By Donna Sullivan, **Editor**

A process that started in Manhattan two years

ago, as Sen. Pat Roberts hosted fellow ag committee member Sen. Debbie Stabenow for a listening

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Featuring: Four Semi Truck loads, huge selection of New Kitchen cabinets. Granite counter tops, interior and exterior doors, windows, hardwood and tile flooring, lumber, lighting, Sinks, faucets, vanities, Appliances all from major distributors. We will also have overstocks from a local lumber yard here in Manhattan and much, much, more.

Auctioneers Note: If you're looking for materials to remodel your kitchen or rental don't miss this auction. We have sample pictures on website that we have had in the past auctions.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 — 12:00 NOON

Two Estates, Seized assets from Riley Co. Police Dept. & KDOR. Stump Grinder, furniture, household, antiques, collectibles and gardening items, much much more. **VEHICLES:** '13 Ford Explorer 4x4, 13 Ford Taurus, '05 Chevy Impala, only 68K, '11 Dodge Caravan '99 Ford Econoline van, '08 BMW, '06 Ford Ranger PU 4x4. **Jewel** ry, Rings, Watches, Necklaces. Keep an eye on website for updated information & pictures. Auctioneers Note: Two outstand ing Auctions. We will be adding more as we get closer to auction day Concessions will be available both days. Adding more each day. Terms: Cash, Good Check will be accepted for payment. Announcements made day of sale take precedence over previous printed materials. 10% buyers premium will be in effect. All items must be paid for before leaving.

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ended last Thursday when President Donald Trump signed the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, better known as the farm bill. On hand for the signing was Grass & Grain columnist Glenn Brunkow, who serves as Kansas Farm Bureau's 1st District Director. As a member of Farm Bureau's Go Team as well as Partners in Ag Leadership (PAL), Brunkow was asked about a week ago to write a testimony of what the farm bill means to his operation. Brunkow and his wife

session with producers,

availability of crop insurance is what helps him get financing for the purchase. His testimony and one other were picked from the 13 that were received for use, and when special invitations to the signing were given, one was offered to Brunkow.

The experience had the Kansas producer walking around in the back halls of the White House, shaking hands with the Vice President and Representatives and eventually meeting the President as he prepared to sign the bill.

"It was pretty incredible." Brunkow said.



Representing Kansas Farm Bureau, Glenn Brunkow greets Senate Ag Committee chairman Pat Roberts during the ceremony for the signing of the 2018 farm

did I dream I would get to do something like that."

As for the farm bill itself, he was pleased with the final product. "It was a real win," he said. "There isn't a lot new in it, but we kept the important parts and it will allow for greater choices for producers,

"This is a great day for our farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers, as President Trump's signature on this bill is a Christmas present to American agriculture," said Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. "Farmers take financial risks every year as a matter of doing business, so having a Farm Bill in place gives them peace of mind to make their deciearly talks on this Farm Bill began back in 2017, I've always believed it would be more evolutionary, rather than revolutionary, and that has borne out to be true."

"The bill bolsters farm safety net programs, protects federal crop insurance, and maintains strong rural development and research initiatives," Perdue continued. "The legislation reinvents the Margin Protection Program for dairy producers, providing a boost to coverage levels and a reduction in premiums after the program fell short in the 2014 Farm Bill. The bill also includes a new Animal Disease

• Cont. on page 12



Brunkow is shown with American Farm Bureau Federation president Zippy DuVall.

COMM. CATTLE AUCTION STARTING 10:00 A.M. ON WEIGH COWS

EVERY FRIDAY FOLLOWED BY STOCKER FEEDERS — 11:00 A.M.

Alta Vista

Havensville

1 blk

1 blk



1380@39.50

1410@38.50

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Westmoreland

Westmoreland

1 blk

1 blk

For our sale Friday, December 21st, the bulk of the run was calves and cull cows. The weaned calves with quality and condition were selling at fully steady prices while the lighter calves sold higher. Cull cows and bulls sold

STEER CALVES — 400-550 LBS

adv to lower.

Manhattan 3 blk 365@199.00 Wamego 3 bwf 428@192.00 Winchester 435@184.00 6 Cross Leonardville 10 blk 505@181.50 Frankfort 3 bwf 523@175.00 4 blk Frankfort 511@172.00 Paxico 4 blk 532@164.00 Easton 4 blk 456@163.00 4 blk 453@158.00 Lawrence 3 Cross 450@152.00 Leonardville 495@151.00 Carbondale 3 Cross **Easton** 7 blk 549@150.50

STEERS — 550-950 LBS

Wamego 18 blk 550@173.50 Leonardville 11 blk 560@163.00 Wamego 11 bwf 660@157.50 Onaga 5 blk 590@157.00 Carbondale 6 Cross 603@142.50 Wamego 755@140.50 4 bwf Easton 12 blk 669@140.00 Frankfort 672@140.00 5 bwf 5 bwf 602@139.50 Hoyt 3 blk 658@137.00 Mayetta 761@133.00 Frankfort 3 Heref Lawrence 6 blk 570@125.50 **HEIFER CALVES** 275-550 LBS 3 blk 375@158.00 Wamego Manhattan 4 blk 437@158.00 Leonardville 12 blk 494@157.50

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Centralia 7 blk Wamego 506@155.00 Alma Easton 4 blk 418@154.00 Centralia Meriden 3 Cross 376@150.00 Centralia Easton 10 blk 516@146.50 Alma Frankfort 3 blk 483@146.00 Frankfort 3 bwf 513@144.00 Onaga Manhattan **HEIFERS** - 550-850 LBS Westmoreland Leonardville 5 blk 556@156.50 Alma

Cell: 620-382-7502

5 bwf 602@140.00 Frankfort 565@140.00 Frankfort 5 blk Easton 8 blk 663@139.00 Westmoreland 3 bwf 711@135.50 Frankfort 3 bwf 718@132.50 Onaga 3 blk 586@130.00 1.100-2.025 LBS 1370@69.50 1 blk 1 blk

Lost Springs Mavetta 1375@65.50 Carbondale 1 blk 1390@64.50 Perry 1 blk 1905@64.50 1 blk 1935@64.00 Basehor Alta Vista 1 blk 1780@63.00 1580@62.50 Auburn, NE 1 blk Westmoreland 1805@62.00 1 blk Lost Springs 1880@61.50 1 blk 2020@60.50 Council Grove 1 bwf White City 1 blk 1870@55.50 1 blk 1110@55.00

Seneca **COWS & HEIFERETTES** 850-1,750 LBS Clay Center 925@127.00 1 blk Carbondake 1 blk Clay Center 10 blk Havensville 1 blk Manhattan 1 blk Westmoreland 1 blk Olathe 1 blk Westmoreland 1 blk Havensville 1 bwf Westmoreland 1 blk 1 blk Westmoreland 1 blk Carbondale Havensville 1 blk Matfield Green 1 blk Westmoreland 1 blk 1 blk Carbondale

860@120.00 1065@119.50 1200@66.00 1245@63.00 1225@61.50 1095@61.50 1145@58.50 1260@56.00 1495@55.50 1750@55.00 1185@51.00 1105@51.00 1585@50.50 1620@50.00 1135@50.00 1 blk 1180@50.00 1 blk 1475@48.00 1 blk 1270@46.50 1 blk 1640@46.00 1455@46.00 1 blk 1 Cross 1245@45.50 1 blk 1220@45.50 1 blk 1675@45.50 1 blk 1540@45.50

1140@41.00 Westmoreland 1520@38.00 Centralia 1 bwf 1 blk Carbondale 1 blk 1310@40.50 Alta Vista 1 Hereford 1005@35.50 1385@40.50 Havensville Carbondale 1 Cross 1 blk 1350@35.50 Centralia 1 blk 1440@40.50 Leonardville 1 blk 1475@32.50 FRIDAY SALES WILL CONTINUE THROUGH

1290@42.00

1320@41.50

From our families to yours, have a Happy & Prosperous New Year!

THE HOLIDAYS WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR DEC. 28

- 55 Choice Blk feeder steers, 800-850 lbs.
- 80 blk, red brockle face & Char cross strs & hfrs, weaned Oct. 10, all shots, 700-750 lbs.
- 28 blk strs & hfrs, weaned, 2 rds shots, 500-700 lbs.
- 9 older blk & bwf cows, bred to Angus bull to start calving Jan. 15.

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR JAN. 4. 2019:

- 70 Choice blk, bwf heifers, long weaned, shots, 550-600 lbs.
- 26 blk bwf strs & hfrs, weaned Oct. 1, bunk broke, 2 rds shots, no implants, 650-
- 65 blk & red Angus strs & hfrs, weaned 75 days, 2 rds shots, 500-600 lbs. 90 blk fancy strs & hfrs, all shots, weaned 45 days, bunk broke, 500-550 lbs.
- 21 blk hfrs, weaned 30 days, 625-675 lbs.
- EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR JAN. 11.
- 224 blk strs & hfrs, long weaned, 2 rds shots, bunk broke, 500-650 lbs.
- 22 blk strs & hfrs, long weaned, 2 rds shots, bunk broke, 450-500 lbs. 38 blk strs & hfrs, long weaned, 2 rds shots, bunk broke, 700-800 lbs.
- 42 blk bwf strs & hfrs, 2 complete rds shots, weaned 60 days, 550-650 lbs. 82 blk strs & hfrs, 2 rds shots plus respiratory, weaned 60 days, 550-700 lbs.
- 150 Choice reputation SimmAngus strs & hfrs weaned Nov 1, 1 complete rd shots, 550-850 lbs
- 80 blk strs & hfrs, Lyons & Fink genetics, 550-700 lbs.
- 76 blk bwf strs & hfrs, shots, weaned Nov. 20, 525-600 lbs. 65 choice rep Angus strs & hfrs, 3 rds shots, weaned 75 days, 650-800 lbs.

41 blk strs & hfrs, weaned 45 days, bunk broke, vaccinated, 600-700 lbs.

Upcoming Special Stock Cow & Bred Heifer Sale Dates • Wednesday's starting at 11:00 AM *2019:* January 16 • February 20 • March 20 • April 10 • May 1

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Grass & Grain, December 25, 2018

Grass & Grain Community Obituary

Lester C. Laue · 1929-2018

Lester C. Laue died December 16, 2018, at his ranch near Hanover, KS. He was 89 years old. Lester was born on the family farm south of Hanover on August 7, 1929, to Lawrence and Alvena Laue. He attended



from Hanover High School in 1947. He served in the United States Navy as a Chief Petty Officer aboard the USS Comstock in the Korean War. On April 5, 1959, he married LeAnna Jandera at Zion Lutheran Church in Hanover.

