Livestock producers are entering a time of year that, because of winter weather, can often be challenging for maintaining the health of their herds. but a host of management steps and best practices can help to get the animals through the tough times.

"Talking to a regional climatologist, we foresee a lot of fluctuation in weather," said A.J. Tarpoff, a beef veterinarian with K-State Research and Extension. "The fluctuations from warm to cold are stressful on any animal, so you have to be ready for that fluctuation.

"If it gets cold and it stays cold, we can manage that very easily. The animals get used to the cold, dry environment. But when we start mixing warm to cold, and a little bit of moisture – in other words, we combine wind. cold and a wet animal that leads to a little bit of trouble.'

Livestock that can be housed indoors – such as chickens, swine and dairy

cattle - may be protected from severe elements, but keeping them properly ventilated can be challenging.

"It's hard to keep the fans and the ventilation adjusted appropriately because the incoming air is still somewhat warmer during the day, but then it cools off during the night as we get the different weather fronts coming through," said Joel DeRouchey, a livestock specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

DeRouchey notes that fluctuations in indoor temperatures can cause mortalities in herds because the animals get stressed from the roller-coaster shifts.

"It's just like humans, from the standpoint if they're going through any stress, changes in the outside temperature leads to humans developing respiratory challenges," he said. "It's the same for livestock, whether they're inside or outside.

"The most important

thing is maintaining a constant temperature. The goal is to bring animals inside to protect them from the elements, so we need to make sure our ventilation systems are managed correctly to provide that ideal environment."

DeRouchey said that indoor ventilation also is important to keep air moisture, odor and nitrogen levels low.

For animals kept outside in feedlots, Tarpoff said one key is to provide dry bedding.

"Cattle have the right winter coat for cold weather, but whenever it starts to get windy, wet and cold, especially on frozen ground, the cattle want to find a nice, dry area to lie down and rest," he said. "Bedding those pens, giving them the opportunity to lie down and rest decreases the stress on those cattle and allows them to increase their comfort level so they can perform at a high rate even in stressful conditions."

Tarpoff added that a

box scraper is an important part of the equation in feedlots. Pens should be scraped routinely to level frozen areas, which will help to reduce foot injuries and the reluctance of animals to move to feed and water.

In outdoor pastures, the two K-State specialists suggest portable windbreaks, which provide shelter and can help with basic biosecurity.

"When cattle congregate in one area of the pasture for a long period of time, you build up environmental contaminates from manure," Tarpoff said. "So move the portable windbreaks to different locations in the pasture so that you decrease the environmental contamination, which is especially important for newborn calves and control of scours."

DeRouchey notes that portable windbreaks can force cattle to walk out of low areas to water and feed.

"It doesn't hurt those

cows to walk out of those low areas," he said. "From an environmental standpoint, once we start providing a lot of feed or stationary feeders in those low areas, the manure buildup and the sanitation degrades really fast."

During severe cold periods, producers need to feed a little more hay or other forage so that the animals' natural heat source – the rumen – can do its work. Cattle may be fed near windbreaks during times of extreme cold and snow, but DeRouchey notes that shouldn't happen very often during the season.

Tarpoff added that water is equally important for livestock in the winter months as it is in the summer months.

"They are eating a lot more, so they need to be able to drink a lot more to balance the body's homeostasis," he said. "Check waterers regularly that they are not frozen over, there's plenty of flow, and there's plenty of volume

for animals to drink from A frozen tank can be detrimental to any livestock operation.'

The two K-State specialists also shared some ideas to help producers get themselves through the colder months. Specific to the upcoming calving season, one tip is to feed cattle in the evenings.

"Changing our feeding strategies to the evening hours, right at dusk, will increase the number of calves born during the daylight hours, which is when the producers are out checking those cattle more regularly," Tarpoff said.

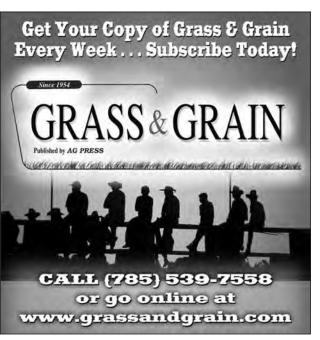
DeRouchey also reminded producers to make sure flashlights are in working order, and store extra batteries and clothing in case they get stranded or need to be out for extended periods in cold and snowy weather.

For more severe weather tips, producers may contact their local Extension agent.

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has advanced a number of programs in 2017 to serve U.S. agriculture with customerand data-driven improvements. Among these enhancements are changes

to the every-five-year census of agriculture, which officially launched at the end of November and is due in February 2018. For this census. NASS introduced an improved online questionnaire and included new questions to document changes and emerg-



ing trends in agriculture.

"America's three million farmers, ranchers and others involved in agriculture should receive their 2017 Census of Agriculture questionnaire in the coming days, if they haven't already," said NASS administrator Hubert Hamer. "We ask that everyone respond promptly to represent themselves, their communities, and their industries, and to do so online, if possible. NASS heard customer feedback and worked hard to produce a user-friendly online questionnaire that saves time for producers and improves data quality."

Those responding to the census of agriculture can now use mobile and desktop devices and readily access frequently asked questions. The form automatically calculates totals and skips sections that do not pertain to an operation. New census questions are a result of public requests. These include a

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

The census of agriculture is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches, and those who operate them. Conducted since 1840, it is the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every state and county in the country. Farmers and ranchers. trade associations, government, extension educators, researchers, and many others rely on census of agriculture data when making decisions that shape American agriculture from creating and funding farm programs to boosting services for communities and the industry. The cen-

sus of agriculture is a producer's voice, future, and opportunity.

Geospatial Data for Rapid Disaster Response

Another 2017 accomplishment for NASS in service to U.S. agriculture was rapid disaster response to hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. For the first time, NASS used a satellite with cloud penetrating capability from the European Space Agency to provide geospatial assessments of impacted areas. This allowed the capture of real-time storm inundation over crop and pasture lands and the subsequent flood assessments. As a result, NASS was able to derive and provide a number of geospatial decision support products to help with response. These products included crop and pasture land inundated areas and percentages of impacted crops, estimates of precipitation totals, Cropland Data Laver (CDL) maps. and wind swaths or surface winds overlaid onto

crop areas identified from the CDL product. Access to and use of the satellite technology will allow NASS to provide rapid response to help with future extreme weather events.

New and streamlined honev bee information

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

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Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy, & Prosperous New Year!

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Grass & Grain, January 2, 2018



Bad Habits

It doesn't take a lot of effort to make the wrong move or cue a horse the wrong way causing them to do something you don't want them to do. On the other hand, it takes a conscious effort to always give the right command for a horse to do exactly what you want. It's easy to do the wrong thing and if you do it fairly often, vou'll be creating bad habits in your horse that

will be hard to correct. They are creatures of habit and we have to make sure to create good habits instead of foster bad ones. You may be unconsciously pecking away at removing trained responses in your horse that took a trainer a lot of work and time to develop. Whoever started the

horse, (and that could very well be you), spent many hours in a breaking pen



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teaching the horse to react certain ways when he received specific commands or cues.

The simple command of "Whoa" takes time for the horse to learn to stop when you utter the word. You may accompany the "Whoa" by sitting down deeper in the saddle or maybe even slumping your shoulders to place more weight on his hindquarters to reinforce the verbal command. Over time, the rider may start neglecting to properly give the command or allow the horse to not respect the word or body movements when you want him to stop. You may start to use different cues, body movements or words to ask him to stop. He will become confused and not be quite sure what you are asking. Over time, he'll learn not to pay attention to "Whoa" or the way he was taught to stop. A bad habit is beginning to develop. Most times, the loose use of "Whoa" by using the word too much for a myriad of other orders for the horse will completely lose its meaning to stop. An example is using the word to stop the horse from snatching a mouthful of grass as you ride along. A tug on the reins or bit is a more effective way to stop that bad habit.

Saying "Whoa" every time the horse does something you don't like will wear the word out. Only in special instances should you use "Whoa" for anything other than commanding the horse to stop travelling. "Whoa" should command so much importance to a horse that he immediately recognizes it to mean stop. Some horses, if they are bucking, will even quit bucking when you say "Whoa" with emphasis. I said some horses will stop bucking, not all. A good way to take the importance off the word is to let the horse ignore the command or to take his time performing the stop. And then, when he does stop, he doesn't come to a complete stop and stand still until you cue him to move again.

If you say "Whoa" and the horse simply slows down and keeps walking and you don't immediately correct him and make him stand still, you are creating a bad habit and it will take time to break that habit and have him stop when you say stop and stay stopped. Don't even let him take one step after stopping. Enforce "Whoa" and you will be happy you did. Then you'll only have to say "Whoa" once.

There are other traps we can fall into and soon have a well-trained horse turn a little sour and take the fine edge off his training like letting a sharp knife gradually become a dull blade.

Neck reining is one of the higher levels of a horse with a good handle. A horse with a good neck rein is always easier to ride. You can ride him with one hand and have the other hand to do other things like roping or waving. We can lose that asset and let the horse become dull and somewhat unresponsive when you lay a rein on his neck if we allow him to ignore that light touch.

If your horse starts to become stiff-necked and doesn't immediately turn when you lay a rein on his neck, you have to take action to insist he turn when he feels that rein. If you let him get away with not responding, he'll only get worse and pretty soon you will have to use more force to turn him. These things happen over time and you may not realize

he is losing that light feel until he just doesn't turn when you neck-rein him. When that happens, make him turn by tipping his nose the way you wanted him to turn and then spank him with a jab of spur or heel in his girth area as a warning that he'd better turn or he'll feel something unpleasant. You only have to do it a few times and then when he feels that light touch of the rein, he'll know he better turn now or else a spur will be waking him up and the bad habit of a stiff neck will soon go away.

