## Schwieterman Market Outlook

A marketing commentary by Bret Crotts

Tuesday the 12th is the report, which is our first ook at the new crop numbers. Expectations are for very bearish corn num-
bers with about 3.4 billion bushels of new crop ending stocks. We haven't seen tocks that big since the 1980s and the stocks highest in 30 years be the So, there isn't much reason to be bullish on corn unless we see a combinaleaded gasoline demand,
lean strong Chinese demand, and a weather scare. If we don't see at least two of
the three in the next four the three in the next four
months, it is going to be months, it is going to be
a very long, ugly year for he corn. Expectations for new crop wheat ending stocks are not as bearish as for
the corn, with the aver-
million bushels, which is still about double wha
the lowest level since the 2014/2015 crop year. Stocks will still be about double what we need them to be ed bull market, but solid demand and the ever-declining acreage, at least the situation isn't getting worse. It is possible that solid exports and a little bit lower production will
cut ending stocks further cut ending stocks further,
but we will not have very high feed usage this year, so it will be difficult to draw the stocks down a great deal. Once again in seems that the action of the Chinese and how much wheat they buy will have
a huge say in what our stocks levels, and therefore price, do.
New crop soybean ending stocks are expected to come in at 430 million, which is less than half of
still about double what
we would call "bullish. Soybean stocks could easily drop to a bullish level, so be prepared for volatility in the soybean market. A little bit of a
weather scare could move the beans a long way, as could large purchases by the Chinese. Getting both of those things to happen this summer would be very
friendly to prices. friendly to prices.
The cattle ma
nother cattle market had cattle trade ranged from about $\$ 95$ to possibly as high as $\$ 115$. We had sev eral limit higher moves in the June live cattle, and there is really no ques-
tion that the charts look bullish. On the continuation chart the live cat tle cleared the mid-April high, and it is reasonable to say that a run to $\$ 110$ i in the works.
side of things, we are still
dealing with very slow slaughter rates and cattle could be backed up for months. Slaughter rates are picking up, and the current margins give packtle as fast as possible, but that doesn't mean we will be back to full kills any time soon. COVID-19 cases are still rising rapidly in SW Kansas, which makes it difficult to imagine full
kills here in the short run So, charts look great, but we are dealing with an unstable fundamental situation. That means we are not done with the extreme volatility. Don't be surprised to see August
live cattle reach live cattle reach $\$ 110$, but see a run at the contract
$\qquad$
The feeders offer us a little bit better picture since the cash market is active and functioning properly. The feeder
index is trending higher, and so are the feeder futures. There is very clear resistance at the $\$ 139$ level in the August feeder contract. Clearing that level would open the door to a move to the $\$ 150$ area. As
plan on extreme volatility
Months of backed up cattle are going to be tough on margins and cut into the enthusiasm to chase after high priced feeders.
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## Results reported for Flint HIlls Choice Sale

Following are the re-
sults of the Flint Hill Choice Sale held
$28 t h$ in El Dorado. 13 Purebred and Lim Flex Bulls Avg. \$2666 4 Fall Br
Avg. $\$ 2338$ 5 Spring Pairs Avg. Spring Breds Avg. Open Heifers Avg 14 Registered Females ommercial Females Fall Bred 3 n 1 Pair Avg. \$2350
13 Spr 13 Spring Bred Com-
mercial Heifers Avg. $\$ 1737$
3 3 Fall Bred Comm
cial Heifers Avg. $\$ 1475$ 17 Commercial L Avg. \$1727 Total or Overall high selling
bull and highest selling bull and highest selling 2 yr. old was Beikmanns
Farmer Red 280 F for $4-1-1$ 2018, Lim Flex, red polled sired by Beikmann's
Admiral 929 W and out of Beikmann's Glenda, consigned by Beikmann Land
and Limousin, Linn, and and Limousin, Linn, and Hanover, for $\$ 3800$. Second high seller in
the 2 yr. old category was the 2 yr. old category was
JDYE 404 F a $4-4-18$ black polled purebred sired by
JDYE X-Factor and out of GV Ms Xman 4472B con-
signed by Circle D Ranch, signed by Circle D Ranch,
Paola, and purchased for Paola, and purchased for
$\# 3200$ by Zach Price of $\# 3200$ by Za
Baldwin City