Lester's childhood dream was to breed purebred cattle. Using leased land and handmade feed bunks, he started with a registered Hereford bull. In 1959, that bull fell into the icy waters of the Little Blue River, leading to a decision that would change his life forever. Lester replaced the ill-fated Hereford with a new Charolais bull — one of the first in Kansas. It was the beginning of what would become Laue Charolais Ranch. In 1967, he imported the first fullblood Charolais bulls from Canada to America. One of them, named "Beau Ivo," set world records for yearling weight and auction price in 1968, and was named "Bull of the Year." For nearly 60 years, he marketed purebred cattle to over 30 states, Canada, and Mexico. Lester lived a life of service in agriculture and his com-

munity, as the first President of the Bluestem Charolais Association, a committee member of the American-International Charolais Association, a board member of the Kansas Livestock Association, a life member of the American Quarter Horse Association, and a member of the Kansas Cattlemans Association. He was a Governor of the American Royal Livestock Show

in Kansas City, where he participated throughout his life. He served on the board of directors of the First National Bank of Washington for 30 years. He was a member of the USD 223 Board of Education, the Washington County Fair Board, and the Hanover Cemetery Board. He was President of the church council at Zion Lutheran Church. and a commander of the Hanover American Legion.

Lester had a lifelong love of good horseflesh, and great pride in his herd of foundation Skipper W Quarter Horses. In his later years, he enjoyed the thrills of the Laue Ranch Thoroughbred racing stable. In 2005, he celebrated in two winners circles in Chicago, when three-year-old colt Gun Salute won the Secretariat Stakes (G.1) at Arlington Park and the Hawthorne Derby (G.3) at Hawthorne Racecourse. Lester was preceded in death by his parents, stepmother Avis Laue, sister Dorothy Gentry, and brothers William, Leroy, and Quentin Laue. He is survived by his wife and ranch partner LeAnna, his son Brant, who is Chief Counsel to the Governor of Kansas in Topeka, his daughter Lisa McArdle, who is a nurse in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and his sister Marilyn Doupnik of Columbus, Ohio.

Burial will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Royal Association in Kansas City.

Brunkow attends farm bill signing, cont.

ment program, providing annual funding for three animal health programs. This includes a new vaccine bank focused on footand-mouth disease and extended funding of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network to protect our borders and improve food safety.' "We began the consid-

eration of this Farm Bill two years ago in Manhattan, Kansas by listening to producers," said ag committee chairman Sen. Pat Roberts. "We ended up with a bill crafted to address the concerns of all regions and all crops. In a tough economy, the evolutionary, not revolutionary approach of our bill received the most votes of any farm bill in history." Roberts went on, "Our

first commitment was to provide farmers and ranchers with certainty and predictability and this is what attracted broad, bipartisan support. I am proud of the members of my Committee who have worked so hard to give rural America the tools

fiber in the world." Roberts also expressed appreciation to President Trump and Vice President Pence for their understanding of the importance of agriculture and support of the

Agriculture across the board expressed support for the legislation. Kansas Corn Growers Association CEO Greg Krissek said the signing is welcome news. "Today, President

Trump signed the 2018 Farm Bill into law, which is a culmination of our efforts to provide a safety net and certainty for our farmers in difficult times." Krissek said. "We thank Senator Roberts for leading the effort to craft the farm bill and to reach a workable compromise in the conference committee. Congressman Roger Marshall provided sound leadership on the House Ag Committee and the conference committee as well. Senator Moran, and Representatives Estes, Yoder and Jenkins all helped get the bill over the finish insurance was a critical component in the minds of producers around the nation. The American Association of Crop Insurers, Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau, Crop Insurance Professionals Association, Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America, National Association of Professional Insurance Agents, and National Crop Insurance Services issued the following joint statement in response. "It's been a difficult year for farmers and ranchers from coast to coast, but rural America is ending 2018 on a high note with this farm bill. The new law keeps crop insurance affordable and widely available for agriculture, and it provides much-needed certainty heading into 2019." According to the group, this year, 1.1 million crop

insurance policies provided \$106 billion in protection on more than 130 types of crops covering 311 million acres.

(USMEF) Federation President and CEO Dan bill contains many provisions that are critical to the success and competitiveness of American agriculture. One important continued support for international promotion of U.S. agricultural products, as the bill maintains funding for the USDA Market Access Program and the USDA Foreign Market Development Program. Support from these programs is an important tool for expanding global demand for U.S. pork, beef and lamb, as well as many other U.S. products.'

For Brunkow, who flew out Wednesday night for the signing and flew back in Thursday night, with 3-hour delays on both flights, the whirlwind experience is something he will never forget.

"As I walked back into the house at 2:30 this morning I thought, 'This is just nuts," he reflected "A few hours ago I was shaking hands with the President, and now I'm walking back through my mud room, smelling the

Building effective community board leadership skills focus of workshop mission and vision for the board, and how to plan prior-

series of Community Board Leadership workshops designed to provide basic training for members of community-based boards across the state on February 5, 12, 19, The series will kick-off on February 5 with Conduct-

ing Effective Meetings. During this session, participants will learn about their roles and responsibilities as a board member, basics of parliamentary procedure, and strategies to make meetings more productive and effec-On February 12, the topic will be Fundraising, Fund

Management, Legalities and Ethics. This session will explore a board's options for raising and managing money, understanding such things as articles of incorporation, bylaws, and policies. The February 19 session will cover Understanding

Fellow Board Members and Conflict Management, Participants will explore how personalities and generational differences affect the decision-making process, and learn how to manage conflict in a way that is productive, not destructive, to the board. Strategic Planning will be the final topic on February

26. Participants will learn about establishing a common

All sessions will be conducted from 6:00 p.m. to

8:00 p.m. Workshop participants will meet at host sites throughout the state to take part in web-based instruction and locally facilitated discussion. The Wildcat Extension District will be hosting a site at its Pittsburg location, which can be found at 667 S. 69 Highway, Pitts-

Pre-registration for the event is required by Thurs day, January 10. A minimum number of registrations must be received in order to hold class therefore it is imperative that you register by this date. A \$40 registra tion buys a seat for all four sessions. Individuals may choose to attend on their own or boards may buy a sea and send a different board member to each session. Boards sending multiple members may negotiate a group rate. Registration should include: name, phone number email address, and board represented. Registrations may be sent to the Wildcat District in Girard (120 E Buffalo Girard KS) or contact Amanda Marney 620-724-8233 for more information. Registration Fees are due with registration. Registration includes a light meal, four ed ucational sessions, and Board Basics materials.

A first look at the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 By Robin Reid, Art have ANNUAL elections maintain the base for fu-impact on their farm at yield that will replace the end of the marketing the series of the series of the series of the series of the marketing that will replace the end of the marketing that will be the end of the marketing that will be the end of the

Barnaby and Mykel Taylor, Kansas State University Department of **Agricultural Economics**

After a long and heated debate, the 2018 Farm Bill finally becoming law. While the 2014 Farm Bill had new farm programs and major changes, the 2018 Farm Bill is largely status quo with some improvements to Title I programs that should benefit farmers during these

age (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) are again offered, with ARC having a county and individual farm option, as before. Notable changes affecting both programs include:

Agriculture Risk Cover-

· Producers will elect a program per commodity for 2019 and 2020, but then

will alleviate much of the pressure in having to make a five-year decision, as it was for the previous farm bill. Producers can change their program preferenc-· Base acres that have

been planted to grass or pasture and planted none of their base acres to program crops for all years of 2009-2017 will effectively suspended ceiving payments, but still maintain their historical base. These base acres will be eligible for the CSP grasslands program however and can receive a payment of \$18/acre. These suspended acres will also be considered "planted" to program crops during this farm bill so it will ture legislation. The definition of "grass" is uncertain at this time and will have to be interpreted by the Secretary. Just as a side note: Sen.

Pat Roberts was absolute in his statement that no farmer would lose base acres. Under this compromise, the intent is no loss of base. Freedom to Farm. sponsored by

Roberts in 1996, allowed farmers to plant being required to plant the program crop in order to receive payments. This made the payment more in line with WTO trade rules. but also allowed farmers to plant forages for livestock and not be required to plant a program crop in order to receive payments and maintain their base.

Farmers who are cur-

rently planting non-program crops on base acres are likely at some future point to risk losing base. In 1996, economists were arguing that it was good economics to allow farmers to plant for the market and not as requirement for payments. In the current debate, some economists are now arguing farmers who don't plant program crops shouldn't receive payments. Acres that have been converted to hay and grazing are mostly wheat Corn belt acres are

too valuable to grow forages, so the reduction in base acres and payments would come from wheat base. This idea was being pushed in the Corn Belt to generate more funds for ARC. As long as Sen. Roberts is in the Senate, I think the loss of base is no great threat, but who knows under new leadership? This was a major change from the House language, but it is likely just the first step, and more crops will be added the list of crops that can't be planted on base acres and receive payments. The original House version would have eliminated base on acres planted to alfalfa, so this compromise greatly reduced the economic impact from the House plant-

ing restrictions and very

few farmers will see any

prices (ERP) now include a formula and could go up as much as 15% if commodity prices improve. Statutory reference prices remain the same, as follows:

any year that an individual producer yield is low. While this sounds complicated, the payment yield update decision will be easy. If this formula yield is higher than the current PLC yield, then a producer

Max. Effective reference (115%) Statute reference CORN \$3.70 \$4.26 SOYBEANS \$9.66 \$8.40 WHEAT \$5.50 \$6.33 GRAIN SORG.

To set the effective reference price for both ARC and PLC programs, an Olympic average of the last five Marketing Year Average prices (MYA's) will be multiplied by 85%. If this is higher than the statute reference price, this number will be used up to the maximum of 115% of the statutory reference prices. For example: Soybean

MYA prices for the last five years were: \$10.10, \$8.95, \$9.47, \$9.33, and \$8.60 - (projected). An Olympic average of these MYA's would be \$9.25, which would be multiplied by 85% and become \$7.86. Since this is less than the \$8.40 statute reference, \$8.40 would be used. Because of the lower commodity prices in the last five years, the likelihood of this formula reference price becoming effective for our major Kansas crops is low. · The individual pay-

ment limit remains the same at \$125,000, but allows the definition of family to extend to nieces, nephews, and first cousins. The Adjusted Gross Income cap remains at \$900,000. Some provisions that have changed specific to

PLC: • All producers will

get an opportunity to update their payment yields with the 2020 crop year. The formula is somewhat complex. Average individual producer yields per planted acre from 2013 through 2017 crop years will be multiplied by 90% and then multiplied by a "detrending" ratio of the national average yield

from 2008-2012 divided by

the national average yield

from 2013-2017. There is

also a 75% county plug

will want to update. This will increase PLC payments in the future, if they are made.

