

Build a biosecurity culture to protect your farm

Dealing with the COVID-19 health crisis has been capturing everyone's attention, but farmers have long known that following biosecurity measures on their farms is critical to help ensure the health of farm personnel and pigs, says Lisa Becton, DVM, director of swine health for the Pork Checkoff.

"Education and training are essential, but protocols must be executed properly and consistently," Becton said. "That is what underscores producers' commitment to the We Care ethical principles. To build a biosecurity culture, everyone on your farm must understand why certain procedures matter and the potential fallout if they aren't followed."

Here are some actions to consider:

Follow Biosecurity in Your Barns

Set up a bench-entry and shower system to clearly designate clean/dirty sides and to control the movement of people.

Provide instructions on proper showering, apparel removal, and storage. Offer personal hygiene products and thoroughly clean the areas at least weekly.

Assign separate coveralls and boots to each building or site. Color-coding the apparel adds quick recognition if someone is out of place.

Promote frequent, thorough hand-washing throughout the day, which means having hot water and soap accessible within barns. If using gloves,

dispose of properly.

Keep tools for facility repairs and animal treatment within each barn to minimize the need to carry tools into facilities.

Establish protocols for bringing products, such as boar semen, service providers' tools, and even lunches, onto the site. A double-bag or box system might suffice. Some units use UV-light scanners to "sterilize" packages.

Periodically drain water lines and run bleach or a disinfectant through them.

Replenish rodent-control baits.

Between pig groups, remove organic matter from barns and use soap/detergent to clean rooms, as well as equipment that remains in place.

Once dry, inspect the

barns, checking cracks and crevices. If feed, hair or manure is found, re-cleaning is required. Use sidewalk chalk to mark spots to ensure that they aren't missed.

Once a building is completely clean, disinfect and allow rooms to dry. For information on disinfectant options, go to cfsph.iastate.edu/Disinfection.

Maintain downtime as long as possible before reloading a barn.

Periodically clean offices, load-out, and storage areas.

Clean and disinfect equipment that is removed from barns but will be brought back in again. Discard cracked plastic panels, sort boards or paddles because they can harbor pathogens.

Inspect and clean chutes and load-outs. As needed, repaint or reline chutes to ensure the wood is clean.

Work with your veterinarian and breeding stock suppliers to bring in replacement animals. Establish the health status of the herd supplying the animals. Isolate replacements away from the production site. Test and ensure animals are healthy before moving them into the herd. Ensure boar semen tests negative before accepting it.

Take Control of Non-Farm Personnel

Whether it involves pigs, people or vehicles, control traffic to minimize the risk of introducing pathogens into your herd.

Instruct visitors about your biosecurity policies before they arrive at the site.

For anyone going from one farm to another, downtime requirements between farm visits will vary, but at minimum, require an overnight down-

time period.

Ask that vehicles are washed and the interiors cleaned before arriving at your farm and suggest that visitors do the same once they leave.

Designate a parking space on a hard or gravel surface located away from animals.

Designate a visitor entrance to barns where everyone must sign in.

Have visitors follow your farm's showering and barn clothing protocols.

Audit Your Biosecurity Program

Conduct a biosecurity audit to help identify whether procedures are being followed and to shed light on what works, what doesn't and what needs to change.

Meet with your veterinarian at least annually to review the health status of your herd, as well as within the surrounding area. Compare biosecurity measures in place.

Ask caretakers for suggestions for improvement.

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We had a large run of cattle for our sale Friday, April 24th. The bulk of the run was Fall calves which were selling unevenly steady on the steers while the heifers were selling on a lower trend. Feeder heifers were selling mostly steady while the heavy steers were selling lower. Cull cows were selling on a lower trend with the threat of one of the processing plants shutting down.

STEER CALVES — 200-550 LBS

Baileyville	14 blk	256@208.00
Baileyville	8 blk	206@208.00
Baileyville	17 blk	335@191.00
Winchester	10 blk	463@177.00
Oskaloosa	9 blk	388@176.00
Blaine	8 bwf	507@174.00
Oskaloosa	15 blk	499@172.50
Washington	37 Cross	456@172.00
Onaga	7 blk	453@170.00
Seneca	14 blk	480@168.50
Waterville	19 blk	450@168.00
Clay Center	12 blk	494@167.00
Princeton	8 blk	517@164.00
Frankfort	6 blk	496@164.00
Council Grove	13 blk	372@164.00
Oskaloosa	16 blk	515@160.00
Washington	15 Cross	397@159.00
Desoto	8 blk	530@155.00
St. George	17 blk	540@153.50
Washington	30 Cross	527@153.00
Allen	10 blk	543@151.00
Blaine	8 blk	482@143.00
McLouth	7 Cross	385@136.00
Atchinson	8 Heref	481@132.00

Council Grove	9 blk	367@162.50
Waterville	7 blk	395@152.00
Oskaloosa	8 blk	383@151.50
Oskaloosa	9 blk	413@148.00
Seneca	10 blk	430@145.00
McLouth	9 Heref	310@142.00
Oskaloosa	16 blk	475@141.50
St. George	15 blk	446@141.00
Waterville	19 blk	448@139.50
Waterville	6 blk	484@137.00
Tonganoxie	6 blk	507@136.50
Silver Lake	7 blk	502@135.25
Oskaloosa	14 blk	506@135.00
Berryton	11 blk	472@135.00
Seneca	18 blk	516@133.00
Ottawa	9 blk	517@132.00
Onaga	16 Cross	521@128.00
Atchinson	6 Heref	403@120.00
Atchinson	14 Heref	523@118.50
Sabetha	6 blk	548@117.25

HEIFERS — 550-850 LBS.

Onaga	10 blk	551@132.00
Silver Lake	16 blk	612@131.50
Mayetta	11 blk	626@130.00
Effingham	12 blk	659@130.00
Oskaloosa	6 blk	586@130.00
Marion	8 blk	663@127.50
Havensville	8 blk	650@126.50
Randolph	13 blk	584@126.00
St. George	6 blk	581@125.50
Onaga	11 blk	638@125.50
Junction City	7 Heref	865@125.00
McLouth	6 blk	711@124.00
Onaga	6 mix	565@122.00
McLouth	33 blk	798@120.00
Perry	36 blk	713@119.75
Junction City	16 Heref	765@119.50
Onaga	19 blk	700@119.00
Mayetta	16 blk	695@118.00
Sabetha	8 blk	736@115.25
McLouth	8 blk	886@108.00

COWS & HEIFERETTES — 550-2,100 LBS.

Valley Falls	1 blk	960@88.00
Paxico	1 Cross	570@70.00
Blaine	1 blk	1075@62.00
Westmoreland	1 Cross	930@61.00
Manhattan	1 blk	1670@60.00
Odell, NE	1 Cross	1115@57.50
Manhattan	1 blk	2085@56.00
Manhattan	1 blk	1810@54.00
Goff	1 blk	1550@54.00
Westmoreland	1 blk	1235@50.50
Frankfort	1 Heref	1115@50.50
Manhattan	1 blk	1680@50.00
Dwight	1 blk	1505@50.00
St. George	1 blk	1205@49.00
Paxico	1 Cross	855@49.00
Manhattan	1 blk	1430@48.00
Waterville	1 blk	1490@48.00
St. George	1 blk	1475@47.00
Alma	1 Heref	1325@46.00

Seneca	29 blk	582@158.25
Blue Rapids	6 blk	555@158.00
Waterville	10 blk	562@154.00
Randolph	9 blk	551@150.00
Mayetta	11 blk	622@148.50
Pomona	6 blk	647@148.00
Effingham	12 blk	675@147.00
Tonganoxie	9 blk	610@146.50
Blue Rapids	22 blk	638@145.50
Oskaloosa	9 blk	619@144.50
Onaga	19 blk	584@141.00
Mayetta	21 blk	699@140.00
Pomona	12 blk	729@139.50
Allen	6 blk	673@138.00
Waterville	12 blk	720@135.00
Atchinson	21 Heref	637@120.25
McLouth	26 blk	768@118.85
Riley	18 blk	790@117.25
Manhattan	12 blk	796@117.25
Marion	7 blk	795@116.00
McLouth	28 blk	846@114.00
Waterville	12 blk	860@113.00

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR MAY 1

- 65 Fancy blk bwf str & hfrs, pre-wean shots April 18, 450-550 lbs.
- 60 blk & Red Angus str & hfrs, weaned, 2 rds shots, 400-550 lbs.
- 1 Downey Angus genetics bull, 3 yrs.
- 35 choice Reputation Angus str & hfrs, 2 rds shots, weaned.