## Baldwin City. The high selling Fall

 Yearlings were both con-signed by Super C Limsigned by Super C Lim-
ousin, Altoona, Ks. Lot \#9 sold for $\$ 3300$ and was
SCRN Fletcher 353 F SCRN Fletcher 353F a
$9-4-18$ black and polled Lim Flex that was sired
by Bush's Unbelievable by Bush's Unbelievable
423 and out of SCRN Zada 423 and out of SCRN Zada ret Brown of Luray. Lot \#7
sold for $\$ 3250$ SCAS Fersol
nao 935 F a $9-14-18$, black
and polled Lim Flex sired by TASF Believe 854 out

Second highest ove all bull and also the high Selling yearling was Lot \#17 SC Game On, a 3-29-19 black and polled purebred
sired by SCRN Bentley 93B ET and out of SCRN Xylia 335X consigned by Super C Limousin, Altoona, and purchased for
$\$ 3600$ by Ernest Engelking $\$ 3600$ by Ernest Engelking
of Newkirk, Oklahoma. High selling fall bred pair was Lot 20/20A PTAL Betty Boop 405B a purebred, black polled cow
sired by MAGS Xylidine out of PTAL Sheba 604S and at her side a 9 -16-
19 red polled heifer calf sired by KGUM PTAL Daquiri 613D, she was
bred back the same way bred back the same way
for a fall calf brought $\$ 2600$, consigned by Pine Tree Acres Limousin, Parker, and purchased by
Henry Winsor and Mark Henry Winsor and Mark
Montgomery of Wichita. High selling spring pair was Lot \#23/23A Beikmanns Hope 499E, a double black, double polled
$62 \%$ Lim Flex female out $62 \%$ Lim Flex female, out
of Beikmanns Cowboy of Beikmanns Cowboy Hope 363B she sold with a bull calf at side born
2-13-20 out of EXLR Slip Clutch they brought $\$ 2300$. This pair was consigned
by Beikmann Land and Limousin, Linn, and purchased by Henry Winsor and Mark Montgomery of
Wichita Wichita.
The high selling bred
heifer was Lot \#25 Beikheifer was Lot \#25 Beik-
manns Elvera 497E, a $75 \%$ Lim Flex female, bringing \$1850. This 9-11-17 heifer was sired by Beikmanns
War Admiral 929 W and out of Beikmanns Zavera 299 Z and sold bred to Beikmann's Emerald 1019E, consigned by Beikmann Land and Limousin and sold to Kansas Farm Dexter.
The high selling open heifer was Lot \#31 JDYE
Fairy a black, double

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164 arres + - productive tillable 2 .
 Approx. Taxes: $52,246.84$
Tract 2: NW/4 of Section 19-14-3W, lving S of RR, SA Count
 82.8 approx. base acres in PLC Bas
Approx. Taxes: $: \$ 1,209.84$

Tract 3: The Combination of Tracts 1 \& 2 Hon: Just 3 mi. west of Salina, close to Cargill Elevator
Total Taxes: $\$ 3,456.68$ on 248 taxable acres

Tract 4: NE/4 of Sect 30-12-1 W, oT Countr, Iess tract in SE Corne
141 acres +1 -productive tillable $\sim$. 14 acress $+/$ waterw
147.7 base acres in ARC
Tract 5: SE/4 of Section 19-12-1W. Ottawa County
133 acrese $+1-$ - productive tillable $\sim 13$ acres $+1+$ wa
10 wares +1 orld farm site and 3 ponds
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Henry and MaryLue Winsor, Wichita, (far right), along with their family Mark, Lanell, Abigayle and Allyson Montgomery of Goddard, purchased 10 head of Lim-
ousin cattle at the KLBA sale. ousin cattle at the KLBA sale.

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polled Purebred female
out of JDYE X-Factor and by Circle D Ranch, Paola and was bought for $\$ 1300$ by Braun Limousin, Victoria.
Con pair was comerial fall bred pair was consigned by
Pine Tree Acres Limousin, a purebred female selling with a purebred heifer calf at side out of
KGUM
PTAL 613D and bred back the same way for a fall calf. Derek Waitley of Leaven


Randy and Nancy Corns, Super C Limousin, Altoona, and KLBA President Kyle Dye, Circle D Limousin of Paola appreciated Mark Martin of Dexter for his volume purchases of 20 head from Super C and a bull from Circle D Limousin.