Some provisions that

have changed specific to ARC - County: · ARC - County payments will be calculated

based on the physical location of the farm, not the administrative county. USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) yields

per planted acre will be

used as the first source of county - yield information to set revenue guarantees and calculate payments. The benchmark yield to set the ARC - County guarantee will again be an Olympic average of the

last five years of county yields, but low years will be replaced by 80% of the transitional yield, AND a trend - adjustment factor will be applied. • USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) will be re-

quired to publish the source of data used to calculate the county yield along with the number and outcome of occurrences in which that yield was reviewed, changed, or determined not to change. Approved insurance

providers (AIPs) will be required to submit producer yields 30 days after the final reporting date, hopefully speeding up the process of publishing a county yield value and allowing producer and lenders to estimate an ARC payment for cash flow purposes. This is particularly helpful for wheat, meaning that the yield and price for ARC should be known by July 1, allowing farmers and lenders to have a very good estimate of the

ARC payment for wheat

several months before

The Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) programs remain the same with rates increasing to the following: corn \$2.20,

\$3.38, grain sorghum \$2.20. Title I programs also includes Dairy Margin Coverage, which has undergone significant changes already with the Bipar tisan Budget Act of 2018, educing premiums and improving risk coverage for dairy farmers. A detailed discussion of dairy policy from Dr. Andrew M. Novakovic (Cornell University) and Dr. Mark W. Stephenson (University of Wisconsin) can be found https://dairymarkets. org/PubPod/Pubs/BP18

The Conservation Title saw some heated debate and changes in the 2018 Farm Bill. The CRP acre cap will be increased over time from 24 million acres currently to 27 million acres by 2023, but rental rates will be reduced to 85% of the average county rental rate for general sign-ups and 90% of the county average for continuous CRP enrollment. The Conservation Stew-

ardship Program (CSP) will be phased out as a standalone acre-based program and be administered with the current Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The Crop Insurance Title saw very little change, which will be a relief to most farmers who consider this their number one risk management tool. Enterprise units are now allowed across county lines. One other change involves how cover crops are handled and may increase the use of cover crops in some areas. Also of interest to Kansas producers is the es-

tablishment of a federal vaccination bank with priority to foot-and-mouth disease. nutrition title The

(Title IV: SNAP), the most controversial part of the bill, which held up passage earlier in the year due to revisions regarding work requirements in the House version, ended up with virtually no change.

WESTFALL O'DELL TRUCK SALES 2014 GMC ACADIA DENALI 2013 VOLVO VNL300

\$27,185

DI3 XE ENGINE, 425 HP, ATO 26 12D

TRANS, 2.64 RE-RATIO, 189" WB, 445K MI, STK# 1P15803 2011 FREIGHTLINER CA125DC

\$39,953





(LTHR, SKYSCAPE SUNROOF BOK MI, STK# 1P15698

2016 GMC YUKON SLE





Hay market trade activity is slow to moderate. Prices are generally steady and demand is moderate. Alfalfa hay supplies remain a concern for some but hay can still be found. We should be able to get to new crop with the abundance of feed hay and silage. Sunny skies and mild temperatures have been the rule of late. That should help dry out fields so farmers can harvest the rest of their crops. Mud has been a recurring problem this fall and winter and there will be a lot of dirt work needing to be completed before planting this spring. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the abnormally dry (D0) category has almost completely disappeared from our state. Only a small amount remains along the extreme southern border of four southeastern counties. The abnormally dry (D0) category is at .41 pct. If you have hay for sale, and/or need hay here in Kansas, use the services of the Internet Hay Exchange: www.hayexchange.

Southwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grass hay, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, premium small squares 280.00-300.00. Alfalfa: Dairy 1.00-1.05/point RFV Supreme 185 00-210 00 Premium 170 00-195 00 Good 160.00-170.00. Stock or Dry Cow 190.00-200.00. Fair/ Good grinding alfalfa, 170.00-180.00 with an instance at 195.00-200.00. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots and dairies, 195.00-205.00 with an instance at 215.00-220.00; Bluestem, premium small squares 140.00-150.00; Sudan: large rounds 65.00-75.00: Cornstalks: Large rounds 50.00-60.00, ground and delivered 80.00-90.00; Wheat straw: large rounds 65.00-70.00. The week of 12/09-12/15, 11,090T of grinding alfalfa and 1,288T of dairy

alfalfa were delivered. The average paid by feedlots on December 1 for alfalfa ground and delivered was 190.20, up 2.02 from last month, usage was 631T/day, down .78 pct., and total usage was 18.936T.

South Central Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grass hay, grinding alfalfa, ground/ delivered, alfalfa pellets steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, small squares 200.00-210.00. Dairy, 1.00-1.05/ point RFV, Supreme 185.00-210.00, Premium 170.00-195.00, Good 160.00-170.00. Stock cow, 170.00-180.00 delivered. Fair/Good grinding alfalfa, 150.00-160.00. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots 175.00-185.00 with an instance at 200.00; Alfalfa pellets: Sun cured 15 pct protein 210.00-220.00, 17 pct protein 210.00-225.00, Dehydrated 17 pct 245.00-255.00; Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares 8.00/bale, mid squares 110.00-120.00, large squares 130.00-140.00, large round 80.00-90.00. Brome, large squares 125.00-135.00, large round 85.00-95.00; Sudan: large rounds 70.00-80.00; Wheat Straw: large rounds 65.00-75.00. The week of 12/09-12/15, 4,937T of grinding alfalfa and 617T of dairy alfalfa were delivered. The average paid by feedlots on December 1 for alfalfa ground and delivered was 164.43, down 11.55 from last month, usage was 238T/day, down 11 pct., and total usage was 7,139T.

Southeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered, grass hav steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse or goat. 220.00-245.00. Dairy 1.00-1.05/point RFV. Stock cow 170.00-180.00. Fair/Good grinding alfalfa, 165.00-175.00. Ground and delivered, none reported; Grass hay: Bluestem, premium small squares 135.00-145.00. Good, mid squares 125.00-135.00, large squares 110.00-120.00, large rounds 100.00-110.00 with an instance at 120.00. Brome, good small squares 145.00-155.00, mid squares 140.00-150.00, large squares 120.00-130.00, large rounds 125.00-135.00; Sudan: large rounds 80.00-90.00; Oat hay, mid squares 150.00-160.00; Wheat Straw: mid and large squares 75.00100.00. Mulch: large rounds 50.00-60.00. The week of 12/09-12/15, 1,415T of grass hay was delivered.

Grass & Grain, December 25, 2018

Northwest Kansas

Page 13

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: Horse or goat, 220.00-230.00. Dairy, Premium/Supreme 1.00-1.05/point RFV. Stock cow, fair/good 160.00-165.00. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, 135.00-145.00. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots and dairies, 145.00-155.00; Alfalfa/oat mix, large rounds 100.00-120.00

North Central-Northeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grass hay grinding alfalfa and ground/ delivered steady: movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, premium small squares 9.00-10.00/bale. Dairy 1.00-1.05/point RFV, Supreme 185.00-200.00, Premium 170.00-195.00, Good 160.00-170.00. Stock Cow, 195.00-200.00. Fair/Good, grinding alfalfa, 140.00-150.00. Ground and delivered 170.00-180.00. Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares 7.50/ bale, large squares 110.00-120.00, large rounds 100.00-110.00. Brome, small squares 8.50/bale, mid to large squares 135.00-145.00, large rounds 110.00-120.00; Sudan: large rounds 80.00-90.00; Wheat Straw: small squares 6.00-7.00/bale, large squares 100.00-110.00, and large rounds 85.00-95.00.

***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: $www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/DC_GR310.txt$

Grain for Good Sweepstakes invites cereal growers to support local community organizations for second year

a row, cereal growers can enter for a chance to win a \$5,000 donation from Bayer to a charity of their choice through the Grain for GoodTM Sweepstakes presented by the Bayer Cereal Experts, Following the success of its inaugural year, the sweepstakes will expand eligible cereal states from ten to 12.

"We are very excited to see the Grain for Good sweepstakes come back for another year," said Carter Medalen, Bayer senior technical sales representative. "Last year cereal growers enthusiastically participated to give back to local organizations. It was great to see the positive effect of the donations, and I join the rest of the Cereal Experts in my excitement to see how the donations will help communities this year.

In its first year, the Grain for Good sweepstakes donated \$50,000 to ten charities, which helped provide classroom materials, new equipment, grants and scholar-

"When I saw the opportunity from Bayer to potentially receive \$5,000 for my local community, I said to my husband, let's go for it," said Karen Thomas, a wheat grower from Velva. North Dakota, and one of ten Grain for Good winners in 2018. "We have two boys in high school and both are planning on furthering their education at North Dakota State University in agriculture and returning to the farm. The Velva Ag Department has provided excellent educa-

tion. We hope the \$5,000 will be used to enhance the tools and equipment to increase the opportunities for students interested in agriculture."

Growers can enter to win by mail or at www. grainforgood.com now through March 31, 2019. There is no purchase necessary and a limit of only one entry per person. Winners will be selected randomly by a third party and announced in April 2019.

Sweepstakes details: Entrants must grow

250+ acres of cereal crops,

including spring wheat, winter wheat, durum, barley and/or sorghum in 2018 or plan to grow 250+ acres of such crops in 2019.

Eligible states: Colora-

do, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington Ten winners will be

selected to receive \$5,000 donation from Bayer to a charity of their choice. No purchase neces sary. Void outside eligible

states and where prohib-

ited. Must be 18 years of

age or older (19 or older if a resident of Nebraska). Sweepstakes is subject to official rules, available at www.grainforgood.com

The Bayer Cereal Experts are excited to see all the ways the donations will help communities. To enter for a chance to help vour local community and to learn more about last vear's winners, visit www. grainforgood.com.

Learn more about the Cereal Experts and the innovative Bayer cereals portfolio at CerealExperts.com.

USDA highlights benefits of improved dairy safety net tool margin) falls below a cer-Providing monthly pay-

More than 21,400 dairy producers opted for coverage through the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy) in 2018, up by more than 2,000 producers from the previous year. This U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program was significantly updated in February by the Bipartisan Act of 2018, and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said those changes attracted more producers to enroll in the safety net program or to increase their coverage.