Breaking bad habits can be hard if you ignore them for too long. If you give your horse a tune-up every once in a while or when you feel they're not as sharp as they used to be, it will be easier to get them back on the right track. Then your job will be a lot easier and more enjoyable if you're working cattle, trail riding or just riding around for fun. Don't let those bad habits get a start but if they do, correct them before they turn into major problems.

Contact Ralph Galeano at horseman@horsemanspress.com or www.horsemanspress.com.

Improved drone technology gives farmers edge in scouting fields

Drones are higher in quality and lower in price than they were just a few years ago when farmers began using them, says University of Missouri Extension natural resources engineer Kent Shannon.

Shannon gave an update on drone technology at MU Extension's annual Crop Management Conference, Dec. 18-19 in Columbia. Shannon has taught farmers and extension educators how to use new technology for 25 years. His work put him on Successful Farming magazine's recent list profiling ten exceptional extension specialists.

Drone technology gives farmers new time- and labor-saving options, Shannon says. With the drone's birds-eye view, row crop farmers can scout for disease, pest and nutrient problems in crops. Livestock producers can check herds, fences and water. Better technology overcomes weather and mobility issues.

Enhanced imaging al-



lows farmers to zoom in on problem areas and respond quickly, he says. This results in better productivity and higher yields.

Shannon gave conference attendees a look at a recently released autonomous drone specially manufactured for agricultural use. The new industrial drone self-charges and self-manages. He also showed drones of varying prices and quality.

Shannon uses drones to scout fields in the MU Extension Strip Trial Program. Through their use,

lect three gigabytes of raw data. Traditional image stitching-putting together numerous images into one image-is time-consuming. New software speeds the process and improves quality.

New technology shortens setup, flight, and data collection and management times.

Drawbacks still exist. Batteries drain quickly. Poor or nonexistent internet or cellular coverage in many rural areas still prevents farmers from downloading data in the field. This requires them to return to their home or

operators who are providing their services as part of a business must hold a remote pilot certificate or work under the direct supervision of a pilot with a certificate. To apply for a certificate, a person must pass a test on aeronautical knowledge at an FAA-approved testing center or hold a Part 61 certificate. Individuals must be at least 16 years old and be vetted by the Transportation Security Administra-

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Washington, D.C. — The Environmental Protection Agency issued a Proposed Rule in the Federal Register recently on the life-cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with biofuels that are produced from grain sorghum oil extracted at dry-mill ethanol plants.

EPA is seeking comment for 30 days on its proposed assessment that using distillers sorghum oil as a feedstock results in no significant agricultural sector GHG emissions. Through EPA analysis, biodiesel produced from distillers sorghum meets the lifecycle GHG emissions reduction threshold of 50 percent required for advanced biofuels, and biomass-based diesel under the Renewable Fuel Standard program.

"After almost four years of work by National Sor-

Farm leasing strategies informational meeting planned January 18

Have you been wondering if your leasing arrangements are the best for your cropping enterprises especially with the commodity prices and input costs? To address these questions and to help landlords and tenants, on Thursday, January 18, the Post Rock District with K-State Research and Extension will host an informational meeting on Farm Leasing Strategies starting at 10:00 a.m. at the First Christian Church in Beloit. The meeting will conclude with lunch at 12:30 p.m.

The program will focus on all aspects of agricultural leasing including topics: Land values and trends along with leasing arrangement strategies. The results of the 2017 Post Rock District Lease Survey will also be presented. Featured speakers are K-State Research and Extension Ag Economist, Dr. Mykel Taylor along with Barrett Simon and Sandra L. Wick, Post Rock Extension agents.

Lunch, with sponsor The Guaranty State Bank and Trust Company, will be served at noon. There is no cost for the program, but pre-registration is requested by Friday, January 12 either online at www.postrock. ksu.edu or at any of the Post Rock District Offices in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center, A minimum of ten registered participants is required to hold the meeting.

All interested producers, landlords and tenants are encouraged to attend.

ghum Producers industry partners and staff, we are excited to see this proposed rule in the Federal Register, putting us one step closer to sorghum oil filling biodiesel production needs," said John Duff, NSP strategic business director. "This is significant positive news for sorghum producers and ethanol plants in the Sorghum Belt as it provides more opportunities and better returns producing ethanol from sorghum."

The proposed rule is a result of a petition filed by NSP and extensive work with the EPA providing data and analysis during the rule-making process. A pathway approval will allow the production of biodiesel and heating oil from distillers sorghum oil, and renewable diesel, jet fuel, heating oil, naphtha, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) produced from distillers sorghum

"This news is much anticipated, and we sincerely appreciate the help of our renewable energy partners, ethanol plants and producer leaders," NSP CEO Tim Lust said. "We are also grateful for all the congressional leaders who signed a supporting letter and Senator Jerry Moran, Congressman Roger Marshall and Congressman Jodey Arrington who made calls to the EPA supporting the pathway, as well."

NSP represents U.S. sorghum producers and serves as the voice of the sorghum industry coast to coast through legislative representation, regulatory representation and education. To learn more about NSP, visit www.sorghumgrowers.com.

Time of feeding influences time of calving

By Keith Martin, Livestock and Forage Agent, Wildcat Extension District

A majority of beef calf mortality occurs within the first two months of life. Supervision of first calf heifers and cows that need assistance is a proven method to increase calf survival. In most operations, observing birth is more easily done during daylight hours.

The time of day of calving is thought to be influenced by a combination of many variables. These factors would include the time of day that feed is provided, physical activity, daily rhythmic hormonal secretion, ambient temperature and day length. Time of day of feeding is the variable most easily changed by management.

The explanation of why time of feeding can affect time of calving is not known at this point. Research has observed that contractions of the rumen the cow or heifer both decline prior to birth. Maybe there is an interaction between these factors and time of feeding, or maybe not.

Numerous studies have been conducted which support feeding in the evening to increase births during daylight hours. An Iowa study of over 1,300 cows on 15 farms, found that feeding once a day at dusk resulted in 85 percent of the calves being born between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. A study conducted in Great Britain involving 162 cows on four farms indicated that cattle fed at 9 a.m. calved during the daytime hours 57 percent of the time compared to 79 percent calving during the daytime hours when fed at 10 p.m.

A comparison of two spring calving research herds in Kansas and Idaho confirms previous work and provides some interesting insight. Cows were

and all birth times were recorded; those births that could not be estimated to within one hour were removed from the data. There were 1,210 observed births from 256 different cows during the 15 years of the Idaho study and 537 observations from 201 different cows during the five years of the study conducted at Hays. Calving season began in the third or fourth week in January and concluded either the second or fourth week in April depending on the location.

Time of feeding in the Idaho herd was between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m., while the feeding time in the Hays herd was between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Fifty-three percent of the over 1,200 calves in Idaho were born between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., when cows were fed between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m.

In contrast, 86 percent of the over 500 births in the Hays herd occurred between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

when cattle were fed be tween 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

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Since this was a long term study, calving data of replacements was compared to their dam. There was a tendency for daughters to calve close to the same time as their dam.

Cumulatively, the results of these and other studies suggest that at the very least first calf heifers should be fed at dusk to increase the chance they will calve during daylight hours so that assistance can be provided if needed. Time of feeding will also influence the calving time of cows as well, but as a rule cows should require less assistance than heifers. The changes in feeding time need to occur about two weeks prior to calving time for the changes to take effect.

For more information, contact, Keith Martin, Livestock and Forage agent. rkmartin@ksu.edu 620-784-5337.

85-539-7558

and body temperature of checked every two hours Determining if genetic testing is right for your operation

By Katelyn Brockus, **DEA**, River Valley **Extension District**

The two words, genetic testing, can be quite intimidating to some producers and can sound like a critically used decision-making tool for others. So many questions come along with genetic testing that sometimes a producer just doesn't know where to start. After spending some time in Cheyenne, Wyoming at the Range Beef Cow Symposium, it was clear that cattle producers have begun using this technology in their herds.

Today, I am going to visit with you as a producer on what I learned at the Range Beef Cow Symposium on potential uses for genetic testing on your operation. Many people spoke at the conference over the topic, but Troy Hadrick, managing partner in Hadrick Enterprises from Faulkton, South Dakota, had an interesting way of incorporating this new technology into his operation. Previously, he had the typical management style for an Angus based cow herd. The plan was to background their calves and sell at a local sale barn with the goal of producing the most pounds as possible at that point. However, Troy wasn't happy with competing in the marketplace on an equal playing field. He wanted to incorporate something into his management practice that would make his cattle more marketable and demand a premium.

As Troy was searching for options, he decided to start utilizing retained ownership with his cattle. With this switch in management practice, he has to rethink vaccination protocols, seek out a feedlot relationship, zone in on risk management, and decide on a grid that best fit his cattle. Mr. Hadrick also incorporated AI'ing into his whole herd instead of just his replacement heifers. This would allow him to produce more calves to best fit his new goals, which were to tighten the calving season and create a more uniform set of cattle.

ceived carcass data back and 89% went Choice or better and 32% were CAB with no Primes. At this point, Mr. Hadrick knew that he had some genetic work that needed to be done. He did genetic testing on a new set of calves using another sire, and he was able to utilize those numbers moving forward in retaining ownership on those calves. These genetic tests showed one sire group ten points above the other. Those steers that were sired by the bull that genetically tested ten points above the other resulted in 23% Prime, 55% CAB and 100% Choice or better. With grid premiums included, those higher genetic scoring steers

derstand that genetic testing is not for everyone. There is a lot of value in phenotypic traits for both breeding females and bull selection. This is something that cannot be forgotten as our cattle herds would struggle based off of longevity, fertility, and many other traits if this was forgotten or not considered.