Ernie and Sandy Engelking, Newkirk, Okla. pur chased the second high-selling bull from the KLBA sale in El Dorado.

worth purchased this pair
for $\$ 2350$. worth pur
for $\$ 2350$.
The
mercial females bred commercial females were consigned by Super C Limousin of Altoona and all were purchased
by Mark Martin of Martin's Loveable Limousin, Dexter.
The volume buyer The $\begin{gathered}\text { volume buyers } \\ \text { were Martin,who pur- }\end{gathered}$. were Martin,who pur-
chased 21 head, and Winsor and Montgomery of Wichita and Goddard who bought ten head. preme 185.00-225.00, Premium 170.00-195.00, Good 150.00-
170.00. Stock Cow, none reported. Fair/good, grinding 170.00. Stock Cow, none reported. Fair/good, grinding
alfalfa, $100.00-110.00$. Ground and delivered $130.00-140.00$. Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares $6.00-7.00 / \mathrm{bale}$, mid to large squares $80.00-90.00$, large rounds $55.00-65.00$. Brome
small squares $7.00-8.00 /$ bale, large squares $90.00-100.00$ smal squares $7.00-8.00 /$ bale, large squares $90.00-100.00$
large rounds $55.00-65.00$; Sudan, large rounds $55.00-65.00$




















## Kansas Hay

 Market ReportHay market trade slow; Prices steady; demand light Discussion of new crop pricing are starting to get report-
ed, primarily in the southwest, and seem to be starting where old crop left off. Most alfalfa producers expect firs
cutting tonnage totals to be down this year due to freez damage, insects, and dry conditions. Recent warm, dry conditions led to an expansion of abnormal dryness (D0 in the Dakotas, southwest Nebraska, northwest Kansas, and eastern Colorado. Abnormal dryness (D0) increased to 31 pct, moderate drought (D1) remained steady at 4 pct
and severe drought (D2) remained steady at to and severe drought (D2) remained steady at to almost 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.
Dairy alfalfa, Southwest Kansa, 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. Old crop, Fair/Goo $115.00-125.00$ delivered. Ground and delivered locally to $115.00-125.00$ delivered. Ground and delivered locally to
feed lots and dairies, $150.00-160.00$. Grass Hay: Bluestem, good small squares, $7.50-8.50 / \mathrm{bale}$, large squares 100.00
110.00 . Sudan - large rounds $60.00-70.00$. Wheat straw none reported. The week of $4 / 26-5 / 2,7,782 \mathrm{~T}$ of grindin alfalfa and $1,702 \mathrm{~T}$ of dairy alfalfa was reported bought sold.

Dairy alfalfa South Central Kansas
Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered, al
falfa pellets steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, smal 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,
$95.00-105.00$, Ground and delivered locally to feedlots 140.00-150.00; Alfalfa pellets: Sun cured 15 pct protein 190.00-200.00, 17 pct protein 195.00-210.00, Dehydrated
17 pct 300.00-310.00. Grass Hay: Bluestem, 17 pct $300.00-310.00$. Grass Hay: Bluestem, none report-
ed. Sudan: large rounds $55.00-65.00$. Wheat Straw: none reported. The week of $4 / 26-5 / 2,4,881 \mathrm{~T}$ of grinding alfalfa and 855.5 T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought/sold.

Dairy alfalfa, $\begin{gathered}\text { Southeast Kansas }\end{gathered}$
hay stealy, 240.00. Dairy $1.00 /$ point RFV Stock cow goat, 230.00 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 $100.00-110.00$, large rounds $70.00-80.00$. Wheat
Straw: mid and large squares $60.00-70.00$, large rounds $55.00-65.00$. The week of $4 / 26-5 / 2,947 \mathrm{~T}$ of grass hay wa 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 none reported. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, $950-105.00$. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots an
dairies, $125.00-135.00$. Sudan, large rounds $55.00-65.00$ 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, Su

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## USDA invests $\$ 71$ million in high-speed broadband for rural Kansas and Oklahoma

## culture Sonny Perdue has of fiber-to-the-premises announced that USD

 announced that USDAinvesting $\$ 71$ million
met (FTTP) broadband infra-
structure. This award will
extend broadband avail-
provided $\$ 600$ million to
USDA to expand broadUSDA to expand broad-
band infrastructure and services in rural America.
On Dec. 13, 2018, Perdue
extend broadband avail-
ability to 8,15 residents,
2 farms and 15 businesses in Rogers, Nowata, Wash-
ington and Osage counties in Oklahoma; and Mont-
gomery and Chautauqua counties in Kansas.
KanOkla Shidler Kanokla Shidler LLC
is reeeving a $\$ 15 \mathrm{mil-}$
lion loan and a $\$ 15 \mathrm{mil-}$ lion grant to construct 251
lines of fiber to miles of fiber-to-the-prem-
ises (FTTP) in Osage County, Okla. This project will
benefit 2,101 residents, 26 benefit 2,101 residents, 26
farms and 28 businesses.
Cross LLC is receiving a $\$ 2.2$ mil-
lion USDA grant to construct a fiber-to-the-prem-
ises (FTTP) network in Le Flore and McIntosh coun-
ties in Oklahoma. This project will benefit 265
residents, 13 farms and six
 Company is receiving a
$\$ 1.2$ million loan to con-
struct fiber to the struct fiber-to-the-premis-
es (FTP) infrastructure
in the town of Carnegie,
Okla., in Caddo County in the town of Carnegie,
Okla., in Caddo County.
This project will benefit This project
926 residents.
Background:


