kansas State University livestock judging team maintained its lofty status as one of the best in the United States recently, finishing as the national runner-up at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky.

The contest, in its 114th year, is recognized as the top competition in the country for collegiate livestock judging teams. K-State has had a team since 1903, during which time the university has won 13 national titles, including a record-setting five in a row from 1994 to 1998.

“This team will go down as one of the most consistent and successful squads in recent memory,” said Chris Mullinix,

instructor of animal sciences and the team’s coach. “These students take incredible pride in representing K-State and have worked tirelessly to get to this level.”

In addition to finishing second at the national contest, K-State completed the 2019 season with wins at the American Royal in Kansas City, and the Houston Livestock Show; and a runner-up finish at the National Western Stock Show in Denver.

“K-State was the nation’s only team to be honored in the top two spots at all four of the nation’s largest collegiate events,” Mullinix said. “As a coach, I’m so proud of their commitment to be the very best. Most importantly, these

are young people that will take their K-State education and the skills developed through livestock judging and make a major impact in this industry. I couldn’t be more proud.”

Collegiate livestock judging consists of 12 classes covering beef cattle, swine, sheep and goats. Students are asked to evaluate phenotype, pedigree and genetic information of breeding and market animals, then give oral reasons on their rankings.

At the national contest, Oklahoma State University was the top team in the collegiate division, followed by K-State, which also placed second as a team in oral reasons and swine, and third as a team in the beef category.

Among individuals, Samuel Lawrence (Avilla, Indiana) placed first nationally in the swine judging category; Adrian Austin (Mt. Vernon, Illinois) placed third in beef and fourth in oral reasons; Justin Nofzinger (Wauseon, Ohio) placed fourth in beef; Cade Hibdon (Princeton, Kansas) placed fifth in swine; and Cooper Carlisle (Ropesville, Texas) was seventh in sheep and 10th in oral reasons.

Austin and fellow team members Kaylee Farmer (Nevada, Missouri), Kaci Foraker (Burton, Kansas), Keayla Harr (Jeromesville, Ohio) and Cole Liggett (Dennison, Ohio) were named All Americans for 2019.

“The All American team

recognizes 12 students based on academic success, industry involvement, campus leadership, community service and success in the judging competition,” Mullinix said. “K-State’s five All Americans were more than any institution. In the past decade, K-State has now had 26 young people named All Americans, which is also more than any other member institution.”

“In my opinion, there is no activity that better complements a student’s education than participating on a collegiate judging team,” Mullinix said. “Perhaps today more than ever, young people are not engaging in activities that develop decision making, critical thinking and communica-

tion skills. Livestock judging does all of that in a competitive environment while promoting time management and working in a team setting.”

He adds, “When you pair those skills with a first-class animal science degree, it’s obvious why these students are so marketable and make advancements in their careers so quickly. Additionally, the livestock judging team is such a visible program with competitions held at the nation’s most historic stock shows. It creates an incredible following amongst alumni and potential students. Many of our students first heard of K-State because of the livestock judging team.”

Good things can happen when marbling leads selection criteria

By Steve Suther

What happens to a commercial Angus herd after 23 years of selection led by marbling? No worries, really, just premium opportunities.

That’s the nutshell from veteran Iowa State University animal scientist Dan Loy, whose team recently authored a white paper based on data from their quality-selected Angus herd.

In November, Loy reminded producers at the Angus Convention in Reno, “Reproduction in the cow herd is very complex. There’s a genetic component—that’s the big box across the top—but it’s impacted by the environment and nutrition at different stages—there are a lot of moving parts.”

Noting past studies and literature reviews, he then focused on ISU’s Angus cow herds, first set up in 1996 as a means to use ultrasound-based selection for either high marbling or high yield. In 2002, the latter herd was dispersed when American Angus Association’s statistical tools had improved. The breed’s expected progeny difference (EPD) for marbling (MARB) has guided the 400-cow herd at the fescue-based McNay Farms in southcentral Iowa since then (see sidebar).

Loy compared the Angus MARB versus the ISU herd’s EPD over time, simplified with trend lines that currently show the average ISU cows now higher than 1 while the Angus average nears 0.6.

Looking at interactions with other EPDs, he pointed out the Iowa cows lagged behind on heifer pregnancy early on.

“We’ve been improving that through the years so that, currently, we’re about breed average,” he said, adding the same can be said for the milk and weaning weight EPDs.

An unusual feature of the Iowa herd is the internally raised crop of breeding bulls. They allow for “a unique dataset,” Loy said, that includes the ability to track the scrotal circumference EPD, slightly above breed average, and within the Angus breed, slightly positive in its correlation to marbling.

The ISU herd phenotype in terms of carcass performance can be seen in the finished steers and heifers marketed in the last five years, currently at 93% or more qualified for the Certified Angus Beef ® (CAB®) brand, including 57% Prime.

“I like to say Prime is the new Choice,” Loy remarked, “because working with feedlot nutritionists, and in the research, you always see quality expressed in terms of percent Choice.

“With these cattle, that’s a meaningless number, because they’re all Choice,” he said. A guiding principle now is, “We just need to figure out how not to screw that up.”

Average ribeye area, fat thickness and yield grade within the ISU herd “very typical of the industry,” Loy said, although the carcass weights are a little lighter.

The research setting and quality goals open research doors into the timing of marbling deposition as well as how brood cows deplete and build up intramuscular fat during a production year.

Serial harvest of steers has found weanling steers that could already grade Choice.

“We know marbling starts much earlier in life that was thought, and it’s a slower process,” Loy said. The ISU team has just started monitoring marbling levels in cows during gestation to see how much it may draw down or increase with body condition scores.

Other datasets include calving intervals and reproductive success over time, compared to marbling. Simple correlations found significant, slightly positive relationships with heifer pregnancy, number of calves produced and even numerically favorable in terms of calving interval.

“So that’s in the right direction,” Loy noted.

“Overall, it’s kind of like a broken record and a little bit boring, but we found very little relationship between marbling and reproduction,” he concluded.

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Kansas Hay Market Report

Hay market trade is slow to moderate, demand is slow to moderate, prices remain steady, and are expected to do so for the next several weeks. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Kansas continues to struggle with moisture deficits that have been present for more than three months. During the past week, the abnormal dryness (D0), moderate drought (D1), and severe drought (D2) were held steady. If you have any extra hay to sell and/or need hay here in Kansas, use the services of the Internet Hay Exchange: www.hayexchange.com/ks.php.

Southwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, ground/delivered, grinding alfalfa steady; movement slow to moderate. Alfalfa: horse, premium small squares 240.00-250.00. Dairy 1.00-1.05/point RFV, Supreme 185.00-226.00, Premium 170.00-195.00, Good 160.00-170.00. Stock or Dry Cow 160.00-170.00. Fair/Good grinding alfalfa, 115.00-125.00, Ground and delivered locally to feed lots and dairies, 150.00-160.00. Sudan: large rounds 55.00-65.00. Wheat straw: large rounds 40.00-50.00, large squares 65.00-75.00 delivered. The week of 12/15-12/21, 12,091T of grinding alfalfa and 1,631T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought/sold. The average paid by feedlots on December 1 for alfalfa ground and delivered was 151.06, down 8.91 from the previous month, usage was 691T/day, up 5% and total usage was 20,732T.

South Central Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered, alfalfa pellets, steady; movement slow to moderate. Alfalfa: horse, small squares 250.00-275.00. Dairy, 1.00-1.05/point RFV with an instance at 1.10/point RFV, Supreme 195.00-225.00, Premium

175.00-200.00, Good 165.00-175.00. Stock cow, 130.00-150.00. Fair/Good grinding alfalfa, 90.00-105.00. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots 135.00-145.00; Alfalfa pellets: Sun cured 15 pct protein 200.00-205.00, 17 pct protein 205.00-220.00, Dehydrated 17 pct 300.00-310.00. Grass Hay: Bluestem, good small squares 7.00-8.00/bale, large rounds 60.00-70.00, large squares 75.00-85.00. Brome, small squares 7.00-8.00/bale, large rounds 100.00-110.00, lesser quality 70.00-80.00. Sudan: large rounds 65.00-75.00. Oat hay, large rounds, 80.00-85.00. Teff: mid to large squares 140.00-160.00. Wheat Straw: small squares 5.50-6.50/bale, large squares 70.00-75.00, large rounds 55.00-65.00. The week of 12/15-12/21, 6,719T of grinding alfalfa and 775T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought/sold. The average paid by feedlots on December 1 for alfalfa ground and delivered was 143.45, down .88 from the previous month, usage was 332T/day, up 30% and total usage was 9,957T.

Southeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered, grass hay steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse or goat, 230.00-250.00. Dairy 1.00-1.05/point RFV. Stock cow 160.00-170.00. Fair/Good grinding alfalfa, 115.00-125.00. Ground and delivered, none reported; Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares 130.00-140.00, good, mid squares 120.00-140.00, large squares, 100.00-120.00, large rounds 60.00-70.00. Brome, good, small squares 125.00-150.00, mid to large squares 120.00-135.00, large rounds 90.00-100.00, lesser quality 75.00-85.00; Wheat Straw: mid and large squares 60.00-80.00, large rounds 55.00-65.00. The week of 12/15-12/21, 2,956T of grass hay was reported bought/sold.

Northwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: Horse or goat, 205.00-215.00. Dairy, Premi-

um/Supreme 1.00-1.05/point RFV. Stock cow, fair/good 150.00-160.00. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, 100.00-110.00. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots and dairies, 125.00-135.00.

North Central-Northeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grass hay, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered steady; movement slow to moderate. Alfalfa: horse, premium small squares 9.50-10.50/bale. Dairy 1.00-1.05/point RFV, Supreme 185.00-210.00, Premium 170.00-195.00, Good 160.00-170.00. Stock Cow, 150.00-160.00. Fair/good, grinding alfalfa, 110.00-125.00. Ground and delivered 130.00-160.00. Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares 7.00-8.00/bale, mid to large squares 85.00-100.00, large rounds 75.00-85.00. Brome, small squares 7.50-8.50/bale, mid to large squares 115.00-150.00, large rounds 80.00-95.00; Sudan, large rounds 55.00-65.00. Wheat Straw: small squares 5.00-6.00/bale delivered, large squares 100.00-110.00 delivered, large rounds 60.00-70.00. The week of 12/15-12/21, 299T of grinding alfalfa and 525T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought/sold.

*****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.**

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*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**

The calf's most important meal is its first

By Morgan Marley

The most important meal of each calf's life is its first.

Colostrum serves as a loan of immunity from its mother until the calf has time to build its own, Brian Vander Ley said. Calves are born having "almost no antibodies," but the ability to make them.

"Some of the immunity is short lived — which makes it critically important," said the University of Nebraska veterinary epidemiologist. "Because if it doesn't receive that passive transfer, it is without protection for about two weeks."

Two weeks at risk of damage that can never be made up.

Vander Ley shared his take at the 2019 Range Beef Cow Symposium last month in Mitchell, Neb., based on his ongoing work at the Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center in Clay Center, Neb.

Ensuring your cows are prepared to produce adequate colostrum is just as important as their calves receiving it. Body condition scores are the top indicators.

"Cows that are in good

condition, at least a five, give birth more quickly," Vander Ley said. "They make better colostrum and their calves get up and nurse faster because they're stronger and tend to have better immune function."

Those aren't the ones to worry about. It's the calves you help bring into the world.

If a cow or heifer is experiencing dystocia, the chances of the newborn calf getting up and nursing decreases significantly.

"The longer a calf spends in anaerobic metabolism without oxygen, the lower its blood pH goes. So it goes into acidosis," Vander Ley said. "Acidosis in calves has the direct effect of depressing their brain function."

If you're going to assist with a delivery, "then you'd better go through the trouble" of making sure the calf gets colostrum.

"If that calf isn't standing in a half hour and nursing then you better get its mother in the chute and milk her out," he said, adding it's a missed opportunity to not guarantee the calf received colostrum.

While there is still absorptive capacity up to 24 hours, the most optimal timeframe is four hours. After that, their ability to absorb quickly declines.

And nursing is better than tubing. Calves have a reflex pathway called the esophageal groove. Whenever a calf nurses, it's the reflex response in their forestomach that creates "a straight shot from the esophagus to the small intestine."

"If we tube, that doesn't

happen," he said. "When we tube, we think it pools in their rumen or in that forestomach, somewhere. Then they don't access all of it."

Even nursing a bottle is preferred to tubing if possible, though he acknowledged not all calves are up for it. In that case, it's better to get colostrum in the calf.

"One of my favorite sayings is 'Don't let perfect be the enemy of good,'" Vander Ley said. "This is a great example where to apply that."

But if you are going to tube, there are two things to avoid. One is tubing a calf on its side, where a bad event is much more likely. Sit the calf up so its "sternal" side or chest is touching the ground.

The other error would be stretching a calf's neck out so that the tip of the tube naturally wants to go into the trachea. Vander Ley suggested bending the calf's head as much as 90 degrees to the right, which lets the tip of the tube bypass the trachea and go into the esophagus on the left side of the calf's throat.

Sometimes you may suspect a calf didn't nurse enough or soon enough and the window for absorption is closing. In that case it's better to give it the whole dose of colostrum rather than just a "boost."

"Because of gut closure, if we create any kind of satiety in calves, they don't feel like they have to get up and nurse," Vander Ley said. "And we're going to miss that opportunity pretty quickly; it makes me feel a lot better to get that calf a full dose immediately," he said, noting the satisfaction of

doing everything possible.

If that means tubing a calf, do it preferably with its mother's colostrum because "She makes as close to perfect antibodies that her calf needs."

But if you can't get the milk from the cow, replacer products are better than supplements, Vander Ley said. Replacer is made from dried colostrum from dairy cows, while supplements are often "spray-dried bovine plasma from slaughter plants." Both have useable antibodies, but replacers contain more and from analogous origins.

Read the label of replacer products to make sure you give the calf an adequate amount, he directed. Most products recommend 100 to 120 grams of antibody for adequate passive transfer, but that can take two packages of a colostrum replacer.

Dairy industry research says calves that don't get enough passive transfer have more pre-weaning problems like scours and infections. Other data suggest respiratory disease becomes a greater problem at the feedyard.

Vander Ley's conclusion: The issues are complicated, but management is simple. Feed your spring calving herd well through the winter. Make a plan for when calving starts, so you know what you're going to do. Have products and tools available.

Four hours comes and goes quickly for each calf, but those are the windows that get your calves off to the right start.

For more management-related stories, visit <https://www.cabcattle.com>.

Cattle producers the target of financial fraud schemes

Cattle producers are being urged to take extra precautions amid a surge of scams targeting ranchers and associated businesses. Scammers tend to use electronic or phone communications, which makes it more difficult for law enforcement to track down and prosecute the perpetrators.

Cases involving cattle producers in Kansas have in-

volved a scheme of counterfeit checks being mailed to victims from legitimate businesses. These checks mimic financial documents from producer's actual checking accounts. Although the checks are illegitimate, they are being represented as legitimate transactions between the recipient and the account owner's business. If you suspect fraudulent activ-

ity on your accounts, confirm details with your bank and call law enforcement to report the activity immediately. It is unlikely fraudulent checks are issued as solitary events.

One common scheme is a buyer will send a check or cashier's check for more than the agreed price, and then ask that the seller send the extra money to someone else to pay for transportation and delivery. The check is often counterfeit so the victim is liable for the funds.

Another common scam will feature con artists falsely advertising items using misleading descriptions and fake photos or videos. In the end, they will deliver inferior products. These are often civil cases, which means law enforcement cannot get involved.

Tips for avoiding fraud: Verify the person you are attempting to do business with is a trusted source.


When selling items consider payment options such as an escrow service or online payment system.

Never accept a check or cashier's check for more than the value of the sale.

Confirm checks are valid by contacting your bank or the issuing bank.

When buying items never issue payment until the items are received unless you have complete trust in the seller.