With that said, the question is does genetic testing make sense for your cattle herd? This is the question that producers have to sit down and analyze. The process has to start with what are your operations goals? Are you a commercial operation? Are you a seedstock operation? Are you looking to retain replacement heifers? Are you looking for a retained ownership program? You must consider commodity prices and consider the future when making these management decisions. While genetic testing has its place in the industry, does it have a place on your operation? If the answer is yes, then look into the possibilities of receiving premiums on

your cattle based off of using genetic tools. If the answer is no, then there are many different tools available that can assist you with making the best management decisions for your operation. I would be happy to assist you with further questions regarding genetic testing at 785-325-2121 or kbrockus@ksu.





Troy finally had his first set of AI cattle on the ground and his first set of carcass data. He rebrought back an extra \$60 per head compared to the lower genetic scoring steers.

There are obviously many more factors that went into Troy making the decisions that he did based off of genetic testing. There are also numerous different tests available with various prices depending on the traits that you would like to test for. It is important to un-



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• 40 blk strs, 2 rds shots, homeraised, long time weaned, 850 lbs

- 27 blk hfrs homeraised, long time weaned, 2 rds shots, 800 lbs
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- 60 mostly blk strs 900 lbs
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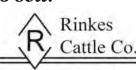
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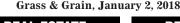


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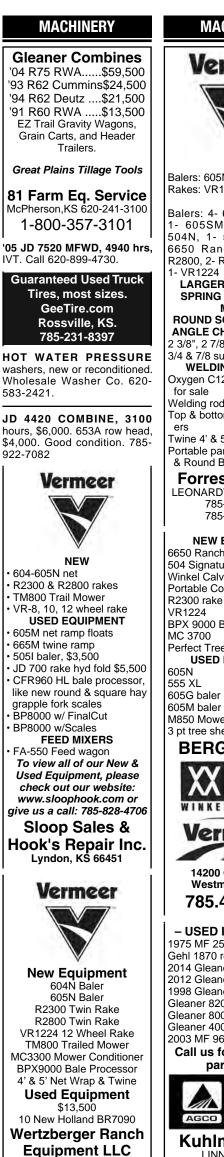
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Grass & Grain, January 2, 2018 Hardiness of fruit trees By Kelsey Hatesohl,

River Vallev Extension Agent- Horticulture

I know we are a few months away from spring, but it is never too early to start planning for next spring. If you are looking into purchasing fruit trees this spring, there are a few factors that you should consider when planting apricot and peach trees. Spring in Kansas is often an unsettled weather pattern, which can affect fruit trees. Apricot and peach tree flowers are very vulnerable to late frosts that can kill their fruit buds. Of course, the tree itself will be fine but there will be little to no fruit for that year. Late frosts can affect other species of fruit trees as well, but apricot and peaches are by far the most sensitive.

The closer a tree is to full bloom, the more sensitive it becomes to the frosts. Apricots are more likely to have frost kill flowers because they bloom earlier. Peaches are next on the list for greater

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Exceptional composition is a key element of the U.S. Soy Advantage.

When it comes to soybean quality, the U.S. soy industry wants to be sure that its customers are armed with the right information. The U.S. Soy Family, which includes the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC), American Soybean Association (ASA), and United Soybean Board (USB), promotes numerous studies around soy quality, providing international customers with the necessary information to make the right soy choice.

Annually since 1986, USSEC partners with the University of Minnesota Department of Agronomy & Plant Genetics to gather samples from soybean producers across the United States' growing regions to analyze them for protein, oil, and amino acid concentration - yielding scientific data that verifies the exceptional composition and high nutritional value of U.S. soy.

In 2017, sample kits were mailed to 6,688 producers selected based on total land devoted to soybean production in each state, so that response distribution would closely match that of soybean production. By early December, 1,837 samples were received, which were analyzed for protein, oil, and amino acid concentration. Preliminary survey results show that, across U.S. growing areas, protein concentrations were unusually consistent across the U.S. in 2017, although slightly lower overall than 2016 levels and historical averages. However, oil concentrations in 2017 were nearly equal to 2016 levels and were higher than historical averages. Additionally, essential amino acid results varied very little by state and region and the U.S. average of essential amino acids was slightly higher than last year. The quality study also found an increase in protein concentrations in some northern states. For example, Minnesota and South Dakota soybeans had higher protein in 2017 than 2016, with South Dakota increasing protein by nearly one percentage point. Because protein levels were similar across all U.S. growing areas, this in-

chance of being caught by a late frost. With peaches, two characteristics become important when considering whether they can be damaged; bloom time and fruit bud hardiness. Like apricots, bloom time is very important but fruit bud hardiness is also important. Fruit bud hardiness refers to the hardiness of the bud to late frosts rather than the ability to survive extreme low temperatures during the winter. A few late blooming peach varieties include 'China Pearl,' 'Encore,' and 'Risingstar.'

Page 19

When choosing what varieties of fruit trees to plant, remember to look at the bloom time and fruit bud hardiness. These two things will help you chose the best fruit tree for your area, as well as give you the best chance for a bountiful harvest. If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ ksu.edu.

value is demonstrated through more nutrients, greater consistency

dicates that the U.S. will be exporting soybeans with a more consistent nutritional bundle from all

> port locations. Recent studies comparing soybeans of different origins continue to reinforce the understanding that U.S. soy provides the nutritional bundle needed to optimize animal nutrition and profitability. The full value of U.S. soybean products is found when buyers consider total metabolizable energy, batchto-batch consistency, essential amino acid profile and digestibility.

Dr. Gonzalo G. Mateos, professor of animal science at the University of Madrid (Spain), conducted research study on the nutritive value and energy quality of soybean meal for pigs and poultry. His team compiled data, gathered over eight consecutive years, to map out the energy and protein levels of samples of the world's largest exporters of soybean meal: the United States, Brazil and Argentina. In his peer-reviewed and published study, Mateos concluded that composition and quality of protein is the best indicator of nutrition. He said that U.S. soybean meal is the world's top and most convenient of the world's protein meals' supply. Dr. Hans H. Stein, professor of animal nutrition at the University of Illinois, analyzed digestible, metabolizable energy in swine by analyzing soybean meal from China, Argentina, Brazil, and the U.S., and four sources from India. Stein's peer-reviewed and published study showed that U.S. soybean meal had more digestible amino acids than that of other origins and that soybean meal from the U.S. has greater digestibility and less variability in composition and digestibility. This global research continues to demonstrate that soybeans and soy products can vary widely depending on their origin. Year after year, U.S. soy can be counted on by nutritionists and managers to consistently maximize animal performance and reduce production costs. For copies of this research, contact Lisa Humphreys at lhumphreys@ ussec.org.

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Grass & Grain, January 2, 2018

Coffee Shop Agronomy meetings begin January 11

Using Cover Crops for Weed Suppression will be the topic on January 11, 2018 at the first session in this year's Coffee Shop Agronomy series of educational meetings, organized by the Riley County Extension Service. Anita Dille, K-State Research & Extension agronomist, will be the featured speaker.

Coffee Shop Agronomy meetings will be held at Nelson's Landing in Leonardville, starting at 10:30 a.m. and adjourning by 12:00 noon every other Thursday from January 11 through February 22.

Meeting dates, topics, and speakers are:

January 11 - Using Cover Crops for Weed Suppression — Anita Dille, K-State Research & Extension agronomist

January 25 - Land Prices and Leasing - Mykel Taylor, K-State Research & Extension agriculture economist

February 8 — Ag Marketing 101 — Dan O'Brien, K-State Research & Extension agriculture economist

February 22 — Soybean Weed Control (Dicamba Issues) — Dallas Peterson, K-State Research & Extension weed scientist

Coffee Shop Agronomy meetings are sponsored by the KSU-Riley County Extension Service. Additional sponsors include: Frontier Farm Credit, Central Valley Ag, LG Seeds, Performance Ag, and Sump Ag.

For more information or to make reservations to attend, contact Riley County Extension Agent Greg Mc-Clure at 785-537-6350.

Reservations are requested by noon the day before each meeting.

There is no average soil test

By Josh Coltrain, Crop **Production Agent, Wildcat Extension District**

Humorist Evan Esar once wrote that "Statistics is the only science that enables different experts using the same figures to draw different conclusions." What is the average soil test in southeast Kansas? This simple question, like many simple questions is, in fact, quite complex when statistics are involved.

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to make fertility recommendations on just over 220 soil tests across the four counties (Crawford, Labette, Montgomery, and Wilson) the Wildcat District covers. The mass majority (nearly 200) came from Crawford and Montgomery so this data is definitely skewed toward them.

For the purposes of this data set, I have only included crop ground soil tests. If hay and pasture soil tests were included, I am quite confident the data would be considerably different.

The common soil test includes three major tests, Soil pH, Phosphate ppm, and Potash ppm. The K-State Soil Testing Lab uses the Mehlich-3 extraction method for extracting and measuring phosphate. Different labs may or may not use this method so comparing between labs may not be recommended.