Connect," including "Row
the loans and grants will the loans and grants will be awarded to help build
broadband infrastructure broadband infrastructure
in rural America. USDA in rural America. USDA
received 146 applications
between May 31, 2019, and July 12, 2019, requesting $\$ 1.4$ in, illion in funding
across all three Reconnect across all three ReConnect
Promam
funding Program funding prod-
ucts: 100 percent loan, 100
percent percent grant, and
grant combinations On April 20, 2020, USDA
announce the Department has received 172 applica tions for $\$ 1.57$ billion in
round two of the ReCon round two of the ReCon-
nect Program. The second
round will enable USDA round will enable USDA
to implement innovative
new solut new solutions to rural con-
nectivity by leveraging fil nancial options with our
partners and continue the partners and continue the
success of the first round success of the first round
of funding. The applicaof funding. The applica
tion window for round two tiosed April 15 .
USDA received 11
round one ReConnect Pro gram applications that are 785-539-7558 or online at: grassandgrain.com
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the progras through the

nouncements, visit www
usda.gov/reconnect. USDA and announcing approved projects on a rolling basis. Additional investments in made in the coming weeks. USDA Rural Development provides loans and rants to help expand eco create jobs in rural areas This assistance supports
infrastructure improve-
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н. ucket bale spear - Euro Atach MF
Quicke $7256073 M$ Stk 3094 Stk\#2505/2506.. $\$ 64,900$ ket finisher. Stk\#6926. cattle industry over foreign product during the COVID 19 pandemic.
USCA president Brooke Miller issued the following ment to accompany the letter:
g weeks and immediate action is not taken in the com-

## Be careful what you ask for

## By Derrell Peel Oklahoma State University

 The opinions expressed in this commentary are those of Derrell Peel, OklahomaState University Cooperative Extension livestock marketing specialist. COVID-19 has caused
unparalleled and cataunparalleled and cata
strophic impacts on cattl strophic impacts on cattle
and beef markets along and beef markets along the economy. Cattle and encing devastating shocks and challenges resulting in price changes and maronly unprecedented, but also difficult to understand also difficult to understand The anger and frustr tion of some cattle producers has turned to accusations and proposals for change that will have longterm implications and un-
intended consequences for intended consequences for
the cattle and beef indus-
${ }^{\text {try }}$ The U.S. cattle and beef industry is probably the most complex set of mar-
kets on the planet. It is extremely difficult to unextremely difficult to un-
derstand with many levels of productions and an marketing chain. Cattle producers often
feel - rightfully - that reel - rightfully - that
others do not understand the cattle business. They face many challenges and of raising cattle in a vast array of climates and pro-
duction environments; and they constantly fend off a never-ending set of calls to change how cattle
are produced for this or are produced for this or
that unrealistic demand that unrealistic demand
or expectation of someone or expectatic somewhere.
one-size-fits-all restricions on business practices or changes in industry
structure based on a lack structure based on a lack standing of, how packing and processing businesses and markets work to process and market thousands of different beef products in a multitude of whole-
sale and retail beef marsale
kets.

Never before has the industry faced so many challenges that threaten the operation of multiple processing facilities simultaneously along with mas-
sive disruptions to the food sive disruptions to the food
service supply chain severely limiting nearly half of the total beef market. The impacts of COVID-19 on beef markets would not be different if the industry consisted of more, small-
er, less efficient packing plants who were forced to purchase cattle in immediate cash markets. It might well be worse
The current structure and business practices of
the industry evolved in the industry evolved in
response to the economic response to the economic industry, like every industry, to be as competitive as possible. The cost efficiencies of large-scale cattle feeding and meatpacking
operations is undeniable. operations is undeniable.
Some current proposals Some current proposals
will add cost and risk to the industry and will further increase the differences between cattle and wholesale beef prices. A less efficient, higher
cost beef industry cost beef industry will ul-
timately result in timately result in higher
beef prices for consumers beef prices for consumers
and make beef a less comand make beef a less com-
petitive protein industry.
Simultaneously, cattle
forced to import our food like we do many other goods. As outlined in our letter, there is not a cattle shortage in this country, and we need to utilize our current domestic
supply before turning to foreign beef or cattle "Further, we call on the President to establish an emergency work force to return to full operational capacity in U.S. meatpacking plants. With the high unem-
and to ensure the longevity of U.S. livestock producers While this pandemic is affecting every American today
action is needed now to ensure the ramifications won action is needed now to ensure the ramifications won'
be felt for years to come. A safe and abundant food sup ply is something that all Americans have come to depend on, and we must continue to look at all possible solution to ensure this is the case for generations to come."
pratucers will face lower
cattle prices and, as the industry downsizes, more will be forced out of the industry.
Cattle producers will decide what sort of policy
prescriptions they want to pursue that will affect how the beef industry func tions. I am not suggesting what policies should or My job is to make sure that the industry understands the implications and consequences of alternatives that are being considered. Some of the proposals being promoted today will
have unintended conse quences that are negative for the entire industry This industry consists of many diverse sectors and perspectives but in the end the entire cattle and beef industry will thrive or careful what you ask for.