Track bank account activity more regularly than monthly reconciliations.



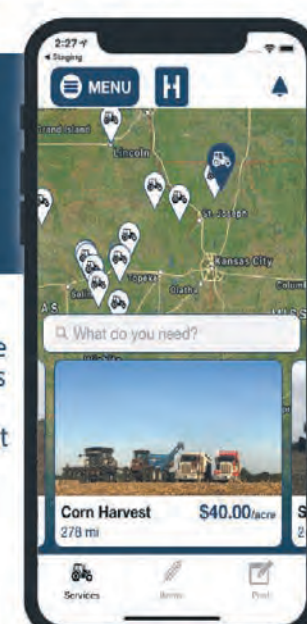
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4 Farms — 660 Acres, m/l, Washington & Marshall County Land

Tract 1 — Half section exceptional native grass pasture, 2 large ponds, good fence, northern Washington County.

Tract 2 — 80 acres productive cropland and pasture, northwest Marshall County

Tract 3 — 70 acres productive cropland, northwest Marshall County

Tract 4 — 200 acres with 96 acres cropland, 50 acres pasture, balance excellent wildlife habitat, northwest Marshall County.

Terms: Ten (10) percent down, the balance due on or before March 1st, 2020. Possession will be given at closing.

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At the American Legion — **LINN, KANSAS**

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Betting on Beef

By Nicole Erceg

What does beef production look like in 2030?

It's a heavy question, one difficult to grasp with the uncertainty, but worth considering. If history is a lesson, we've learned a lot in the past 10 years that forecast what the next 10 will hold.

Cow country started the decade in a low spot. The drought of 2011-12 forced cat-

tlemen to make deep cuts, but 2014-15 followed with record prices. From there it's been up and down but innovations enhanced decision-making in genetics, health and management along the way. When the decade began, most ranchers I called on didn't carry smartphones; now there's an app with live updates on the cattle market and herd records in nearly everyone's pocket.

As we turn the calendar page, many will bid 2019 goodbye with great fervor. From devastating to at least annoying weather, fieldwork delays, market swings, the uncertainties of new trade policy to "fake meat" headlines, it's normal to feel like the deck has been stacked against beef for the last twelve months.

If we were to make predictions based on where the industry will be based on this year alone, it's easy to look at a sorry calf check just cashed and only see more clouds on the horizon.

But every hard time has a silver lining.

I spoke with a cattlemen recently who got into agriculture during the 1980s farm crisis. The outlook for farming was as poor as he, but doors closing for others provided opportunity for a passionate young man to capitalize on

rented ground. Today, a third generation tags along as he and his son manage cows and farm together.

We can't enjoy the mountaintop views without first crossing the valleys.

The headlines in national media paint a scary picture: "By 2030, the U.S. dairy and cattle industry will have collapsed, as microbial protein factories take over."

It may look like dim prospects for our beef community, but numbers just don't lie.

In the last decade, cattlemen have made significant progress in the quality of the product we provide to consumers. The industry averaged 61% Choice and 3% Prime in 2010. We'll close out 2019 with 71% of cattle grading Choice and 8.5% Prime, with twice as much Premium Choice.

Consumers have tasted the

progress and they like it.

CattleFax projects record-high Prime and Choice production for 2020, a fifth year consecutive record year for premium-quality beef. Demand for Choice beef was up 3% this year, and up 50% compared to recession lows, to say nothing of higher demand for premium brands and Prime.

Those figures translate to higher grid-market payouts. The Choice-Select spread will reach a new record average of \$14.60/cwt. in 2019.

The media narrative is only a poker face that ignores fundamentals. The share of people on vegetarian and vegan diets has hovered at about 2-3% for the past two decades.

That leaves a lot of meat eaters out there ready to be served, and craving a high-quality product.

I'm not a betting woman,

nor do I have a crystal ball, but if I were to project what beef production will look like a decade from now, it's even better, thanks to ever greater quality and consistency.

We will never be able to predict exactly how the chips will fall, but if there's a safe bet to make, it's to keep it on marbling. It's the ace in our hand to stack play as a sure predictor of consumer satisfaction.

The struggles of 2019 won't last long, except for lessons learned. There's much to be won in the next decade for cattlemen who aren't afraid to look into the unknown and say, "Deal me in."

Next time in Black Ink@ Miranda Reiman will talk about the cattle of the future. Questions? Email nerceg@certifiedangusbeef.com.

EPA approves the use of ten pesticide products on hemp and a proposed interim decision on atrazine

Recently the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced two important actions that will help the agricultural sector protect crops from pests and weeds. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA is approving the use of ten pesticide products on hemp in time for the 2020 growing season. Nine of these products are biopesticides and one is a conventional pesticide. EPA is also issuing a proposed interim decision on atrazine — a widely used herbicide. Both actions provide regulatory certainty and clarity on how these tools can be used safely while also helping to ensure a strong and vibrant agricultural market.

"With common-sense actions, we are protecting the health of our nation and ensuring that crops such as corn, sorghum, sugar cane and hemp can be protected against a broad spectrum of weeds and pests," said EPA administrator Andrew Wheeler. "Under the Trump administration, the EPA is committed to providing much-needed certainty to farmers and ranchers across the country who rely on crop protection tools to ensure a global supply of products, while driving economic growth in agricultural communities across America."

"EPA's actions today help support American farmers' efforts to grow hemp just in time for the first growing season," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. "No other president has done more to remove strangling regulations and promote American farmers than President Trump. From repealing WOTUS, to implementing year-round E-15, and ensuring 15 billion

gallons of ethanol are in the marketplace next year, this administration continues to put farmers first."

The first action EPA is announcing is the approval of ten pesticide applications for use on hemp, just in time to be used during the 2020 growing season. EPA wanted to ensure the agency acted on these applications quickly to give growers certainty for next spraying season in 2020 and to make timely purchasing decisions for next year. These approvals were made possible by the 2018 Farm Bill, which removed hemp-derived products from Schedule I status under the Controlled Substances Act.

While EPA oversees pesticide registrations for hemp under FIFRA, other federal agencies are working to streamline their separate regulatory implementation processes for the newly legalized crop. The 2018 Farm Bill directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop a regulatory oversight program for hemp. USDA has since proposed a rule for state-level hemp growing/management plans. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration also plays a role in regulating hemp products when they fall under their regulatory authority. EPA is committed to working with our federal partners and helping hemp growers obtain the tools needed to support and increase commercial production. The step the agency is taking recognizes that innovation in pesticide use is critical to the success of our strong and vibrant agricultural sector.

"We've learned a lot about hemp since the establishment of the pilot programs in 2014, and we're continuing our

progress to ensure hemp is treated just like every other legal commodity," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.). "By approving several biopesticides for use in hemp cultivation—especially as Kentucky's hemp farmers prepare for the 2020 growing season—Administrator Wheeler is helping deliver much-needed tools for our farmers. Hemp producers across the country are looking to Kentucky for our expertise and leadership with this exciting crop, and I'm committed to helping our farmers, processors and manufacturers take full advantage of hemp's potential."

"I'm pleased to hear of the EPA's approval of ten pesticides for use on industrial hemp. Since the Farm Bill was signed into law last year, Kentucky hemp farmers have been asking for safe and effective crop protection agents that meet the demands of the booming hemp industry," said Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.). "These approvals will allow for the use of ten different pesticides for the 2020 growing season, which will be of great benefit for Kentucky hemp farmers. We know the value of hemp in Kentucky, and I will continue to fight for and support all efforts to keep this industry moving forward."

"I applaud the EPA for taking critical steps to move the hemp industry in the right direction," said Kentucky congressman James Comer (KY-01). "This action will benefit farmers in the next immediate growing season, and give them the tools necessary to make their crop and operation even better than before. I am pleased to see our regulatory agencies working in a

commonsense way to help our hemp growers succeed."

"NASDA thanks the EPA for taking the first step to provide crop protection for U.S. hemp farmers. Collaboration will be key as we work to provide a full tool box of solutions, including biopesticides, to the emerging hemp industry," said National Association of State Departments of Agriculture CEO Dr. Barbara P. Glenn.