The average phosphate level across the 220 samples was 29.4 parts per million (ppm). I must admit that I would have assumed a lower level than this without running the data. While the average is the most common measure of central tendency, the median (half of the measurements below and half above) can minimize the outliers in data. For phosphate, the median is 16.6 ppm, which would be much closer to my assumptions.

The highest sample I reviewed this year had 214 ppm phosphate while the lowest had only one ppm. If you break down the data into percentiles, the upper 10 percent of the samples were at 69 ppm or above while the lowest 10 percent were at 5.9 and below. For the major crops in our area, 20 ppm is the level in which no phosphorus fertilizer would be recommended on a sufficiency basis. There were 118 samples below 20 ppm which would have had some phosphorus fertilizer recommended.

For potassium, my assumptions were actually much closer to the results. The average across all samples was 146 ppm potash. Once again, the median was lower at 123 ppm and the range was quite broad with a maximum of 571 ppm and a minimum of 43 ppm.

For potash, the highest 10 percent of the samples were at 255 ppm or greater while the lowest 10 percent were 79 ppm or lower. The critical level for potassium fertilizer to be recommended on a sufficiency basis in our major crops is 130 ppm and 123 samples fell below that crucial amount.

Finally, pH was also quite interesting and my prior assumptions would be nearly accurate. The average and the median were quite close in for pH at 6.53 and 6.6 respectively. In addition, the range was wide with a maximum of 7.9 (which is extremely high for our area) and a minimum of 5.1.

The highest 10 percent of pH readings were at 7.3 and above while the lowest 10 percent fell below 5.69. In pH, the critical value is below 6.5 which would induce a lime recommendation. There were 91 samples which met this criteria.

To try to quantify the "average" soil test in southeast Kansas, a number of statistical measures were applied. Feel free to draw your own conclusions.

For more information, contact Josh Coltrain, Crop Production Agent, jcoltrain@ksu.edu or 620-724-8233.

Farm Service Agency – a vital source of assistance to America's farmers and ranchers

Through the work of dedicated staff in over 2,100 county and state offices, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides vital farm safety-net assistance to agricultural producers across America.

"We've seen recent challenges in farm income and commodity prices," said Dr. Robert Johansson, acting deputy under secretarv for the Farm Production and Conservation mission area. "The 'safety net' provided in the 2014 Farm Bill has helped producers withstand economic losses as well as losses resulting from natural disasters. Loans for operating expenses, farm purchases and other purposes help current producers stay in business and allow a new generation of farmers and ranchers get their start."

Agriculture demands working capital. According to Johansson, FSA provided credit, either direct-

ly or guaranteed through commercial lenders, to 120,000 family farmers across the country.

In fiscal year 2017, USDA Farm Loan Programs pumped \$6 billion in support to a diverse group of producers across America. That was the second highest total in FSA history. Over \$2.5 billion of that total was direct and guaranteed operating loans, and another \$3.5 billion was allocated for direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans. This additional financing enabled farmers and ranchers across the country to access capital to start their operations, or to expand their existing operations. The new lending continued the recent growth in FSA's farm loan portfolio. FSA highlights from the

year include: Agriculture Risk Cov-

erage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

USDA is issuing approximately \$8 billion in payments under the ARC and PLC programs to agricultural producers who suffered market downturns in 2016.

In 2017, FSA distributed \$1.6 billion in CRP payments to over 375,000 Americans for doing their part in improving water quality, reducing soil erosion and increasing wildlife habitat.

Disaster Assistance

In response to hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. USDA announced special procedures to assist producers in states and territories who lost crops or livestock or had other damage to their farms or ranches. Also, because of the severe and widespread damage caused by the hurricanes. USDA provided flexibility to assist farm loan borrowers. FSA dispatched additional staff to the affected areas and, in response to a request for assistance, rolled out

a special program providing vouchers to dairy herd owners in Puerto Rico who used the assistance to purchase feed.

USDA also provided extensive assistance for a variety of other disasters throughout the country, including drought in the northern high plains, wildfires in the west and central plains, floods, tornados, freezes and other storms. For example, in July, USDA authorized the use of additional CRP lands for emergency grazing and haying in and around portions of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota affected by severe drought. USDA also added the ability for farmers and ranchers in those areas to hay and graze CRP wetland and buffer practices. This followed a previous action in April and June to assist the area and provided livestock producers with an additional feed source. In October, FSA teamed with other USDA agencies to provide assistance to wildfire-damaged areas of northern California, including loans and other disaster assistance programs.

New Farmers

In August, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue signed a Memorandum of Understanding with officials from SCORE, the nation's largest volunteer network of expert business mentors, to support new and beginning farmers. The agreement provides new help and resources

for beginning ranchers, veterans, women, socially disadvantaged Americans and others, providing new tools to help them both grow and thrive in agri-business

Johansson said these accomplishments are in line with Secretary Perdue's goals of maximizing the ability of the men and women of America's agriculture and agribusiness sector to create jobs, prioritizing customer service every day for American taxpayers and consumers and ensuring the food we produce meets the strict safety standards we've established while always remembering that America's agricultural bounty comes directly from the land.

the regional Excellence in

Ag foundation celebrates 35 years, donors and teachers recognized

The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the annual meeting Nov. 16,

inum (>\$100,000) - Kansas Wheat and Soybean and Classroom (KFAC) held its Corn Commissions; Gold (\$50,000 - \$99,000) - Kansas 2017 at the Kansas Wheat Farm Bureau (KFB); Sil-Innovation Center in Man- ver Level (\$25,000 - \$49,999) John Colle, Hutchinson

Teaching award winners sponsored by the KFB Foundation for Agriculture. Awardees included hattan Thirty-two donors. - Kansas Department of High School, Hutchinson: Sarah Clancy, Marlatt Elementary School, Manhattan; and teacher team from Service Valley Charger Academy, Oswego, Rochelle Sheddrick and Sheila Robison. Small will receive an all-expense paid trip to the National Agriculture in the Classroom (NAITC) conference, to be held in Portland, Maine, in June 2018, sponsored by High Plains Journal and AGam in Kansas. The regional winners will receive their choice of a \$600 scholarship for the NAITC conference or a \$200 cash prize to be used to purchase agriculture supplies for their classrooms, sponsored by KFB Foundation for Agriculture. The Golden Apple award for outstanding service over the years was presented to board member Roberta Spencer of the Jackson County Conservation District. Spencer is a long-time board member and has provided leadership to KFAC on the education committee for a number of years. Also recognized during the meeting were longtime supporters Larry and Pat Parker, who have served as the KFAC investment committee treasurer for over 30 years and the KFAC accountant, respectively. Retiring board members Bill Spiegel and Holly Martin were presented with gifts and certificates for their years of service.

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2003 Toyota Camry LE. 4-dr. white, cloth seats. TRACTORS: 1950 Minneapolis Moline 'Z', wide front end, running. 1939 Minneapolis Moline 'Z', rear steel wheels & set of rubber rear tires.

MACHINIST & SHOP TOOLS: South Bend 36" metal lathe with tooling & accessories; 16 speed floor model drill press; small table saw; electric welder; power hack saw; several chain saws; Craftsman roll around tool chest; wrenches & tools of all descriptions: Machinist tools: vise: bench grinder on stand; sanders; jack stands. Aluminum extension, straight & step ladders; electric cement mixer; work bench; floor & hydraulic jacks; large sander; heavy extension cords; crescent wrenches; lots pipe wrenches; drills; large chain wrench; wrenches; many drill bits: taps: small drill press; clamps; levels; crimper; large vise; organizers; shop vac; lots C-clamps; chains; hammers; saws; lots screwdrivers; wood plane; levels; monkey wrenches; creeper; pipe tongs; folding saw horses; castors; bolts; electrical; gauges; fittings; nail puller; battery chargers; bars; bolt cutters; vise grips; nut drivers; huge slide rule (6'); tie down straps; dol-1/2" drill: saws: mitre box & saw: air bubble.

FURNITURE AND HOUSEHOLD: 46" Samsung flat screen TV; La-Z-Boy rocker recliner; Antique Oak dining table & 6 chairs; Oak buffet; couch; Walnut china cabinet; Walnut cabinet; desk; washstand with towel bar; loveseat; 3 & 4-drawer file cabinets; 1950's yellow dinette table; pool table; lift chair; 3-drawer chest; glider rocker; sewing cabinet: 4 bar stools: bookcase: step tables: small bench; end tables; step stool; Kenmore microwave; office chair; iron horseshoe coat rack; metal & glass table; desk; upright deep freeze; treadmill; Lifestyle exercise machine; DP gometer exercise bike; metal stack bookcases; bookcase; metal shelving; large plate rack; pr alabaster lamps; pictures including Wallace Nutting; books; figurines; clock; cookbooks: aprons: trivets; 2 mortar & pestles; vases; pink relish dish; platters; bowls; bells; marble eggs; 6 Goebel stems; tablecloths; linen; silverware; pans; glassware; household items; towels; coolers; Hoover steam vac; pressure cooker; ice cream freezer; invalid commode; electric heaters; fans; Coleman camp stove; golf clubs.

COLLECTIBLES: Model 37 410 single shot shotgun; BB gun; car whiskey decanters; metronome; crocks & bowl; several nice antique scales; chemist books; large Protractor & case; newer Packard & Minneapolis Moline signs; Red Wing flower pot; Studebaker President parts & glass: horse drawn disk.

LAWN & GARDEN: Craftsman DLS 3500 riding lawn mower; MTD 8HP, 30", 6spd riding mower; 2 push mowers; 2 gas weedeaters; small roto tiller; chain saws; pole chain saw; garden hose; wheelbarrow; push brush saw; lawn aerator; dethatcher; pull fertilizer spreader; lawn cart; mole traps; garden tools.