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## Study: pigs cannot get nor spread COVID-19 virus

In what's otherwise been a slew of bad news related to the coronavirus, pork producers can be heartened by a new German study by the Friedrich Loeffler Institute. The study found that pigs
virus, which causes COVID-19.

The April 2020 study offers further evidence that pigs cannot become infected by the pandemic virus nor transmit it to humans. Additional research will be forthcoming in the United States in coming weeks, but it is not expected to contradic The best available evidence continues to support the finding that this virus is primarily transmitted by human-to-human contact.
The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health \& Safety also has assessed risks associated with COVID-19, such as the potential to cross the species barrier. Also, additional research projects under way in the United States and worldwide are looking into the virus. The National Pork Board will continu to follow all new studies.

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## Take precautions now for anaplasmosis

By Wendie Powell, Agent, Wildcat Extension District

## Fly and tick season

 is here, which means itis time for producers to watch their herds for
signs of anaplasmosis. This disease can be devastating mely manner. Anaplasosis is a parasitic or-
anism that is transmitted ough blood by biting n surgical instruments site attaches to red blood
tle, sheep, goats and other wild ruminants can be affected.
Symp Symptoms surface fection. Many times mals can be infected and show no signs of illness. In the acute phase of infection, animals appear weak and generically fected livestock may also ected livestock may also
exhibit white or yellow mucous membranes, such as their eyes, muzzles or udders. These mucous membranes will appear white due to the lack of
cells are broken down and removed from the body. Some animals may even exhibit signs of ag
gressiveness. This aggres sive behavior is caused by lack of oxygen to the brain. Due to being weak, they tend to resort to 'fight' rather than 'flight'
response. Anaplas.
Anaplasmosis also ap pears in a chronic form caused by a moderate
level of anemia. Affected level of anemia. Affected time, which can cause abortions in pregnant cows. In the acute phase
properly. Ill animals need care because the stress of working and handling can be fatal if the disease is
advanced. The most common treatment for the disease
is the use of tetracycline is the use of tetracycline antibiotics. Improvement in symptoms can be seen within a few days, but it weeks to see a significant recovery of red blood cell numbers.
Using fly tags, rubs, and pour-on insect repellents to keep biting insects and ticks at bay and
thus preventing the dis-
ideal. Changing needles
between each animals when vaccinating or administering medicines option is to put chlortetracycline in the feed at a low level to kill the organism before it can replicate and attach to red
blood cells. Producers blood cells. Producers inarian and feed supplier inarian and feed supplier cycline, more commonly known as CTC. There are also many labeled products for injectable oxytet racycline.

Unlike many diseas
are most affected by an aplasmosis. In fact, mos catastrophic cases occu
in cattle between six and in cattle between six an
eight years of age. Youns er cattle are better abl to regenerate red blood cells and recover, ofte developing immunity. Cat tlemen should pay par ticular attention to thei
adult cows and bulls adult cows and bulls a
the season progresse watching for symptom characteristic of anaplas mosis.
For more information please contact Wendi Powell, Livestock Produc
tion Agent (620) 784-5337

## Ag economists warn against overreaction to meat industry structure in face of COVID-19

## Tumultuous time

 the meatpacking industry linked to the current new coronavirus pandemic has prompted calls for changdo the structure of the te University agricultural economists are warn-ing against overreactions to a structure that has been years in the making. Hundreds of cases of
COVID-19 have been con firmed in some of the biggest meatpacking plants in supply chain disrupwith absent workers and temporarily close plants, leading to a $40 \%$ loss of
pacity in the industry The closures left live stock producers with a
much meat shoppers can much
buy.
Pro
tion,