"Dairy producers have long been battling low prices, high input costs, and a surplus in the global market. Unfortunately, the 2014 Farm Bill did not provide a sufficient safety net to dairy producers and so it was timely that Congress opted to provide additional support through the Margin Protection Program last February," Sec-

retary Perdue said. "We

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are pleased to announce that roughly half of our nation's dairy producers enrolled for coverage under this reworked Program, providing additional capital to keep some of these folks afloat. We understand that this is not a total fix nor long-term solution for dairy producers, but we are glad that the Farm Service Agency was able to spring into action to get these critical payments out the door just a few months after the legislative changes were

enacted. USDA is looking forward to prioritizing the implementation of the Dairy Margin Coverage Program, the new longer-term, more comprehensive dairy safety net program, following the passage of the 2018 Farm

MPP-Dairy, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency, protects dairy producers by paying them when the difference between the national allmilk price and the national average feed cost (the

Randle

tain dollar amount elected by the producer.

Many producers received their first MPP-Dairy payments in February 2018, and most producers who have chosen premium coverage levels of \$7, \$7.50, or \$8 have seen a payment for every month since February. For these seven months, over \$253 million in payments have been made to dairy oper-

The Bipartisan Budget Act made several changes.

including:

ments instead of bi-month-Permitting of dairy op-

ticipated before to enroll in the program; Covering 5 million pounds of production (in-

erations that had not par-

stead of 4 million) on the Tier 1 premium schedule; Significantly reducing premiums per hundred-

premium schedule; and Exempting limited resource, beginning, veteran, and disadvantaged

weight under the Tier 1

dairy operators from paying the annual administra-

tive fee. While enrollment for MPP-Dairy has closed, USDA encourages dairy producers to consider other programs, including the Dairy Revenue Protection Program, Livestock Gross Margin Insurance for Dairy Cattle, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and Conserva-

Contact your local USDA service center to

tion Stewardship Program.



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1600@54.00

1645@53.50

1515@53.00

1565@52.00

Wilsey, 2 blk 760@120.00 White City, 1 blk 1520@74.00 Marion, 1 Char 2150@71.00 White City, 1 red 2150@66.00 Marion, 1 red 1920@65.00 Marion, 1 blk 2305@65.00 Florence, 1 red **STEERS** Herington, 4 blk Herington, 4 bwf

1850@63.00 405@180.00

470@175.00 442@165.00 Marion, 3 bwf White City, 5 blk 508@162.00 Hope, 5 blk 711@150.00 White City, 5 blk 624@145.00 White City, 6 blk 635@145.00 Wilsey, 3 bwf 620@145.00 Hope, 5 bwf 859@144.00

Burdick, 6 red

Lincolnville, 57 mix 883@141.10 Marion, 6 blk 648@140.00 Lincolnville, 54 blk 900@139,50 **BRED COWS - BY THE HEAD** Cncl Grove, 8 mix \$690-\$1075 Hope, 1 blk @850.00 Hope, 1 blk @850.00

@700.00 Lincolnville, 1 blk **HEIFERS** 419@151.00 Herington, 8 blk Herington, 18 blk 578@143.00 372@140.00 Wilsey, 3 mix Burdick, 4 blk 603@134.50 White City, 9 blk 587@132.50 White City, 3 blk 720@127.50 Marion, 4 mix 620@125.00 614@120.50 Marion, 4 blk

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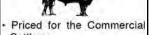
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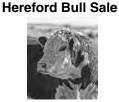
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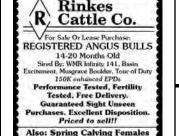


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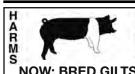


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Alternative crops informational meeting to be held January 10

implement new ideas for their cropping rotations, it is increasingly important for producers to look at different crops that might work in their farming operation. To address the topic of alternative crops, K-State Research and Extension, Post Rock District, has scheduled an "Alternative Crops Informational Meeting" on Thursday, January 10, 2019. This program has been designed to help producers learn about other options for different rotations in their cropping systems especially in this The workshop will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon in Os-

borne at the United Christian Church, 214 N. 2nd Street. Lunch will be provided, following the meeting, thanks to sponsor ADM/Northern Sun, Goodland. The workshop will be presented by Dr. Michael

er; Dr. Monte Vandeveer, K-State Research and Extension, SW Region KSU Ag Economist; Dr. Lucas Haag, K-State Research and Extension NW Region Agronomist along with an representative from ADM/Northern Sun providing information on specialty crop markets. Topics include: Canola, Field Peas, and others; along with Economic budgets and Marketing options. So bring all your questions and ideas with you! There is no cost for the workshop, however, pre-reg-

istration is requested by Monday, January 7, 2019 either online at www.postrock.ksu or to any of our Post Rock Extension District Offices in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center. Or email reservations to Sandra L. Wick (swick@ksu.edu). A minimum of ten pre-regis-

Grass & Grain, December 25, 2018

Webinar outlines 2019 market expectations for cattle producers

of the rallies and breaks in the cattle business, there has never been a more critical time for market participants to be fully engaged in market and industry information. An upcoming free CattleFax webinar is an opportunity to become more informed, as the webinar will provide an outlook for the cow-calf and entire beef industry The CattleFax Trends+

Cow-Calf Webinar, which is free to attendees thanks to sponsor Elanco

Moran, member of the Sen-

ate Appropriations Sub-

committee on Agriculture,

Rural Development, Food

and Drug Administration,

and Related Agencies -

applauded the President's

signing of the Agricultural

Improvement Act of 2018

(Farm Bill) that included

legislation Sen. Moran

championed, the Facilitat-

ing Accessible Resources

for Mental Health and En-

couraging Rural Solutions

For Immediate Response

to Stressful Times (FARM-

ERS FIRST) Act, to pro-

vide our nation's agricul-

tural community with crit-

ical mental health support

6:30 p.m. Central time. To participate in the webinar and access program details, producers and industry leaders simply need to register online at www.cattlefax.com/about Even though one of the

most aggressive U.S. beef cow herd expansions in the last four decades has recently slowed its pace, the rapid expansion has increased beef supplies and caused cow-calf profitability to be reduced back toward long-term levels. As profits have narrowed, well-informed Animal Health, will be producers can maintain

are facing a net farm in-

come that has been cut in

half over the last five years,

continued low commodity

prices, uncertain market

access and unfavorable

weather," said Sen. Moran.

"The inclusion of this leg-

islation in the Farm Bill

will provide the ag commu-

nity with necessary mental

health programs, such as

a crisis help line and sui-

cide prevention training

for farm advocates during

these tumultuous times

for our producers. I will

continue working with my

colleagues to make certain

this legislation is imple-

mented in a way that will

best serve our farmers and

justing production, marketing and risk management plans with increasing supplies in mind. CattleFax analysts will discuss a variety of

session, including: · Cattle and feedstuff market projections for the next 12 to 18 months and more.

topics in the one-hour

 Supply expectations for the cattle and beef industry as well as competing meats Margin expectations

for cow-calf producers Profitability and risk management strategies

To assist this commu-

nity in crisis, provisions

through the U.S. Depart-

state departments of ag-

and non-profits to estab-

lish helplines, provide

suicide prevention train-

ing for farm advocates,

create support groups and

reestablish the Farm and

Ranch Stress Assistance

Network. In addition to

these resources, the lan-

guage will establish a

Farm and Ranch Stress

is sponsoring the webinar making it free for all cattle and beef producers to participate.

The Trends+ webinar

is designed to update cat-

tle producers about cur-

rent market realities and

provide producers with

decision-friendly infor-

mation to assist in making

intelligent marketing de-

cisions. More than 6,000

producers have benefit-

ed from the analysis and

strategies shared through

the webinar series since

Elanco Animal Health

Moran-supported FARMERS FIRST

Act included in 2018 farm bill to better understand how during trying times." agricultural workers' men-

fall 2013.

included in the farm bill recommendations for adwill provide seed funding dressing mental health care needs within the agriment of Agriculture to culture community. Additional co-sponsors riculture, state Extension of the original legislation services, Indian tribes include U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.),

tal health impacts rural

development and provide

chael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Cory Gardner (R-Colo.). The FARMERS FIRST Act was introduced in April and is supported by a wide array of commodity groups, advocacy organizations and agricultural

Joni Ernst (R-Neb.), Heidi

Heitkamp (D-N.D.), Mi-

Study finds hybrid rye may be used as an alternative to corn in pig diets

ly been used as an ingredi-ent in pig diets in the Unit-barley on the drier soils with a small amount of hybrids did not differ subed States, but researchers from the University of Illinois are now investigating the digestibility of nutrients in the grain. Older hybrids of rye

had low yields, potential for toxic fungal contamination, and limited market demand. The little rve grown in the U.S. is typically consumed by humans in breads and other baked products or used in the beverage industry. But thanks to breeding advancements in Europe over the past 20 years, hybrid rye is producing far greater yields and is less susceptible to fungal contamination. Now those varieties are coming to the U.S. and Canada. "Because hybrid rye

has greater yields than all other small grains including conventional rye in Europe, it is likely that hybrid rye can also out-yield

Jim Dalinghaus

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in the United States and Canada. This may make hybrid rye an interesting ingredient in the feeding of pigs and other livestock species, but at this point, there is limited information about the nutritional value of hybrid rye when fed to pigs," says Molly McGhee, a graduate student working with Hans Stein in the Department of Animal Sciences at U of I. McGhee and Stein have

taken a first step toward understanding the nutritional value of hybrid rye with a study published in the Journal of Animal Science. In the experiment,

seven growing barrows were consecutively fed diets consisting of barley, wheat, corn, and three types of hybrid rye; two grown in Europe and one in Canada. The grain, which was the sole source

soybean oil, vitamins. and minerals to meet nutritional requirements. A nitrogen-free diet based on cornstarch and sucrose was also included in the experiment as a control. McGhee collected sam-

ples of the ileal digesta - partially digested material in the ileum – from each diet and analyzed the digestibility of amino acids and starch. She also analyzed overall nutrient composition and mycotoxin content of each grain source prior to being fed to the pigs. The apparent ileal di-

gestibility (AID) of starch was greater in wheat and corn than in barley or hybrid rye, but starch AID values in all diets were greater than 95 percent. Most amino acids were found in higher concentrations in hybrid rye than in corn, but they were less di-**Marysville Livestock Sales**

Rye has not traditional- other small grains such of amino acids and starch gestible in rye than in the

stantially from each other

in terms of nutrient com-

position or digestibility. "We think the amount of digestible amino acids was less in hybrid rye than in barley and wheat because they are higher in protein overall. Essentially, hybrid rye comes out in the middle of those other cereal grains for digestibility of both amino acids and starch," Stein says. "Hybrid rye has the potential to be cost-effective in comparison with other cereal grains when used

in diets for pigs."

