Livestock industry mourns death of Mervin Editor's note: The staff at Grass & Grain joins those in the livestock industry in mourning the death of Mervin Sexton.

"Merv had been a friend of Grass & Grain since it's early days," said publisher Tom Carlin. "I have fond memories of sitting with a cup of coffee at the Kreem Kup – next door to our building – listening to Merv and Dean Coughenour, founder of G&G, discuss topics of the day. He will be missed."

Following is the obituary for Mervin.

Mervin L. Sexton

Mervin L. Sexton was born on December 17, 1932 south of Abilene on the family farm to Lee and Katie (Burton) Sexton. He attended the Knox School District 44 from the 1st through the 8th grade and graduated from Abilene High School in 1950 where he met the love of his life, Cecelia Ann Zey Sexton.

After graduation Mervin entered the Navy on November 1950 and while home on his second 30-day leave, was stricken with polio and retired from the Navy in May of 1953. Following the Navy, he attended Brown Mackey in Salina where he gradu-

ated with an accounting



degree in 1957, and began his lifelong career in the livestock auction market industry at Reynolds Sale Barn in Abilene. On June 15, 1958 he went to

work for then Koenig Sale

Barn in Manhattan where he bought in as a partner and was owner/operator of the current Manhattan Commission Company Inc. from 1969 until present, where he was admired and

respected by the cattle industry members. Along with the sale barn Mervin also owned the KSS Truck Line Inc., Manhattan Livestock Exchange Inc., Sale Barn Café and Lee's Western Wear, were added throughout the years to his accomplishments.

Mervin was a member of Seven Dolors Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, the Elks Club, the Eagles Club, the VFW, the American Legion, and the

Mervin and Cecilia were united in Marriage on March 3, 1953 in Great Lakes, Illinois and were blessed with 5 children, Jarda Fitzwater (Bruce) of Derby, Kansas, Mark Sexton (Nikki) of Manhattan, Christine Graham of Topeka. Jill Ross of Manhattan, sister Melva Loader of Enterprise, 16 grandchildren, and one step-grandchild. He is preceded in death by his daughters Amy Hodges. Deanna Sexton, and sister Ilene Sexton Ross.

His legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him; he was a kind, fair, courageous, extremely intelligent man with a love for God, his family, and his Sale Barn. We will forever miss this gentle man who always has

a kind word for everyone and who was a role model for many

Mervin passed away Monday, December 1, 2020 at his home in Manhattan at the age of 87. Mass of Christian Burial for Mervin was held Saturday, December 5, 2020 at the St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Abilene with Father Kerry Ninemire as Celebrant. His final rest-

ing place will be in the Mt.

Abilene. Memorial contributions may be made to the Beau Miller Scholarship Fund or to Seven Dolors Catholic Church and may be dropped off or sent in care of the Martin-Becker-Carlson Funeral Home, 414 NW 3rd, Abilene, Kansas 67410. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.martinbeckercarl-

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For our sale Friday, Dec. 4 light steer & heifer calves were selling at fully steady to strong prices. Heavy weight calves carrying extra flesh were selling lower. Cull cows and bulls sold \$2-\$3 lower.

STEER CALVES -

403@210.00 Waverly 7 blk St. George 5 blk 425@206.00 Waverly 8 blk 319@196.00 Soldier 455@187.00 Frankfort 12 blk 460@181.00 St. George 6 blk 527@173.00 Linwood 7 blk 510@171.00 Linwood 4 blk 461@170.00 516@165.00 Soldier Abilene 4 blk 523@164.00 Westmoreland 5 blk 496@161.00 Soldier 4 blk 526@160.00 9 blk 542@159.00Allen 6 Hereford 528@144.50 Longford

 550-900 LBS. Manhattan 13 blk 636@156.00 Soldier 11 blk 574@155.00 6 blk 591@154.00 21 blk 9 blk 11 blk 5 bwf 10 blk 8 xbred 5 blk 28 xbred

Wilsey 631@149.00 Alma Soldier 626@148.00 674@147.00 Manhattan Easton 564@147.00 643@146.00 St. George Alta Vista 623@144.00 Manhattan 698@143.00 Basehor 742@142.75 Waterville 4 char 651@141.00 664@140.00 Mayetta 5 mix Manhattan 9 Hereford 580@140.00 Hoyt 13 blk 673@139.50 4 blk Hollenberg 682@139.00 Randolph 4 bwf 738@138.00 Abilene 5 blk 639@138.00Whiting 56 blk 852@137.00 Manhattan 5 blk 608@137.00 Valley Falls 11 blk 703@136.00 Alta Vista 10 blk 706@136.00 Manhattan 9 xbred 687@136.00673@136.00 **Bonner Springs** 5 blk Wakarusa 7 blk 747@134.50 Easton 5 xbred 727@132.50 Hoyt 28 blk 775@132.00 790@131.00 Mayetta 11 mix Alma 13 blk 739@131.00 Mayetta 4 blk 873@130.50 11 xbred 887@130.50 Basehor

Alta Vista 8 blk 752@130.00 4 Hereford 780@125.00 Alma 634@125.00 Alma 5 Hereford **HEIFER CALVES -**275-550 LBS. **Baldwin City** 403@170.00 9 blk Waverly 7 blk 340@169.00 Waverly 5 blk 396@168.00 Olsburg 12 blk 445@168.00 Soldier 4 blk 423@165.00 Hovt 5 blk 297@163.00 Linwood 7 blk 407@162.00 Linwood 5 blk 475@159.50 480@157.00 **Baldwin City** 10 blk Soldier 13 blk 517@155.00 Westmoreland 7 blk 523@153.50

7 Hereford 372@148.00 Alma 496@148.00 Blaine 5 blk 6 blk Soldier 548@147.50 Valley Falls 7 blk 526@145.50 489@142.00 St. George 7 blk 12 Hereford 501@135.00 Longford HEIFERS — 550-850 LBS. Wilsey 6 blk 565@153.50 Randolph 5 bwf 572@142.00 4 blk 578@139.00 8 blk 615@135.50 16 blk 603@134.00

St. George Valley Falls Alma Mayetta 7 blk 665@132.50 Hollenberg 4 blk 716@132.00 702@131.00 Manhattan 4 blk Alta Vista 13 blk 623@131.00 Hovt 16 blk 675@129.25 Alma 10 blk 699@128.00 Basehor 12 blk 805@128.00 827@128.00 Blaine 4 bwf 19 blk 755@127.75 Hoyt Basehor 18 xbred 721@127.50 Firth, NE 4 blk 675@127.50 Alta Vista 13 blk 754@126.00 Alta Vista 580@126.00 4 blk Mayetta 5 mix 824@123.00 4 Hereford Alma 642@110.00

COWS & HEIFERETTES — 800-1,900 LBS 876@114.50 Leavenworth 3 blk 1000@109.00 Falls City, NE 2 blk Manhattan 815@104.00 1 blk 1 Cross 920@90.00 Onaga Manhattan 1 blk 1085@71.00 Manhattan 1 blk 1080@67.00 Frankfort 1 blk 1685@66.50 1895@66.50 1 blk Clyde 1635@65.00 1 Cross Onaga 1770@62.00 Onaga 1 blk Belvue 1 blk 1375@61.00 1510@60.00 Alma 1 blk 1 blk 1115@59.00 Randolph 1 blk 1575@59.00 Onaga 1655@58.00

1190@55.00 Frankfort 1 blk Frankfort 1 blk 1310@54.50 1465@53.50 Frankfort 1 blk 1330@53.00 **Bonner Springs** 1 blk Manhattan 1 blk 1225@48.50 1380@47.00 Marysville 1 blk Alma 1 blk 1370@45.00 Marysville 1270@45.00 1 blk **COW/CALF PAIRS**

1 blk

1 blk

AGE @1360.00 3 blk SS 2 bwf SS @1350.00

SS

BM/OO

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@1300.00

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COWS AGE BRED Falls City, NE 18 blk 5-6 @1435.00 2 5-7 @1410.00 Falls City, NE 12 blk 2

Topeka 2 blk 2 7-8 @1310.00 Topeka 4 blk 2 5-6 @1275.00 Falls City, NE 5 bwf 5 @1200.00 3 Hols 3 @1025.00 Manhattan 4-5 4 Heref 5-6 4-5 @1000.00 Alma

2 Simm

2 blk

2 Heref 2090@76.50 1 Heref Vermillion 2 Heref Manhattan 1 Cross 2475@73.00 Marysville 1 blk 1845@72.50 2 blk 2075@71.00 Wheaton 1 Heref **BABY CALVES**