SPECIAL STOCK COW AND BRED HEIFER SALE

WED., MAY 6 • STARTING 11:00 AM

- 1st CALF HEIFER PAIRS**
- 6 Angus 1st calf hfr pairs w/ 45-60 day calves by side, cows and calves all worked.
 - 9 Heref 1st calf hfrs w/ Feb.-Mar. calves by side.
 - 11 blk bwf 1st calf hfrs w/ Feb.-Mar. calves by side.
 - 7 Angus 1st calf OCV hfrs w/ Mar. calves by side.
 - 15 Choice Angus 1st calf OCV hfrs w/ 15-30 day Angus sired calves by side. Worked & grass ready.
 - 18 Home raised Red Angus 1st calf OCV hfrs w/ 30-80 day Red Angus sired calves by side, hfrs & calves worked & grass ready.
- BRED 1st CALF HEIFERS**
- 40 choice Angus Gardiner genetic OCV 1st calf hfrs, AI bred Dec. 1st to GAR Break-through LBW Angus bull, cleaned up GAR Shurefire Angus to start calving Sep. 1st. Freeze branded/ all shots.
 - 14 choice home raised Moser Genetics blk SimmAngus Fall calving 1st calf OCV hfrs w/ big Oct.-Nov. SimmAngus calves by side, hfrs exposed back SimmAngus bull, worked & grass ready.
 - 5 bwf (4) & Heref (1) home raised Fall calving 2nd calf hfrs bred LBW Angus bull to start calving Sept. 20th.
 - 10 big fancy Red Angus 1st calf OCV hfrs, sired by 5: Red Angus, AI bred to Kniebel Excellence to calve Oct. 1, cleaned up w/ Kniebel LBW bulls for 60 days, all shots/ poured.
 - 16 big fancy SimmRed Angus 1st calf OCV hfrs, sired by Mushrush Red Angus, age & source tagged, AI bred Kniebel Excellence to calve Oct. 1, clean up w/ Kniebel LBW bulls for 60 days, all shots, poured.
 - 8 Angus 1st calf OCV hfrs, bred LBW Angus bulls, heavy Springs.
 - 38 Red Angus Nebraska origin, Fall bred 1st calf, 1 Iron Cross Diamond genetic, hfrs Synchronized & AI bred to LSF Conqueror for Aug 20 calving. Cleaned up with Brown Unequaled Son for 30 days.
- 2nd CALF HEIFER PAIRS**
- 5 quiet gentle blk Angus 2nd calf OCV hfrs w/ 2 week Angus calves by side. Cows poured, calves 1rd shots.
- REPLACEMENT HEIFERS**
- 10 Angus replacement heifers, 725-775 lbs.
 - 25 choice SimmAngus replacement hfrs, 750-800 lbs.
 - 48 Choice Blk OCV replacement heifers, all shots/ ready to breed. 725-775 lbs.
- BRED COWS**
- 70 blk & bwf Fall calving cows, 3-6 yrs, bred to blk Sim & Angus bulls for Sep.-Oct. calves.
 - 20 blk Fall calving cows, 6 yrs to SS, bred Ohlde Angus bulls for Sept.-Oct. calves.
 - 21 big home raised Heref (14) & BWF (7) Fall calving cows, 3-7 yrs, bred to Heref & Angus bulls, due to start calving Sept. 20th.
 - COMPLETE DISPERSAL OF 16 blk cows, 5-9 yrs, Angus bulls turned in Nov. 10, 2019.
 - 45 Fall calving cows 5-6 yrs of which 35 are Red Angus, 10 Blk Angus, bred Blk Simm Angus bulls for Aug 15 calving.
- PAIRS**
- 5 Heref cows, 3-6 yrs w/ Heref & bwf calves by side.
 - 21 blk, bwf cows, 3-6 yrs w/ blk & bwf Feb. calves by side.
 - 5 Red cows, 3-6 yrs, w/ Angus calves by side, cows & calves worked & grass ready.
 - 6 blk & BWF cows, 3-6 yrs w/ Angus calves by side, cows & calves worked & grass ready.
 - 47 Home raised Red Angus OCV cows, 3-6 yrs, w/ 30-80 day Red Angus sired calves by side.
- BULLS**
- 1 Purebred Gelv bull, 18 mo.
 - 2 Yearling Angus bulls.
- GIVE US A CALL TO CONSIGN CATTLE FOR THIS SPECIAL SALE!**

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2020: May 6

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SAM GRIFFIN BURNS 620-726-5877 Cell: 620-382-7502	ALAN HUBBARD OLSBURG 785-468-3552 Cell: 785-410-5011	BILL RAINE MAPLE HILL 785-256-4439 Cell: 785-633-4610	JEFF BROOKS BEATTIE 785-353-2263 Cell: 785-562-6807	DAN COATES BALDWIN 785-418-4524	ANDREW SYLVESTER WAMEGO 785-456-4352

Kansas Hay Market Report

Hay market trade slow; Prices steady; demand light to moderate and the supply of hay is moderate. Most producers have been busy in the fields planting and spraying for insects and weeds. The cold snap seemed to set back some stands of alfalfa, worse in some areas than others, but they are expected to bounce back. Rain would be welcome for both southwestern and south-central areas. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, there are some pockets of dryness developing in portions Kansas, but no changes were made there recently, although the area of south-central Nebraska and central Kansas is trending toward the introduction of abnormally dry conditions. Abnormal dryness (D0) remained at 3 pct, moderate drought (D1) increased slightly to 4 pct, and severe drought (D2) remained at 2.4 pct. If you have any extra hay to sell and/or need hay here in Kansas, use the services of the Internet Hay Exchange: www.hayexchange.com/ks.php.

Southwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, premium small squares 230.00-240.00. Dairy 1.00/point RFV, Supreme 185.00-226.00, Premium 170.00-195.00, Good 150.00-170.00. Stock or Dry Cow 160.00-165.00. Fair/Good grinding alfalfa, 110.00-125.00, Ground and delivered locally to feed lots and dairies, 150.00-165.00. Grass Hay: Bluestem, good small squares 7.50-8.50/bale, large squares 100.00-110.00. Sudan: large rounds 60.00-70.00. Wheat straw: none re-

ported. The week of 4/12-4/18, 8,577T of grinding alfalfa and 1,603T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought/sold.

South Central Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered, steady, alfalfa pellets steady to 5.00 lower; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, small squares 255.00-275.00. Dairy, 1.00/point RFV, Supreme 185.00-225.00, Premium 170.00-195.00, Good 150.00-178.00. Stock cow, 140.00-150.00. Fair/Good grinding alfalfa, 95.00-110.00, Ground and delivered locally to feedlots 140.00-150.00; Alfalfa pellets: Sun cured 15 pct protein 195.00-200.00, 17 pct protein 195.00-210.00, Dehydrated 17 pct 300.00-310.00. Grass Hay: Bluestem, none reported. Sudan: large rounds 55.00-65.00. Wheat Straw: none reported. The week of 4/12-4/18, 5,332T of grinding alfalfa and 265T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought/sold.

Southeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered, grass hay steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse or goat, 230.00-240.00. Dairy 1.00/point RFV. Stock cow 150.00-160.00. Fair/Good grinding alfalfa, 115.00-125.00. Ground and delivered, none reported; Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares 125.00-135.00, good, mid squares 105.00-120.00, large squares, 90.00-110.00, large rounds 60.00-65.00. Brome, good, small squares 125.00-150.00, mid to large squares 110.00-120.00, large rounds 70.00-80.00. Wheat Straw: mid and large squares 60.00-75.00, large rounds 55.00-65.00. The week of 4/12-4/18, 1,077T of grass hay was reported bought/sold.

Northwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: Horse or goat, 205.00-215.00. Dairy, Premium/Supreme 1.00/point RFV. Stock cow, fair/good 150.00-160.00. Fair/good grinding alfalfa,

95.00-105.00. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots and dairies, 125.00-135.00. Sudan, large rounds 60.00-70.00, corn stalks, large rounds 50.00-60.00.

North Central-Northeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered, grass hay steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, premium small squares 9.50-10.50/bale. Dairy 1.00/point RFV, Supreme 185.00-225.00, Premium 170.00-195.00, Good 150.00-170.00. Stock Cow, 150.00-160.00. Fair/good, grinding alfalfa, 100.00-110.00. Ground and delivered 130.00-140.00. Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares 6.00-7.00/bale, mid squares 90.00-100.00, large squares 85.00-100.00, large rounds 60.00-70.00. Brome, small squares 7.00-8.00/bale, large squares 95.00-105.00, large rounds 60.00-70.00. Sudan, large rounds 55.00-65.00. Wheat Straw: small squares 5.00-6.00/bale delivered, large squares 100.00-110.00 delivered, large rounds 60.00-70.00. The week of 4/12-4/18, 1,480T of grinding alfalfa and 590T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought/sold.

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

*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

Fueling your cows – it takes grass to grow grass on the foundation

By Morgan Marley

If you've built a powerhouse cow herd, it's best fueled with robust grass.

"We all understand that a ranch has to be economically viable in the short-term to have any opportunity to be economically viable in the long-term," says Hugh Aljoe, director of producer relations for Noble Research Institute.

That's why management needs to adapt quickly to uncontrollable changes like drought. Record keeping and monitoring are key.

Understanding the basics

In planning for available forage, Aljoe contrasts carrying capacity versus stocking rate: "There's a difference."

Capacity is a measure

of the forage supply or how much grass is being produced. Stocking rate is a measure of forage demand, or how much grass is being grazed.

"Carrying capacity changes from year to year or season to season based on moisture and our pasture management," he says. "The better we manage, the more opportunity we have for production."

Monitoring carrying capacity throughout the year helps determine where adjustments should be made to stocking rate.

It's a supply-and-demand relationship based on what the pasture produces and what the cattle need.

Rain gauge

Across the country, rainfall varies in amount and timing, which affects growing patterns and pasture management.

The first thing Aljoe looks at is historical annual precipitation. Start by studying rain at the end of the growing season in October "when the water begins to recharge the soils," Aljoe advises.

By the end of March, there should already be 40% of the annual rainfall, he says. The amount of precipitation accumulated in the soil will determine whether it's going to be an early or delayed spring.

"Did we receive abundant rainfall and can add more numbers?" he asks. "Or did we receive less

rainfall and need to de-stock in order to preserve our pastures?"

Regardless of where a ranch is located, 30% to 35% of annual forage production should occur by the end of May. That increases to 65% by the end of June when yearly rainfall should reach 65% to 75%, Aljoe says, referring to water-table records.

"If we're not there in the spring, we're probably never going to catch up," he says. Livestock can have compensatory gain, "but unfortunately pastures cannot."

Another important component is variance, or how much rainfall is normal, positive or negative? Small differences are less critical than those above 10 to 15 percentage points.

Aljoe shares one example when forward-looking management saved the ranch. Charting a major drought as it developed in the spring, management at the typically 1,000-cow ranch sold more than 700 head before major downward price pressure. By September, those pastures stood out for not showing much drought stress.

"The land resource was maintained," Aljoe says. "That's what is possible when you use the water table."

Look down

"Take half, leave half" is a good starting rule, but grass growth rate and forage type help set rotation plans and grazing-pressure thresholds.

"In the south there's Bermudagrass or fescue in the north," Aljoe says.

"Those we can take as much as 50% to 65% of the production every time we graze, because they'll recover rapidly. On the other hand, on native range pastures we only want to take 25% at best."

How often do you walk across your pasture and look down? Is the ground cover highly unfavorable, unfavorable, favorable or highly favorable?

"You want to rate it on a system where there is no middle ground," Aljoe says. Even numbers make it easier to see if land needs improvement or maintaining.

Building small exclusion plots with wire panels and T-posts is another way to monitor the amount of forage grazed.

"We never want to take more than half," he says. "And in the early growing seasons, we don't want to take but the top third in a good grazing program."

Some cattlemen like to make cattle "hustle," eating what's probably better left as residual ground cover, Aljoe says. Forced "cleanup" grazing may damage the forage's ability to come back and leave soil unprotected. It can take years to recover.

Photo points

Sometimes it's hard to see the changes, so Aljoe suggests visual evidence from the same "photo points" each year.

Take pictures at the peak and end of growing seasons, marking locations with a simple T-post or through a downloaded global positioning system (GPS) app.

"We had a producer that bought a degraded resource and through management planning he took it from poor condition to what we would consider excellent condition in just five years," he says, noting the photos played a key role.

Aljoe shares those pictures with others, "to help them see what their future could look like."

Doing something is better than doing nothing. Be consistent and only make it as complicated as you're willing to stand, he says.

It can be as simple as these examples, or customized with free consultation from resources like the Oklahoma-based Noble Research Institute or the government's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A powerhouse cow can't grow a calf of the same caliber without the grass to match.

Aljoe shared these tips for cattlemen at the 2020 Cattle Industry Convention in San Antonio.

Zoetis empowers producers to support COVID-19 relief efforts

With the spread of COVID-19 and its impact on so many Americans, Zoetis is recognizing the resilience of cattle producers and initiating a special fundraising initiative to support those in need.

Zoetis is asking cow/calf producers to submit inspiring pictures or videos at CalvingSeason.com to celebrate the commitment of cattle producers, and in turn, every submission will raise money to meet the challenges posed by this global crisis. All calving photos or videos are welcome, whether it's late-night shots from the barn, kids helping with the new animals, cows with their calves, or producers simply caring for their calves by bottle-feeding or wrapping them in blankets.

For every photo or video submitted at CalvingSeason.com by May 29, Zoetis will donate \$1 to the COVID-19 Response Fund with Feeding America®. The Response Fund was established to help food banks across the country as they support communities impacted by the pandemic. The fund will enable food banks to secure the resources they need to serve the most vulnerable members of the community during this difficult time.

Zoetis encourages cow/calf producers to show their pride and inspire others. Use the hashtag #CalvingSeason to post photos on all social media channels and share the success that comes with hard work and the importance of supporting those in need.

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AUCTION #2

BIDDING OPENS Thursday, May 14, 8:00 AM * BIDDING CLOSES Wednesday, May 20, 8:00 PM
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by Ron Wilson
Poet Lariat



Life Online

On a recent Saturday night, the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee put on its 4,916th consecutive Saturday night show. The evening included an all-star cast of Marty Stuart, Brad Paisley, and Vince Gill as performers, with a paid attendance of... zero (Wow, I thought they were more popular than that).

No, the reason that the Grand Ole Opry had no fans at the performance was the concern about coronavirus. For the second week in a row, the Opry did not allow an audience inside. It was another casualty, and no doubt a necessary one, of the coronavirus pandemic. We all must take this disease seriously and avoid large gatherings where

germs can be spread.

However, the show's organizers also followed the grand old tradition that the show must go on. They wanted to continue the classic country show's great history. Despite presidential assassinations, wars, and natural disasters, the Grand Ole Opry could be counted on every Saturday night. In fact, the Grand Ole Opry is the world's longest running radio show.

The show has stayed true to its country roots throughout its long life, and always could be counted on to lift our spirits. For example, when Minnie Pearl was honored for her 50th anniversary on the Opry with a video by Dolly Parton, Minnie quipped, "I wear a hat so people can

tell us apart."

So on this Saturday night, Marty Stuart, Brad Paisley and Vince Gill performed onstage with no announcer, no backup band, and no fans. They arranged themselves in a socially responsible way, with at least six feet between each of them.

Their performance was made all the more touching by the fact that country music superstar Kenny Rogers had died in Georgia less than 24 hours before they took the stage. Vince Gill paid tribute to him by performing Rogers' hit song *Music Man*, and Brad Paisley ended his song *This is Country Music* with Rogers' famous lines, "You've got to know when to hold `em, know when to fold `em."