Although the work is in its infancy - Stein and Mc-Ghee have several more experiments planned - the use of hybrid rye in pig diets could be attractive to U.S. farmers and the feed industry given the plant's agronomic characteristics. It is drought-tolerant, overwinters well in most locations, produces high yields, and is less expensive to grow than corn. "This is the first exper-

iment that we have conducted, but we will have a lot more data in the future. We think that when we have finished our research over the next couple of years, we'll have a good handle on the nutritional value of hybrid rye. Then the feed industry can use it to formulate diets," Stein says. The article, "Apparent and standardized ileal

digestibility of AA and starch in hybrid rye, barley, wheat, and corn fed to growing pigs," is published in the Journal of Animal Science [DOI: 10.1093/ jas/sky206]. The study was supported by KWS Lochow GmbH of Germany.

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Sign Reading

By Nicole Lane Erceg
The sign reads "Welcome to Grant County," in simple white letters on a small, forest green backdrop. It sits near a creek more than an hour's drive from where I grew up, but every time I see it, I already feel like I'm home.

At this landmark, the air begins to smell different and the scenery-though to the untrained eye not seemingly dissimilar to the miles behind-is distinctly more familiar. It's a sign that I'm in the

right place.

Most would breeze by

this small signal and I'm sure many do. I only notice because of its significance

For the cattle industry, market signals can offer the same perspective. Data, seasonal changes, articles providing the same advice on vaccination programs or colostrum importance are all too familiar. They don't often stick out, and we proceed onward. Others, like signals

from consumers, we expect to stick out as noticeably as traffic lights. But these important

signs don't always flash brightly on the side of the road. In the late 1980s, it wasn't big, bold lettering that called the industry's attention to true consumer preferences.

It was a quiet sign on

the side of the road that simply read, "Marbling." Today we see the sig-

nificance. The number of cattle in the Select grade decreased by nearly half over the past decade. Consumer demand for beef, both domestically and abroad, is growing. The beef supply today is the best ever in quality grade, at unprecedented historic levels. At the same time, price spreads between Choice and Select have maintained. All signs say we're

headed in the right direction. It's the result of small

changes, incrementally over time, that brought us to this rise in quality, value and demand. Those who saw the marbling sign and headed in that directed have won in premiums and stronger demand for that growing share of all beef that is simply better today. Those who have stayed on the road to higher marbling have seen the continued opportunity to grow profits.

Moving into a new vear is an ideal time to reflect on the understated signals directing us on what changes to make and where to double down. Does that comment

from your neighbor on trying genomic testing come to mind? Maybe it's time to evaluate a creep feeding program or a rotational shift that will get this year's spring calves off to the right start. This might be the year to elevate your bull selection criteria beyond what's already working well, moving the target higher on traits that add value and demand, and could use some added performance in your herd.

Signals for needed change aren't always obvious. We have to look for those signs. When we do so with an eye toward what matters most for the farm, ranch or herd in 2019. we might see some that don't call for grand modifications, just small adjustments.

In planning for year ahead, look around for the familiar and new signs that nudge us to keep moving in the right direction.

Next time in Black Ink® Miranda Reiman will consider some uncomfortable changes. Questions? E-mail nerceg@certified angusbeef.

Beef genetics researchers seek to understand technology utilization: survey respondents sought Beef cattle producers have a wide range of selection Research Initiative Critical Agriculture Research and genetic researchers and Extension specialists aims to

tools available for use in selection of breeding stock. These range from visual appraisal to EPD (expected progeny differences) and selection indexes that leverage genomic technologies. Adoption of new technologies by the beef industry has dramatically changed beef cattle selection strategies and opportunities. Beef genetics and genomic tools continue to evolve at a rapid rate.

To aid the development of new selection tools and their adoption by producers, researchers seek to understand current attitudes and perceptions of industry stakeholders. Producers and industry participants are encouraged to take part in an online survey to help inform the development of a new beef cattle selection decision support tool. This work is part of the activities funded through a recent USDA Agriculture and Food Extension grant (2018-68008-27888) awarded to research and extension faculty at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Kansas State University, USDA-ARS US Meat Animal Research Center and a leading genetic evaluation software developer, Theta Solutions, LLC. "Bull purchasing decisions need to account for dif-

fering marketing goals and environmental constraints to improve profitability and sustainability, but these are unique to each herd as producer-specific production goals and inputs vary considerably," says Dr. Matt Spangler, project director and University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor. Industry research suggests that current bull purchas-

ing decisions do not appear to use all relevant information available. Spangler adds, "Our team of leading beef develop and provide software that enables beef producers to make more profitable genetic selection decisions, integrating additive and non-additive genetic effects. available resources, and firm-level economics.' The online survey of industry stakeholders will ex-

rent and envisioned beef genetic selection tools. Survey responses will be anonymous and summarized to help develop new selection tools and training programs. The survey is accessible until December 31, 2018, at: https:// kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aXJA9F3EyMfmSpf For more details on the survey or the planned re-

plore their knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of cur-

search or Extension activities outlined in our USDA CARE project, contact Bob Weaber at bweaber@ksu.edu,

regional meetings in Maple Hill concludes 20

Independent producers gathered in downtown Maple Hill in the meeting room of Next-Gen's Chophouse, the evening of December 12, 2018, for an animal health and policy seminar put together by Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA). Dr. Justin Smith, Kansas Animal Health Commissioner, provided an update on the Animal Health Department and Tyler Dupy, KCA, provided a legislative and

policy update to the 50 producers in attendance.

Dr. Justin Smith began with an explanation of the departments which fall under the Division of Animal Health within the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), including: Animal Disease Control, Branding Department, and Animal Facility Inspection. He continued by discussing a collaboration between U.S. De-

partment of Agriculture

(USDA) and KDA to provide field veterinarian support throughout the state on a region by region

Kansas, as an import state, receives in excess of 5 million head of cattle over our borders each year. In addition, producers buy and sell over 2 million head of cattle each year through Kansas livestock markets. With so many cattle and other livestock moving around each day, disease prevention and treatment is critical to keeping the Kansas cattle herd healthy Dr Smith discussed the facts of African Swine Fever, including how it can survive for a considerable and perhaps infinite amount of time outside of its host. The effects of an African Swine Fever outbreak in the U.S. could be disastrous, including an estimated loss of \$16.5 billion to the swine industry and

loss for beef due to cheap pork flooding the domestic market. Dr. Smith continued,

touching on trichomoniasis, rabies, anaplasmosis, Johne's disease, amongst others before moving into topics of traceability and foreign animal disease response plans. Finally, Dr. Smith discussed the Livestock and Brand Investigation Unit. This law enforcement unit headed under the Kansas Attorney General's office is capable of investigating legal cases in situations of felony livestock theft, felony livestock pharmaceutical theft, and brand violations.

Tyler Dupy, KCA CEO and executive director, gave a brief explanation of how KCA focuses its attention on producer-driven policy within the state of Kansas and nationally. He discussed the transition to a new administration will bring some changes to The state of the s

even up to an \$8 billion the upcoming legislative session set to begin January 14, 2019 and a concern KCA has with regard to the platform supporting corporate farming for Kansas by the Kelly/Rogers cam-

> Federally, Dupy explained that there are significant things going on right now, including the passage of the new Farm Bill just that day, and the soon-to-be published new WOTUS rule to the Federal Registry. He went on to explain other updates on the Beef Checkoff, value-added programs, Electronic Logging Devices, and more.

> A free beef supper was served and made possible by these generous sponsors of the meeting: WaterTight Roofing, Ag Partners COOP, Inc., Gee Tire, Inc., Heritage Tractor, Inc., Wildcat Feeds, LLC, Farmers State Bank, Tarwater Farm & Home Supply, and State Auto Farm & Ranch Insurance.

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CLAY CENTER LIVESTOCK SALES INC. Cattle sales Tuesday, 11:00 AM.

Report from December 18th, 2018 **STEERS**

131.50 195 00 129 75

110 129.13	195.00	411	~~	
	191.75	474	30	
OP BUTCHER COW:	163.00	573	4	
\$70.00 @ 1,810 LBS.	158.00	533	6	
	150.00	571	4	
OP BUTCHER BULL:	146.00	707	14	
\$69.50 @ 2,005 LBS.	136.00	838	3	
	HEIFERS			
BRED COWS:	182.00	370	12	
\$675-\$800	173.00	429	13	
	154.00	445	2	
PAIRS: \$975-\$1,585	142.00	505	5	
	133.00	660	2	

SHEEP & GOAT SALE, JAN. 5TH 44 bred Barbados ewes

30 bred Painted Desert ewes 20 Immink Club lamb bred ewes

PLUS MORE BY SALE DAY!

NEXT CATTLE SALE

JANUARY 8, 2019

Seth Lauer 785-949-2285, Abilene

KARL LANGVARDT MITCH LANGVARDT

Cell: 785-761-5814

Clay Center Field Representatives: Lance Lagasse, 785-262-1185 Tom Koch, 785-243-5124

LYNN LANGVARDT

Cell: 785-761-5813

Clay Center, Ks • Barn Phone 785-632-5566

KCLY-Fm 100.9

ivestock sale co.

SALE EVERY WEDNESDAY IN EMPORIA, KANSAS AT 11:00 AM 620-342-2425 or 800-835-7803 toll-free • Fax: 620-342-7741

Date: 12/19/18. Total Head Count: 1,054.

BULLS: \$64.00-74.00.					
BUL	LCALVES	15 bll	k607@162.		
miv	7/0@101 (00 5 NIV	606@154		

	BULLCALVES	15 DIK607@162.75
7	mix749@121.00	5 blk606@154.00
	HEIFERS	16 blk631@152.00
4	blk491@151.00	6 blk647@151.00
		4 blk666@142.00
7	blk596@138.00	13 bkbwf763@150.00
		4 blk709@148.00
		7 mix742@148.00
4	blk635@140.00	11 mix783@146.50
		770044005

4 mix.........610@139.50 24 mix.......778@146.25

5 blk......899@134.00 5 blk......891@140.00

STEERS 7 blk......485@185.00

4 bkbwf......653@139.00 13 mix.......710@145.00 6 mix.........689@136.00 4 mix.......750@144.00 5 blk......778@140.50 229 mix......782@141.00 7 wf......714@136.00 7 blk.....709@137.00 4 blk......779@136.00 6 mix......783@125.00 10 mix......785@136.00 8 bkbwf......808@147.00 15 bkbwf.....830@141.00 9 blk...........803@146.25 16 bkbwf.....813@138.50 15 mix.......872@141.75

10 blk......930@137.50 197 mix......821@139.00 7 wf......913@134.50 57 mix......871@138.75 12 blk......945@141.00

> NO SALE DECEMBER 26TH **DUE TO CHRISTMAS!**

REGULAR SALE ON JANUARY 2ND

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ELS THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT! YOUR BUSINESS ALWAYS APPRECIATED!