"Today's announcement by the United States Environmental Protection Agency is a step in the right direction for the nation's growing hemp industry," said Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles. "It is important our growers have new technologies and tools to better help protect their crops and increase their yields. I wish to thank Administrator Andrew Wheeler and his team for working hard to assist this new and exciting agricultural industry."

"We are deeply grateful to the EPA for taking critical action to empower U.S. hemp growers by ensuring the development of products that protect crops from weeds and pests," said U.S. Hemp Roundtable General Counsel Jonathan Miller. "Hemp presents an exciting new agricultural commodity, and the EPA's action will help provide farmers with the tools they need to seize this opportunity."

The second action EPA is taking is to propose new, stronger protections to reduce exposure to atrazine — the next step in the registration review process required under FIFRA. Atrazine is a widely used herbicide that controls a variety of grasses and broadleaf weeds. It is well-

known and trusted by growers as one of the most effective herbicides. Atrazine is used on about 75 million acres annually and is most often applied to corn, sorghum, and sugarcane. (Note: atrazine is not one of the ten pesticides approved for hemp.)

As part of this action, the agency is proposing a reduction to the maximum application rate for atrazine used on residential turf, and other updates to the label requirements, including mandatory spray drift control measures. EPA's proposed decision is based on the 2016 draft ecological risk assessment and the 2018 human health draft risk assessment for atrazine. EPA is also proposing updates to the requirements for propazine and simazine, which are chemically related to atrazine. EPA will be taking comment on the atrazine, propazine and simazine Proposed Interim Decisions for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. Comments can be made to the following dockets EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0266 (atrazine), EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0250 (propazine), and EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0251 (simazine) once the Federal Register notice publishes online.

"We appreciate the EPA's proposal to re-register atrazine," said Missouri Corn Growers Association CEO and Triazine Network Chair Gary Marshall. "This product is tremendously important to farmers across the country, especially for weed control in conservation practices. From citrus to sorghum and corn to Christmas trees, farmers rely on the agency's use of credible science to regulate the products that allow us to safely grow more with less for a hun-

dred global population."

"National Sorghum Producers appreciates EPA applying sound science and moving forward with this key step in the reregistration process," said National Sorghum Producers Chairman Dan Atkisson.

"The impact atrazine has in weed control and making no-till production possible is as vital today as it was over 50 years ago when the product was brought to market. For over 25 years Kentucky Corn Growers has worked to bring production stewardship education and assistance to Kentucky's farmers encouraging the safe use of atrazine. We appreciate the years EPA has spent reviewing and ensuring the safety and effectiveness of atrazine," said Kentucky Corn Growers Association executive director Laura Knoth.

In addition to these regulatory actions, EPA is continuing to build and enhance its relationship with the agricultural sector through the agency's Smart Sectors program. Staff and senior leaders, including Region 5 administrator Cathy Stepp and Region 7 administrator Jim Gulliford, met recently in Lenexa with representatives from the renewable fuels industry. The meeting is providing a platform to collaborate with the renewable fuels industry and develop sensible approaches that better protect the environment and public health.



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Soybean residue – worth more than you might think

By David G. Hallauer,
Meadowlark District
Extension agent, crops & soils/horticulture

If you were to look at a corn and soybean field side by side, there wouldn't be any doubt which one had more residue. Every 40 bushels of corn results in approximately one ton of residue produced. By comparison, every 30 bushels of soybeans produced results in one ton of residue. When you factor in potential yields of those two crops, simple math tells us what we see visually: corn produces more residue than soybeans.

That doesn't mean that

soybean residue is unimportant. A look at residue removal (if completely removed by baling, etc...) from University of Nebraska Extension publication G1846 – Harvesting Crop Residues – shows that soybeans remove the same amount of nitrogen (17 lb/ton) as corn does. That residue also houses three pounds per ton of phosphorous and 13

pounds per ton of potassium. That means that the residue left behind from a 50-bushel bean crop is holding almost 30 pounds of N, five pounds of P and just over 20 pounds of K.

The nutrient value isn't the only benefit. UNL research suggests that at least two tons per acre of residue should be left on the field if you are trying to maintain soil organ-

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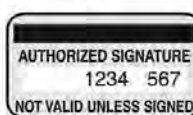
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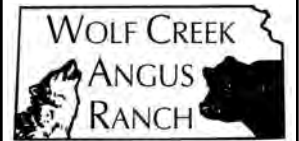


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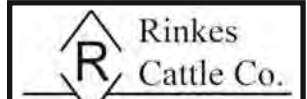
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Researchers fortify Queen of the Forages with disease defense

By Jan Suszkiw

Alfalfa is often called the “Queen of the Forages” due to its high yield, feed quality for ruminant animals, nitrogen fixation and pollinator habitat among other environmental services. But this royal member of the legume family is no match against the host of microbes that cause the disease complex known as “crown rot.”

Chemical controls aren’t effective against crown rot, and there are no genetically resistant alfalfa varieties available to farmers. Now, a team of Agricultural Research Service (ARS), University of Minnesota (UM) and Donald Danforth Plant Science Center (DDPSC) scientists is exploring a “surrogate” defense—one borrowed from a close relative of the \$8 billion legume crop.

According to Debby Samac, a plant pathologist who leads the ARS Plant Science Research Unit in St. Paul, Minnesota, crown rot damages the cells at the junction of the stems and roots (the “crown”) of alfalfa plants, typically after the first couple of harvests. Such attacks reduce the number of stems and the ability of the plant to store carbohydrates, diminishing yields and winter survival.

Fungicides registered for use on alfalfa don’t persist on the roots or crown long enough to prevent the disease, which occurs in all states where the crop is grown for hay, livestock forage, feed or other uses.

Efforts to develop commercial varieties with resistance using conventional plant breeding methods have so far fallen short. That, in turn, has limited farmers’ options for managing crown rot and minimizing their losses. In the absence of resistance genes from alfalfa, scientists turned their attention to barrel medic, a clover-like relative whose leaves produce small, antimicrobial proteins called defensins.

According to Samac, who teamed with Andrew Sathoff, a former UM graduate student researcher now at Dakota State University, and Siva Velivelli and Dilip Shah—both with DDPSC—alfalfa produces defensins in seeds, and these defensins have been used to protect potato plants from fungal diseases. However, the defensins from alfalfa, spinach and tomato that the researchers tested either did not inhibit growth of alfalfa crown rot pathogens or had limited activity. Instead, they needed a defensin that inhibited many fungal and bacterial pathogens—and barrel medic fit the bill.

To get started, the team identified the amino acid sequences of defensins produced by barrel medic and synthesized their core motifs, or essential elements. They then exposed spores of fungal pathogens and bacterial cells to small concentrations of the defensins to learn what effect this had on the microbes’ growth and survival.

One of the defensins tested proved more potent than the others used against the crown rot pathogens, which included *Phoma medicaginis*, *Colletotrichum trifolii* and *Fusarium fungi*, as well as *Pseudomonas syringae* and *Xanthomonas alfalfae* bacteria.

The results, published in the September 2018 issue of *Phytopathology*, illustrate how resistance characteristics in plants related to alfalfa can be potentially useful in protecting the crop from disease.

The Agricultural Research Service is the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s chief scientific in-house research agency. Daily, ARS focuses on solutions to agricultural problems affecting America. Each dollar invested in agricultural research results in \$20 of economic impact.

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I moved to the West to find myself. I moved to the West to start over. I moved to the West to find love. I moved to the West to find riches. I moved to the West because I could not stay in the East. Every path was blocked, every opportunity turned to failure. The only direction left to me was westward.

With baby in tow, I came to Topeka. It shocked me to learn that many folks do not realize that Topeka is, actually, located in the West. I knew it. I understood how different it was from the places I had known. The people were different, though it was difficult for me to put my finger on exactly how. Topeka is a big small town, and it has that feel. I was comfortable.

The West is a proving ground, and I had to prove myself. Again, I failed. And I failed again. Over and over. But in the West, one is born again, recreated over and over. Until a friend pointed this out to me, I didn't even realize it. She said, "I admire your ability to recreate yourself over and over."