Prompted by the tion, on April 28 President Donald Trump deemed
meatpacking plants "critical infrastructure" that must stay open. The pandemic and its
effect on everyone along effect on everyone along
the meat supply chain including consumers has sparked calls for chang-
es in the structure of the es in the structure of the
meatpacking industry, which is largely concentrated to four companies - Smithfield Foods, Tyson Foods, JBS and Cargill
Meat Solutions. The four Meat Solutions. The four
control about $80 \%$ of the meat slaughter capacity in the United States. "We're in a situation I
don't think our industry or our society has ever re ally faced, or realized the
challenges associated with challenges associated with an event like this," said
University Distinguished Professor of agricultural economics Ted Schroeder. The health of packing plant employees, live
stock supplies backing up
versations about meat-
packer concentration,
but he cautioned against making big changes in the making big changes in the midst of the current crisis.
"In general, when you "In general, when you the doctor will give you advice for when you get
home or for the next couhome or for the next cou-
ple of weeks but doesn't tell you to quit exercising for the rest of your life,"
Tonsor said Tonsor said.
The current concentration in meat packing came
about because of econoabout because of econo-
mies of scale, Tonsor said, which allows those companies to produce higher
volumes at lower costs volumes at lower costs
per animal than a smaller per animal than a smaller ficiency means lower prices for consumers.
"Also, the value of U.S. meat exports has grown notably over the last couple of decades," he said.
"The beef industry is be"The beef industry is becoming increasingly reli-
ant on the export market to sustain the current size of the industry." Keeping that in mind, it's easier for
companies. "An overreaction to our current structure could
mean a loss of global com mean a loss of global con
petitiveness," he added petitiveness," he added. that meat packing is a la-bor-intensive segment of the industry where a significant number of highly skilled people are needed, no matter who owns that
segment. $\underset{\text { "The }}{\text { segment. }}$ plants, the size of our plants, the size of our
plants, has evolved to where labor productivity is as high as any other alternative that we currently have," he said. The pandemic may push meatpacking compa at automating more part of the process, rather than rely so heavily on huma labor, Tonsor said.
The coronavirus pandemic has also reignited discovery in beef cattle which has changed in the past seven years, most notably with a shift to formu la pricing and away from
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er said.
Though some believe there's greater transpar ency in negotiated trades the middle of a crisis is no
the time to make sweep ing, long-term changes, h ing, lon
added. "There's always room for improvement, but
think that it's think that it's dangerous
to jump off the cliff with to jump off the cliff with
out studying what's on the out studying what's on th
other side, so to Tonsor said. "It's better to look a
how and why the curren system came to be and can
serren we take the current system and enhance the informa
tion that we get to make tion that we get to make effectively," Schroede said. "The ways we're mar keting and valuing cattle they has evolved becaus they offer great opportu
nity to increase the valu nity to increase the valu
signals being sent to signals be

Any significant chang es, whether linked to the pandemic or otherwise eye toward made with an cattle produef the to the packer, the retailer mea

## the consumer

"Those balancing acts are very emotional in the
midst of a crisis. I don' want to see us overreact in undue harm in the futs undue harm
Tonsor said.
An Agriculture Today in terview with Tonsor an Schroeder is available o
line at www.agtoday.net. Check K-State Researc
and Extension COVID-1 and Extension Ce
for more resource


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## Kansas <br> Profile

By Ron Wilson Executive Director of he Huck Boyd Institute

Alicia Boor, Great Bend Virtual Farm Show


## foug ing tha pre set set

 ucts. But wait, we can't do
that. Theres' a pandemic
per place. What if we could partic-
ipate in a farm show and rtually and safely, from the comfort of our
homes? Today we'll learn about a community which pished exactly that. the agricuture and nat-
ural resources agents for
the K-State Research and Extension Cottonwood District, serving Barton and Ellis counties. She grew
up in Dodge City, earned
and animal science degree,
nd got a job as a zoo
got livestock at the Sedgwick
County Zoo before joining Extension. Her Extension position enabled Alicia and her husband to move
to her husband's home-
town of Hoisington in BarCounty. Hoisington is ton county. Hoisington is people. Now, that's rural.
Alicia's duties included lining up speakers for the annual Great Bend farm
and ranch show which at Grts thousands of people She was assisted by Jared
Petersilie, the Extension agent in the neighboring Walnut Creek
District. Because of the interest in growing indus
trial hemp, the name
and the 2020 show was changed
to the Great Bend Farm, Ranch \& Hemp Expo. virus, followed by corona- stay-athome orders. Alicia and
Jared had already lined up
the speakers but reluctantly notified the planners
that they could no longe that they could no longer
participate. participate
fore the scheduled begin ning of the expo in early quest. The expo organizz
wanted to make this a virtual expo. Could the speakers present their pro-
grams after all? Alicia de cided
How in the world does sone expo? The planners in in
al
areat Bend worked with a company with the domain
name www.virtualfarmex-
$\qquad$ aged to organize the event
so that it could function that it could function