For Cattle Appraisals Call: BRODY PEAK, 620-343-5107 GLENN UNRUH, 620-341-0607

WIBW 580 - 6:45 A.M. Thurs; KVOE 1400 - 6:30-6:45 A.M. Thurs. & Fri.

LYLE WILLIAMS, Field Representative, 785-229-5457 To see more consignments go to: emporialivestock.com ident Donald J. Trump, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue has launched the second and final round of trade mitigation payments aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. Producers of certain commodities will now be eligible to receive Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments for the second half of their 2018 production.

"The President reaffirmed his support for American farmers and ranchers and made good on his promise, authorizing the second round of payments to be made in short order. While there have been positive movements on the trade front, American farmers are continuing to experience losses due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. This assistance will help with short-term cash flow issues as we move into the new year," said Per-

Perdue announced in July that USDA would act to aid farmers in refrom unjustified retaliation. President Trump directed Perdue to craft a short-term relief strategy to help protect agricultural producers while the administration works on free, fair, and reciprocal trade deals to open more markets to help American farmers compete globally. In September, USDA initiated three programs to aid American agriculture in sustaining the short-term damages associated with the trade disputes and securing long-term, stable export markets.

Details of programs currently employed by

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has been administering MFP to provide the first payments to almond, corn, cotton, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, fresh sweet cherry, and wheat producers since September 2018 for the first 50 percent of their 2018 production.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is administering a food purchase and distribution

to \$1.2 billion in commodities unfairly targeted by unjustified retaliation. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is distributing these commodities through nutrition assistance programs, such as the Emergency Food Assistance Program and child nutrition programs. So far, USDA has procured some portion of 16 of the 29 commodities included in the program, totaling more than 4,500 truckloads of food. AMS will continue purchasing commodities for delivery throughout

Through the Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) Agricultural Trade Promotion (ATP) program, \$200 million is being made available to develop foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products. The program will help U.S. agricultural exporters identify and access new markets and help mitigate the adverse effects of other countries' restrictions. The application period closed in November with more than \$600 million in requested activities from more than 70 organizations. FAS will

awards in early January.

Market Facilitation Program Producers need only

sign-up once for the MFP to be eligible for the first and second payments. The MFP sign-up period opened in September and runs through January 15, 2019, with information and instructions provided at www.farmers.gov/mfp. Producers must complete an application by January 15, 2019 but have until May 1. 2019 to certify their 2018 production. The MFP provides payments to almond, cotton, corn, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, fresh sweet cherry, and wheat producers who have been significantly impacted by

Commodity

Dairy (milk)

Pork (hogs)

Sovbeans

Wheat

Cotton

Corn

Almonds (shelled)

Sweet Cherries (fresh)

** Total payment rate on 100% of production

ments resulting in the loss of traditional exports. The MFP is established under the statutory authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation CCC Charter Act and is under the administration of USDA's FSA. Eligible producers should apply after harvest is complete, as payments will only be issued once production is reported.

For farmers who have already applied, completed harvest, and certified their 2018 production, a second payment will be issued on the remaining 50 percent of the producer's total production, multiplied by the MFP rate for the specific commodity.

MFP payments are Market Facilitation Program

\$125,000 for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat capped per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$125,000 for dairy and hog producers, and a combined \$125,000 for fresh sweet cherry and almond producers. Applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than \$900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland

Conservation regulations. For further information or to locate and contact local FSA offices, interested producers can visit www.farmers.gov.

\$553.800

\$192,000

\$254,800

\$580,600

\$313,600

\$111.500

\$238,400

\$7,259,400

First and Second Payment Rate Est. Total Payment** (in \$1,000s)

\$0.06 / lb.

\$0.01 / bu.

\$0.12 / cwt.

\$1.65 / bu.

\$0.16 / lb.

\$0.14 / bu.

\$8.00 / head

Cows that fit, calves that fit; Moser talks genetic optimums at Feeding Quality Forum same time, but the Angus icated to objective data lection decisions," Moser tailor genetics to fit your ed by the Certified Angus icated to objective data lection decisions," Moser tailor genetics to fit your ed by the Certified Angus icated to objective data lection decisions," Moser tailor genetics to fit your ed by the Certified Angus icated to objective data lection decisions," Moser tailor genetics to fit your ed by the Certified Angus icated to objective data lection decisions," Moser tailor genetics to fit your ed by the Certified Angus icated to objective data lection decisions," Moser tailor genetics to fit your ed by the Certified Angus icated to objective data lection decisions," Moser tailor genetics to fit your ed by the Certified Angus icated to objective data lection decisions, and the Angus icated to objective data

ranch environment or

meeting market demand?

That's a choice cattlemen don't have to make. said Dan Moser, president of Angus Genetics Inc., speaking at the Feeding Quality Forum in Sioux City, Iowa, this summer.

"It is not an either/or thing. It's selection for ranch environment while meeting market demand,' he said. "There are Angus cattle that will certainly do well for the combination of traits that are favorable for carcass merit. yet they are still efficient in the cow herd. They are fertile; they have longev-

You need to take into account all the genetic information that will help get the cows and calves you want, but those target endpoints probably aren't the same as they were even a decade ago.

Moser said the ideal cow has changed over the years because the markets have changed.

"There was a time where all calves that were the same color and the same weight brought the same amount," he said. "Now we are seeing more emphasis on sort of specification feeder cattle and documenting those differ-

Heavier carcassesbring more dollars, which is why average steer carcass weights have increased 112 pounds since 1996. USDA-reported carcass weights for mature cows (including dairy) jumped 119 lb. during that ences (EPDs) for yearling weight are increasing faster than those for mature weight.

Is there a way to make those trend lines diverge completely? The idea of finding that

balance doesn't mean we don't improve them both simultaneously," Moser said, citing the birth- versus yearling-weight example. "There was a time when it was thought that we couldn't simultaneously improve both of those, but we have done that."

Quality grade trends are another example of dramatic progress. Marbling EPDs were just above .2 in 1986, and today sit just below .6. In a decade's time, the number of Certified Angus Beef ® (CAB®)-brand qualifying cattle doubled, from near 2.25 million in 2007 to 4.5 million in 2017 and more

"We didn't look at that one and say, 'He looks like he's high marbling, and so we're going to breed him," Moser said. "We have to do the same thing with maternal factors. We can overcome any antagonism if we have the data, but we can't eyeball it." Breeders who are sub-

than 5 million in 2018.

mitting data to the American Angus Association's Maternal Plus program will spur tool development. "Honestly, our data

across the entire beef industry on things like fertility, cow longevity — it's limited," he said. "We're going to have to be ded-

to make sure that we can have the meaningful tools we need to drive things forward.'

Genomic testing speeds progress, too, allowing accurate predictions on younger animals and helping "make lower risk se-

He's also hopeful it can help address region-specific challenges by creating EPDs for everything from hair shedding and foot structure to cow longevity and altitude toler-

"You'll be able to really

Cows that breed back and produce quality calves buvers back - Moser said the day has arrived when nobody has to choose between the cow herd or the consumer.

The forum was present-

cosponsors Where Food Comes From, Roto-Mix, Feedlot magazine, Tyson Foods, Intellibond, Zoetis and Diamond V. For more information on the meeting proceedings, visit cabcattle.com.

NCBA testifies at public hearing on need for better trade with Japan Recently NCBA president Kevin Kester spoke at a

public hearing on the potential economic impact of a U.S.-Japan bilateral trade agreement and urged the Trump administration to move quickly to tear down trade barriers for U.S. beef in Japan. "NCBA strongly supports prioritizing and expedit-

ing negotiations for a U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement," Kester said. "The U.S. beef industry is at risk of losing significant market share in Japan unless immediate action is taken to level the playing field."

Japan is the top export market for U.S. beef, accounting for nearly \$2 billion in sales in 2017. However, U.S. beef exports face tariffs as high as 50 percent under some circumstances. A number of key U.S. competitors have negotiated

agreements that provide their producers with preferential access to the Japanese market. For example, under the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), Australian beef exporters will enjoy a tariff reduction of 27.5 percent in the first year of the agreement for fresh and frozen products. In most cases, the countries who are part of CPTPP will see their tariff rates for beef exports decline to 9 percent over the next 15 years. In addition to CPTPP, Japan is moving ahead with a trade agreement that will give European Union beef producers similar terms to those negotiated in CPTPP. NCBA supported the negotiated compromise under

the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) because it reduced the massive tariff applied to U.S. beef, diminished the likelihood of triggering snap back tariffs, and established strong, objective, and predictable sanitary and phytosanitary standards and other rules-based trade standards," Kester said. "We expect nothing less under a U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement."

LIVESTOCK AUCTION, INC.

316-320-3212

Fax: 316-320-7159

2595 SE Highway 54, P.O. Box 622,

El Dorado, KS 67042

Market Report - Sale Date 12-20-18. 814 Head.

300-400 lb. steers, \$120-\$182; heifers, \$100-\$163.50; 400-500 lb. steers, \$120-\$175; heifers, \$100-\$163; 500-600 lb. steers, \$120-\$175; heifers, \$100-\$157; 600-700 lb. steers, \$115-\$157; heifers, \$90-\$147.50; 700-800 lb steers, \$110-\$147; 800-900 lb. steers, \$110-\$146.50. Trend on Calves: Choice Steer & Heifer Calves, weaned 45 plus days with shots, \$5 higher; unweaned or short weaned calves, steady. Trend on Feeder Cattle: Feeder Steers, steady; Feeder Heifers, not enough for a

DORADO

Eureka Livestock Sale P.O. Box 267 Eureka, KS 67045 620-583-5008 Office 620-583-7475

entral ivestock

www.centrallivestockks.com

Office: 620-662-3371

or Matt Hoffman (Owner): 620-727-0913

Hay Auction- Every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

Cattle Auction- Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

Hog/Sheep/Goat Auction- Every 3rd Saturday

Horse/Tack Auction- Every 1st Saturday

NO SALES DEC. 25th & JAN 1st

Sat., Jan. 5th- Horse & Tack Sale

Tues., Jan. 8th- Calf/Yearling Special

Sale Every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Sharp

Like Us On Facebook! On Thursday, December 20, we had 706 head of cattle on an active market.