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR DEC. 11

- 80 Choice reputation blk Angus, Red Angus, & BWF strs (70) & hfrs (10), weaned 65 days/ complete Spring shots/ Bovishield Gold at pre wean, 600-725 lbs.
- 65 Choice reputation Red Angus strs, weaned 120 days/ all shots, 600-725 lbs.
- 12 Choice rep., repl. quality Red Angus hfrs, weaned 120 days/ all shots, 575-625 lbs. 140 choice reputation Angus age & source verified bwf, blk, & Red Baldy cross strs, 2
- rds Zoetis wean vac program shots/ weaned 60 days. 600-725 lbs. 26 Balancer & Ang strs & hfrs, fence line weaned 45 days, bunk broke, 2 rds Bovishield
- 5 & Bovishield one shot, poured Dectomax, 400-650 lbs. 28 blk BWF strs, weaned 40 days, 2 rds shots, 650-700 lbs.
- 7 blk hfrs, weaned 60 days, 2 shots, 450-550 lbs.
- 20 blk homeraised strs, long weaned/ all shots/ knife cut, 450-550 lbs



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- 45 choice South Dakota origin Angus 1st calf OCV hfrs Al bred to Conneally Emerald for
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40 choice Angus 1st calf OCV hfrs bred to LBW Angus bull for Feb-March calves, all shots

- day calving. 1st round scourguard.
- 90 big fancy blk Angus 1st calf hfrs, Mytty In Focus Angus & Final Answer Angus bulls
- turned in May 1 thru Aug 1 for 90 day calving. Stay bred/ Lepto/ Alpha 7 shots. 21 blk bwf 1st calf hfrs bred LBW Angus bulls to start calving Feb 5.
- 16 big fancy Blk Angus 1st calf OCV hfrs Al bred to Gardner 100X to calve Feb. 8, cleaned up 60 days with LBW Dale Banks Angus bulls, ultra sound preg checked, all shots plus
- 90 Big Fancy Angus 1st calf (OCV) hfrs, bred to LBW Bredemeier Angus bulls due Feb. 15 for 60-day calving.

BRED COWS

- 59 blk Angus cows, 4 yrs and older, bred Angus bull for Spring calves.
- BICHELMEYER LAND & CATTLE 2019 Red Angus Commercial Producer of the year will be selling 98 Fancy Red Angus Northern origin (OCV) cows (all 5 yrs), bred Registered Beber Red Angus & Registered Six Mile Red Angus bulls for 55 day calving starting Mar 5. (Current on all shots/ mineral program)
- 100 choice blk, bwf cows, 3-6 yrs, bred Angus or blk Simm bull, due Feb. 5.
- 35 blk cows, 4-6, bred to BJ Slocomb Angus bulls late April for Feb.-March calves.
- 15 blk cows, 7 yrs to SS, bred Angus for Feb.Mar. calves. 18 choice blk cows, Al sired from Angus & SimmAngus bulls, the Dams are Sunflower
- Supreme Angus cows. Cows are bred to calving ease blk Heref bull to start calving late Feb. for 45 day calving period.

BULLS

- (1) 20 month old Reg. Red Angus bull, semen & Trich tested. **PAIRS**
- COMPLETE DISPERSAL 9 blk cows, 5 yrs to SS, w/ Aug-Sept. calves by side.

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EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR DEC. 18

- 100 choice reputation Angus & SimmAngus strs & replacement quality hfrs, 3 rds shots,
- weaned 60 days, 600-800 lbs 118 blk strs & hfrs, 1 complete rd Fall shots, weaned 60 days, 500-700 lbs.

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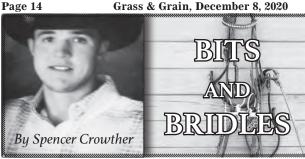
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AgMan

What makes a superhero? Is it the cool name, the outfit, or the powers? Do you only become a hero if you have a movie franchise, comic book, or action figure? Have all modern day heroes been limited down to social influencers, actors, musicians, and athletes? We have put the hero moniker on people who actually added nothing to our lives entertainment.

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Though entertainment is a good thing, scoring a point, singing a song, or making a viral video is not heroic. True heroics now are

less noticed and recognized. Those true heroes are saving property from burning to the ground, molding our youth, caring for us when sick, protecting lives at home, and protecting our freedoms far from home. These heroics are overlooked because

from the sacrifice made. We do not personally feel affected by that sacrifice, and we take for granted the simplest things in our lives that matter most. I'm sure you can tell I'm speaking about firefighters, teachers, doctors, law enforcement, and soldiers, but I would like to throw one more in there: the farmers and ranchers. The name AgMan would fit well. Able to

we are so far removed

work ground in a single day, do books in a single night, and defeat the evil thistle in the pasture and pigweed in the field. These are much scarier villains than Lex Luthor or Tha-The costume is the

identifying marker for

every superhero. Superman has the "S" and cape, Spider-Man has the mask and spider symbol, and Batman his all black and mask. AgMan's is coveralls with an impenetrable layer of grease and manure. Instead of a mask he has the ball cap of invisibility, pulled down tight, his identity stays safe. No utility belt like Batman or Iron Man, but every pocket full of weapons and tools to take on the enemy of the day. Batman has the Batmobile, and AgMan has the Agmobile; fully equipped at all times for anything that could be thrown at him from the many farm and ranch villains trying to defeat AgMan. So if AgMan had a movie franchise, what would he

second year. Recruitment

for the next class will also

class associates have al-

ways stepped up to the

needs in our communi-

ties and many are helping

to meet those challeng-

es during this uncertain

time amidst COVID-19."

Baccus said. "The health

and welfare of the class,

their families and commu-

nities is always the utmost

priority, especially during

this pandemic time in our

Zimmerman said the risk

of compromising the ex-

KARL president Jill

"KARL alumni and

be delayed.

built like Superman or Batman with a incredible physique. He is more likely to have a extra layer to him. That layer provides immortal protection from injury, and under that Kevlar shield lies superhuman strength. Strength that carries newborn calves to a warm barn during a storm, ability to carry seed bags great distances across the field, and twist rust-seized bolts with ease. His eyes would not be able to see through walls, but they would be able to foresee a animal getting sick, and use superhuman intuition to save them before it's too late. He would not be able to fly like Superman, but he could move at superhuman speeds to get

"I believe the board

has made a sound deci-

sion to delay program-

ming due to circumstanc-

es related to the pandem-

ic. This is a short-term

pause, yet puts the best

interest long-term for

the class members and

the program. Kansas has

a premier program built

over the past 30 years.

We've made much prog-

ress this past year and

our goal is to become even

stronger when this pan-

is adjusted, Zimmerman

said efforts are ongoing

to protect and build upon

the sustainability and

ership are committed to

their work for overall ex-

cellence and finding ways

to best meet the needs

of our state," Zimmerman

said. "Our focus areas in-

clude reviewing all fac-

ets of the program and its

curriculum, resource de-

"Our staff and lead-

While the schedule

demic is behind us."

perpetuity of KARL.

be like? He wouldn't be

the crop in before the rain and out before the snow. AgMan wouldn't have telepathy, but he would be able to feel when his child was upset, and then switch his superhuman strength to superhuman compassion and caring. Leaping tall buildings in a single bound is out of the question, but he helps lift up a community in a time of

For every one AgMan and AgWoman 166 people are fed. 60 years ago they only fed 26. 2.6 million people are involved in agriculture in the U.S., that is just 1.3% of the population. That 1.3% is helping feed and clothe the entire world. If you ask me, that is a pretty good superpow-

KARL reschedules seminars and travel during COVID-19 pandemic

and Rural Leadership, a program that helps to develop leaders for agriculture, business and 19 pandemic.

in-person contact, travel, and its international study tour to the United Arab Emirates, scheduled for 2021.

rural communities, has announced that it has rescheduled seminars and travel due to the COVID-KARL chair Steve Baccus said the board unanimously agreed to delay

The pause begins as

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~ Russell Reichart, Holton ~





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perience through completely remote programming would be too high to justify the current class moving forward right now. "The situation does not allow effective delivery using an alternative manner that meets the program's standard of excellence, achieved through both experiential learning and transformational

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print publications."

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en leadership development for agriculture and

rural Kansas." Twenty-eight associ ates of the current class have completed the first of the two-year program experiencing five seminars across Kansas, and a national study tour to Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg. Applications for class 16 will begin in late 2021. Nominations are ongoing and can be made online.

KARL is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to developing leaders for agriculture business and rural communities, and is a member of the International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leadership (IAPAL), represented in 40 states and multiple countries.

More information about KARL is available online, or contact Zimmerman at 785-532-6300 or karl@ksu.edu.

GRASS&GRA

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We were unable to make it to the show due to last minute changes, and the Topeka Farm show has been postponed,

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Shocks to the beef industry were all part of 2020's "unprecedented" theme, but how the market responded was less surprising. There was nothing for it but to make new plans and keep going, said a RaboResearch analyst.

Dustin Aherin, animal protein vice president and analyst for Rabo AgriFinance, a RaboBank subsidiary, addressed those ideas at the virtual 2020 Feeding Quality Forum.