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## Grazing rules of thumb analyzed

By Jody G. Holthaus,
Meadowlark District
Extension agent, livestock
and natural resources and natural resources
This article is too good; I just had to share it with
you. Keith Harmoney is a you. Keith Harmoney is
range scientist at Hays:

Over the years, Tve
heard rangeland man-
agers develop rules of agers develop rules of
thumb, or short phrases,
to try to help them simplify decisions that need to be made to manage their
pastures. Some of these pastures. Some of these
rules of thumb have merit and scientific or economic
data to support the rules data to support the rules
of thumb; however, some rules of thumb may be unfounded and lack informational support. The
following is a list of some common rules of thumb, common rules of thumb, of whether or not the rule
of thumb has any merit or of thumb has any merit or
basis of support. Thumbs basis of support. Thumbs
Up means it's a rule of thumb with merit, and a Thumbs Down indicates
the rule of thumb lacks support and has room for improvement. A Thumbs
Up and a Thumbs Down means that arguments may be made for and against the rule of thumb.'
Half. Thumbs Up. This is Half. Thumbs Up. This is
probably the most common and most important rule of thumb for rangeland managers to follow. Clipping
studies and grazing stud ies have both shown that when approximately $50 \%$ of the growing season's
top growth is removed animal performance and vegetative production are at near optimal levels, and performance can be sustained over a long period
of time. At the right stockof time. At the right stock ing rate, half of the $50 \%$ of during the growing season,
or $25 \%$ of the total growth for the year, is actually in gested by grazing animals. The other $25 \%$ of the total growth that disappears
does so as a consequence does so as a consequence
of trampling, defecation, of trampling, defecation, ing, and natural senescence and weathering of the plant material. The $50 \%$ of total growth that
should remain standing should remain standing
through the growing seathrough the growing sea-
son is needed for leaves to continue to photosynbohydrates for new leaf material, for maintaining and producing new root growth, and for storage
during the dormant season to serve as a source of energy to initiate new plant
growth the next season. The right stocking rate for a pasture balances forages availability with animal removal to achieve this
concept of take half and
nd Make Money. Thumbs Up. Pastures that are overgrazed produce lower net returns than pastures that
are stocked at a moderate are stocked at a moderate rate using the take half Greatest net returns per when, collectively, the greatest number of ani-
mals achieve their most mals achieve their most
efficient individual gain animal production and animal produc
This is also the stocking rate where total pasture
gain on a per acre basis is usually at its greatest point of efficiency. As the stocking rate increases further, enough competition for enough competition for
high-quality forage or
competition for enough competition for enough quantity of forage, that
individual performance s reduced. This results in production per acre increasing because more but production per acre, increases at a decreasing ual animal will gain fewer otal pounds. Increasing the stocking rate further nd removing more vegecompetition and lower individual animal gain, and animal gain per acre will eventually even start to decline. Grazing animals at high stocking rates don't to cover their own costs of production, so net returns acre and per animal are at their greatest level when total gain is most efficient o cover the costs of pro-
duction. Grazing studies uction. Grazing studies have shown that the great-
est returns per acre are usually achieved at a moderate stocking rate that
takes half and leaves half, and are least with heavy stocking when more than half of the standing forage 3. If it's not grass, it's a
weed. Thumbs Down mal consumption and preference data do not support
this rule of thumb. Cattle prefer grass, but studies how that up to $25 \%$ of grazing cattle diets consist
of forbs (broadleaf plants) rather than grasses, espeing season. Many forbs are high in protein and are highly digestible when Forbs can be important for quality diet.
Rangelands
many forbs that contain legumes, which are especially high in protein and These legumes capture