I recreated myself because what I was before was not good enough. I keep starting over until it is.

I became a student of history. Well, I was always a student of history but in the West, this became a serious pursuit. Connecting the dots — east to west, north to south — brought one epiphany after another as the stories fell into place. People from the past that I had known forever were now connected to the places where I had been transplanted. It seemed as if everything before had been preparation for moving to the West, as if loading my wagon for the trip on the trail.

Somehow, I began studying Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis (the presidents North and South of our divid-

ed nation during the American Civil War). There was talk of kidnapping Lincoln and when the plot was brought to Davis, he responded, "He is a western man. He will not be taken alive and I will not be a party to killing him."

"A western man." Hmmm. What did it mean to be a western man? The image of the Marlboro Man came to mind, worlds away from Abraham Lincoln. Or not.

When Herbert Hoover was elected president, he and vice president Charles Curtis were the first chief executives born west of the Mississippi River. They were proud of this fact. How many folks now would look at the buttoned-up image of Hoover and think him a western man?

I thought of those great westerners: Lewis and Clark (Virginians); Jedediah Smith (New York); Cyrus K. Holliday (Pennsylvania); Jim Bridger (born in Richmond, Virginia); Kit Carson (Kentucky); Willa Cather (Virginia); Randolph Scott (born in Charlottesville, Virginia, and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina); etc., etc. In Historic Topeka Cemetery, I stood at Holliday's modest grave. He had founded Topeka and the storied Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. It was in that moment that I realized that so many of the people I admired had come to the West, just like I had. And if they had found a way, so could I.

As an historian, I read the accounts of army wives and other women uprooted and brought to this foreign land. Their longing for the familiar and the beloved grips every word. I understand. I have longed for the green of the woods in the mountains, the taste of stoneground cornmeal baked into bread, and the faces of family far away. Then, I am made speechless by the sunset that surely slips into eternity. I am humbled by the storm fronts stealthily moving across the plains. I am lost in the stars just beyond my fingertips.

I have forged friendships, bonds as strong as kin. I have found love as big as the sky. I have found challenges aplenty, heartbreaks in spades. But as long as I can see that horizon, I know where I am headed.

I was not born in the West, but I was born a Westerner.

Deb Goodrich is the host of the the Around Kansas TV Show and the Garvey Texas Foundation Historian in Residence at the Fort Wallace Museum. She chairs the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail in 2021. Contact her at author.debgoodrich@gmail.com.

Sen. Moran issues statement on USDA Veterinary Service Grant Program awards

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) — member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies — released the following statement on the announcement of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Veterinary Service Grant Program (VSGP) awards:

"I was pleased to see Kan-

Save the dates for these farm bill meetings

By David G. Hallauer, Meadowlark District Extension agent, crops & soils/horticulture

With sign-up for 2018 Farm Bill elections coming in early 2020 (enrollment ends March 15th), it's time to finalize a decision between the

ARC and PLC programs. To help answer your questions about the options, a series of farm bill informational meetings are being finalized. Meetings will be held in Holton on January 14th, Seneca on the 15th, and Oskaloosa on the 16th. Times and locations

are being confirmed. Look for more information coming soon or check online at www.meadowlark.k-state.edu under the Crops & Soils Link. Information will also be available after January 1 from your local FSA Office.

Local Food Producer Entrepreneurship Workshop designed to assist food producers gain essential business and marketing skills

There is more to growing local food than planting a few seeds. To have a thriving local food, business it is necessary to have modern business and marketing skills to compete in the marketplace. The Local Food Producer Entrepreneurship Workshop is designed to help aspiring and existing local food producers gain those skills. Workshops sessions include:

- A business planning track will feature step by step guidance on creating a business plan.
- Panel discussion on developing value-added products
- Social media mini-workshop
- Using e-commerce to sell products

This event is sponsored by K-State Research & Extension — Sedgwick County, the Health & Wellness Coalition of Wichita, the Kansas Rural Center, and features executive director of Cultivate KC Katherine Kelly.

Local Food Producer Entrepreneurship Workshop
Friday, February 7, 2020, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sedgwick County Extension Education Center 4-H Hall
7001 W 21st Street North (21st & Ridge Rd)
Wichita, KS 67205

The registration fee is \$15 to attend if registration is completed by January 29, 2020, after February 1, registration will cost \$20.00 per person. The deadline for registration is February 5, 2020. Registration for this event is paired with registration for the Wichita Farmer's Market Regional Workshop. Register online at <http://sedgwick.ksu.edu/events> or call 316-660-0100.

sans receive several grants from the USDA Veterinary Service Grants Program, which I made a priority to fund through my role on the Appropriations Committee. Ensuring veterinary services in rural areas is necessary for proper animal care and public safety, and I look forward to seeing the ways these grants work in Kansas to help relieve service shortages."

Kansas received three VSGP awards:

Flyin' 3 Veterinary Service, Inc., Eureka: \$125,000 to replace equipment and repair building that was hit by an F3 tornado in June 2018.

Solomon Valley Veterinary Hospital, Beloit: \$125,000 to hire two additional vets and purchase mobile equipment that will allow for the expansion of the clinic's service

area.

Kansas State University: \$111,000 for a summer program for aspiring rural vets.

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CEEZAD director Richt shares regional award for work on swine flu vaccine

The director of the Center of Excellence for Emerging and Zoonotic Animal Diseases at the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine is a recipient of an award for his work in technology transfer.

Jürgen Richt, Regents distinguished professor of diagnostic medicine and pathobiology and KBA eminent scholar, and Kelly Lager with the U.S. Department of Agriculture received the Agricultural Research Service Mid-

west Area Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer for research on swine influenza vaccines.

The two were recognized by the USDA's Midwest Agricultural Research Service for their work on development of a new vaccine against swine flu, a disease of pigs that causes up to \$150 million in damage to the U.S. pork production industry annually. The vaccine, which is sold under the trade name Ingelvac Provenza, is licensed to Boeh-

ringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc.

The vaccine can be used in newborn piglets even in the presence of maternal influenza antibodies.

To address the need for an improved vaccine against swine flu, ARS scientists teamed up with researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to develop and demonstrate the efficacy of the first attenuated live influ-

enza A virus vaccine for use in swine.

U.S. and foreign patent applications were filed for this technology, which were subsequently licensed to Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica. Because this was a unique platform for swine influenza A vaccines, additional experimentation to demonstrate safety and efficacy was required for approval by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Center for Veterinary Bio-

logics for the attenuated live virus vaccine.

Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica subsequently launched the commercial vaccine in 2018.

Richt was particularly recognized for his expertise in zoonotic virus research and molecular skills, which were necessary to complete the in vitro studies to demonstrate attenuation and replication efficacy of the influenza vaccine construct. He was also recognized for his involvement

in the in vivo studies that demonstrated the attenuation, efficacy and utility of the influenza vaccine prototype.

Beyond that, he also contributed to the technology transfer efforts through completing additional studies supporting the safety and efficacy and potential application of the influenza vaccine prototype and transferred the results through scientific publications, as well as oral presentations at scientific and stakeholder meetings.

U.S. chilled pork supply chain represents great opportunities in Hong Kong

A decline in Hong Kong's fresh pork supply due to African swine fever (ASF) is creating both short-term and long-term opportunities for U.S. pork.

At a USMEF press conference announcing plans to fill Hong Kong's growing fresh pork supply gap with U.S. chilled pork, Joel Haggard, USMEF senior vice president for the Asia Pacific, said the opportunity could benefit the U.S. pork industry in both the near and distant future, as more consumers adapt to chilled pork rather than fresh "warm" pork derived from hogs imported from China.

The press conference, which featured an address by Hanscom Smith, U.S. Consul General to Hong Kong and Macau, received funding support from the National Pork Board.