Cattle, labor, physical capital and technology make up the beef production equation, he said. When any of those fall out of balance, it's communicated through prices.

The 2019 Tyson packing plant fire and COVID-19 both threw the equation off, but with different effects. Where the Holcomb fire caused some destruction at one plant, the coronavirus pandemic brought changes in human health, plant adaptions and new technology across the entire supply chain.

"Looking at what happened here in 2020 with an extreme increase in fed cattle supplies and given "The collapse in prices really wasn't unexpected.' The what and why

The escalating disasters highlighted the tightening capacity at packing plants, especially in the last five years. When there aren't enough resources to turn cattle into beef, "It's tough to put a high value on those animals," Aherin That's what happened,

but why requires a deeper understanding of the financial environment. The pandemic created "risk-off environment," he said, causing investors

to pull cash out of the market and put it into assets perceived as safer. "In such a high-risk environment," Aherin said.

"it's really difficult to mo-

tivate buying in the live

cattle futures side of the

market.' Studies show small changes in beef tonnage result in large price changes, he said. The temporary plant shutdowns, labor challenges and the rapid shift from foodservice to retail caused major

changes in beef availabil-

cattle producers," Aherin said the prices and magnitude of changes were in line with research models.

Leaving the gate open What comes next? When so many decisions in 2020 were reactions to repeated rib punches, it's hard to catch your breath long enough to make

But agriculture often deals with heavy blows. Aherin recalled the global financial crisis of 2008 took seven quarters for foodservice recovery. After a COVID-19 vaccine helps tame the pandemic next year, "we're expecting closer to eight to ten quarters," he said, "and the trend of change will continue" in foodservice.

"We need to be proactive and willing to adapt," he said. "Consumer preferences, supply chain practices, food quality and convenience are going to be even more important than ever."

Opportunities are wide open for the beef industry, but it's going to take buyin and support from cattlemen to create a resilient, diverse and flexible

How do we let technol ogy disrupt established procedures to increase efficiencies, particularly at existing packing plants? Aherin asked.

"The big talk is to have more robotic fabrication and cutting," he said. "But there's more near-term potential in data collection and monitoring." Improvements in those

areas across all production sectors will help identify the best genetics and practices, he said. Traceability is another

benefit. Disease outbreaks not only threaten people, but as African Swine Fever has illustrated, also pose high risks to livestock and the food supply. 'We have to be able to

track, trace and control any sort of disease outbreak before it becomes a major inhibitor to the marketplace," Aherin

As consumers grow more curious about food production, source and environmental impact, it may pay to enhance documentation. Throughout the pandemic, branded beef led sales. That's still

tors, restaurants and re-

and gain market access.

Aherin foresees a fu-

ture where "a product

doesn't have access to

food companies, distribu-

management attributes the standards that those are emerging. Producers businesses have set for may not have to change their supply chains." much, just add verification to meet consumer demand

"We have to be really focused on the consumer and ready to innovate and be creative," Aherin said. Because when history is making jumps and bounds, "We don't want to be caught flatfooted."

KSU to offer online cattle marketing program Dec. 15

By Brett Melton, River Valley Extension livestock production agent

K-State Research and Extension, along with several Extension districts in north central Kansas, are conducting an online program to help producers with cattle marketing and end-of-year tax considerations. This program will be held on Tuesday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m. There is no cost to join. There will be two main speakers for this program. The first speaker will be Glynn Tonsor, agriculture economist for K-State Research and Extension. Glynn will discuss selling wintered calves, the subsequent spring, and selling calves at weaning in the fall. The second speaker will be Clay Simons, executive agriculture economist for Kansas Farm Management Association. Clay will be discussing end-of-year tax considerations for cattle producers. After each session, we will be hosting a question and answer dialogue for the participants. If you are unable to join, we will record the session so you can

To join the "virtual" meeting go to www.bit.ly/ ksucattle and provide us your name and email. A link will then be sent to the email that you provide to join the meeting on December 15th. If you need help signing up, contact any of the Extension offices in the following districts of central Kansas: Cottonwood, Midway, Post Rock, or River Valley.

If you have questions, please contact Brett Melton by calling 785-243-8185 or by emailing bmelton@ksu.

Cattle Chat: using crop residue as a beef cattle feed source By Lisa Moser good perimeter fencing

Most cattle producers will agree that hauling feed and delivering hay to the cattle in the winter can be labor intensive and expensive. Experts at the Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute point to grazing crop residues as one option to reduce feed expenses and minimize daily labor with proper planning and regular monitoring.

"Many producers have made grazing crop residues part of their management strategy because of the low winter feed costs associated with it," veterinarian Bob Larson. In Kansas, these residues are typically corn and sor-

To be successful, Larson said producers must plan for a water source,

labor to deliver it to the field where cattle are graz-

"A lot of times there isn't a pond on the crop field, so you have to haul out a tank in a way that doesn't tear up the field,' Larson said, adding that producers need to plan for the cattle congregating around the water source and potentially damaging the ground.

Another step in preparing the field for gazing is making sure there is adequate fence to keep the cattle contained, said Bob Weaber, beef cattle specialist and head of the Northeast Kansas Research and Extension

"Many of these fields are leased ground and they don't always have

reliable, consistent power year-round

As winter weather quickly approaches, the Propane Education & Research Council urges producers to consider how propane can keep your operation running smoothly and livestock safe year-round, without worrying about peak pricing or power outages. Propane-powered building and water heating solutions offer reliable, consistent power independent of the grid—an invaluable asset for many agricultural operations.

Propane equipment eliminates the risk of sudden power outages, which can wreak havoc on a farm or ranch. With propane equipment, producers do not have to rely on

"With propane heating equipment, producers can take back more control over

their farm, and the consistent and precise temperatures help them maintain healthi-

er plants and animals," said Mike Newland, director of Ag Business Development at

PERC. "At the same time, producers can cut unnecessary costs, saving 25 percent more

mal standby losses from a storage tank and demonstrate efficiencies of at least 90 per-

cent. Propane-powered building heat — including boilers, hot air furnaces, or radiant

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heaters—are highly efficient and offer thermal efficiencies of up to 95 percent.

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on them," Weaber said. "It isn't uncommon to see cattle out grazing on stalks with a single-wire strand of electric fence surround-

Weaber said it is especially important to check electric fence often so cows don't get out, and he stressed the importance of having a reliable fence charger. Nutritionally speak-

ing, Larson and Weaber agreed that cattle often select plant leaves and fallen corn ears when they first arrive on the field.

"The leaves and fallen ears hold a higher quality energy content as compared to the stalks," Larson said.

To manage the crop residue resource, Weaber advised producers follow

strip grazing protocols.

Strip grazing allows producers to monitor how much of the field has been grazed and forces the cows to clean up a section be-fore moving them off," Weaber said, noting that it also allows producers to assess the body condition of the animals in the herd to make sure their nutritional needs are being

If strip grazing isn't an option. Larson said cattle producers may need to consider additional supplementation as the winter months pass by.

"The longer you leave cattle on crop residues, the quality of what they are consuming decreases while at the same time the nutritional demands for gestating, spring-calving cows goes up," Larson said. "In that case, you may need to increase the protein supplementation as the season progresses.

To hear more about grazing crop residues, listen to the BCI Cattle Chat



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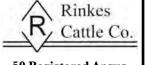
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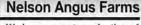
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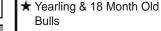
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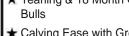
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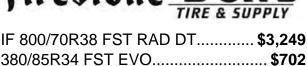
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Cover Crop Corner: what cover crops Co-Founder GO SEED

With Christmas just around the corner, we'll soon be exchanging gifts with those closest to us. As we look back on another vear of working with producers, researchers and technical experts to integrate cover crops into a variety of systems, many gifts they bring to the agricultural industry did not go unnoticed.

From extending grazing seasons to reducing feed and fertilizer bills, the right cover crop practices can improve long-term productivity and help create a more holistic and

profitable business. Below, farmers, researchers and cover crop experts share what cover crop gifts they are most

thankful for this year:

Thirteen years ago, David Holste of Holste Farms near Dieterich, Ill., began incorporating cover crops into his family's 980-acre corn and sovbean farm to improve soil health. What started out as an initial 80 acres of cereal rve between the corn and soybean rotation has since transitioned into a full no-till system with cash crops being planted "green" into a living, standing cover crop.

Mounting an air seeder to their 35-foot draper combine head, the Holstes broadcast cover crop seed while they're cutting beans, allowing the field to have an established crop all year. Not only does this reduce field traffic, but it significantly cuts down on labor requirements.

"Ahead of corn, we've

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started establishing clover so as it reaches maturity. it releases enough nitrogen to make an impact on our fertilizer costs without compromising yields. By having an established crop in the field all year, we've also seen a huge reduction in our erosion and weed issues." - David Holste, Holste Farms, Dieterich,

Harnessing improved genetics

Just like corn or soybean variety improvement, a lot of research and investments have gone into developing cover crop varieties with improved trait performance and consistency - something Jerry Hall, Director of Research of GO SEED has dedicated his career to.