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teachers, board members and staff attended the 35th anniversary celebration.

KFAC board chairman, Bill Spiegel, welcomed guests and offered thanks and congratulations to everyone involved in promoting agriculture in Kansas classrooms over the past year. As a special 35th anniversary celebration, Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director, recognized donors who have generously supported KFAC over the last 15 years. Giving levels that were recognized included Plat-

> PERSONAL PROPERTY

Agriculture and NRCS of Kansas; and Bronze Level (\$10,000 - \$24,000) - Frontier Farm Credit and Farm Credit Association of Kansas. Other donors that were recognized during the meeting included Franklin and Jackson County Conservation Districts.

After hearing an update on the annual work of the Foundation, attendees heard an inspiring presentation by the 2018 KFAC Teacher of the Year Wanda Small from Atchison County Community School.

Also presenting were

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 — 11:00 AM

2323 N. JÁCKSON — JUNĆTION CITY, KS 66441 FURNITURE & APPLIANCES: Flex Steel couch - nice, & electric ft brown recliner; Dining table w/4 chairs; Coffee table & end tables; Metal glass top coffee table; Card table w/chairs; Entertainment center; Mahogany desk; Jewelry box on legs; Heavy duty metal shelf unit; Floor lamps; 50" Sanyo flat screen TV; Dirt Devil vacuum; Microwave; Kerosene heater; Air purifier; Humidifier. COINS, GLASSWARE & COLLECTIBLES: Approx. 23 Lots of coins; Casual "Apples" China set; Set of Apples memorabil-ia; Milk glass basket & candy dish; French candle holders; PG candy dish; Fruit compotes; Dreamsicles figurines collection Mary's Moo Moo figurines collection; Very large collection of good & costume jewelry; Dolls; **BEAR TRAP;** Eagle claw feet; Three 1950's Kansas signs; 1950's Hoblit Hybrids sign; Cast iron seat w/Kansas; Windmill weight chicken; Paper mache duck decoy; Brass fireman's nozzle; old post cards; Sports cards; Naz ards: old kev

MISCELLANEOUS: Motorcycle helmet; DVD player; CD's; VHS tapes; Recoreds; Office supplies; Yarn; Quilt; Crock pot; Mixer; Small appliances; Nesting Pyrex mixing bowl set; Tupper ware; Purses; Baskets; Bird cage & hanger; Small floor safe; Books; Children's books; Toys; Luggage; Christmas decorations; Pr. mo-torcycle gloves; New IROQUOIS 3.5x18 cycle tire; 2 new Sears .25/50x17 cycle tires, MANY MANY MORE ITEMS TOO NU-MEROUS TO MENTION.

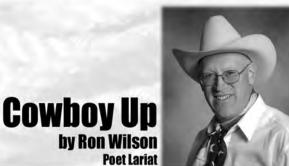
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Vetrifying

"Honk if you're NOT running for Governor" No, I haven't seen that bumper sticker yet, but it does seem that there are a lot of candidates getting into the race. They'll be talking about big issues like budgets and taxes, but I have one specific plank which I would like to propose and I wish the legislature would deal with it even before the next election. This proposal is to expand the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas (VTPRK).

VTPRK deals with a straightforward issue: The need for veterinarians in rural Kansas.

We need large animal veterinarians in our rural areas. The large animal vet (see following poem) fills a vital role in agriculture and the livestock economy specifically. We need welltrained. well-prepared people who are qualified and willing to help farmers, ranchers and stockmen optimize herd health, care for their livestock, and keep our multibillion dollar livestock industry

healthy and productive. The national data suggest that there are plenty of veterinarians - but not in rural areas or in large animal practice. As with other demographic categories, it seems veterinarians (and spouses) are drawn to the suburbs in search of amenities and economic opportunities. I guess vets see it as safer, easier or more lucrative (or all of the above) to care for Fluffy the poodle rather than Bossie the cow.

This has implications for our nation's food sup-

A Large Role

By Ron Wilson, Poet Lariat In the livestock industry, there's one essential link: It's a special veterinarian in that vital role, I think. This is not just the doctor who cares for the family pet: The one I want to celebrate is the large animal vet. The small animal vet works in a warm and comfy place, Treating the dogs and cats who come in at measured pace. But the large animal vet is often in the great outdoors, Treating bulls and cows and horses, or other herbivores. They may be at the chute, a-doctorin' a steer, Or in a plastic sleeve, way up an old cow's rear. They have to know diseases and treatments without fail, And might get kicked or stepped on, or at least smacked by a tail. But they are essential partners in the stockman's operation: Key elements of agriculture, the backbone of our nation. So let's thank these men and women for the challenges they've met To serve the livestock industry as a large animal vet. Happy Trails! www.ronscowboypoetry.com

ply. A U. S. Department of Labor study cited in 2015 showed that most of the future increase in the veterinary work force would be those who work solely with pets or smaller animals. The American Veterinary Medicine Association website includes a map on food supply veterinary medicine which shows that Kansas is one of the states that is most in need of large animal veterinarians.

Complicating this situation is the escalating cost of veterinary education and resulting student debt in the millions of dollars. Tuition, books, fees and supply costs have all risen significantly. From 2006 to 2017, veterinary school tuition went from around \$17,000 to \$25,000 per year.

In 2006, as a response to the concern over a lack of rural veterinarians, the Kansas Legislature adopted the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas. VTPRK provided for loan forgiveness to five veterinary students per year who go on to practice in a rural county (defined, in this case, as a county with less than 35,000 population - which means that most of Kansas qualifies). The law does not require that these be large animal veterinarians. However, the nature of those counties would have a strong large animal presence. I've met some VTPRK students and they were interested in large animal practice.

The program has been successful. VTPRK graduates are serving Kansas in places from Oakley to Oswego and from Atchison to Johnson City. Ninety-six percent of the graduates are fulfilling their obligations

\$400,000 was appropriated by the state for the VTPRK in 2006. Today, the annual appropriation is still \$400.000 - while tuition costs have gone up 36 percent in the meantime.

Farm groups are recognizing this issue. At the 2017 Kansas Farm Bureau annual meeting, delegates adopted a policy supporting the expansion of the VTPRK. It would be great to expand the number of students as well as the accompanying appropriation

That's the type of candidate position which would get my vote!

Agricultural lease meeting to be held January 9 in J.C.

The Geary County Extension Office is hosting a meeting on agricultural leases on Tuesday, January 9th. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the Geary County 4-H/Sr. Citizens Building, 1025 S Spring Valley Road in Junction

City. Geary County Exten- 1/2 hours. The meeting is sion agent, Chuck Otte will discuss various topics on agricultural leases including the impact of the Kansas ag lease law, crop share leases, cash leases and the importance of communication. The meeting will last 1 - 1

free and no pre-registration is required. For more information. Otte can be contacted at 785-238-4161 or cotte@ksu.edu. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Page 21

Swine Profitability Conference set for February 6 in Manhattan

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

Each year the Swine Profitability Conference focuses on the business side of pork production.

"Attendees will have a chance to learn ideas for improving their businesses from leading producers, veterinarians and economists," said Mike Tokach, University Distinguished Professor in K-State's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and a swine Extension specialist. "This conference is designed to help producers stay competitive in today's swine industry."

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

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

· Ben Woolley and Ben Keeble, Sunter-

ra Farms, will address opportunities and pitfalls of producing antibiotic-free pork. Terry Nelson, Husky Hogs, will share

his story of rebuilding after a catastrophe. · Dr. Gray Louis, Seaboard Foods, will focus on future trends impacting the swine industry.

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

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

Pre-registration is \$25 per participant and due by Jan. 30. Attendees can register at the door for \$50 per participant.

More information, including online registration, is available at KSUSwine. org or contact Lois Schreiner at 785-532-1267 or lschrein@ksu.edu.

Grow Your Farm program offered in downtown KC and Assistance for Social-

University of Missouri Extension invites anyone interested in learning to farm to attend an eight-session program, Grow Your Farm, offered by MU Extension in Jackson County.

The program also offers two farm tours. Sessions begin Feb. 28 and end April 18. All sessions run 6-9 p.m. at the MU Extension center at 105 E. Fifth St. in the Kansas City River Market.

MU Extension specialist Jeff Samborski says the practical seminars and field days give attendees opportunities to learn and network. MU Extension specialists and farm agency representatives lead the sessions. Topics include goal identification and creation, walking the farm, opportunities, plan-

ning, marketing, finances, and legal issues. Farmers share their experiences in the final session.

Register by Feb. 23. The fee includes seminar materials, speakers and light refreshments.

For more information, contact Samborski at 816-471-1351 or samborskij@ missouri.edu, or contact MU Extension in Jackson County at 816-252-5051.

MU Extension, through a grant from the USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach to help veterans, Hmong and socially disadvantaged persons who want to farm, offers the program to increase agribusinesses and enterprise development. Karen Funkenbusch serves as director.

The USDA Outreach

ly Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (2501 program) helps beginning farmers and others evaluate and plan their farm enterprise. Participants attend a set of practical seminars and field days to learn from MU specialists, farmers and agribusiness operators. The USDA grant comes at a critical time. Funkenbusch says. More than 300,000 veterans are expected to return to their rural Missouri roots in the next decade. "Many of them will seek work in agriculture," she says." Veterans and women represent the fastest-growing populations of new beginning farm operators.