These country music superstars played their acoustic guitars in front of 4,400 empty seats. However, the show was broadcast, livestreamed, and archived for the fans. It's an example of how we can adjust, use technology, and go forward.

My wife calls it Life Online. It may be the new normal, until the disease can be curtailed. We'll have virtual contact, not physical contact.

People are adjusting to coronavirus concerns all around us. Folks are working from home. Meetings are being held by conference call and Zoom. Restaurants are serving carryout and to-go orders. We are using technology to stay connected safely. We are interacting digitally and virtually (although that has some limitations - see following poem).

One other reflection on all this: When the K-State campus shut down, employees were grouped into essential and non-essential personnel, in terms of the necessity of their physical presence. One of the criteria for being essential was providing daily care of livestock.

Maybe that should serve as a reminder that farmers and ranchers are indeed essential personnel, in a larger sense. It is not just in the daily care of livestock, it is the role we play as a source of life-sustaining food. Producers are essential so that we as a society can have production, even though the forms and types of that production will vary and will change over time.

I think the message that farmers and ranchers play an essential role is

one that should go, um, virtually everywhere. And rus concerns, farmers and ranchers will keep going - just like the Grand Ole Opry.

Virtual Reality

Due to coronavirus, the vet had changed his ways. Virtual consultations now filled his practice days.

The health department said to do social distancing, Avoiding personal contact as part of everything. So the vet worked online, reviewing clients' vaccinations, As they prepared to move cattle to their summer destinations. Then one old rancher said, with a twinkle in his eye, "Hey Doc, there's something that I've just got to try. The county says I've got to do everything virtually, Using online or conference calls or zoom technology. So when I do my daily chores and the cows want to be fed, I think I'm just gonna give `em virtual feed instead." "Well," the vet said, "You could sure try that somehow, But in the end all you'd have would be a virtual cow." Happy Trails! www.ronscowboypoetry.com © Copyright 2020

Groups unite for conservation funding support

On April 2, 76 leading farm, conservation and wildlife groups delivered a letter to Congress requesting full funding for conservation programs and technical assistance in fiscal year (FY) 2021 appropriations.

In the letter, the National Association of Conservation Districts, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, National Farmers Union, National Wildlife Federation and other signatories called upon House and Senate appropriators to maintain discretionary USDA conservation funding and reject any cuts to farm bill conservation programs through the FY21 appropriations process.

Farm bill conservation programs, including the Conservation Reserve Program Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, play a vital role in helping farmers, ranchers and landowners keep their lands sustainable and profitable for generations to come. The letter asks lawmakers to maintain the funding for these programs mandated by the 2018 Farm Bill and urges appropriators to fund the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Conservation Operations account at \$840 million, a \$10 million increase from FY20. This money facilitates NRCS operations outside of the mandatory farm bill programs.

GENETRUST at Suhn Cattle Company reports on March sale

A national pandemic and volatile calf and fed cattle market could not dampen the spirits of industry participants in the GENETRUST at Suhn Cattle Company sale in Eureka, hosted by Vern & Vicki Suhn, as they have on the fourth Tuesday of March for nearly three decades. With travel being limited for some, internet bidding and a longstanding sight-unseen purchasing program and guarantee gave buyers confidence in genetics they've come to know and proved to be valuable with bulls selling from North Carolina to California, with two-thirds of the bulls landing in the Midwestern states of Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas.

An offering historically known for providing breed leading herd sires, the 2020 bull battery did not disappoint. Led by Lot 4 from Suhn Cattle Company, Suhn's Direct Line 30G5 encompassed nine traits in the top 35% of the breed along with an eye-appealing design and backed by a highly proven herd sire-producing

cow family. His hotly contested race to \$27,000 for two-thirds interest and full possession was won by Cross N Farm, Randy and Samantha Nugent, and McDaniel Brangus, Reggy McDaniel, all of Olla, La. Following closely behind as a ¾ brother to the high seller was Lot 64, Suhn's Business Line 416G12 from Suhn Cattle Company. A phenotypic standout with tremendous substance, power and performance, hands raised from every direction in the sale arena to own him, with the herd sire finally landing at \$15,000 for two-thirds interest and full possession to long-time Brangus breeder Robert Vineyard, Vineyard Cattle Company of Wharton, Texas. One of the most complete EPD packages in the entire offering came next in the form of Lot 61, Suhn's Icon 416G11 from Suhn Cattle Company. A bull that combined calving ease, growth, maternal and carcass excellence in an elite combination along with a moderate framed, easy doing design got a great home with Danny Farris,

Farris Ranching Company, Tuscola, Texas for \$10,000.

At the day's end 103 yearling Brangus and Ultrablack bulls averaged \$4736 to 15 states with volume buyers being Clay Barnhouse, Bolivar, Mo. and Tony Borba, Oakdale, Ca.

For over a decade the GENETRUST brand has operated with eight partners, all of which feel very fortunate and blessed to have had to opportunity to do. But realizing that this is an ever-changing industry, the time has come to grasp a sharper vision for the future to better serve the beef industry and a vast customer base. Taking what is viewed as the "Next Step in Trusted Genetics", four of the former GENETRUST partners have formed a new alliance called GENEPLUS. Comprised of Vern Suhn of Suhn Cattle Company, Randy Schmidt of Schmidt Farms, Bill Davis of Chimney Rock Cattle Company, Nic Cornelison of Lake Majestik Farms and Cody Gariss of Gariss Ranch, this new organization will be able to further expand

and carry-on what was started in GENETRUST, taking it to new and more exciting levels, backed by the predictable and functional genetics and the honesty and integrity commercial cattlemen have come to know and trust. The highlight of the fall sale season will see an ELITE offering of 150 Brangus & Ultrablack bulls, 100 Registered Females and 300 Commercial Females through the GENEPLUS at Chimney Rock Cattle Company sale November 6-7, 2020 in Concord, Ark. For more information on GENEPLUS, private treaty offerings, semen sales or future sales visit www.GENEPLUSBrangus.com.

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Ranchland Trust of Kansas launches photo contest

The Ranchland Trust of Kansas (RTK) will open its ninth annual photography contest early this year. The contest will be open to professional and amateur photographers of all ages. Photographs entered will showcase the natural beauty of ranching and grazing lands across the state. The competition, which opens April 15, offers Kansans the chance to explore and capture the many activities, seasons and faces of Kansas' ranching tradition.

Participants should submit photos expressing the mission of RTK: "To preserve Kansas' ranching heritage and open spaces for future generations through the conservation of working landscapes." This may include landscape, livestock and people, with preference to grasslands, grazing land, ranchers, cattle and much more. Participants may enter up to five photos. The contest will be open through the entire summer and close on August 31, 2020. Entries will be judged by a panel of professionals in the field of photography and by RTK representatives.

All prizes for the contest are sponsored by Wolfe's Camera of Topeka. Wolfe's will award ten photo cards to all ten category winners. Categories include: Grand Prize, Landscape, Livestock, People, Youth (ages 5-17), Kansas Livestock Association member, Fan Favorite via Facebook voting and

three honorable mentions. The grand prize winner will receive their choice of an 11"x14" stretched photo canvas or a 12"x18" metal print of their winning photo.

For full contest rules

and to enter, visit www.ranchlandtrustofkansas.org and find Photo Contest on the News and Events page. For questions, please contact Samantha Weishaar at (785) 273-5115 or samantha@kla.org.

UPCOMING LAND AUCTIONS

Tuesday, April 28th, Holiday Inn, Salina, KS 7:00PM

57 Acres +/- on Spring Creek just west of Salina, creek bottom tillable, live creek and timber, close to town, great hunting!

Tuesday, May 12th, Gypsum, KS Auditorium 7:00PM

415 Acres +/- on Gypsum Creek offered in 3 tracts, excellent creek bottom tillable with blacktop frontage, immediate possession on part.

Thursday, May 14th, Indian Hills, Chapman, KS 7:00PM

160 Acres +/- productive upland tillable farm just 3 miles NW of Chapman, KS, immediate possession, possible building site.