"Despite neighboring Asian countries like Taiwan and Singapore slowly moving toward a consistent chilled pork supply chain, Hong Kong's consumers have remained steadfast in their preference for fresh, warm pork and they have been willing to pay a premium for it," said Haggard, referring to pork sold by Hong Kong's vast network of wet market vendors. "The current supply situation opens opportunities for increased sales of U.S. chilled pork in the short-term and to convince more consumers to accept chilled pork as a permanent alternative."

USMEF President and CEO Dan Halstrom explained the benefit of moving more vacuum-packaged U.S. chilled pork into the Hong Kong market, pointing to the success chilled products have achieved in other Asian countries such as Japan and South Korea.

"What chilled product can do that frozen product typically cannot is encourage a 52-week per year program business opportunity," said Halstrom. "Frozen pork can be stored, and importers can hold onto it. High-quality chilled product is meant to be moved consistently, week in and week out. The goal is to

establish a supply chain and continue to grow the chilled pork segment."

The press conference highlighted establishment of a new U.S. chilled pork supply chain that will make U.S. chilled pork readily available at less cost to consumers than the current prices for fresh pork. Haggard said some U.S. items could be also priced lower than chilled products from competing suppliers like Thailand, Australia and China.

There are challenges to establishing the supply chain – for example, it takes a few more days to ship to Hong Kong than to Japan and Korea – but the U.S. industry is aggressively stepping up to address these issues.

"Wet market vendors in Hong Kong still need to be taught how to handle vacuum-packaged chilled product," said Haggard. "We are just getting started, and getting product that last mile to the many small outlets in Hong Kong's meat sales environment is a challenge."

Initially, U.S. chilled pork will be sold in major supermarkets, although a few wet market vendors have also initiated U.S. chilled pork sales. Haggard pointed out that one day after USMEF's press conference, a major supermarket chain in Hong Kong released a series of promotional advertisements for U.S. chilled pork with special pricing.

"So, we are off to the races," he said. "At this point, chilled U.S. pork can be found in more than 100 supermarket outlets and some wet markets are also handling it. This is greater chilled pork distribution than we've ever had in Hong Kong."

USMEF and U.S. pork exporters have been exploring the feasibility of establishing a reliable chilled pork supply chain to Hong Kong for decades, Haggard said, noting that the arrival of ASF has created a new opening. Hong Kong historically has

K-State researcher to expand network that aids irrigation water use

By Pat Melgares

A project led by a Kansas State University agronomist that uses technology to study microclimate data is among seven ideas to be funded by the Irrigation Innovation Consortium, the group has announced.

Eduardo Santos, an asso-

ciate professor in the Department of Agronomy, is the lead researcher in a project titled Deployment and Maintenance of Flux Towers in Kansas to be Integrated to the Parallel 21 Flux Networks to Support Multi-State Real-Time Evapotranspiration Estimates.

Flux towers track carbon

dioxide exchanged between forests and the atmosphere. Santos and his team will construct and maintain towers in Kansas to provide real-time and quality-controlled crop and turfgrass evapotranspiration (ET) measurements that will be integrated in an existing network of flux towers

located across the Great Plains region.

According to Santos, the project will expand the regional flux tower network and provide data across Colorado, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska to improve rural and urban irrigation water use.

"I am very excited to re-

ceive this award from the IIC because this project will allow the collection of important datasets for understanding relevant hydrological processes, for modeling regional and global climates and helping farmers optimize their water use," Santos said.

The research will aid in the development of techniques to map daily ET, information which will be made readily available to farmers, turfgrass managers and other regional stakeholders.

Launched in 2018 with a \$5 million contribution from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), the IIC promotes and enhances water and energy efficiency in irrigation. Its ultimate goal is creating greater resiliency in food and agriculture.

Through the consortium, industry and the public sector co-develop, test, prototype and improve equipment, technology, and decision and information systems. Their work is equipping farms of the future

with cutting-edge technologies

for irrigation efficiency.

K-State is a founding member of the Irrigation Innovation Consortium, which has headquarters at Colorado State University.

In addition to funding Santos' project, the consortium also funded projects at the University of Nebraska, Colorado State University and the University of California-Fresno. Two additional projects will be conducted within the irrigation industry.

"The proposal review process has resulted in a robust portfolio of funded proposals that fit our mission goals of advancing knowledge, tools, and available technologies and practices that can transform and improve irrigation efficiency," said LaKisha Odom, chair of the consortium's Research Steering Committee and a scientific program director for FFAR.

For more information about the consortium, visit <https://irrigationinnovation.org/>.

Kansas milk production up four percent in Nov.

Milk production in Kansas during November 2019 totaled 313 million pounds, up four percent from November 2018, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The average number of milk cows was 164,000 head, 4,000 head more than November 2018. Milk production per cow averaged 1,910 pounds.

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Feed supplements: changes in distillers' grains

By Heather Smith Thomas
for Angus Beef Bulletin

Distillers' grains are a by-product of the ethanol industry and have become a common supplement for beef cattle to add protein in the diet. The fat content is also beneficial. In recent years, however, many ethanol plants have been reducing fat levels in the residue that ends up as cattle feed. Cattle producers need to be aware that nutrient levels can vary greatly, depending on where you purchase the distillers' grains.

Without the oil, energy value of this feed is reduced, says Ken Olson, extension beef specialist at South Dakota State University.

"Fats and oils are energy-dense, and this was the original 'magic' for feedlot

cattle when using distillers' grains in a finishing diet — because it contained both the protein and the oils," he says.

Some cow-calf producers use distillers' grains to augment protein levels in the diet when cows are on dormant winter pastures or fed low-quality hay. About 12 years ago, however, some ethanol plants started removing the fat to refine the ethanol process.

"They are milling off the seed coat and the germ of the corn grain, ending up with something that's closer to pure starch in the fermentation process, because that's what is converted to ethanol," says Olson.

The seed coat and the corn germ product, which contains most of the corn oil and quite

a bit of protein, are generally used in things like chicken feed. What's left after the starch is converted to ethanol still has some protein and a little oil, but it's mostly the fiber part of the corn kernel, he explains. Removing the fat increases the protein content of what's left, because the protein is a higher proportion of the total volume.

The protein in this residue may be as high as 40% to 50%, says Olson. He did a two-year study using cows in mid-gestation; half of them received de-oiled distillers' grain product as protein cake and the other half got soybean meal.

"Soybean meal has been considered the perfect protein supplement because it's easily digestible, yet we seldom use

it anymore because it is very expensive," he says.

Both groups of cows in his study received similar protein content, readily accepted the supplements, and maintained body condition through winter.

"As a protein supplement for cows on low-quality forages, the de-oiled distillers' grain works great; but if it's meant to be an energy feed in the feedlot, it has lost some value," he explains.

For mature cows on winter pasture, however, the reduction in fat doesn't matter.

"Energy from fat can improve growth rates, but is not a good source of heat. Fiber in the diet is more important for generating body heat (via digestion in the rumen). Since what is left in the distillers'

grain after processing is mostly highly digestible fiber and protein, this is a better way to heat the cow in winter than fat," Olson says.

There is some fiber in the supplement, and the protein enables cows to more adequately digest low-quality forages.

Since some ethanol plants are removing the fat during processing and some are not, the end product for cattle supplement can vary in fat levels.

Producers need to remember that all byproduct feeds are variable in nutrient levels — whether distillers' grains, corn gluten, soybean hulls or any other byproduct. They are highly variable from one batch to the next, Olson warns. As a nutritionist, he advises producers to regularly

send samples to feed-testing labs and not just assume they contain a certain level of a specific nutrient.

Tests should not only assess energy and protein content but also sulfur and phosphorus levels, because these can be quite variable. Sulfur can be toxic at high levels.

Grass-based cow diets in winter are sometimes deficient in phosphorus, and many producers use a mineral supplement containing phosphorus.

If cattle are fed distillers' grains, which may contain high levels of phosphorus, you don't need phosphorus in the mineral supplement, says Olson. If the calcium-phosphorus (Ca:P) ratio is too far out of balance, it can be detrimental to the cow and to the growth of her fetus.