736@137.00 **STEERS** 13 bkChr 667@145.00 5 bkred 368@193.00 11 bkChr 759@144.00 8 bkbwf 686@137.00 9 bkred 496@172.50 10 bkChr 699@135.00 7 bkbwf 851@136.25

4 bkred 576@168.00 29 Chr 1042@134.25 877@133.50 HEIFERS 6 blk 4 blk 638@165.00 974@130.00 9 bkred 600@159.50 5 bkred 500@159.00 38 Char 951@128.00 11 bkred 539@153.00 19 bkbwf 576@159.25 2 bwf 1135@123.00 5 bkbwf 598@158.00 4 bkred 573@146.50 1069@120.00 7 blk 5 bkbwf 661@154.00 35 Ang 807@140.00 7 bkbwf 730@152.00 8 bkbwf 650@140.00 2 blk 513@146.00 646@149.00 7 bwfrbf 573@140.00 4 blk 5 bwfrbf 628@131.50 6 blk 789@146.25 5 blk 567@138.50

Butcher Cows: \$24-\$63.00, mostly \$50-\$60.00. Butcher Bulls: \$50-\$75.50, mostly \$64-\$70.00. Good fleshy packer cows & bulls selling very good demand. Poor & thin cows & bulls selling on a lower market. Preg Cows: \$525-\$935.00

BUTCHER COWS

BUTCHER	cows	3 bkbwf	1542@57.50	
1 rbf	1280@63.00	5 blk	1440@55.50	
1 blk	1110@62.50	BUTCHER	BULLS	
5 bkbwf	1570@62.50	1 blk	2120@75.50	
5 blk	1725@62.00	1 wf	1905@74.00	
2 blk	1793@61.50	1 blk	1760@73.00	
2 bkbwf	1545@61.50	1 blk	2035@72.00	
2 bkbwf	1673@61.50	1 blk	1535@70.50	
2 blk	1293@61.00	1 blk	1980@69.00	
3 blk	1623@60.50	1 blk	2220@68.50	
3 blk	1363@60.50	1 blk	2295@68.50	
3 blk	1492@59.00			
NO SALE DECEMBER 27.				

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR! WE WILL HAVE A SALE JANUARY 3, 2019.

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 3

250 mix strs & hfrs, 700-950 lbs, longtime weaned & vac.

175 blk bwf strs & hfrs, 500-800 lbs, home raised, long time

weaned & vac. 120 blk bwf rbf strs & hfrs, 450-750 lbs, home raised, long

time weaned & vac. 125 blk bwf Char strs & hfrs, 700-1,000 lbs, long time

weaned & vac. 80 Packer cows from 1 ranch.

See you at this sale on January 3rd!

We appreciate your business! Ron Ervin - Owner-Manager

If you have any cattle to be looked at call Ron or Austin

Home Phone - 620-583-5385 Mobile Cell 620-750-0123 Austin Evenson- Fieldman Mobile Cell 620-750-0222

Holton Livestock Exchange, Inc. 1/2 mile East of Holton, KS on 16 Highway

Livestock Auction every Tuesday at 12 NOON

Serving the Midwest Livestock Industry for 67 Years! ****STARTING TIME: 12:00 NOON**** MARKET REPORT FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018

RECEIPTS: 1285 CATTLE

VIEW <u>FULL</u> RESULTS ON OUR WEBSITE. **STEERS** 11 blk char strs 734@138.50

	5 blk bwf strs		5 blk strs	786@138.00
	4 blk strs	447@181.00	8 blk strs	903@137.50
	4 blk bwf strs	515@179.00	HEIFE	
	5 bwf rwf strs	499@173.00	5 blk hfrs	442@160.50
	20 blk strs	602@162.00	5 blk hfrs	474@154.00
	7 blk char strs	570@157.00	4 blk hfrs	483@146.00
	8 blk strs	595@153.00	15 bwf rwf hfrs	644@137.50
	51 mix strs	831@151.00	4 blk hfrs	565@135.00
	15 bwf rwf strs	646@149.50	7 blk hfrs	691@135.00
	7 blk strs	711@147.50	14 blk hfrs	566@135.00
	11 blk strs	762@146.50	27 bwf rwf hfrs	635@134.00
	13 blk bwf strs		8 blk bwf hfrs	690@132.50
	34 blk bwf strs	830@146.00	9 blk hfrs	642@132.50
	7 blk strs	694@145.50	6 blk bwf hfrs	729@129.00
	10 blk bwf strs	569@145.50	9 blk hfrs	667@128.50
	21 blk strs	716@145.50	18 blk char hfrs	
		760@144.50	7 blk bwf hfrs	645@127.00
		602@142.00	16 blk char hfrs	
		722@141.50	6 blk bwf hfrs	600@126.00
	5 blk red strs		4 blk rwf hfrs	603@124.00
	7 bwf strs	720@139.00	6 blk red hfrs	726@124.00
١	200	ANIIARV 1. CI	UČEU * HVDDA NE	W VEAR
	JANUARY 1: CLOSED * HAPPY NEW YEAR			
		J	ANUARY 8:	

SPECIAL CALF & YEARLING AUCTION • 12 Noon Dan Harris, Auctioneer & Owner • 785-364-7137

Danny Deters, Corning, Auct. & Field Rep • 785-868-2591 Dick Coppinger, Winchester, Field Rep. • 913-774-2415 Steve Aeschliman, Sabetha, Field Rep. • 785-284-2417 Larry Matzke, Wheaton, Field Rep. • 785-268-0225

Craig Wischropp, Horton, Field Rep. • 785-547-5419 Barn Phone • 785-364-4114

WEBSITE: www.holtonlivestock.com EMAIL: dan@holtonlivestock.com

View our auctions live at "Imaauctions.com"

good market test. Butcher Cows: High dressing cows: \$45-\$62; Avg. dressing cows: \$30-\$45; Low dressing cows: \$10-\$30. Butcher Bulls: Avg. to high dressing bulls: \$57.50-\$69. Trend on Cows & Bulls: Butcher Cows, steady; Butcher Bulls, steady.

No Sales: December 27 or January 3 Next Sale will be January 10, 2019! SPECIAL Cow Sale on January 17th, 2019

We welcome your consignments! If you have cattle to consign or would like additional information, please call the office at 316-320-3212 **Check our website for updated consignments:**

www.eldoradolivestock.com To stay up to date on our latest announcements you can "Like" us on Facebook

Chris Locke Steven Hamlin (316) 320-1005 (H) (602) 402-6008 (H) (316) 322-0675 (M) (620) 222-1199 (M) Larry Womacks, Fieldman Van Schmidt, Fieldman

(620) 394-3273 (H) (620) 367-2331 (H) (620) 229-0076 (M) (620) 345-6879 (M) Cattle Sale Every Thursday 11:00 AM

Costs have the biggest impact on profitability of a cow calf enterprise over time. In other words, tions tend to have lower

By Keith Martin, livestock into the future. and forage agent, Wildcat **Extension District**

The economic returns to beef cow-calf producers vary considerably over time. Not only is there a wide range of profitability from year to vear Kansas Farm Management data show there is a huge variability between producers within the same year. A review of the 2012 to 2016 Kansas Farm Management Association summary of data from cow-calf enterprises provides insight to all cow calf producers on the areas to focus on to remain economically viable

For example, over the last 42 years there has been an average \$233 difference in net returns per cow, between the good (top one-third) and the bad (bottom one-third) vears. This is a large amount of variability, but unfortunately this risk is difficult to manage because much of it is due to factors and conditions that are typically beyond the control of individual producers. However, what is much more important is that the variability across producers at a point in time is much larger than the variability

even in the "good years" some producers are losing money and even in the "bad years" some producers are making money. This is an important point to make because it indicates there are management changes producers can make to seek to improve their operations. This analysis suggests

that while both price and weight of calves do impact profit, they are much less important in explaining differences between producers than costs. In the data analyzed here, economies of size exist such that larger opera-

Dec. 26, 2018

costs and hence are more profitable than smaller operations. However, it is important to point out that being a large operation does not guarantee low costs and high profits, as a number of mid-sized to smaller operations were cost competitive. Operations that have higher labor allocation in the cowherd enterprise, relative to crop enterprises, tended to have lower costs and be more profitable. The factor that is important regarding profit and cost differences between producers is how well they manage their non-pasture feed costs. Producers that had a lower percentage of their total costs as non-pasture feed had significantly lower costs and hence significantly higher

There is tremendous variability in costs and returns across producers, which means there is room for producers to improve their relative situations. However, before one can improve they need to know where they stand relative to other producers. Thus, benchmarking and identifying an operation's strengths and weaknesses is the

first step to deciding where to focus management efforts.

A more complete description of the data use in this analysis along with the entire report of data can be found in the report at http://www.agmanager. info/livestock-meat/production-economics/differences-between-high-medium-and-low-profit-cow-

-By Dustin L. Pendell and Kevin L. Herbel, Ag **Economics**

For more information, contact Keith Martin, Livestock and Forage Agent, rkmartin@ksu.edu

American Simmental Association conducts carcass genotyping project

The American Simmental Association (ASA) recently initiated a large genotyping project to collect more carcass records and genotypes on sire-identified terminal calves to improve progeny equivalents for carcass traits. All harvested cattle will be genotyped and the resulting data will be incorporated into the International Genetic Solutions (IGS) Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT.

The beef industry has seen vast improvements in carcass quality over time through genetic selection. With these improvements the average feedlot steer can be expected to have a larger ribeye, a higher degree of marbling, and less external fat than cattle 20 years ago. But, progress is slow when it comes to carcass trait selection.

Carcass trait predictions tend to have lower accuracy than growth traits, which inherently slows down the amount of genetic progress made over time. The ability to predict carcass traits is tied to collecting actual carcass records, which is the rarest form of data submitted. Genomics and ultrasound records can improve accuracy on unproven animals, but high accuracy carcass EPDs cannot be obtained without actual carcass records on progeny.

The ASA is invested in providing its membership and commercial cattlemen the best EPD predictions possible. Recently, the ASA Board of Trustees approved a genotyping project to collect more actual carcass records and genotypes on sire-identified

These calves lay the groundwork for improved progeny equivalents for carcass traits on all DNA panels. The ASA is working with seedstock and commercial cattlemen who retain ownership on terminal calves. Over 3,500 calves have currently been accepted into the program. All of the calves will be genotyped once they have been harvested and the resulting information will be included in the IGS Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT.