Tuesday, May 19th, Holiday Inn, Salina, KS 7:00PM

560 Acres +/- of quality Saline and Ottawa County Tillable Offered in 5 tracts, all with blacktop frontage, close to Salina and grain markets, immediate possession on all tracts.

Thursday, May 21st, Abilene, KS Civic Center 7:00PM

50 Acres +/- on the west edge of Abilene with blacktop frontage. Currently in wheat, building site potential, city services

For complete sale bills, maps, pictures...call or visit our website! Can't make the live venuebid from your home, office, or mobile device @ Proxibid.com. Proxibid links on our website...no fee!!

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COWS & HEIFERETTES		BULLS		HEIFERS	
Herington, 1 blk	1100@80.00	Woodbine, 3 blk	1,042@90.00	Hillsboro, 3 mix	485@150.00
Peabody, 1 blk	890@75.00	Marion, 1 blk	1,925@75.50	Peabody, 9 blk	458@147.50
Hillsboro, 1 blk	940@74.00	Marion, 1 blk	2,485@66.50	Durham, 3 blk	497@137.00
Hope, 1 blk	1010@70.50	Tampa, 5 blk	423@171.00	Wilsey, 5 blk	571@136.75
Hope, 1 Red	1110@68.00	Peabody, 5 blk	339@170.00	White City, 3 mix	448@132.00
Marion, 1 blk	1965@66.50	White City, 5 mix	511@163.00	Hillsboro, 4 mix	523@130.00
Marion, 1 blk	1055@66.00	Tampa, 6 blk	554@160.25	White City, 5 mix	521@129.50
Hope, 1 Red	1015@65.50	Durham, 6 blk	543@150.50	Cncl Grve, 13 mix	743@113.50
Marion, 1 blk	1620@65.00	Delavan, 1 Red	485@150.00	Wilsey, 3 mix	840@104.00
Hillsboro, 1 blk	1555@63.50	Hillsboro, 1 blk	1495@56.00	Ramona, 10 Red	932@96.50
Peabody, 1 blk	1655@63.50	Herington, 1 blk	1390@55.50	CALVES BY THE HEAD	
Herington, 1 blk	1590@62.50	Peabody, 1 blk	1350@55.50	Herington, 1 blk	110@320.00
Lncnlvle, 1 Red	1595@60.00	Ramona, 1 blk	1125@55.00		
Herington, 1 Red	1570@58.50				
Peabody, 1 blk	1460@58.00				
Hillsboro, 1 blk	1420@57.50				
Tampa, 1 blk	1545@57.00				
Delavan, 1 Red	1825@57.00				
Hillsboro, 1 blk	1495@56.00				
Herington, 1 blk	1390@55.50				
Peabody, 1 blk	1350@55.50				
Ramona, 1 blk	1125@55.00				

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR APRIL 29

- 60 blk str, home raised, 2 rds shots, long weaned, 500-600 lbs.
- 60 mostly blk str, 900 lbs.
- 15 blk/ Red str & hfrs, Home Raised, 2 rds shots, 30 days weaned, 550-600 lbs.
- 60 mostly blk str, 900 lbs.

MORE CATTLE BY SALE TIME

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- * 57 Ac+/- On Spring Creek W. of Salina Great farm, great hunting. See auction ad. Call or visit website! - **POSTPONED - 4/28**
- * 415 Ac+/- On Gypsum Creek S. of Gypsum. Offered in 3 tracts. See Auction ad. Call or visit website! - **POSTPONED - 5/12**
- * 160 Ac+/- Just NW of Chapman. See auction ad. Call or visit website! - **POSTPONED - 5/14**
- * 560 Ac+/- Salina & Niles offered in 5 tracts. See Auction ad. Call or visit website! - **POSTPONED - 5/19**

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Apply now to be recognized as a 2020 Producer for Progress

Boehringer Ingelheim is now accepting applications for its fourth annual Producers for Progress Recognition Program. The program commends dairy producers who demonstrate a commitment to the well-being of animals, consumers and the industry through the judicious use of antibiotics.

The top producers, selected by a panel of industry-expert judges, will receive the following:

Grand prize: John Deere® Gator™ XUV825E and an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2020 World Dairy Expo

First-place prize: Five pairs of Bogs® Rancher boots from Bogs® Footwear

Second-place prize: Ten Udder Tech® milking aprons

The 2019 grand prize winner, Heidi Fischer of Fischer-Clark Dairy Farm in Hatley, Wisconsin, shares her thoughts on disease prevention through judicious antibiotic use: "Judicious antibiotic use for mastitis means preventing as many cases of mastitis as possible through good husbandry and comfort, vaccinations and parlor protocols. I choose to do what's right for my cows, my farm and my industry."

Fischer demonstrates a proactive on-farm approach to understanding consumer concerns and putting the health and well-being of her cattle at the top of the priority list. Boehringer Ingelheim aims to continue celebrating those producers going above and beyond in caring

for their animals through the Producers for Progress Recognition Program.

Application information

Applications are due Wednesday, July 1, 2020, and can be found at Producers4Progress.com or by contacting your Boehringer Ingelheim representative.

Applicants will be asked to answer a few open-ended questions about their preventive management practices, their views on judicious use of antibiotics, and to describe their mastitis treatment protocols.

Three dairy producers will then be selected by the judges to receive the Producers for Progress recognition, based on the following criteria:

Demonstrated understanding of and passion for judicious use of antibiotics

Commitment to animal well-being; and

Being a customer of at least one Boehringer Ingelheim mastitis product

Applicant names and operations will remain anonymous during judging. Prize recipients will be selected and notified by Monday, August 17, 2020.

Are you or someone you know deserving of Producers for Progress recognition? Apply by visiting Producers4Progress.com to fill out the online application form, or contact your local Boehringer Ingelheim representative. Applications are due July 1, 2020.

Kansas 4-H'ers, volunteers debut online series aimed at stress relief

By Pat Melgares

A group of Kansas 4-H'ers and volunteers are taking the organization's motto to 'Make the Best Better' pretty seriously with an ambitious online program that debuts to the public on April 27.

They will be producing a weekly series dubbed 'Mindful Monday Mornings' in which they will help people of all ages find creative ways to deal with stress during the current pandemic.

The pre-recorded series will appear each Monday at 10 a.m. on the K-State Research and Extension Facebook page.

"We're really trying to find practical ways to reduce stress during the day so that people can make sure that they are communicating effectively and actually feeling healthy during a challenging and stressful time," said Aliah Mestrovich Seay, a Kansas 4-H youth development specialist for culture and communication skills development.

Mestrovich Seay has developed curriculum she calls Mindful Moments that will drive the series, which is hosted by Kansas 4-H members, volunteers, K-State alumni and community partners across the

state.

The April 27 show featured a three-minute video introducing ideas that people of all ages can use to relieve stress. In coming weeks, 'Mindful Monday Mornings' shifts to focusing on different stages of human development, including stress relief for pre-schoolers (ages 2-5), youth up to age 18, then adults and the entire family.

The fourth week will feature an interview with an expert talking about mindfulness, or intentionally making time to relieve daily stress.

Currently, the series is scheduled to run for three months, through the end of July, with sessions for pre-schoolers, youth, and adults each month.

"One theme that I am hearing from experts and I am witnessing as I have the privilege of coordinating this program, is being intentional about lowering our expectations," Mestrovich Seay said. "What we are used to doing is not what we are able to do right now. We have to transform and reframe the way we are doing life and doing work in order to be healthy."

As an example, Mestrovich Seay said the videos

for pre-schoolers "focus on parents or professionals that are home with their children right now, and resources that may be around the house to model what is important at this time, build a sense of togetherness and help children learn how to deal with stress and talk about their feelings."

"We will offer a variety of research-based curricula," she said. "We also have a lot of different curricula that can be found online, related to mindfulness and reducing anxiety and stress that are easily accessible."

Mestrovich Seay said several groups are helping to produce the videos, including Extension agents, youth, volunteers and citizens. She added that the program is receiving guidance from the K-State Research and Extension rural stress team, one of three issue-based groups formed in late 2019 to address concerns important in Kansas communities.

The K-State Research and Extension communications team is assisting with production using such distance technology as teleconferencing, home videos and - in some cases - cell phones.