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Mobile Cell 620-750-0123 Austin Evenson- Fieldma Mobile Cell 620-750-0222
sphere and add it to the similar when continuous
soil to tility and productivity. One grazed at the syme stock of the most common forbs
on Kansas rangelands is on Kansas rangelands is have a history of overuse western ragweed. Grazing studies have
shown that animals may shown that animals may
consume $49 \%$ of the ragconsume $49 \%$ of the ragduring a growing season. to reduce native grass production when approxi-
mately $35 \%$ to $40 \%$ of mately $35 \%$ to $40 \%$ of pas-
ture dry matter consists ragweed. Ragweed composition in pastures is highly precipitation-dependent
and will rapidly decline and will rapidly decline
during extended droughts during extended droughts.
Some broadleaf plant Some broadleaf plant
problems do occur in problems do occur in pas-
ture, especially when noxious weeds are considered, but just because a plant is not a grass does not mean
that it is not beneficial to the grazing animal or the pasture ecosystem.
4. Rotational grazing
is better than continuous is better than continuous
grazing. Thumbs Up and Thumbs Down. Rotational stocking systems are not
automatically better than automatically better than tems. A stocking system
still has to be managed still has to be managed
properly to be successful and sustainable. A rotational system that over-utilizes forage growth and
does not balance the sea sonal forage removed with the seasonal forage available is still overgrazed re-
gardless of the rotationa gardless of the rotational system being used. Like-
wise, a continuous stock-
ing system that doesn't ing system that doesn't
balance forage produced
with forage with forage removed and utilizes more than half the
forage growth will be forage gr
grazed.

The majority of grazing research studies show that
animal production and pasture vegetation pro
duction are actually quit


## Three main strategies The

 Three main strategiewill help to increase pas
ture product ture production and shift
pasture vegetation to pasture vegetation to more
desirable species time. First, data show that significantly lowerin
stocking rate will increas stocking rate will increas
pasture yield and will im prove pasture plant com position, even with con
tinuous stocking. Second providing during the a rowing seaso allows vegetation to accu
mulate more leaf materia and dry matter and allow plants to replenish their viding a rest period during he growing season is the all plants will have tha all plants will have a pe
riod in the growing seaso without any leaf materia being removed. And third of the gies. All three strategie will improve pasture con
dition over time but dition over time, but pro
viding a significant period during the growin season may help improve ment to occur more quick
ly. Practicing some form o rotational stocking system
is often a practical way to implement a rest perio

## Erral

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 Steven Hamlin (602) 402-6008 (H)(620) $222-1199(\mathrm{M})$

Chris Locke

## Works today, not tomorrow? Combating antibiotic resistance in cattle


that point, "they'd only been given one antibiotConcerning but, she says, "It's important to
note that this was not related to an unusually high rate of morbidity and mortality."
More research is needed to determine the level that would ca
ment failure.
ment falure.
Woolums and her colleagues completed an additional study that took those same swabs at four points from day one to day 21. It showed the number of cattle shedding the bacfirst day to $88 \%$.
"That's
textbook,," we didn't really expect was that the pattern of multi-drug resistance would completely follow
it." By day seven, $80 \%$ of By day seven, $80 \%$ of
the bacteria were resistant to multiple drugs, and
they were genetically dithey were genetically di-
verse, meaning they didn't
dire warning, Woolum says, but more of a cau tion sign. More research is needed and best practice
need to follow suit. "The No. 1 goal is ef ficient use of antibiotics,
that we're really heading off problems before they start," says Brandi Karisch, Mississip specialist. "Good animal specialist. "Good animal
husbandry and hygiene practices, routine health exams and vaccinations." To lessen the chanc es of needing treatmen limit stress, improve n trition and identify dis ease earlier, she says. "S toring those cattle." Then use antibiotics
sparingly-only for the sparingly-only for th tle-and use them right follow label instructions
work closely with your veterinarian and observe proper withdrawal times "Treat for the recom mended time period,"
sops taking the antibiot ic?" The Centers for Dis ease Control (CDC) ha
already flagged this as already flagged this as growing area of concern.
"Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest pub lic health challenges o our time," Karisch says
citing the CDC citing the CDC. More than
2.9 million 2.9 million people get a antibiotic-resistant infec
tion each year. "So this i just on the livestock sid of things, but in human medicine as well."
$\qquad$ tool your veterinarian ha
today will work for today will work for years
and there's a chance and there's a chance
won't work next week. yet. The negative impa on morbidity or mortality dent," Karisch says. "Bu there's that 'yet'
along with that.
"In the meantime, it's really important tha
we're doing a good taking care of those cows,

Pork Board develops content to help parents now filling the role of teacher
$\qquad$ and engaged during the coronavirus crisis, thanks
to free materials developed in conjunction with hundreds of thousands of adults and young people working and learning from
home during the global home during the global
pandemic, parents are pandemic, parents are
looking for ways to keep
their students occupied their students
and informed. "The coronavirus pan-
demic has presented sigdemic has presented sig-
nificant challenges for nificant chaslenges for
many families,"said Angie
Krieger, vice president of

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