Complaints filed with FTC against HSUS

The Center for Consum- indicate otherwise, CCF (FTC) recently against the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) claiming that the group was involved in deceptive advertising. According to a press release from CCF, "HSUS drove traffic to a web page on its HumaneSociety.org domain that contained false information. On the web page in question, a graphic claimed that only 19 percent of HSUS donations are spent on fundraising." The group's tax returns

© Copyright 2017-18

mation about the group's was going toward shelters. er Freedom (CCF) filed a says, noting that their most fundraising efforts, CCF To read the full complaint complaint with the Fed- recent filings show the or- says that, "Additionally, by CCF, visit tinyurl.com/ eral Trade Commission ganization spends at least online HSUS advertising has exploited the name confusion between HSUS and local humane societies. One ad asked people to donate their used vehicle to 'the Humane Society,' without specifying it was the Humane Society of the United States. This perpetuates the confusion."

CCF-HSUS-Complaint.

Call us for Catalogs, Sale Flyers, Magazines, Calendars, Brochures, Books, Newspapers. Ask for Sandra 8 5 - 5 3 9 - 7 5 5 8

29 percent of its budget on fundraising, and that despite its name, HSUS is not affiliated with the human societies that operate local pet shelters.

"Despite the prevalence of pets in HSUS advertising, HSUS does not run a single pet shelter anywhere," the complaint said. Adding that there is significant confusion between HSUS and the many humane societies that operate pet shelters in local communities.

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Building pictured is not priced in ad. Crew travel required over 50 miles. Local building code modifications extra. Price subject to change without notice.

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The complaint cites internal polling done by HSUS in 2011 that found that two-thirds of its donors believed their money



AUCTIONS Both auctions will be located at KS National Guard

Armory: 721 Levee Dr — MANHATTAN, KS

HUGE BLDG MATLS. AUCTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 - 11:00 AM

Featuring: Three 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 14 — 11:00 AM

Two Estates, Seized assets from Riley Co. Police Dept. Vehicles from KSU Agronomy, large coin collection, furniture, household, antiques, collectibles and gardening items, much much more Watch website for updated information and pictures.

Auctioneers Note: Two outstanding Auctions. We will be adding more as we get closer to auction day. Concessions will be available both days. Adding more each day. Keep an eye on our website at Ruckertauctions.com

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.



Jeff Ruckert, Broker/Auctioneer Manhattan, KS 66502 785-565-8293 jctt.97@gmail.com

www.RuckertAuctions.com & Check us out on Facebook

Land Auction 160 acres of Coffey County pasture

Auction Date - Monday, January 22, 2018 at 7 pm Auction Location - Gridley Community Building

Property location: Property location: Located between Gridley and Lamont one-half mile south of Highway 57 / 58 on Angus Road

Legal Description: The Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section 26-22-13, Coffey County, Kansas. 2017 Real estate taxes \$581.44. All of seller's mineral rights will transfer to buyer and are thought to be intact. No active production on the sale property, but there is active production on adjoining properties.

Property Description: A quality grazing property with a good stand of native grasses; open with no trees or brush; three ponds; perimeter fence in generally average condition. Soil types: Olpe gravelly silt loan 3-15% 6e and Kenoma silt loam 1-3% 3e. Gravel road frontage along the west and dirt trail along the south

160 acre quality grazing property Well managed pasture with 3 ponds

Kansas

Seller: The Loren M. Strahm and Liseten M. Strahm Trust

Agent Note's: This is a good pasture for either cow or stocker grazing. The grass has been well

managed and there is hardly a tree on the property. The three ponds were cleaned out a few years ago. Gravel was excavated from a couple of the hilltops several years ago. An old abandoned Missouri Pacific railroad bed runs through the property

Contact agent for private showing. See website for images, terms, and conditions.

- \$20,00 earnest money. Balance at closing.
- Possession at closing on or before February 23, 2018.
- Title insurance and closing fee will be shared equally
- Buyer will be responsible for the 2018 real estate taxes
- All announcements on auction day take precedence
- Agents represent the sellers (not the buyers)
- Not responsible for accidents
- Seller reserves the right to accept / reject any & all bids
- Prospective buyers should complete own investigation
- Sale is not subject to buyer financing or inspections.



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Grass & Grain, January 2, 2018 Page 22 2018 Crop Health Workshop to cover agronomy essentials

Pinnacle Crop Tech's 13th Crop Health Workshop ("Agronomy Essentials"), on January 29, 2018, is a continuation of a series of Workshops that provide an interactive setting for putting practical agronomy information in the hands of no-till farmers, agronomists, and researchers from Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas, the Dakotas, the Canadian prairie provinces, and Australia.

Speakers include Matt Hagny, with 24 years of experience dedicated exclusively to continuous no-till in Kansas, Oklahoma, and farther abroad. Hagny has been a driving force behind bringing no-till to Kansas and the north-central Oklahoma region, and making it work. He stresses developing ways to increase profits or reduce risk with minimal additional cost or labor, and with his 'steady at the helm' stance on improving — not degrading — the soil.

The workshop will cover numerous topics, include ing coping with herbicide-resistant weeds (especially triazine/ALS/glyphosate-resistant Palmer pigweeds, as well as glyphosate-resistant kochia, marestail, and waterhemp). This year's agenda will take extra time to spell out the options of dealing with Palmer amaranth, which has become a major menace now that glyphosate-resistant biotypes have swept across the region.

The workshop will discuss what amount of mulch cover is optimum, and how crop rotations can be planned around this (and a couple dozen other factors) to enhance yields while reducing production risk. Hagny says, "Cover crops can increase mulch cover, or reduce it, depending on the species chosen and how they are planted and managed. Used appropriately, cover crops can be an economic benefit, although there's also the opportunity to go backwards." Hagny continues, "There's a lot of disinformation out there about cover crops reducing fertilizer costs. In many cases, that simply isn't true—at least not out here on the Great Plains where decomposition is relatively slow, and leaching less of a problem than back East. And if the cover crop is a grass species, which it usually should be in these regions where we can't keep enough mulch cover, this really compounds the problem of nutrient deficiencies in the following cash crop."

The workshop also brings in Leland Baxa, Aurora Co-op (Neb.), who Hagny says is "a highly regarded, straight-talking agronomist, and staunch no-till advocate and good teacher of those practices." Baxa has immense experience from 22 yrs spot-checking fields in northwest Kansas, southwest Nebraska, Colorado, and western

Oklahoma. Despite working quite apart from each other, Baxa & Hagny have reached similar conclusions on many topics.

Co-host John Grove, Ph.D, at University of Kentucky, will bring his tremendous knowledge of soil properties, fertilizers and chemistry to the workshop, with most of his research in the past couple of decades being in continuous no-till, including looking at crop rotations and crop establishment. Grove and Hagny will also provide a report on the research that's been done on various fertilizer 'enhancement' products and biologicals, and whether any of them are profitable to use.

Various detailed handouts are provided. Complete list of topics at www.agronomypro.com.

The Workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, January 29, 2018 at the Drury Plaza Hotel, Wichita, with a noon meal, snacks, coffee, tea provided. Tuition is \$200/ person in advance, or \$275 if received after January 17th. To enroll, payments by check may be mailed to Pinnacle Crop Tech Inc., P.O. Box 298, Kechi, KS 67067-0298, or pay by credit card by calling 316-303-2040 (credit card payments will have a \$7.65 convenience fee added). Enrollment is limited to 150 people.

for cold winter days Outdoor pets extra care nee

Dogs and cats that spend most of their time outdoors will need a little preparation before the brunt of winter arrives. Paying attention to a few

basic needs, and watching out for three hazards can make cold weather almost comfortable.

The first basic need is shelter. For dogs, this



can be a sturdy doghouse that you build yourself, or purchase from a retailer. "They need a dog house that's not overly big — just big enough for them to get up and turn around in comfortably," says Susan Nelson, a veterinarian and clinician at Kansas State University's Veterinary Health Center. "If it's too big they lose heat to all that empty space."

Make sure the opening faces away from cold winter winds (in Kansas, that's probably east or southeast). A flap of some sort should hang above the opening. For the inside, Nelson is a big fan of clean hay or wheat straw. "Dogs can nestle down into it, and it helps conserve their body heat better," she says. Cats (especially those hardy farm cats) are generally more self-sufficient, but it doesn't hurt to provide a sturdy box or crate for them, too.

The second major need for outdoor pets is a source of clean, unfrozen water. Water is going to freeze in the winter, so the pets can actually get dehydrated in the winter just like they can in the summer," Nelson says.

Electric-heated water dishes and bowls are both safe and inexpensive, ensuring that the water inside them is always above freezing, ready to drink. Otherwise, Nelson says fresh, very warm water must be added to the water bowl at least twice a day. "The water shouldn't be very hot, or boiling - but warm enough to stay liquid for an hour or two." Animals that stay out-

side on cold days and nights are going to burn extra calories just maintaining their body heat, so they will need extra food added to their meals during the winter months.

Lastly, remember that even with the best food, water and shelter, some days and nights will just be too cold for even the hardiest animals. On these occasions, a comfortable box in the corner of the garage or barn will be enough to keep your pets safe and healthy. "Dogs that are outside 24/7, if you bring them indoors they

may actually get too hot because they have a heavy winter coat on them," Nelson says. "So we need to give them some extra shelter, but not so much that they get overheated."

In addition to providing basic needs, there are also some extra hazards to be mindful of, in and around the home.