"With the introduction

of COVID-19, we recognized the need for people to feel connected with each other and find ways to deal with tough moments," said Taylor Kennedy, the digital media specialist for K-State Research and Extension. "When we heard about Aliah's program, we thought it is one way to serve those needs."

She adds: "This is one of the first extended social media campaigns and curriculum we have worked on with our Extension professionals and look forward to additional opportunities to bring digital Extension into the hands of Kansans."

Mestrovich Seay said the program came together very quickly and she is impressed by the responsiveness of the university's communications team as well as 4-H'ers, volunteers and community members.

"It really has been fun working with youth and volunteers on this project," she added. "Youth are so coachable. It's really been an inspiration to be able to work with them."

"We're hoping to develop a sense of community through this as people try it. We want to see what works, see what they like and what they want more of."

Farmers face unique safety risks during COVID-19

Farmers and ranchers face unique safety risks as COVID-19 continues to spread.

The predicted peak of the COVID-19 outbreak likely will hit as spring planting season shifts into high gear, says Rusty Lee, University of Missouri Extension field specialist in agronomy.

Physical distancing becomes difficult as farmers receive seed and chemical deliveries, Lee says.

Shipments of seed bags and chemical containers arrive on trucks that have been to other farms. This could spell trouble if precautions are not taken, he says. The National Institutes of Health reports that the virus can survive up to three days on plastic and stainless steel surfaces and up to 24 hours on paper surfaces.

Limit traffic in and out of the farm, Lee says. Ask

to be there when delivery trucks arrive. Maintain a six-foot distance from the delivery person.

On many farms, delivery people use the farmer's tractors or forklifts to unload supplies. To reduce risk of virus spread, Lee recommends that no one other than the farmer operate equipment.

"This creates additional planning and work for the farmer, but it reduces risk of transferring the virus as one person hops off and another hops on equipment," he says.

Keep sanitizing supplies in commonly used areas such as tractor cabs and sheds. Wipe down doorknobs, steering wheels, radio knobs, grab handles, fuel tank covers and other surfaces people might touch.

Lee also suggests farmers change how they communicate during this cri-

sis. "The telephone, email and your tablet are your friends," he says. "Use technology to communicate."

This includes texting work plans to employees instead of holding morning meetings in the shed or at the kitchen table. It also means using a phone or tablet to take a picture of a broken part to send to the parts dealer. Call ahead to make sure parts are in stock and ask the dealer to place the part outside the door.

Farms also face special risks because up to three generations of one family may still actively work on the farm. "Your brother, sister, brother-in-law, cousin and grandfather might be part of the family farm operation," Lee says. "Meal times and child care might include Grandma and Grandpa."

Even within families,

maintain safe practices such as distancing. Wipe down surfaces frequently and try to minimize contacts. Also, consider how to safely handle "field food" and other meals during planting season.

Lee advises farmers to develop a written contingency plan in case of illness of the farmer, family members or workers. Decide who can fill vital roles and share this plan with those involved. Safety should be a priority for all who enter and leave the farm, he says. Set and follow protocols.

Maintain equipment, but also take care of your health, he says. "You are your farm and family's most important asset."

He reminds farmers that Extension specialists are still available to answer questions. "Many of our offices are closed at this time for our safety and the safety of others, but specialists remain available by telephone or email to help. We are still on the job!"

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Market Report for 4-23-2020.

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BULLS:

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Experts offer ways for producers to best prepare for spring grazing

By Lisa Moser
 Beef cattle grazing on lush, green pastures are a common sight when driving through the Kansas Flint Hills in the late spring.

Experts from Kansas State University's Beef Cattle Institute discussed steps for managing the spring grazing season recently on the weekly podcast Cattle Chat.

K-State beef cattle Extension specialist Bob Weaber advised producers to begin by assessing their current facilities.

"Start by doing a perimeter check on the fences and do any necessary maintenance as well as checking on the water supply," he said. "Think about any changes that need to

be made in the grazing plan from last year before the cows are turned out."

As producers evaluate the fences, K-State veterinarian Brad White also encouraged them to walk through the pastures to see how much green forage is available among the dormant grasses.

"Just because the pasture is green doesn't mean it has enough nutrient value for the cows," Weaber said. Green grass often has high water content, so the nutrient availability is limited.

"Most pastures this time of year are in fair condition, which means they will provide 50 to 100 pounds of dry matter per acre. Producers can supplement with hay or 20%

range cubes to give the cows energy with the appropriate amount of protein," Weaber said.

It is also important to provide salt and mineral for the cows, said K-State veterinarian Bob Larson. In particular, he recommends a high magnesium mineral early in the spring grazing season.

"If the cow is not ingesting enough magnesium from the grass or through a supplement, she might experience grass tetany, which impacts her nervous system by causing her to be weak or even become aggressive," Larson said.

He added that grass tetany is more common in the spring because the cooler soil temperatures

keep the magnesium from rising to normal levels, as it does in the summer.

White agreed that magnesium supplementation was important and encouraged producers to monitor consumption because some cows will prefer the taste of the mineral more than others.

"Grass tetany can occur in a herd even when a high magnesium mineral is provided, which is why it has to be monitored so closely," Larson said.

Along with monitoring mineral consumption, the experts agreed that it is important to assess body condition scores ahead of turnout. This will help producers determine the appropriate stocking rate

for the herd.

"Good grass managers monitor both the cows and forage availability and make adjustments throughout the grazing season," Larson said.

Larson and Weaber recommended producers take a yardstick to measure the height of the grass and then calculate forage accordingly depending on whether it is a warm season or cool season grass.

"Typically, we want to let the cattle graze down half of what forage is available so if there is eight inches of forage out there let them graze it down to four inches," Larson said.

White added: "You want to have enough of a

base left so the grass can regrow in a reasonable time period."

Aside from managing the grass ahead of turnout, the experts encouraged producers to work with their veterinarians to make sure the cows have been given updated vaccinations.

"With mature cows there is some flexibility in the time of year vaccines are given, so it is important for producers to work with their veterinarians to build a program that makes the most sense for their operations," Larson said.

To listen to this podcast, search for BCI Cattle Chat wherever podcasts are found.

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Hog producers facing COVID-19 financial crisis

The impact of COVID-19 has caused hog values to plummet, creating a financial disaster for pork producers nationwide who face a collective \$5 billion loss for the remainder of the year. At a press briefing, the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) outlined the crisis as described by producers and the immediate relief they are requesting from the administration and Congress.

"We remain committed to supplying Americans with high-quality U.S. pork, but face a dire situation that threatens the livelihoods of thousands of farm families," said NPPC president Howard "A.V." Roth, a pork producer from Wauzeka, Wisconsin. "We are taking on water fast. Immediate action is imperative, or a lot of hog farms will go under."

The suspension of pork packing plant operations and rising employee ab-

senteism due to COVID-19 has exacerbated an existing harvest facility capacity challenge due to a labor shortage in rural America. With limited harvest capacity, a surplus of pigs exists, causing hog values to plunge. The loss of the food services market (i.e. restaurants) and the COVID-related slowdown in most export markets has crashed demand and overwhelmed the cold storage of meat.

Dr. Dermot Hayes, an economist with Iowa State University, and Dr. Steve Meyer, a pork industry economist with Kerns & Associates, estimate that hog farmers will lose nearly \$37 per hog, or almost \$5 billion collectively, for each hog marketed for the rest of the year. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, and after two challenging years, hog farmers were generally expecting a profitable year, with industry analysts forecasting earnings of approximately \$10 per hog on average for 2020.

Roth added, "The pork industry is based on a just-in-time inventory system. Hogs are backing up on farms with nowhere to go,

leaving farmers with tragic choices to make. Dairy producers can dump milk. Fruit and vegetable growers can dump produce. But, hog farmers have nowhere to move their hogs."

NPPC, in consultation with hog farmers across the nation, identified several measures it has raised with federal policymakers, including:

Over \$1 billion in pork purchases by the USDA to clear out a backed-up meat supply, supplementing agency food bank programs facing increased demand due to rising unemployment. These purchases should accommodate pork products packaged for restaurants and other segments of the food services market.