In a recent trial by Mississippi State University, researchers assessed nitrogen availability, weed suppression and 90-day ground cover of more than 30 different cover crop varieties across four different research stations. Planted in the first week of October, cover crops were terminated on March 15 and April 1 to assess maturity impacts.

Across the board, researchers found the total nitrogen production above ground biomass to increase 19 and 27 percent and two of the locations when termination was delaved for two weeks. As a result, varieties part of the trial that were intentionally bred to be later maturing had a significant advantage over earlier maturing varieties. When looking at the 13 different clover varieties part of the trial, the latest maturing clover fixed 186 pounds of nitrogen per acre compared to a lower performing variety that only fixed 41 pounds of nitrogen per

While it should be noted that weed suppression ratings (1 = no suppression, 10 = total weed suppression) was varied across the four different research stations, there were stark differences between varieties within certain specie groups at each location. At one of the locations, the top performing winter pea variety had a weed suppression rating of 7 while the lowest performing variety had a rating of 4.

"Whether you are se-

lecting a legume or annual ryegrass, making selections based on trait performance and what will work in vour environment is essential to get the most from your crop. By utilizing improved varieties, you can take advantage of specific traits - whether that be weed suppression, nitrogen contributions or maturity dates - that will serve as solutions to your unique challenges. By sowing variety not stated (VNS) seed or an industry standard variety that has no quality control oversight, you are starting your cover crop system off on the back foot before it even goes in the ground. The solutions and knowledge on how to use them are available and becoming greater every day." - Jerry Hall, GO SEED, di-

Providing ground cover in less than ideal conditions

rector of research

There aren't many crops that will survive continuously saturated conditions from regular flooding. Looking for an option that would provide high quality forage in food plots used to develop trophy deer while also surviving in a field that has been known to flood upwards of 21 times in nine months, Chris Herring of Columbus, Miss., has found improved varieties of cover crops to be his solution.

"We use an improved variety of clover that has thrived in saturated conditions that historically drown out other crops. Part of this is due to its taproots, which can be more than a foot long, which hold soil in place and improve conditions in a bonus, the crop yields a high amount of biomass at 20-25 percent protein which is ideal for growing big bucks." - Chris Herring, Southern Forest Timber, Columbus, Miss.

Cutting feed costs

In the last 20 years, Jon Bansen of Double J Jerseys near Monmouth, Ore., went from feed costs taking up 50 percent of the farm's annual budget to it now only accounting for 10 percent. Milking 175 Jersey cows and rearing 125 young stock replacements on his 650-acre grassland farm, the majority of the farm's feed is grazed for-

To make this transition work on paper and with the farm's unique environment, Jon has utilized grazing mixtures consisting of upwards of ten different species with grasses, forbs, herbs and legumes to extend the grazing sea-"To be truly profitable

on a grazing dairy, 50 percent of feed for the entire year needs to come from grazing. So, if you feed cows 100 percent stored feed in the winter months, the grazed portion during the spring, summer, and fall needs to be in the 80-90 percent range during grazing to achieve that goal. Instead of grazing tight covers on our 30-day rotation, we take cows out when the grass is still at least five inches high to give stands more longevity. The combination of specie diversity and grazing strategy has allowed us to lengthen the grazing season and reduce irrigated water needs by two weeks on either side of the season." - Jon Bansen, Double

J Jerseys, Monmouth, Ore. **Covering your assets** Of all the gifts cover crops bring to the table, the greatest is how they work to support soil health. Cover crops are going to bulk up your land above and below ground - with biomass acting as a protecand harsh environmental conditions, which goes on to add organic matter back into the soil as the crop decomposes. An increase of organic matter going back into the soil is also going to feed microbes, contributing to an increase in soil health and fertility.

"Depending on the type of species in your cover crop mix, your field may benefit from nutrient contributions as the cover crop decomposes. Along with biomass, the extensive root structures of certain cover crop species will help hold soil into place to prevent wind erosion and eventually rain erosion. The same collaborative effort between roots and biomass will also reduce nutrient leaching by sequestrating things like nitrogen in the cover crop, making it available for future crops. These benefits alone will go a long way to protecting soil - your most valuable asset - while building a strong and productive foundation for the future of your business." - Brent Jones, GO SEED. Iowa research farm man-

Receiving your own cover crop gifts

ager

If you want to receive your own gifts from cover crops or improve how they are already working in your system, the most important step is to invest time into educating yourself about what will work best for your unique busi-

Read publications that share technical insight and producer stories, join evening Zoom calls with seed dealers that are discussing different practices, read about research and farm trials findings in your local area on the Cover Crop Information Map, and poke your head over the neighbor's fence to learn about what they are doing.

The gifts cover crops can give to your business are countless.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for September 296360₁

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Achievements

What is the greatest accomplishment of the 20th century? Sliced bread? The squeeze chute? Winning K-State football? Those are all right up there in my book.

But what about a serious answer to that question? One friend of mine said the Internet, because of how quickly it has changed things. Another said antibiotics and advances in modern medicine. Mechanization and improved transportation are other good answers. To me, a good case could be made for Thomas Edison harnessing electricity to power our homes, businesses, and daily lives. Think about what everyday life was like before we could use electricity in our homes. Without that, we couldn't practically operate lighting, refrigeration, computers, and everything that followed. But when an article in

The Smithsonian magazine makes a statement about the greatest achievement of the 20th century, I assume it is some intellectual finding. That is why I was so surprised to see this statement in The Smithsonian. It claimed that the greatest achievement of the 20th century was (drum roll, please): The synthetic production of nitrogen, primarily for fertilizer.

Nitrogen fertilizer is

the greatest accomplishment of the 20th century?? I don't expect to see that from an urban, cosmopolitan magazine such as The Smithsonian, Usually, such magazines ignore the contributions of agriculture. This particular article was about an unusual type of Mexican corn.

This article pointed out that synthetic nitrogen fertilizers helped enable crop vields to double between 1908 and 2008. According to the article, three different Nobel Prizes have been awarded relating to synthetic nitrogen. I am impressed when

an urban-based magazine such as The Smithsonian recognizes the significance of agricultural achievements. Sometimes our urban

cousins not only ignore the achievements of agriculture, they try to undermine them. For example, Sen. Cory Booker (D-New Jersev) has introduced the Farm System Reform Act. The bill has been cosponsored by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont). According to the online listing I saw, the

only senator more liberal than Bernie Sanders is Kamala Harris (D-California). Anyway, the Farm System Reform Act would, among other things, phase out CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations) in pork, poultry, and beef. In other words, they want to get rid of cattle feedyards. What is wrong with this

picture? Cattle feeding

has benefitted consumers immensely because of the resulting efficiencies. Cattle feeding has become a huge business in the state of Kansas. We have the grain, the climate, the natural resources, and the infrastructure which make Kansas a great place to feed cattle. There have also been major advances in scientific feeding and environmental management. If vegan Cory Booker doesn't want cattle feeding in New Jersey, that's his business, but don't be interfering with the entrepreneurial cattlemen of Kansas. I wish Senator Booker would channel his concern for the food system into more constructive areas, such as more support for ag research. In fact, maybe the great-

est achievement of the 20th century has been the enhancement of agriculture through science. This includes nitrogen fertilizer, advances in livestock

feeding, improvements in genetic seedstock, and the other outcomes of research and extension which have enabled American agriculture to become a world leader. It has happened in a market-based, free enterprise system led by family farms and has benefitted consumers around the world.

That's quite an accomplishment.

A Thank You Note

By Ron Wilson, Poet Lariat There are lots of unsung heroes

here in our world today: Teachers and police, the guy who brings the mail our way, First responder, waitress, firefighter, the forklift driver with the load, The store clerk, soldier, janitor, the trucker on the road. What about the moms and dads working hard to make ends meet, Those caring for the elderly, or repairing light or street? The welder and the preacher, the one who runs the big machine? The salesman and musician, the one who keeps our water clean? Those who volunteer in church? The one who cares for kids or cooks? Those who serve on clubs, committees,

Those in the county office, the nice lady at the bank? I appreciate all these that I should take the time to thank. But life could not go on without our daily bread, So let's recognize the farmers whose efforts keep us fed. Thanks to all the unsung heroes for contributions great and small, And a special thanks to farmers whose work helps feed us all.

or take time to keep the books?

Happy Trails! www.ronscowboypoetry.com© Copyright 2020

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\$195.00-\$161.00 \$195.00-\$162.00 300-400# 400-500# \$103.00-\$91.00 500-600# \$180.00-\$157.00 \$95.00-\$72.00 600-700# \$159.00-\$120.00 \$86.00-\$63.00 700-800# \$144.00-\$117.00 \$84.00-\$60.00 800-900# \$141.00-\$118.00 \$82.00-\$58.00 \$123.00-\$101.00 900-1,000# \$81.00-\$55.00 **HEIFERS** 300-400#

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\$103.00-\$90.00 Market Report for 12-3-20. 1,700 Head Sold.