Beef. It's What's For Dinner. wraps up 2019 by reaching consumers more than 1 billion times

Two years after it was relaunched, the Beef. It's What's For Dinner. brand has had a reach of more than 1 billion consumers with drool-worthy and informative digital marketing and social media content. Funded by the Beef Checkoff and developed by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), the Beef. It's What's For Dinner. brand aims to inspire families to explore their culinary talents with nutritious and delicious beef, while connecting consumers with stories of the farmers and ranchers who raise real beef.

Today, the Beef. It's What's For Dinner. brand is reaching more consumers more frequently and more effectively than ever before. According to market research, when people are aware of Beef. It's What's For Dinner., they are more likely to eat beef more often and feel good about purchasing and prepar-

ing beef for their families

"For a brand to have a reach of more than 1 billion in today's crowded marketing environment is a major milestone," said Laurie Munns, a cattle rancher from Hansel Valley, Utah and Federation Division Chairman, at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. "This achievement also demonstrates the equity of the Beef. It's What's For Dinner. brand and its ability to continue to meet the needs of today's discerning consumers. It's clear that consumers want more information about beef's great taste, its powerful nutrition profile and the hard-working farmers and ranchers that raise the beef they eat."

Since the introduction of the Beef. It's What's For Dinner. brand more than 25 years ago, NCBA has continued to evolve marketing strategies and adapt to changing media landscapes. This evolution included a shift away from tele-

vision advertising to focus on digital marketing efforts. Specifically, during the past two years, the Beef. It's What's For Dinner. brand has developed and executed several successful integrated digital marketing campaigns. A few highlights include:

Rethink the Ranch

Introduced in 2017 in conjunction with the relaunch of the Beef. It's What's For Dinner. brand, this campaign featured the people behind beef. From farm to plate and everything in-between, this video series gave consumers a look inside the lives of real farmers and ranchers and how they continue to produce more high-quality beef more sustainably than ever before.

Nicely Done, Beef

This ongoing campaign highlights beef's greatest assets - it's pleasurable eating experience, the amazing people who raise beef and the nutrients beef provides.

These messages are delivered through a consistent "nicely done" creative wrapper, with various ads communicating everything from "Nicely done, beef. You prove that meat substitutes are just that. Substitutes." to "Nicely done, beef. You build strong muscles. No protein shake required."

The Right Way

Launched in October, this recent campaign from Beef. It's What's For Dinner. introduces consumers to the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program, a Beef Check-off-funded voluntary program ensuring U.S. beef is produced under stringent animal care standards, resulting in safe, high-quality meat.

Drool Log

To celebrate the holiday season, Beef. It's What's For Dinner. put a spin on the iconic Yule Log with a new mouthwatering video. The two-hour long video features

a beautiful prime rib roast cooking to perfection on a rotisserie over an open flame.

Chuck Knows Beef

In addition to these, and many other creative and informative, campaigns, Beef. It's What's For Dinner. created the first all-knowing beef virtual assistant, Chuck Knows Beef in 2018. Powered by Google Artificial Intelligence, Chuck can serve up recipes and answer a variety of beef-related questions — from nutrition, cut and cooking information to how beef is raised. Chuck can be accessed on a computer or smart phone at ChuckKnowsBeef.com or through Amazon Alexa or

Google Home smart devices.

As consumers continue to have an interest in where their food comes, the nutrients it provides and how to prepare it in new and innovative ways, the Beef. It's What's For Dinner. brand will serve as an informative, convenient and mouthwatering resource. Thanks to these ongoing efforts, consumers can continue to feel good about choosing beef for the center of their plates.

To learn more about Beef. It's What's For Dinner. and see the brand's latest marketing campaigns, visit Beef-ItsWhatsForDinner.com

NCGA: corn farmers underwhelmed by final RVO rule

National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) president Kevin Ross made the following statement on the release of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) final 2020 Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) rule, setting renewable fuel volume requirements for the coming year, including accounting for 2020 refinery waivers. The final rule uses a three-year average of the Department of Energy (DOE) recommended waivers as an estimate for 2020 waivers rather than an average of actual gallons waived by the EPA.

"The administration has chosen to move forward with a final rule that corn farmers believe falls short of adequately addressing the demand destruction caused by EPA's abuse of RFS refinery waivers. While using the DOE recommendations to account for waivers is an improvement over the status quo, it is now on corn farmers to hold the administration to their commitment of a minimum of 15 billion gallon volume, as the law requires. We will use future rulemakings and other opportunities to hold the EPA accountable."

Kansas Corn joined the National Corn Growers Association in expressing concern over EPA's final 2020


Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) rule and accounting for 2020 refinery waivers. At issue is the use of a three-year average of Department of Energy (DOE) recommended waivers as an estimate for 2020 waivers rather than an average of actual gallons waived by the EPA, which has been twice the amount of the DOE recommendations.

"EPA is saying 'trust us', but the agency's previous actions handing out waivers to refiners don't assure us that they will honor their publicly stated commitment to uphold the final rule as we go forward," KCGA CEO Greg Krissek said. "We will hold the Administration to their commitment of a minimum 15 billion gallon volume, and we'll continue to work toward implementation of positive efforts that have been promised including rulemaking to benefit E15 as well as an infrastructure development program."

The Renewable Fuels Standard, which provides market access for ethanol, sets the levels of ethanol to be blended into the nation's fuel supply each year with the Renewable Volume Obligation. In the past three years, EPA has aggressively approved refinery exemptions to the RFS which eliminated over four billion

gallons of ethanol demand. The 2020 obligation is set at 15 billion gallons, and growers remain concerned whether

the mechanisms in this final rule will guarantee that the full volume obligation will be honored going forward.



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No Market Report Due to the Holidays! No Sale Jan. 2!
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- **JANUARY 16, 2020**
- **JANUARY 18, 2020: SPECIAL SATURDAY COW SALE!**
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- 65 Spring calving bred cows
- 10 Fall calving pairs

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- 17 (Dispersal) Red Angus 1st Calf Bred Hfr, dychronized AI bred Red Ang Redemption or Ex-Porter, calve Feb 10-15
- 30 Red Angus 1st Calf Bred Hfr, AI bred ABS Above & Beyond and No Worries, calve Feb 22
- 30 Red Angus 1st Calf Bred Hfr, Bull Bred to Premier & Redemption, Calve Mar 15 - April 30
- 44 Blk 1st Calf Bred Hfr, AI ABS bred SAV Brilliance, Ultrasound 8/28/19, calve Feb 9, Clean-up Bull Bismark Son on June 4, Vacc, Dbl Scour Guard
- 39 Bwf (17) - Blk (12) - Red (10) 1st Calf Bred Hfr, OCV, bred Klein Blk, BW -9 & BW+1, Synchronized - 45 Day Exposure, calve Jan 28, Vacc, Scour Guard & Dexamax on 12/9/19
- 20 Blk 1st Calf Bred Hfr, Bred Blk Nicholas King 313 (CE +8, BW +.1), calve Feb 1, Home Raised-Preg Guard-Scour Guard
- 10 Red Ang 1st Calf Bred Hfr, bred Hereford JI Sensation 01F (CE +9.1, BW -.5), calve Feb 1, dams sired by ABS Fusion, Home Raised-Preg Guard-Scour Guard
- 27 Bwf 1st Calf Bred Hfr, bred Blk Ang K002F Leachman or Hereford Kick Start 92F (CE +5, BW -.8), calve Feb 1, Home Raised-Preg Guard-Scour Guard
- 45 Blk 1st Calf Bred Hfr, OCV, bred Blk Angus, Poured, Scour Guard, calve Feb 1
- 39 Blk 1st Calf Bred Hfr, bred Gilliam Blk Angus, calve Feb 7, Vacc & Scour Guard
- 10 Blk Ang Ang/Tarentaise X 1st Calf Bred Hfr, OCV, bred Red Ang, calve Feb, Vacc Scour Guard
- 30 F-1 Bwf 1st Calf Bred Hfr, Tegmeier & Hoffman Hereford sired, Synchronized & AI bred Herbster Angus Gaffney Game Changer, calve Feb 1, Vacc & Scour Guard
- 17 Red Angus 1st Calf Hfr, AI bred Red Ang Perseverance D347, Clean-Up Red Ang, Vacc, calve Feb 19
- 35 Blk-Red 1st Calf Bred Hfr, bred Red Ang, calve Jan-Feb
- 70 Blk 1st Calf Bred Hfr, bred Marcy Blk Ang, calve Feb 10, 45-Day Calving Period, Scour Guard
- 20 Blk-Red 1st Calf Bred Hfr, (Red) AI 5L Independence Red Ang - (Blk) AI The Answer Blk Ang, calve Late Jan