Equitable direct payments to producers participants without eligibility restrictions.

NPPC is also seeking a legislative fix to emergency loan programs that have left farmers behind. Approximately 10,000 family hog farms are in jeopardy because they do not have access to much-needed capital offered by the Small Business Administration. NPPC urges Congress to increase the cap on qualifying businesses to those that employ up to 1,500 and to make agricultural businesses eligible for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.

The economic impact analysis by Dr. Hayes and Dr. Meyer was based on live hog futures between March 10-April 10.

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6	494	165.00	8	446	144.50
12	499	159.00	6	547	138.00
6	543	150.00	4	564	130.50
4	621	137.00	5	615	121.00
7	677	136.50	19	637	120.00
13	697	134.00	8	650	115.50
15	747	128.00	8	671	113.50
27	761	118.50	6	700	109.50
62	811	118.50	25	692	105.50
65	806	117.50	20	711	100.50
59	865	116.00	15	860	100.35
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7	494	170.00	15	560	130.50
14	491	166.00	12	566	129.50
10	509	160.00	6	620	125.00
7	541	151.00	7	664	116.50
15	565	146.00	2	695	112.00
3	575	143.00	12	735	109.75
23	598	141.00	11	819	98.50
4	684	140.00	10	874	94.50
12	643	135.00	14	851	93.50
5	723	130.00	TOP BUTCHER COW:		
16	721	120.00	\$66.00 @ 1,800 LBS.		
5	777	105.00	TOP BUTCHER BULL:		
2	848	104.00	\$90.25 @ 2,190 LBS.		
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4	410	146.00			



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4	blk.....1531@1430.00	3	blk.....422@154.00
HEIFERS		7	blk.....499@154.00
6	mix.....494@153.00	6	mix.....467@151.00
10	blk.....492@149.00	5	blk.....473@149.00
4	blk.....415@146.00	5	blk.....578@157.00
6	blk.....402@145.00	20	mix.....500@156.00
6	blk.....488@145.00	4	blk.....501@155.00
23	mix.....441@144.00	7	mix.....560@154.00
6	blk.....494@141.00	12	lk.....516@150.00
7	blk.....474@139.50	7	mix.....563@149.00
4	blk.....458@139.00	4	blk.....573@149.00
5	mix.....440@134.00	8	bkbwf.....646@151.00
5	bkbwf.....460@125.00	5	bkbwf.....668@125.00
26	mix.....548@136.00	7	bkbwf.....659@119.00
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3	blk.....567@130.50	6	blk.....720@114.00
5	mix.....556@130.00	14	mix.....739@114.00
10	bkbwf.....504@129.00	60	blk.....878@109.75
3	bkbwf.....597@129.00	12	mix.....832@107.50
11	mix.....557@120.00	70	mix.....890@106.50
6	mix.....641@126.00	3	blk.....802@105.00
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Spring breeding seasons need to stay on schedule

By Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist

Spring breeding seasons need to stay on time. Traditionally spring breeding seasons in the Southern Plains begin about the first of May. Many ranches breed the yearling replacement heifers starting in mid-April, allowing the first calf heifers to have an extra two weeks to return to heat cycles along with the mature cows the following year. Realizing that this timing of the breeding seasons will force a few calves to arrive in late January and many calves in February, it is necessary that the breeding season is completed before extreme summer heat arrives.

Breeding seasons occurring during extremely hot weather can impact pregnancy rates in several ways.

Heat stress can have

an impact by lowering the conception rate at the time of breeding. Florida researchers (Gwasdauskas, et al. 1973) determined rectal and uterine temperatures of dairy cows at insemination. Ranking of factors affecting conception: uterine temperature day of insemination, uterine temperature the day after insemination, mean daily temperature the day after insemination and mean daily temperature the day of insemination. An increase of 0.9 degrees F. in uterine temperature the day of insemination and the day after insemination resulted in decreases in conception rates of 12.8% and 6.9%, respectively.

Not all of the decrease in reproductive performance due to heat stress can be blamed on the female. Several research trials have been conducted throughout the years looking at the effect of

high temperatures on bull fertility. As far back as 1963, researchers exposed bulls to temperatures of 104°F and 54% humidity for an eight hour period and then allowed the temperature to drop to 82°F with 72% humidity for the remainder of the 24-hour period. This temperature regimen was continued for seven days and was designed to resemble natural conditions in the subtropics. They found the high temperatures resulted in major detrimental effects on initial sperm motility, sperm concentration, and total numbers of sperm per ejaculate.

Fifteen years later (Meyerhoeffer, et al 1978), Oklahoma scientists placed bulls in controlled environments of 95°F for eight hours and 87° for the remaining 16 hours, while similar bulls were placed in environments of a consistent 73°F.

These treatments were applied to the bulls for eight weeks, and then all bulls were exposed to the 73° environment for another eight weeks. During the treatment, the heat stressed bulls had rectal temperatures 0.9°F higher than non-stressed bulls. The percentage of motile sperm cells decreased significantly in the stressed bulls by two weeks of heat stress.

Hot weather and elevated body temperatures can have an impact on embryo survival for at least two weeks after conception. Research conducted several years ago at OSU illustrated the possible impact of heat stress during the second week after breeding of beef cows on their reproductive capability. In this experiment, the cows were bred naturally (after synchronization), then exposed to mild or severe heat stress. The cows were

stressed on days 8 through day 16 after breeding.

All of the cows were slaughtered on day 17 and the uterine contents were studied for the presence of an embryo. Only half of the cows undergoing severe heat stress had an embryo present, and the conceptus (embryo + fluids and membranes) weighed half as much as did those from control cows. One cannot help but speculate that some of the underdeveloped embryos that were present in the stressed cows may not succeed in surviving until the conclusion of gestation. This severe heat stress shortly after breeding certainly had an adverse effect on embryo survivability and therefore pregnancy rates.

In each of these scenarios, heat stress, causing elevated body temperatures resulted in losses in percentage of pregnancy. None of them seemed to

cause complete infertility. However, combined, these effects of elevated body temperatures can result in very disappointing breeding percentages. High pressure heat domes often occur in mid to late summer and cause triple-digit heat for several days in a row. The most severe heat stress occurs during the high pressure heat domes in July, August, and early September, when daytime high temperatures are at or above 100 degrees and nighttime lows are near 80 degrees. At this time, cattle spend very few hours in the thermal neutral environment that allows them to dissipate accumulated body heat and core body temperatures continue to be elevated.

In this region of the country, spring breeding seasons should be completed by the end of June if possible.

China making progress on Phase One trade agreement

Despite doubts and uncertainty surrounding the global pandemic, China is reportedly buying more U.S. farm products and seemingly making strides to fulfill its purchases as outlined in its Phase One trade agreement with the U.S.

According to CNBC, China imported twice as many U.S. soybeans and six times as much pork first quarter 2020 compared to last year. However, this news does not discredit hardships for China coming from COVID-19: A customs spokesman cautioned in *Reuters* that, while ag imports are increasing, "the negative impact from the coronavirus outbreak cannot be ignored."

Another positive sign of China's commitment to fulfill its Phase One pledges came following a serious strain of bird flu discovered in South Carolina. According to Agri-Pulse, China regionalized its policy as promised in the Phase One agreement, issuing only a statewide ban on poultry from South Carolina, and also announcing the country will still accept heat-processed poultry from the state.

President Trump told media recently that he's confident China will fulfill its ag purchases as outlined in the Phase One trade agreement, bringing some relief to U.S. farmers who have faced several years of a down farm economy which has only been exacerbated by tariffs and COVID-19.

Syngenta extends partnership with Ram Trucks to help farmers enhance productivity through AgriEdge®

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Ram AgPack is a unique collaboration of several agricultural organizations dedicated to delivering U.S. farmers a competitive edge. The initiative will give U.S. farmers the opportunity to maximize their return on investment (ROI) potential by helping them save on items they already planned to purchase. This improved ROI is compounded through access to AgriEdge.