HFRETTES: 1220#-750# \$108.00-\$98.00 COWS-HIGH YIELDING 2090#-890# \$75.00-\$60.00

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Study: Increasing frequency of meals may help pregnant sows Kansas State Universiods for the sow. other one happening right "So, we're trying to

ty swine nutritionists are making progress on studies that look at the best strategies for feeding sows prior to giving birth, work that they say will impact survivability and productivity in all phases of swine production. Jason Woodworth, a swine nutritionist with

K-State Research and Extension, said a trend toward increased litter sizes has led to challenges with lower birth weights, in-creased pigs born dead and longer farrowing peri-

find ways that we can help overcome these challenges without negatively impacting sow performance or adding unnecessary costs for the swine producer," Woodworth said. Woodworth and his col-

leagues on K-State's swine team will present recent findings on feeding sows just prior to farrowing during the university's annual Swine Day, which will be held online only on Nov. 18-19. Registration for this year's event is available

online. Organizers say they have had a record response to this year's online format; as of Nov. 12, they have 750 registrants, including more than 300 from 35 countries. Woodworth's presentation will take place Nov.

18 during a series of 15 to 20-minute presentations focusing on applied swine nutrition. The Nov. 19 presentations focus on feed safety and feed processing. We have conducted a

couple of large transition sow studies with commercial partners and have annow," Woodworth said of the university's trials with feeding pregnant sows.

There are several other studies taking place around the world on this topic, he said.

'Collectively, it does not appear that there is any specific diet formulation change that is the magic bullet to resolving the challenges faced by the sow prior to giving birth," Woodworth said. "However, we have learned that how we feed the sow is important; increasing the frequency of meals has shown the greatest benefit. Instead of feeding one meal per day - which is common - feeding sows two to four meals results in better

performance.' He noted, however, that like all research, newer findings can change recommendations and it's important for swine producers to stay current through

such events as Swine Day.

More information on swine nutrition also is available online from K-State's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.



Cost Effective Protein Supplementation The most cost effective forage a cow can consume is the forage she can

harvest herself. However, protein often times becomes the most limiting nutrient for cattle grazing crop residues and dormant grass pastures. In these situations protein supplementation is required to efficiently harvest energy from these protein deficient forage-based diets. Studies conducted at Kansas State University would illustrate that NGS protein

supplements support both gain and efficiency when fed in conjunction with protein deficient forages. Find out more from your local New Generation Supplements dealer, Key Feeds.



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VESTOCK SALES INC. Wednesday Sale, Hogs NOON • Cattle 12:30 PM

Report from December 2, 2020

STEERS

I	425	190.00	4	/ 10	132.50
3	388	185.00	12	670	129.75
3	457	173.00	4	743	122.50
2	590	151.00	1	965	113.00
13	663	142.00	TO	OP BUTCH	ER COW:
4	671	140.00	9	66.50 @ 1	,580 lbs.
3	805	139.00			
8	756	137.00	TC	OP BUTCH	ER BULL:
11	928	132.00	9	76.75 @ 1	,885 lbs.
	HEIFERS				•
9	538	145.00	BRE	D COWS:	\$825 - \$940

CONSIGNMENTS FOR DECEMBER 9: 50 Fancy Ang X 1st calf Spring bred hfrs. Video & additional info on our

Facebook page Blythe Family Farms
60 Ang X strs & hfrs ... 750-850 lbs ... w.v.
120 Ang X strs & hfrs ... 550-750 lbs ... 3x v. off cow.
46 Ang X strs & hfrs ... 550-750 lbs ... w.v. 50 Ang X strs & hfrs500-700 lbs 23 Ang X Ch strs & hfrs500-700 lbs . 130 Ang X strs & hfrs500-650 lbs 40 blk X strs & hfrs......750-950 lbs......yrlgs PLUS MORE BY SALE DAY!

Dec. 9th & 16th - Sale • Dec. 23rd - NO Sale Dec. 30th - Sale Jan. 6th - 1st Sale of 2021

Watch online with cattleusa.com

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JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS • Barn Phone 785-238-1471 Seth Lauer 785-949-2285, Abilene

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

Report from December 1, 2020

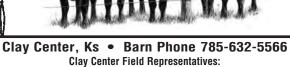
STEERS 172.00 3 118.50

10	710	172.00	O	112	110.00
4	589	153.00	4	1008	106.00
15	501	151.00			
43	886	145.00	TOP	BUTCHE	R COW:
61	892	142.00	\$72.	50 @ 1,64	18 LBS.
10	777	139.00			
6	838	127.50	TOP I	BUTCHE	R BULL:
	HEIFER	S	\$87.0	00 @ 2,24	10 LBS.
1	325	141.00			
4	590	139.00	BRED (COWS: \$8	300-\$1,060
2	493	135.50			
5	690	125.00	PAIRS:	\$1,2	25-\$1,235
D	ECEMB	ED SA	IFG	CHEL	JIII E:
	FORIND	En JA	LE 3	UNEL	/ULE:

Dec. 8th & 15th - Sale

Dec. 22nd - NO Sale Dec. 29th - Sale Jan. 2nd - Sheep & Goat Sale Jan. 5th – 1st Cattle Sale of 2021





Tom Koch, 785-243-5124 Lance Lagasse, 785-262-1185

EMPORIA

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

Date: 12/2/20. Total Head Count: 1.159. COWS: \$62-\$72.50: \$49-\$61.75: \$48 and down.

	BULLS: \$65-\$77.00		
	BULLCALVES 4 mix486@149.00 BRED COWS	24 mix863@125.50	
	4 mix486@149.00	57 mix928@127.00	
BRED COWS		15 mix953@123.50	
	10 blk1105@1435.00	24 mix960@121.00	

BRED COWS	15 mix953@123.50
10 blk1105@1435.00	24 mix960@121.00
4 mix1278@1075.00	STEERS
5 blk1331@1350.00	17 blk505@169.00
5 mix1411@1225.00	6 blk537@152.50
HEIFERS	21 bkbwf596@152.50
7 bkbwf449@151.00	7 mix614@147.00
6 blk473@150.00	37 bkbwf655@145.00
4 bkbwf549@134.00	6 mix676@139.50
21 blk575@132.50	7 bkbwf660@133.00
5 blk572@132.00	6 blk653@127.00
4 wf543@125.00	9 mix791@138.50
9 blk617@134.00	4 blk726@137.50
5 mix683@134.00	5 blk772@131.00
16 mix682@132.50	47 blk868@143.60
4 mix639@126.00	9 blk842@141.50
6 blk621@119.50	9 mix802@140.00
10 blk748@134.00	15 bkbwf809@140.00
8 mix734@133.00	65 mix839@137.50
11 blk741@133.00	18 mix808@134.25
66 mix808@132.10	34 mix878@132.50
5 blk813@132.00	55 mix931@135.50
l	l · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

12 mix......843@128.00 35 mix.....

4 blk......969@134.00 8 mix......1077@127.50 **EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR DEC. 9**

PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME

258 blk & bwf strs & hfrs, 100 days weaned, running out

NO SALE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd **DUE TO CHRISTMAS**

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The Kansas Department of Agriculture has been awarded \$331,846 through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. Funds for the program are presented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Marketing Service to increase opportunities for specialty crops. According to the USDA, specialty crops are defined as "fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture." KDA has selected other recipients to further utilize the funds.

The following is a list of Kansas projects that will be funded by the grant:

Prairieland Market, Increasing Specialty Crops in Prepared Foods and Retail Sales at Prairieland Market, \$42,655 (Saline County) — Through increased marketing, this project will expand community awareness of prepared foods and retail opportunities to consume local specialty crops that Prairieland Market in Salina will source from more than 12 local growers.

Extension Education Foundation, Promoting Specialty Crops in South Central Kansas through Growing Growers Learning Network, \$68,312 (Sedgwick County)

The foundation will build upon previous successes of the Growing Growers program and create a Growing Growers Learning Network to provide quality learning experiences for new, beginning, and socially disadvantaged producers related to recommended business practices, best food safety practices, and developing quality sustainable business.

Kansas State University, Building Capacity for Education and Research Opportunities at K-State's Willow Farm, \$55,692 (Riley County) — K-State will establish the Willow Lake Student Farm as the premier smallto mid-scale diversified farm research and training center in the Midwest by improving the farm's infrastructure for hosting and teaching for-credit courses, workshops, field days, short courses, internships, and volunteer opportunities.