BRED COWS:

- 58 (Dispersal) Red Angus Bred Cows, AI with single service on 40% w/Red Ang Redemption or Ex-Porter, calve Mar 9, Clean-Up w/Red Ang Ludvigson Bull
- 40 Red Ang Bred Cows, 3 Yr old, bred Beckon Red Ang, calve Mar 1, Vacc Preg Guard 10-Poured-Scour Guard
- 70 Blk & Red Bred Cows, 5-7 Yr old, bred Blk Ang, calve Feb 28, Vacc
- 30 Blk Bred Cows, 3-7 Yr old, bred Blk Lim/Flex, valve Mar 1
- 30 (Dispersal) Blk Bred Cows, 3-7 yr old, bred Blk Balancer, calve Mar
- 25 (Dispersal) Blk Bred Cows, 5 Yr - Short Solid, bred Blk Ang, calve Feb 21
- 10 Blk Bred Cows, 6 yr old, bred Blk Ang or Blk/Lim, calve Mar 1
- 15 Blk Bred Cows, 7 Yr - Short Solid, bred Blk Simm Ang, calve Jan 15 - Feb
- 12 Blk/Lim Bred Cows, 6-7 yr old, bred Blk/Lim, valve Mar 1

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Grass & Grain Weather Report

Seven Day Forecast

WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 43 Low: 30

THURSDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 40 Low: 27

FRIDAY
Sunny
High: 48 Low: 38

SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 49 Low: 36

SUNDAY
Sunny
High: 45 Low: 32

MONDAY
Sunny
High: 40 Low: 27

TUESDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 38 Low: 29

In-Depth Local Forecast

Today we will see partly cloudy skies, high of 43°, humidity of 60%. South southwest wind 2 to 8 mph. The record high for today is 67° set in 2005. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight, overnight low of 30°. Light winds. The record low for tonight is -9° set in 2018.

Last Week's Almanac			
Date	Hi/Lo	Normals	Precip
12/20	50/24	40/18	0.00"
12/21	47/18	40/18	0.00"
12/22	59R/29	40/18	0.00"
12/23	62/23	40/18	0.00"
12/24	67R/40	40/17	0.00"
12/25	67/37	40/17	0.00"
12/26	35/22	40/17	0.00"

Rainfall 0.00"
Normal rainfall 0.24"
Departure -0.24"
Average temp..... 41.4°
Average normal..... 28.8°
Departure +12.6°

Today's Local Outlook

This Week's Sun & Moon Chart

First	Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Last
1/2	Wednesday	7:45 a.m.	5:14 p.m.	11:55 a.m.	11:37 p.m.	1/17
	Thursday	7:46 a.m.	5:15 p.m.	12:20 p.m.	Next Day	
	Friday	7:46 a.m.	5:16 p.m.	12:45 p.m.	12:34 a.m.	
	Saturday	7:46 a.m.	5:17 p.m.	1:11 p.m.	1:31 a.m.	
	Sunday	7:46 a.m.	5:17 p.m.	1:39 p.m.	2:30 a.m.	
	Monday	7:46 a.m.	5:18 p.m.	2:11 p.m.	3:31 a.m.	
	Tuesday	7:46 a.m.	5:19 p.m.	2:48 p.m.	4:34 a.m.	

Local UV Index

0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very High, 11+: Extreme Exposure

Weather History

Jan. 1, 1864 - Snow, gales and severe cold hit the Midwest. It was the most bitterly cold New Year's day on record with afternoon high temperatures of 16 below zero at Chicago and 25 below at Minneapolis.

Growing Degree Days

Date	Degree Days	Date	Degree Days
12/20	0	12/24	3
12/21	0	12/25	2
12/22	0	12/26	0
12/23	0		

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Cowboy Up

by Ron Wilson
Poet Lariat

Riders and Writers

“Write On!” says the new coffee mug on my desk. No, that is not a typo. “Right on” was an expression from the 1970s, but in this case, Write On is the intended spelling. My new Write On mug came from Western Wordsmiths, a group of cowboy poets, songwriters, and western authors. Western Wordsmiths is a chapter of the International Western Music Association, or IWMA.

My wife and I recently made the trip to the annual convention of the IWMA in Albuquerque, situated near the scenic Sandia Mountains. The weather was pleasant and the hospitality was gracious.

The mission of IWMA is to encourage and support the preservation, performance and composition of historic traditional and contemporary music and poetry of the West. Members are from the United States, Australia, Canada, England, Spain and Switzerland. Among other activities, IWMA produces a beautiful magazine called Western Way. Note that the focus of this organization is different

from country music. I love country music too, but modern country is not traditional cowboy music. It used to be country-WESTERN music but the western part has been left behind, and IWMA seeks to preserve and promote that part of our tradition.

IWMA is for performers, fans, or anyone who wants to support the genre. Music is a primary focus but poets are included too. (For example, I’m a member but I can play only one musical instrument really well: The radio). A person can join the national organization and join their state and multi-state chapters. Kansas has an active state chapter which meets quarterly.

There are two other chapters and those are not geographically based. One is a youth chapter and the other is the aforementioned Western Wordsmiths, which is obviously targeted at writers. I’ve been active in the Kansas chapter as well as Wordsmiths, and am currently serving as secretary of the national Western Wordsmiths chapter.

It was good to get together with fellow cowboy poets and performers. The following poem describes an imaginary encounter with a western author. The IWMA convention

included competitive events in poetry, harmony singing, and even yodeling. There were lots and lots of showcases where performers from all over shared their talents.

The convention culminated in an awards show on Saturday night (our equivalent of the Oscars or Grammys). Unfortunately, I never had the chance to present my well-rehearsed acceptance speech (“I’d like to thank all the little people who helped me achieve greatness....”). Some of the ballots must have been lost in the mail.

There is one thing about this convention that is different from every other convention I’ve attended. In every corner of every hallway, jam sessions seemed to pop up at any time (I’ll bet you won’t find that at a dentist’s convention). Some of the talent is just amazing.

Kansas was well-represented at IWMA. A number of Kansans attended, including 3 Trails West which is a terrific cowboy musical group based in Kansas City. In my admittedly biased opinion, I thought they were the best sounding group I heard all weekend. Roger and Leo Eilts, the founding members of 3 Trails West, also emceed the Friday Night Opry at IWMA and they were great.

I mentioned the youth chapter. Some of those kids who performed were unbelievably good, and they are our future. I came away from Albuquerque convinced that we need to do more to involve youth in western music and poetry.

As for the Western Wordsmiths, they encourage us to practice and improve our craft. To that I say, “Write on!”

Poetic License

“My book’s a million-seller,” the author said to me. I thought: For cowboy poetry, that’s quite a rarity. I’ve self-published a couple of poetry books myself, But I really haven’t pushed them. They just sit on the shelf. So I said to the author, “Wow, that’s really good. Can you share advice for others who would like that neighborhood?” The author got a sheepish look. “Well, no, I must confess. The sales of my poetry book have really been much less. I say it’s a million seller, but only in one sense, Which I really must explain, in my own self-defense, The fact is, my book sales have really not been stellar. I have a million copies, and I keep ‘em in the cellar.” Happy Trails!

www.ronscowboypetry.com
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- 130 black steers, 800-825 lbs.
- 65 Angus steers, 825-850 lbs., homeraised
- 160 black heifers, 675-700 lbs.
- 62 black heifers, 800-825 lbs.
- 64 black Charolais heifers, 775-800 lbs.
- 60 black heifers, 800-825 lbs.
- 61 black crossbred steers, 900-925 lbs.
- 60 black steers, 950-975 lbs.
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