Grass & Grain Weather Report

"The carcass expansion project is another sign of the ASA's commitment to the science of genetic improvement to benefit the commercial beef industry," says Dr. Jackie Atkins, ASA director of science and education, "This program rewards those devoted to collecting the rare but economically important carcass traits" Breeders from across the country are urged to consider the wealth of information

available in their terminal calves. For any questions on how to submit carcass information to the ASA or questions regarding the project contact Lane Giess at lgiess@

USGC rolls out 2018/2019 corn harvest quality report corn samples rated at U.S. A warm and moist

growing season resulted in near-record yields and good quality for the 2018 corn crop, according to the U.S. Grain Council's (USGC) latest corn quality report, released this week globally. The 2018/2019 Corn Har-

vest Quality Report is the Council's eighth annual corn quality survey. The report revealed the majority of 2018 corn crop conditions were rated as good or excellent during the growing season, leading to strong plant health, good kernel size and a projected crop of 371.52 million metric tons (14.626 billion bushels), the third-largest crop on record.

"The Council is pleased offer this report as not only a service to our partners, but also as fulfillment of our mission to develop markets, enable trade and improve lives," said Jim Stitzlein, USGC chairman. "The Council is committed to the furtherance of global food security and mutual economic benefit through trade, and we hope this report continues to provide readers accurate and timely insight into the quality of the 2018 U.S. corn crop."

The report snowed 93.9 percent of tested U.S.

806 @ 130.25

722 @ 127.50

609 @ 124.50

577 @ 118.00

860 @ 134.00

1080 @ 105.00

965 @ 82.00

1245 @ 77.00

875 @ 74.00

1 sim cow

1 bwf cow

1 blk cow

1 blk cow

1 sim cow

1 red cow

1 Inghrn cow

COWS & HEIFERETTES

Grade No. 2 or better; this was largely the result of a warm, wet vegetative period and a moderate pollination and grain-filling period. The drier, moderate temperatures during the second half of the growing season promoted healthy plants, good test weights and low kernel damage.

Average test weight of 58.4 pounds per bushel (75.1 kilograms per hectoliter) was higher than the five-year average and indicates good kernel filling and maturation. Average 100-kernel weight of 35.07 grams was lower than 2017. but above the five-year av-

All but one sample, or 99.5 percent of samples, tested below the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) action level for aflatoxin (20 parts per billion). One-hundred percent of the samples tested below the FDA advisory level for deoxynivalenol, or vomitoxin, for chicken, cattle, hogs and other animals.

The 2018/2019 Corn Harvest Quality Report provides timely information about the quality of the current U.S. corn crop at harvest as it enters international merchandising This informachannels. tion will be supplemented by a second report, the 2018/2019 Corn Export Cargo Quality Report, scheduled for early 2019. that measures corn quality at export terminals at the point of loading for inter-

national shipment. "The Council's series of quality reports uses consistent and transparent methodology to allow for comparisons across time," Stitzlein wrote in the US-GC's report greeting. "This enables buyers to make well-informed decisions and have confidence in the capacity and reliability of the U.S. corn market."

The Council also began its annual roll-out events to present its findings to buvers around the world. starting in Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar and the Philippines. Presentations, meetings and conferences will continue through the first quarter of 2019 and aim to arm participants with clear expectations regarding the quality of corn for this marketing year. During these events, crop quality information is accompanied by presentations on U.S. corn grading and handling, which helps provide a better understanding of how U.S. corn is moved and controlled through export channels.

1095 @ 75.00

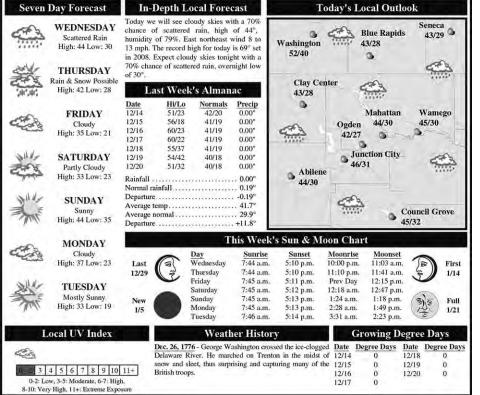
1965 @ 66.00

1765 @ 64.00

1865 @ 62.50

1645 @ 59.50

1690 @ 55.00





Auction

STARTING TIME

10:30 AM



You For Your Business in 20 Prosperous New

10 blk hfrs

11 mix hfrs

8 red hfrs

1 red hfrt

1 bwf hfrt

2 blk hfrts

1 bwf hfrt

1 blk hfrt

2 blk/bwf hfrts

6 wf hfrs

10 blk/red hfrs

We sold 2015 cattle December 18. There was good 5 blk hfrs demand for steer and heifer calves which sold steady 6 blk/sim hfrs to \$3.00 higher. Feeder steers and heifers were steady to \$4.00 lower. Cows and bulls were steady.

STEER & BULL CALVES				
6 blk/sim strs	462 @ 190.00	62		
4 blk/red strs	430 @ 184.00	5 b		
2 blk strs	520 @ 182.00	65		
6 blk strs	497 @ 179.00	60		
4 blk strs	501 @ 179.00	7 b		
10 blk strs	515 @ 175.00	12		
3 blk/red bulls	415 @ 174.00	62		
4 blk bulls	453 @ 173.00	5 b		
4 blk strs	461 @ 172.00	63		
21 blk/red strs	504 @ 172.00	61		
15 blk/red strs		62		
4 red bulls	488 @ 164.00	56		
15 blk bulls	527 @ 163.00	61		
6 blk strs	529 @ 155.00	17		
		13		
STOCKER & FEE		19		
11 blk strs		41		
16 blk/bwf strs	569 @ 172.00	62		
85 blk/bwf strs	604 @ 161.00	16		

879 @ 150.00 58 blk/bwf strs mix strs 889 @ 147.00 861 @ 145.50 blk strs mix strs 770 @ 145.00 mix strs 921 @ 144.10 738 @ 144.00 blk strs 819 @ 144.00 26 blk/bwf strs mix strs 865 @ 144.00 676 @ 143.50 blk strs

blk/bwf strs 914 @ 143.50 919 @ 143.50 mix strs mix strs 818 @ 143.25 902 @ 143.00 blk/bwf strs mix strs 932 @ 141.75 blk strs 673 @ 141.00 mix strs 779 @ 140.75 blk/bwf strs 872 @ 140.25 blk/bwf strs 694 @ 140.00 blk/char strs 892 @ 139.25 x-bred strs 965 @ 133.00 560 @ 159.00

HEIFER CALVES

5 blk/char hfrs

8 x-bred hfrs

456 @ 157.00 464 @ 156.00 465 @ 156.00 8 blk/red hfrs 482 @ 155.00 3 blk hfrs 375 @ 154.00 540 @ 151.00 480 @ 149.00 2 blk hfrs 481 @ 149.00 22 blk/red hfrs 352 @ 147.50 3 red hfrs 13 blk/bwf hfrs 528 @ 147.00 536 @ 147.00 6 blk hfrs 549 @ 141.00 10 blk hfrs 517 @ 140.00 7 red hfrs 500 @ 139.00 4 blk hfrs 6 x-bred hfrs 501 @ 139.00 STOCKER & FEI DER HEIFERS 579 @ 145.00 9 blk/bwf hfrs 702 @ 144.75 75 blk/bwf hfrs 557 @ 143.00 34 blk/red hfrs 7 blk/bwf hfrs 573 @ 142.00 724 @ 141.25 9 blk hfrs 704 @ 139.75 65 mix hfrs 9 blk hfrs 555 @ 136.00 4 blk hfrs

10 blk/bwf hfrs

10 x-bred hfrs

1 blk hfrt 1110 @ 71.00 1 blk cow 1445 @ 67.00 1255 @ 65.00 1 red hfrt 1420 @ 63.50 1 blk cow 1165 @ 61.00 1 blk cow 1340 @ 60.50 1 blk cow 1 shtn cow 1805 @ 59.50 1245 @ 59.00 1 sim cow 1795 @ 58.50 1 sim cow 1100 @ 58.00 1 shtn cow 1640 @ 57.50 1 bwf cow 900 @ 135.50 1 red cow 1710 @ 56.50 715 @ 135.00 1360 @ 56.00 1 blk cow 908 @ 130.50 1465 @ 55.00 1 bwf cow

WATCH OUR AUCTIONS LIVE ON **DVAuctions.com**

1 sim cow 1415 @ 54.50 **BRED FEMALES & PAIRS** 639 @ 130.00 1465 @ 54.00 1 bwf cow 5 blk hfrs @ 1350.00 1500 @ 53.50 @ 1100.00 1 bwf cow 2 x-bred cows/cvs 1 blk cow 1270 @ 53.00 1 blk hfr @ 960.00 1 blk cow 1370 @ 52.50 @ 910.00 1 x-bred cow 1650 @ 52.00 1 blk cow 1 blk cow @ 885.00 1 blk cow 1260 @ 51.00 @ 785.00 1 x-bred hfr 1295 @ 50.00 1 blk cow 4 mix cows @ 775.00 878 @ 95.00 1 char cow 1515 @ 49.00 @ 700.00 1 blk cow 1260 @ 48.00 1 blk cow 1 blk cow @ 650.00 1 shtn cow 1430 @ 47.50 1170 @ 47.00 1 shtn cow **BULLS**

> HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: NO SALE ON CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEARS DAY!

1 blk bull

1 blk bull

1 blk bull

1 red bull

1 blk bull

1 Ignhrn bull

1st SALE OF 2019!

CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 8:

150 black heifers, 700-725 lbs.

1125 @ 45.00

1135 @ 44.50

1095 @ 44.00

1070 @ 43.50

1480 @ 42.50

1015 @ 42.00

980 @ 43.00

60 black steers, 925-950 lbs.

• 61 black crossbred steers, 925-950 lbs.

124 blk/bwf strs 851 @ 150.25 2 blk/bwf hfrs 415 @ 157.00 Our CONSIGNMENTS can now be viewed after 12 Noon on Mondays by going to WWW.Qrassandgrain.com & logging onto the online subscription

FOR INFORMATION OR ESTIMATES: **REZAC BARN** ST. MARYS, 785-437-2785

4 bwf strs

2 blk strs

43 blk/char strs

16 blk/char strs

DENNIS REZAC ST. MARYS, 785-437-6349 **DENNIS' CELL PHONE** 785-456-4187 KENNETH REZAC ST. MARYS 785-458-9071

633 @ 158.00

610 @ 157.00

616 @ 151.00

LELAND BAILEY LYNN REZAC **REX ARB**

TOPEKA, 785-286-1107 ST. MARYS, 785-456-4943 MELVERN, 785-224-6765



Livestock Commission Company, Inc.

St. Marys, Ks.

..1-800-531-1676 Toll Free Number...... Website: www.rezaclivestock.com

407 @ 169.00

418 @ 166.00

AUCTIONEERS: DENNIS REZAC & REX ARB