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Specialty Crop Conference Education Support, \$35,732 (statewide) KDA will financially assist Kansas specialty crop growers to attend a recognized conference on specialty crop growing techniques and industry to increase their knowledge base and develop a plan of action to imple-

Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association, Growing and Sustaining the Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association, \$61,744 (statewide) — KSCGA will work to grow the reach of the association by: improving communication for specialty crop growers across the state, evaluating the current online/alternative marketing channels for specialty crops, upgrading the KSCGA member directory, and building a statewide Specialty

Crop Growers Support Bureau. Children First: CEO Kansas, Fresh Food Matters, \$55.995 (Sedgwick County) — Children First: CEO Kansas will educate area students about the importance of growing and eating specialty crops through experiential learning in four learning gardens throughout the area. Further programs will include teaching adults how to prepare specialty crops in a teaching kitchen, as well as distribution of information cards throughout

For more information including past recipients, visit the KDA Specialty Crop Block Grant web page at

www.agriculture.ks.gov/SpecialtyCrop. preferred nut tree Know the pros and cons of southeast Kansas ter in hotter summers and

By Jesse Gilmore, Wildcat **Extension District** horticulture agent

Pecans are a staple tree enjoyed by residents of southeastern Kansas and the surrounding regions of Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, but require some extra care when used in the landscape. A member of the hickory family, pecan trees are closely related to shagbark hickories, butternuts and pignut. Central Missouri is the farthest north the pecan tree's native range ex-

tends, so pecans do bet-

milder winters. Special care should be taken to select more cold-hardy varieties, as varieties adapted to southern climates could be severely limited, or even die in our freezing winters. Pecans require special attention as their canopies develop, because these trees are notorious for broken limbs. A common saving is that the best place for a pecan tree is "in your neighbor's yard." Careful pruning when the tree is voung to cull the weakest limbs and promote a good canopy shape will minimize potential breakage. If breakages do occur, clean cuts should be made to limit decay. Pecans are also poor compartmentalizers, so starting early in shaping the tree is crucial for its long-term success.

One of the major benefits of a pecan tree is its nuts, which command a premium price at markets and grocery stores. Unfortunately for homeowners with smaller properties, pecans must cross-pollinate in order to bear fruit, so cooperation with neighbors may be needed to have the necessary number of trees. Unlike most other fruit and nut trees, pecans go through years of high and low production, called mast vears. This is because pecan trees only produce pollen every other year in the wild. Commercial growers are most concerned with the Alternate Bearing Index of different varieties, which give the probability of having significant vield in non-mast years. However, the homeowner selecting pecan varieties should first look at cold-tolerance and disease resistance traits.

Pecans are unfortunately maligned by a large number of diseases and insects. Two of the most damaging in our area are the pecan weevil, and phytopthera shuck and kernel rot. The most obvious sign of the pecan weevil is the presence of a hole in the shell. This indicates that a weevil larva has emerged, and that the kernel has been fed upon. Culling these out at harvest or using the float test to separate them

will increase the likelihood you have desirable kernels. Pecans are also very susceptible to nickel and iron deficiencies, so keeping an eye out for these micronutrient deficiencies during mast years and applying supplemental fertilizer will maximize your potential harvest in the fall.

For more information. please contact Jesse Gilmore, Horticulture Agent, jr637@ksu.edu, (620) 724-8233.

With care, poinsettias can last through the holidays maintain proper however, does not contain For many, the rich color that toxin.

of poinsettias is a comforting symbol of the holidays. With proper care, the popular plant can last through the end of the year and beyond.

Ward Upham, a horticulture expert with K-State Research and Extension, said poinsettias should be kept in a spot where daytime temperatures are 65 to 75 degrees F, and 60 to 65 at night. "Temperatures above

75 will shorten the life of blooms, and below 60 degrees may cause root rot,' Upham said. "Place your poinsettia

in a sunny window or the brightest areas of vour room, but don't let it touch cold window panes. Move plants away from drafty windows at night, or draw the drapes to avoid cold damage." Upham called poin-

settias "finicky" when it comes to soil moisture. "Avoid over-watering

poinsettias because they do not like 'wet feet,'" he said. "On the other hand, if the plant is allowed to wilt (due to not getting enough water), it will drop some leaves."

moisture. Upham suggests sticking a finger about 1/2 inch deep into the soil. "If it's dry to ½ inch, the plant needs water," he said. When it becomes dry to the touch, water the plant with lukewarm water until some water runs out of the drainage hole, then discard the drainage water." K-State Research and

Extension has produced a video to help in choosing the best poinsettia.

Are poinsettias poison-Despite rumors to the

contrary, poinsettia leaves are not poisonous to humans or animals. Upham said that members of the Society of American Florists have tried to dispel the rumors in the past by eating poinsettia leaves at press events. He said the plant could

cause an allergic reaction to the milky sap in the leaves. There has never been a recorded case of poisoning due to a poinsettia, he said. Some members of the

genus Euphorbia, to which the poinsettia belongs, have a toxin that can cause vomiting. The poinsettia,

Upham at wupham@ksu. edu, or contact vour local

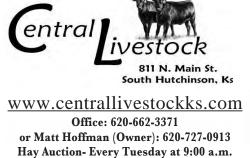
Upham and his colleagues in K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources produce a weekly Horticulture Newsletter with information on these and other horticulture-related topics. The newsletter is available to view online or can be delivered by email each week. Interested persons can

also send questions to

K-State Research and Ex-



grass and grain.com



Cattle Auction- Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. Hog/Sheep/Goat Auction- Every 3rd Saturday Horse/Tack Auction- Every 1st Saturday

Sat., Dec. 19th - Hog/ Sheep/ Goat Sale Sat., Jan. 2nd - Horse & Tack Sale

****STARTING TIME: 12:00 NOON****

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Livestock Auction every Tuesday at 12 NOON

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DORADO LIVESTOCK AUCTION, INC. 316-320-3212

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El Dorado, KS 67042 Market Report - Sale Date 12-3-20.

Light run with only 203 head. Market called steady. Thank you to everyone that made the Gold Buckle Cow Sale

a HUGE success. We appreciate all the consignors & buyers! THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020 SALE * 11 AM

51 running age cows bred char, calves average 650lbs start Feb 20th 20 blk & bwf bred heifers, bred heifers, bred to LBW Angus bulls, start Feb 15th

80 blk one ranch 9 to 12 years old cows, 25 of which have calves, Feb calves bred Final answer bulls

10 longhorn bred cows 6 longhorn pairs

80 Angus steers & heifers, Itw, shots, BB, 500-600lbs 38 mostly blk steers & heifers, ltw, shots, BB, 550-700lbs

 10 blk steers & heifers, ltw, 500-600ltw • 15 blk steers & heifers, weaned 30 days, shots, 450-550lbs 1 load steers, mostly blk, 800-850lbs • 50 steers, HR, Itw, shots, 850lbs

1 load steers, mostly blk, 850-900lbs 108 mx steers & heifers, 700-800lbs

102 mostly blk steers, 700-825lbs **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

Chris Locke

Check our website & Facebook for updated consignments: www.eldoradolivestock.com

information, please call the office at 316-320-3212

To stay up to date on our latest announcements you can "Like" us on Facebook Steven Hamlin Josh Mueller Owner/Manager (602) 402-6008 (H) (316) 680-9680 (620) 222-1199 (M)

(316) 320-1005 (H) (620) 367-2331 (H) (316) 322-0675 (M) (620) 345-6879 (M) Cattle Sale Every Thursday 11:00 AM

Van Schmidt, Fieldman

Eureka Livestock Sale P.O. Box 267 Eureka, KS 67045

620-583-5008 Office 620-583-7475 Sale Every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Sharp

Like Us On Facebook! On Thursday, December 3rd, we had 753 head of cattle on

a good market.

784@131.00 **STEERS** 3 blk 970@123.50 5 blk 578@146.00 **HEIFERS** 49 mix 771@128.00 10 blk 931@124.50 4 bkbwf 444@152.00 25 bkbwfwf

. 706@138.50 **BULLS** 3 blk 513@140.00 5 blk 745@137.75 12 bkbwf 561@138.00 3 Brang 577@138.00 3 blk 580@131.50 813@135.75 12 blk 641@135.25 6 blk 3 Bfmstr 698@114.00 5 MnAnj 712@132.50 10 blk 721@134.00 4 bkbwf 758@133.75 13 blk 865@130.00 3 bkbwf 927@128.00 5 bkbwf 646@133.00 Butcher Cows: \$30-\$72. Fleshy cows mostly \$64-\$72. Cutter

Butcher Bulls: \$59-\$86, mostly \$75-\$81, very active. Preg Cows: \$675-\$1,075. **BUTCHER COWS BUTCHER BULLS** 1 Rd Ang

cows \$48-\$62 on very active market.