Winter is when many of us add antifreeze to our vehicles. For reasons not entirely known, dogs and sometimes cats are drawn to this toxic liquid. If dogs ingest even a small amount of antifreeze dripped onto the pavement, the chemical can lead to renal failure, crystalizing inside the kidneys, frequently leading to death. If working with antifreeze in your garage or driveway, make sure you wipe up even the smallest drops. "If you're out walking your dog, don't allow him to drink out of puddles in the curbs," Nelson cautions, "because sometimes cars that have been parked there have leaked antifreeze or oil into the water standing there."

For cats, there's a special hazard that is unique to them: the car or truck that has just been parked. The warm engine can provide a cozy place for a nap with cats sometimes climbing up into the engine compartment to nestle on or near the engine block. Fan blades can lead to injury or death when the vehicle is started. During winter, before starting your vehicle, bang on the hood a few times, and honk the horn before you turn the key. "Hopefully any cat that is nestled in there will skid out before any damage can be done from the motor," Nelson says.

Colder weather tends to bring rats and mice into homes, and homeowners sometimes choose to use poisonous baits to control these pests. It's critical to ensure that toxic rat and mice poison remains well out of reach of dogs and cats. For cats who like to keep up their hunting skills, there's the added danger of secondary poisoning — the cat eats the rat that ate the poison. "There have been a lot of advances in the packaging of these rodent poisons over the years; however, they are still not totally pet-proof," says Nelson.

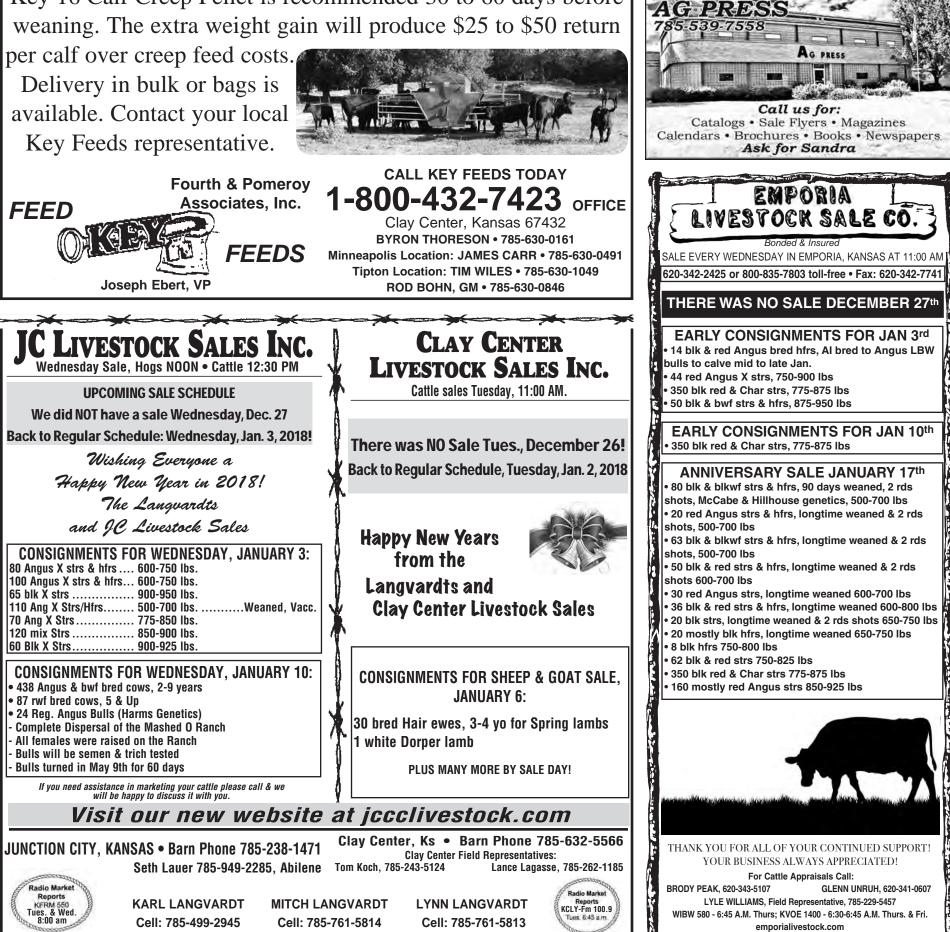
"If you have a pet in the house we really discourage using any kind of a rat poison — it can cause a lot of problems for them.³

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Quality of a Gardener's Life

This is the time of the year when most reflect on the past year. It can be a holistic view or broken down into separate areas of life. Gardening could be considered a rounded approach to life. Here is some of the good that comes from a year of gardening that builds on a quality of life.

Studies demonstrate that plants play an integral role in our well-being. This interaction with plants is deeply beneficial to humans. The growing prevalence of depression caused by "nature deprivation" is largely due to the increased time spent indoors using electronic devises. Apart from meeting some of our most basic needs of food and oxygen, nature relaxes and refreshes us.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), moderate-intensity level gardening for 2.5 hours each week can reduce the risk for obesity, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, heart disease, stroke, depression, colon cancer and premature death. Additionally, those that choose gardening as their moderate-intensity exercise are more likely to exercise 40-50 minutes longer on average than those that choose activities like walking or biking.

Nurturing plants benefit our environment in many ways. Plants take in carbon dioxide as they manufacture food thus helping to reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases. Gardens help to reduce soil erosion by slowing rainfall runoff and allowing it to infiltrate more slowly into the ground. Additionally, gardens tend to serve as a food source and

gathering place for many types of wildlife such as butterflies and birds.

It is without a doubt that your gardening in the past and future is beneficial to you. I encourage all to do some gardening this next year. The Extension office will be providing opportunities for gardening instruction to enhance your efforts. Let's hope that the 2018 gardening season is a good one.

You can find out more information on this and other horticulture topics by going to the Riley County, K-State Research and Extension website at www. riley.ksu.edu. And you can contact Gregg Eyestone at the Riley County office of K-State Research and Extension at 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan, by calling 785-537-6350 or e-mail: geyeston@ksu.edu

Fastline.com releases price comparison tool tool helpful with choosing Fastline Media Group

is excited to release the Price Comparison tool on Fastline.com. The Price Comparison tool - the first of its kind in the ag equipment market - is designed to help buyers quickly compare items based on the prices of specific equipment listings from the most popular categories on Fastline.com. Equipment buyers will find the Price Comparison

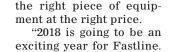
Kansas inventory of all hogs and pigs on Decemter, up 4 percent from the

ber 1, 2017, was 2.10 million head, according to the US-DA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This was up 10 percent from December 1, 2016, and up 5 percent from September 1, 2017.

Breeding hog inventory, at 165,000 head, was unchanged from December 1, 2016, and unchanged from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 1.94 million head, was up 11 percent from last year, and up 5 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2017 Kansas pig crop, at 896,000 head, was up 3 percent from 2016. Sows farrowed during the period totaled 83,000 head, up 1 percent from last year. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 10.80 for the September-November period, compared to 10.60 last year.

Kansas hog producers intend to farrow 82,000 sows during the December



This is just the first of many innovative features coming to our digital platform," said Susan Arterburn, marketing director.

Along with the Price Comparison tool feature comes an easier way to access the full and added benefits of a Fastline.com

actual farrowings during

the same period a year ago.

Intended farrowings for

account. Visitors can now log into Fastline.com with a Facebook account. By using a Fastline.com account they will be unlocking new features on Fastline.com such as alert notifications on saved equipment listings via email and text, and more search customizations.

Page 23

Contact Fastline Media Group at custcare@fastline.com or 800-626-6409 with questions.

Kansas hog inventory up ten percent March-May 2018 quarter 2017-February 2018 quar-

are 85,000 sows, up 6 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period the previous year.





Starting out the New Year with a good deed

For those who resolve to help the community the coming year, there is an opportunity to do a good deed at Pioneer Bluffs, a historic Flint Hills ranch near Matfield Green

"We invite everyone to join the fun," said Lynn Smith, executive director. "Retirees, children, families, and weekend parents work side by side on a variety of projects for just a few hours. It is amazing how much is accomplished."

The first volunteer workday of 2018 will be Saturday, January 6. The day begins at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and snacks while discussing the morning plans. At around 9:00 a.m., the group breaks into teams. The work ends at noon with lunch; Gavin Greenemeyer is preparing a meal that will include traditional black-eyed peas and cornbread.

A volunteer workday is held the first Saturday of most months, and each month is different. "In January we have indoor projects ' continues Smith

are taking down "We Christmas decorations, organizing youth program supplies, doing a little light cleaning."

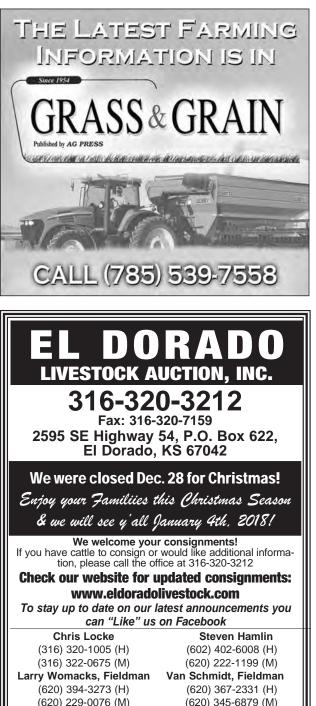
The first Saturday volunteer workday is an opportunity to get out in the Flint Hills and enjoy time with family and friends. "This is the tenth year of our first Saturday tradition," says Smith. "It has been pivotal to restoration of this historic site. Volunteers sustain this family farmstead - they make it a place where children can step into the past, a community gathers to celebrate, and a way of life is preserved so visitors can remember what it feels like to 'come home.'"