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"Innovation is a cornerstone for Syngenta that helps to assist U.S. farmers be more productive while also increasing their profitability," said Shane Taylor, marketing manager of digital ag solutions at Syngenta. "AgriEdge is designed to assist farmers with making the best agronomic decisions that offer optimum economic outcomes and provide best-in-class service. Our program was created by farmers, for farmers. Like Syngenta, Ram provides industry-specific products and service to farmers."

Dave Sowers, head of Ram Commercial Truck Marketing, added, "The Ram Agriculture Dealer program created an indus-

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Why is my wheat yellow?

By James Coover, crop production agent, Wildcat Extension District

This is a common question this time of year, which can include more than one right answer. Right now, wheat is between Feekes 8 to 10, depending on the variety, on when you are reading this article, and what part of the state you are in. This means the flag leaf has emerged and the head can be felt inside the boot, getting ready to emerge itself. Wheat is developing quickly at this point so it is moving through the stages quickly. It is also the point in which we are likely to see more issues, more deficiencies, and more diseases. So why is the wheat yellow? In this article, we will cover some of major issues that cause wide spread issues but there are a great number of localized specific issues that affect wheat this time of year.

Issue #1 - Nitrogen and Sulfur Deficiency

Issue #2 - Poor Root Growth

In conjunction with nutrient deficiencies, poor root growth is likely and nutrient uptake is being restricted. As they say, wheat doesn't like wet feet, and with the delayed planting in the fall, low spots in fields have stunted yellow wheat even with adequately applied fertilizer.

Issue #3 - Mosaic Viruses

Soilborne mosaic and spindle streak mosaic are two very similar viruses that are carried by a fungus-like organism that can

swim around in saturated soils and produce spores to infect wheat plant roots. As it needs water to move, this fungus is more problematic in wet years like this one. Infection is more likely in the fall and in low spots of the field. The best and really only defense to the mosaic viruses is resistant varieties. Infected fields are likely to show the splotchy yellow leaf symptoms in early spring during green-up and fade as daytime temperatures exceed 68 degrees. At this point in spring, visible symptoms are less likely in new leaves even as in yield in affected wheat is reduced.

Issue #4 - Barley Yellow Dwarf

Unlike the mosaic viruses, barley yellow dwarf starts to show up now when wheat moves into heading and south-east Kansas is where this virus is most common. It is carried by aphids, including the greenbug and bird cherry-oat aphid, and has a host range of nearly all grass species. Symptoms vary but commonly show yellowed leaves, often with the midrib staying green. It often occurs in one to five foot patches throughout a field but can cover an entire field in severe infections, though usually infection rates are overestimated. Control methods involve resistant varieties and controlling the aphids that carry the virus (including seed treatments). Wheat planted before mid to late October are more likely to be infected from

the aphids that are still active. If infected this time of year, losses are usually minimal.

Issue #5 - Everything Else

All the other diseases and insects; there are a lot of reasons that cause wheat to yellow. Most insect damage will be localized and only a full outbreak of greenbugs or armyworms can slow wheat down at this point. The fungal diseases like rust and Septoria are likely this year but cause their own type of leaf infections, rather than a full field yellowing. With the flag leaf emerging, the leaf fungal diseases are about to become the main concern.

If your wheat is giving you trouble for mysterious reasons, please give me a call and I'd happy to come investigate. Also, let me know if you find evidence of any of the rust types. In this part of Kansas, we are often the front line for rust and the initial alarm for the rest of the state.

For more information, please contact James Coover, Crop Production Agent, jcoover@ksu.edu or (620) 724-8233.

Holton Livestock Exchange, Inc.

1/2 mile East of Holton, KS on 16 Highway
Livestock Auction every Tuesday at 12 NOON
****STARTING TIME: 12:00 NOON****

MARKET SUPPORT FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020
RECEIPTS: 1243 CATTLE
FOR FULL RESULTS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.HOLTONLIVESTOCK.COM

STEERS		HEIFERS	
14 blk red str	507@173.25	4 blk hfrs	343@164.00
5 blk bwf str	423@170.00	3 blk hfrs	376@155.00
8 blk str	467@169.00	4 blk hfrs	426@149.00
9 blk str	517@169.00	8 blk hfrs	488@148.25
4 blk str	450@165.50	10 blk hfrs	464@147.50
4 red str	493@162.00	9 blk hfrs	440@146.00
7 blk bwf str	431@158.00	5 blk hfrs	567@145.00
9 blk str	558@154.50	10 blk hfrs	479@139.50
9 blk str	564@151.75	14 blk red hfrs	537@138.50
7 blk str	594@149.75	11 blk hfrs	567@137.00
6 blk bwf str	604@146.50	7 blk hfrs	543@136.75
8 bwf rwf str	595@141.00	4 blk hfrs	572@134.00
36 blk str	631@139.75	34 mix hfrs	650@130.00
11 blk bwf str	656@139.00	9 blk red hfrs	530@128.00
12 red blk str	616@136.75	6 bwf rwf hfrs	599@125.00
8 blk bwf str	618@135.00	11 blk bwf hfrs	660@123.50
11 blk str 1wt	687@132.00	45 blk hfrs	832@122.00 rplmt
18 blk red str	757@124.75	18 mix hfrs	686@120.00
5 blk str	777@124.00	5 blk red hfrs	729@114.00
8 blk str	847@114.50	9 blk hfrs	783@105.00
		33 mix hfrs	791@104.50

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Barn Phone • 785-364-4114
WEBSITE: www.holtonlivestock.com
EMAIL: dan@holtonlivestock.com

View our auctions live at "Imauctions.com"



Central Livestock
811 N. Main St.
South Hutchinson, Ks

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

Tues., May 12th - Calf/Yearling Special
Sat., May 16th - Hog/Sheep/Goat Sale
Sat., June 6th - Catalog Horse Sale

Check website/ Facebook for schedule changes!

EL DORADO

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 4-23-20. 1,474 Head.

300-400 lb. steers, \$158-\$165; heifers, \$122-\$149; 400-500 lb. steers, \$131-\$168; heifers, \$123-\$154; 500-600 lb. steers, \$110-\$159; heifers, \$106-\$138; 600-700 lb. steers, \$115-\$140; heifers, \$100-\$124.25; 700-800 lb. steers, \$100-\$129; heifers, \$90-\$109.50; 800-900 lb. steers, \$90-\$111.25; heifers, \$85-\$99; 900-1,000 lb. steers, \$95-\$105.25; \$90-\$98.50.

Trend on Calves: \$5-\$6 lower. **Trend on Feeder Cattle:** Mostly steady. **Butcher Cows:** high dressing cows \$57-\$64; Avg. dressing cows \$45-\$57; low dressing cows \$25-\$35. **Butcher Bulls:** Avg. to high dressing bulls: \$60.50-\$86.50. **Trend on Cows & Bulls:** \$4-\$5 lower.

HIGHLIGHTS:

10 blk	HEIFERS	10 red	546@148.00
10 mix	455@145.50	19 blk	574@152.00
15 mix	509@127.00	10 mix	630@140.00
24 blk	541@138.00	23 red	661@136.00
73 blk	575@136.50	38 blk	684@135.00
22 red	602@124.25	12 Char	712@119.50
12 Char-x	665@121.75	22 blk	783@116.50
24 blk	736@105.00	60 blk	880@108.25
	805@98.50	55 blk	923@105.25
		56 mix	970@98.00
		54 blk	1004@98.50

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020 SALE

• Special Offering of (20) 2 year old and yearling bulls. Offered by Sutphin Cattle Company in Lamar, Colorado. Bulls will be Angus, Lim Flex, Red Angus, Sim Angus, or Charolais. Bulls will be trich and fertility tested.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE AS WELL AS FACEBOOK FOR UPDATED LISTINGS!
STAY TUNED FOR EARLY CONSIGNMENTS!

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 & Facebook for updated consignments: www.eldoradolivestock.com
To stay up to date on our latest announcements you can "Like" us on Facebook

Josh Mueller Owner/Manager (316) 680-9680	Steven Hamlin (602) 402-6008 (H) (620) 222-1199 (M)
Chris Locke (316) 320-1005 (H) (316) 322-0675 (M)	Van Schmidt, Fieldman (620) 367-2331 (H) (620) 345-6879 (M)

Cattle Sale Every Thursday 11:00 AM

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