1525@72.00 1 blkSim 2355@86.00 2145@86.00 1 blk 1675@72.00 1850@84.00 1595@71.50 1 blk 1 Rd 2 blk 1580@70.50 1 blk 1895@81.00 2 blk 1563@69.50 2025@80.50 2230@80.00 4 blk 1511@69.50 1 blk 1 wf 1500@69.00 1 Bfmstr 2320@80.00 2 blk 1313@66.00 1 Brang 1600@79.00 **EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR DEC. 10**

113 real fancy Angus strs, 800-850 lbs, all H.R., weaned 75 days, dbl. vac., all Dalebanks or Stuckey Angus sired.

250 blkbwf strs & hfrs, 500-700 lbs, vac. & off the cows, from 4 owners. 265 blkbwf strs & hfrs, 500-750 lbs, H.R., weaned & dbl. vac., from 3 owners.

60 mix strs/hfrs, 825-950 lbs, longtime weaned & trpl. vac. 50 blkSimX strs & hfrs, 300-500 lbs, dbl. vac. & off the cow. 24 blk Red Char cows, 3-9 yrs old, bred to Angus bull,

Spring calvers. December 17th

> last sale of the year We appreciate your business!

VALENTINE LIVESTOCK AUCTION CO. Valentine, Neb. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020

S.T. 12:00 Noon on Bulls; Bred Females to follow R-Calf Rollover Auction Donation by Tim & Dee Painter Nebkota Genetics is offering 40 hd of Angus & Charolais 2 yr olds selling at 12:00 pm. Dispersions & Liquidations:

Special Bred Female Sale & Nebkota Genetics Bull Sale

150 .blk, blk-x(30 rd-x)(SS to BM) bred red Ang; cf 4-1 for 45 days. Liquidating 8yrs & older Non pampered 12 & 13 wt. Ranch raised on Missouri River breaks Grage Rn (Cody 712-540-4230) 70 ...blk & Ang (6 to 10 yrs) (1275-1375#) bred blk Simm/Ang(Triangle J); cf 3-1 for 60 days.

Good trustworthy set, yearly vaccinated.Denny & Vicky Libolt (402-340-2600 or 340-1834) 75 ...blk (8 yrs) bred Ang; cf 3-15 for 60 days. Carry the influence of Final Answer, Angus

.. Jim Hanna(308-546-2580) Vic & Krista Torson (620-295-0213) 44 ...blk (34) & rd (10) (9 yrs & older) bred Simm/Ang; cf 4-1 for 60 days. Liquidation of cows

...Grage Rn (Cody 712-540-4230)

Bred Heifers: 60 ...blk (30) & rd Ang (28) & rdwf (2) (1000#) bred to proven LBW purebred rd Ang; cf 3-15 for 60 days Cake broke, easy to handle, HR, vaccinated & poured. Donating a rwf hfr to

39 ...bik & Ang (1050-10139) side A light Capital & Stuffer Solids (13-25 for 20 days. Gentle, cake broke, sorted on three times. Clint & Brynn Burney 40 ...bwf (F-1) (1050-1100) sync & A.I.d bred Ang (Hichok) cf 2-20, 2 days, most are sired Ang from an ABC Hereford cow. Big, roomy kind. Rick & Missy Weber (402-389-1406) 50 ...blk & Ang (1050-1100) sync & A.I.d bred Ang (Hichok) cf 2-20, 2 days. Front end of our . Rick & Missy Weber

A.I.d hfrs. Can carry the mail! Rick & Missy Weber 20 ...rd Ang & rwf (F-1) (1100) syn & A.I.d to (red ang) R Linebacker. Cleaned up red for 40

51 ...blk, bwf (1000-1075#) bred Ang (Connealy); cf 3-21 for 45 days. HR Connealy geneticsPowder Horn Rr

50 ...Hereford (1050-1150#) sync & A.I. bred heref (C Harlen & Ch Sensation); cf 2-25 Turner Ranch LLC (Lawrence (402-376-5248)

14 ...blk (1050#) bred Ang (10x sons); cf 2-20 for 30 days ... Other Bred Females:

450) from J&T Adamson (74), Hamilton (61), Williams & Martin (48), Doughboy (45), Balius (40), Ericksen (41), Epke (34), Corney Beef (30), R Adamson (65), Eide (10), Dewing (16), Green (10), Coble (25), Open Box (16). Check website for details View our special sales online @ cattleusa.com

Office: 1-800-682-4874 or 402-376-3611

Greg Arendt, Mgr., C: 402-376-4701 Greg Nielsen, Fieldman, C: 402-389-0833 Jake Hopwood, Fieldman, C: 308-627-4828 For complete listing visit our website: www.valentinelivestock.net



Schwieterman Market Outlook

A marketing commentary by Bret Crotts

Grain markets had a decent start to the week last week, with the corn making a new contract high last Monday, but we ended up seeing a reversal lower and an outside week down in the corn market, a reversal lower in the wheat, which was part of a string of four outside days in six sessions, as well as a reversal lower in the sovbeans following a failed attempt at a new contract high. That is a lot of words to say that the grains didn't have a great

So, are the bull markets in corn and beans in jeopardy? Probably not. It has been awhile since we saw a big daily sales announcement for the soybeans, and last week's sales number was another new marketing vear low of 406,900 MT. The problem for the bears is that sales level is about double what we need each week to reach the current USDA estimate, and it is highly likely that USDA will increase the export estimate when we get to the January supply and demand report this week. We need to slow demand much more than we are, especially if we continue to see weather issues in S. America.

As for the corn, we con tinue to see frequent daily sales announcements and large weekly sales totals. The corn isn't nearly as far ahead of the necessary pace as the sovbeans, and an increase in the export estimate is not likely unless we see another month or so of very large sales. However, South American weather is an issue for the corn market as well and the corn has a very good negative correlation with the U.S. dollar, which made new contract lows this week.

Wheat is still on its own. The wheat charts are definitely not as bullish as the corn and beans and the fundamental outlook is not nearly as good either. Export sales have been inconsistent and the only way to draw down wheat stocks is with export demand. Until we see consistently large export sales, the wheat will remain the weak link and the short leg of spreads.

The cattle didn't have a great week either. The feeder cattle futures did score some multi-month highs early in the week, but the feeder auctions softened and so did the futures. It didn't help that the cash live cattle market slipped a little bit, which put an end to that upward momentum. It seems likely that we will see both the live cattle and feeder cattle futures will make a return to the November lows. After that, I suspect we will see a strong run into the new year.

Schwieterman, Inc. is a full service commodity brokerage firm. If you would like more information on commodity markets or our brokerage services, contact Bret Crotts at 800-272-9131, www.upthelimit.com bret@swbell.net

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ing futures and/or options is substantial and each investor and/or trader must consider whether this is a suitable investment. Past performance, whether actual or indicated by simulated historical tests of strategies, is not indicative of future results. Trading advice is based on information taken from trades and statistical services and other sources that Schwieterman, Inc. believes are reliable. We do not guarantee that such information is accurate or complete and it should not be relied upon as such. Trading advice reflects our good faith judgment at a specific time and is subject to change without notice. There is no guarantee that the advice we give will result in profitable trades.

Foreign investors who hold agricultural land must register Foreign investors who buy, sell or hold a direct or

indirect interest in land must report their holdings to the local County USDA Farm Service Agency office by completing the form FSA-153.

The following individuals need to report within 90 days of conducting a land transaction:

Individuals who are not U.S. citizens

Individuals who are not lawfully admitted to the U.S.

Any organization created under the laws of a foreign government or which has located its principal place of business outside the U.S.

Any organization in which a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations or governments

Any foreign governments

Land to be reported includes agricultural lands:

Used within the last five years for farming, ranching, forestry or timber production of more than 10 acres in

Land exceeding ten acres in which ten percent is stocked by trees of any size, including land that formerly had such tree cover and will be naturally or artificially

Landholding totaling ten acres or less in the aggregate if producing annual gross receipts in excess of \$1000 from the sale of farm, ranch, forestry or timber production.

Investors should report land transactions and leaseholds for each tract. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the land. Form FSA-153 can be completed and submitted at the local FSA office in Westmoreland for Pottawatomie County and Alma for Wabaunsee County.

K-State swine researchers studying alternatives for feeding zinc oxide and improve feed intake

Kansas State University researchers are exploring alternatives for a mineral that is commonly used to help maintain newborn pig's health and growth, amid concerns that it may not be available in the future.

Jordan Gebhardt, an assistant professor K-State's Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology, said zinc plays an important role for a variety of functions in

"Pigs have a physiological requirement for zinc due to the functions it is involved with, including producing enzymes, immunity and nutrient metabolism," said Gebhardt, who presented the university's most recent research on the topic during K-State's Swine Day on Nov. 18.

"In addition to the physiological requirements, higher levels of zinc in the form of zinc oxide are often fed for the first two to three weeks after the pig is weaned from its mother to reduce the incidence of post-weaning diarrhea,

and growth performance." Despite its benefits,

zinc oxide is currently under scrutiny in the European Union, where control measures have been implemented due to a concern for its accumulation in the environment and potential effect on antimicrobial resistance.