An email with full details of each month's itinerary is sent in advance so volunteers know what to expect. Contact Lynn Smith at (620) 753-3484 or lynn@pioneerbluffs.org to be added to the volunteer email list or for information.

Pioneer Bluffs, on the National Register of Historic Places is located

one mile north of Matfield Green or 14 miles south of Cottonwood Falls on Flint Hills National Scenic Byway K-177.

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1/2 mile East of Holton, KS on 16 Highway				
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Cattle Sale Every Thursday 11:00 AM

	THURSDAY, January 4, 2018						
Special Feeder & Re							
S.T. 11:30 p.m.	Expecting 4,0	00 head					
Steers: 383angus (288 hd) & char-x (95 hd) Sit	z & Rocking Arrow a	enes 600-725#					
200blk Lenesgrav genes							
200blk NI top of 500							
200blk, blk-x Nic Risse genes							
150angus & blk NI A.I. genes							
140angus NI NHTC							
140blk, blk-x							
130blk NI hayfed, Logterman genes							
70blk top end 85angus & blk yrs of A.I							
40blk							
100rd angus NI							
110blk strs NI thin							
Steers & Heifers:							
75angus & blk hfrs B.V. yrs of A.I. bree	edable500-650#	Steve & Kim Crowe					
90angus & blk hfrs NI NHTC Littau ger	nes550-650#	Klein's Happy Acres					
100blk hfrs Image mkr, ND878							
200angus (120s-80h) NI Derry genes-h							
74blk & ang (37s-37h) NI drugfree, ha							
200angus & blk (150s-50h) NI							
193angus (153s-40h) NI							
130blk & angus (80s-50h) NI A.I. genes							
90blk & angus 58blk							
50blk & angus NI hfrs B.V./ strs drugfn							
38blk NI							
20angus hfrs B.V. Kraye genes							
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THURSDAY, January 11, 2018 Special Feeder Sale							
Special S.T. 11:30 p.m.							
Steers: Super lineup of grass replacem							
and the super micup or grass replacem							

Steers: Super lineup of grass replacement	<u>tl</u>				
300 blk (8 rd) NI hayfed 400-600#	Prairie View Rn				
	Nielsen L & C				
	Jeff Johnson				
	Bob & Jody Dexter				
130blk (5 x-bred) 525-600#	Tara Bryant				
	B Adamson/R Adamson Fam				
	G & A Davis/R Adamson Fam				
	750-800# Sunny Slope Rn				
	Moore Ranch				
200 blk, bwf NI Schaff sired 600-700#	Bachelor Rn/Eagle Valley				
75blk	Vandermay Cattle & Grain				
	Harland, Nick & RiChard Schrunk				
	Brad Pisha				
	Kurt Stolzenburg				
	Larry, Danny & Craig O'Kief				
	575-700#Barb Sebesta				
Heifers:					
	genes600-675#Kevin Vandermay				
	n sired.550-650#Barb Sebesta				
	en Valley sired 635-725# Clayton & Cole Gurney				
	JP Partners				
	K 500-650# Rothleutner F.P.				
	ng Arrow genetics				
	Klein's Happy Acres Judd Schomp				
	Elliott & Cindy Yenglin				
Steers & Heifers:	Ellott & Ciridy Ferigini				
	hd550-700# Nick & Gina Risse				
	e. 575-700# Doug & Shirley Kroeger				
	Lyle Phillips				
	ster, Elsasser, Stoner, Schied				
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ALCONT AND A CONTRACT OF A CONTRACT OF A CONTRACT OF Beatrice Livestock Sales **1ST CALF & BRED COW SPECIAL!** THURSDAY. JANUARY 11 • 11 AM S ***FIRST CALF BRED HEIFERS*** 42 Blk-Red 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve Feb-Mar, Pelvic Measured, Vacc, Dbl Scour Guard Bred Red An, MushRush Apollo, CED 13, BW -2.1, YW 101, MushRush Legend, CED 15. BW -2.7. YW 77 60 Blk-Bwf 1st Bred Hfr Calve Jan 25, Scour Guard, Pelvic Measured, Poured, Vacc Rippe Blk/Gelb & Gilliam Blk Ang Bull Bred 45 Blk 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve mid Feb, Vacc, Dbl Scour Guard Connealy & Power Tool Blk Ang Bull Bred • 34 Red Ang 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve Feb 15 (10) Rwf, OCV, Pelvic Measured, Dbl Scour Guard A I'd ABS Fusion 45 Blk 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve Feb 15, Scour Guard Al'd to 45 Bik 1st Call Bred Hit Calve Feb 15, Scoul Guard Ard to Right Answer Blk Ang
10 Blk-Red 1st Calf Hfr Calve April 12 Al'd Connealy Right Answer, WW 62 - YW 113, Clean-up Red Ang
15 Blk/Bwf 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve Feb 18, OCV, Vacc, Scour Guard, Pelvic Measure Al'd ABS Var Reserve 1111, CED 8, BW =0.4, YW +90, Clean-Up Herbster Sportsman Son

 48 Blk Ang 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve Feb 18, OCV, Vacc, Scour Guard, Pelvic Measure Al'd SAV Bruiser 9164, CED 12, BW +0.3, YW +123, Clean-Up Herbster Sportsman Son • 10 Blk 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve Feb 9, Pelvic Measure, Vacc, Scour Guard Bred Lienemann Blk Ang, CED 12, BW .9, YW +88

* 10 Red Ang 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve Feb 12, Vacc, Scour Guard, Pelvic Measured Al'd Red Ang Redemption or Independence, Clean-up Tyson Son

10 Bwf 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve Feb/Mar Al'd Blk Ang Weers Bextor 062, .9 CED, +.4 BW, +83 YW, clean-up Laflin Ang

• 20 Blk-Bwf (F-1) 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve Jan 24, 45-Day Pe-riod, OCV, Vacc, Poured, Wormed, Scour Guard Bred Klein Blk Ang

• 26 Blk-Red Ang 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve Mar 1/April 15, OCV, Pelvic Measured, Dbl Scour Guard Bred Red And Sons

of Ultimate, Fusion or Impressive • 14 Blk-Red Ang 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve May 19/June 30, OCV, Pelvic Measured, Dbl Scour Guard Bred Red Ang son of Ultimate

• 26 Red Ang 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve Feb 1, 45-Days, OCV, Vacc, Scour Guard Bred Beckton Red Ang

• 12 Blk 1st Calf Bred Hfr Calve Feb 1, Vacc, Dbl Scour Guard Bred Laflin Blk Ang

BRED COWS

- 50 Blk Bred Cows * Dispersal, Bred Blk Ang or Blk Balanc-er, Calve Feb 1 (Hfr), Feb 20 (Cows), (6) 1st Calf, (31) 3-6 Yr Old. (12) 6-8 Yr Old
- 7 Blk-Red Bred Cows, Calve Feb 1 June 1, Bred Blk
- 8 Bik Bred Cows, Calve Feb 21, Bred Nieven Simm/Ang
 25 Bik-Bwf Bred Cows Calve Mar 15, Bred Bik or Red Ang,

Vacc Vibro/Lepto, Dbl Scour Guard 3 Yr Old

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Eastland receives certification in advanced training

Cleary Building Corp. would like to congratulate Jason Eastland, branch manager at the Ottawa sales and construction office, on receiving his Masters of is a nationwide leader Branch Administration certification from Steel Wood University.

Steel Wood University is an extensive training program designed to teach both new and veteran employees the fundamentals of success

Grass & Grain Weather Report

at Cleary Building Corp. The week-long course includes training on leadership, accountability and customer service.

Cleary Building Corp. in customized pre-engineered buildings. Building applications include commercial, residential, suburban, farm and equine facilities along with metal roofing and re-roofs. The buildings consist of a wood frame

with pre-painted steel panels used for roofing and siding. Cleary Building Corp. is proud to offer a lifetime paint warranty. This type of building provides for a long-lasting, low-maintenance and cost-effective structure.

Cleary Building Corp. is a family-owned company in business since 1978. The Corporate World Headquarters office and manufacturing plant are located in Verona, Wis.

Jan. 3, 2018

Additional manufacturing facilities are located in Grand Island, Neb. and Hazelton, Idaho. Cleary

Building Corp. employs over 800 full-time employees throughout the United States.



Pictured, from left, are: Jason Eastland, branch manager at the Ottawa sales and construction office and Brian Ransom, Cleary general manager of East

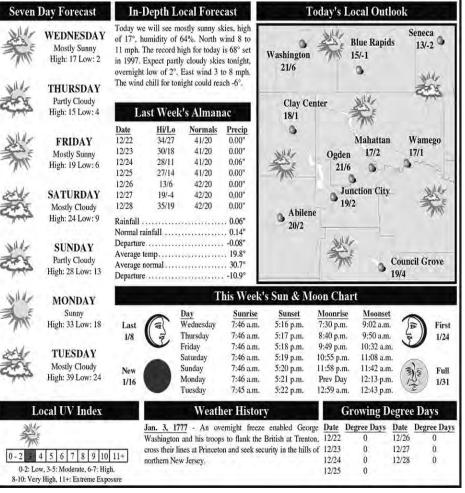


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60 Hereford bwf strs, 825-850 lbs, homeraised • 75 black heifers, 700-725 lbs. 60 Angus steers, 800-825 lbs. • 60 blk Char steers, 875-900 lbs

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