For producers, Gebhardt said a potential move to ban the use of zinc oxide could mean the industry should be looking for viable alternatives now to be prepared in case of future actions.

"There will not be a single change or strategy that can be incorporated to fill the void," Gebhardt said. "We think there should be a combination of strategies, possibly including diet formulation, herd health and such management factors as weaning age, disinfecting facilities and a warm, draft-free environment."

K-State's swine nutrition team continues to look at the best alternatives for farmers, he said. The team

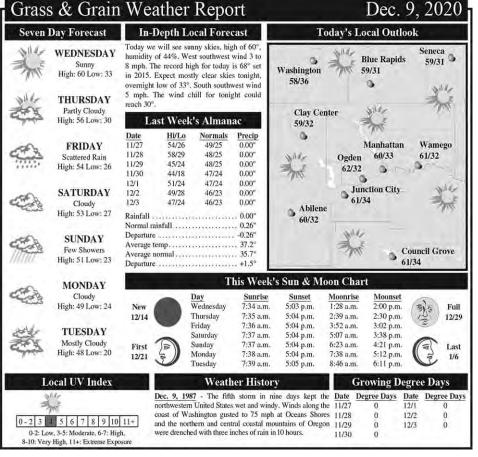
routinely posts its work on-

Gebhardt noted: "The use of zinc oxide provides significant benefits when used immediately post-weaning, so it is important that swine producers use this technology judiciously and be proactive in educating the public and policy makers about the importance of zinc oxide in swine diets on the health and well-being of swine.

The research was presented during Swine Day's Nov. 18 research presentations, which focused on applied swine nutrition. On Nov. 19, research presentations focused on feed safety and feed processing.

Much of the past year's research by K-State's swine team and graduate students is available on the Swine Day Research Reports, now available on-

This year's K-State Swine Day was held entirely online and attracted more than 800 participants





STARTING TIME



Buyers & sellers are welcome in the ring area with social distancing being practiced. You can watch the live auction at www.dvauction.com . If you need assistance with watching or bidding online contact DV Auction customer service at 402-316-5460. Thank you for your cooperation. If you would like approval to bid online from the safety of your home, please do the approval process on www.dvauction.com prior to Tuesday.

1 blk cow

547 @ 136.00

450 @ 135.00

515 @ 135.00

We sold 2540 cattle December 1. We had a good run 9 blk/bwf hfrs of high quality calves that were in good demand at prices steady to \$3.00 higher. Feeder steers & heifers were steady to \$2.00 higher. Cows & bulls were steady to \$3.00 lower.

32 bwf strs

128 blk/bwf strs

146 blk/red strs

11 blk/bwf strs

10 blk/bwf strs

40 blk/char strs

15 blk/red strs

62 blk strs

STEER & BULL CALVES 363 @ 181.00 3 blk strs 2 bwf strs/bulls 393 @ 181.00 440 @ 177.00 12 blk/bwf strs 3 blk/bwf strs 495 @ 176.00 2 blk strs 518 @ 168.00 2 blk strs 378 @ 166.00 2 blk/red strs 445 @ 166.00 6 blk/char strs 457 @ 163.00 7 blk strs 4 blk strs 6 blk bulls 4 blk/bwf strs 525 @ 154.00 3 blk strs 4 blk/char strs 5 blk/red strs 8 blk/bwf strs/bulls538 @ 135.00 STOCKER & FEEDER STEERS 2 blk/bwf strs 2 blk strs

12 blk/red strs 827 @ 135.75 530 @ 161.00 12 blk strs 665 @ 135.00 545 @ 161.00 23 blk/bwf strs 801 @ 135.00 523 @ 160.00 762 @ 134.00 11 blk/bwf strs 10 blk strs 778 @ 133.00 483 @ 152.00 910 @ 132.50 71 mix strs 539 @ 151.00 60 mix strs 961 @ 132.50 527 @ 150.00 61 mix strs 971 @ 129.50 25 bwf strs 707 @ 128.00 10 blk/bwf strs 633 @ 126.50 558 @ 163.00 **HEIFER CALVES** 553 @ 154.00 9 blk/bwf hfrs 432 @ 166.00 2 blk strs 605 @ 151.00 1 blk hfr 350 @ 164.00 9 blk/char strs 584 @ 150.50 423 @ 160.00 63 blk/bwf strs 857 @ 148.75 5 blk hfrs 455 @ 157.00 10 blk strs 606 @ 148.50 2 blk hfrs 425 @ 156.00 139 blk/bwf strs 815 @ 147.35 486 @ 153.00 4 blk/char hfrs 5 blk strs 606 @ 147.00 508 @ 152.00 3 blk hfrs 4 blk strs 628 @ 147.00 14 bwf hfrs 484 @ 150.00 17 mix strs 601 @ 145.50 461 @ 147.00 5 blk/red hfrs 5 blk strs 602 @ 145.00 372 @ 146.00 3 blk/bwf hfrs 645 @ 145.00 8 blk strs 2 bwf hfrs 425 @ 145.00 623 @ 144.50 5 blk/char strs 4 blk hfrs 518 @ 143.00 44 blk/bwf strs 629 @ 144.50 2 blk/red hfrs 493 @ 141.00

536 @ 129.00 STOCKER & FEEDER HEIFERS 4 blk hfrs 553 @ 149.00 8 blk hfrs 578 @ 138.00 69 wf/blk hfrs 714 @ 136.50 64 mix hfrs 793 @ 136.50 821 @ 135.00 65 blk hfrs 15 blk/bwf hfrs 849 @ 133.75 60 blk/red hfrs 751 @ 133.50 26 blk/bwf hfrs 765 @ 132.75 62 blk/bwf hfrs 831 @ 132.75 40 blk hfrs 580 @ 131.50 7 red hfrs 727 @ 131.25 72 blk/char hfrs 746 @ 131.00 604 @ 129.00 7 blk hfrs 72 x-bred hfrs 788 @ 128.75 832 @ 128.75 138 blk/bwf hfrs 7 blk hfrs 851 @ 128.75 7 blk hfrs 606 @ 128.50 26 blk/char hfrs 563 @ 128.00 71 mix hfrs 862 @ 128.00 867 @ 126.75 62 blk/red hfrs 9 blk/red hfrs 598 @ 126.00 11 blk/bwf hfrs 677 @ 125.50

2 blk/char hfrs

590 @ 144.00

840 @ 141.35

880 @ 141.25

640 @ 140.00

688 @ 139.50

911 @ 138.25

943 @ 137.00

644 @ 136.00

6 blk hfrs 868 @ 123.00 5 blk hfrs 728 @ 121.75 27 bwf hfrs 652 @ 120.50 **COWS & HEIFERETTES** 1 blk hfrt 815 @ 90.00

2 brang hfrts 1 blk hfrt 760 @ 83.00 1 blk cow 945 @ 79.00 990 @ 77.00 1 blk hfrt 1105 @ 72.00 1 blk cow 2 brang cows 1678 @ 65.50 1 bwf cow 2090 @ 65.00 1505 @ 63.00 1 blk cow 1620 @ 62.50 1 blk cow 1705 @ 62.00 1 blk cow 1 blk cow 1630 @ 61.50 4 blk cows 1589 @ 60.50 2 blk cows 1578 @ 60.00 1450 @ 59.50 1 blk cow 1 blk cow 1535 @ 57.00 1 sim cow 1550 @ 56.50 1660 @ 56.00 1 red cow 1330 @ 55.50 1 blk cow 1120 @ 55.00 1 wf cow 1280 @ 54.00 1 blk cow 2 blk cows 1268 @ 53.00 1 bwf cow 1420 @ 52.50 2 blk/sim cows 1390 @ 52.00 1 blk cow 1245 @ 51.00 1170 @ 50.50 1 bwf cow 1695 @ 50.00 1 sim cow 1565 @ 49.00 1 blk cow 2 blk cows 1460 @ 47.50 1 red cow 1185 @ 47.00

970 @ 86.00

1440 @ 85.00

1 blk cow

1 red cow

1 bwf cow 1405 @ 46.50 1 blk cow 1325 @ 46.00 1 blk cow 1405 @ 45.00 1205 @ 44.50 1 blk cow

1175 @ 43.00 2 blk cows 2 hlk/hwf cows 1190 @ 42.00 3 mix cows 1107 @ 41.75 2 blk cows 1040 @ 41.50 **BRED COWS & HEIFERS** 5 blk hfrs @ 1050.00 1 blk cow @ 985.00 bwf cow @ 960.00 @ 950.00 rn hfr 1 blk cow @ 835.00 blk cow @ 825.00 1 blk cow @ 785.00 1 char cow @ 750.00 weaned, vaccinated

1475 @ 44.00 **BULLS** 1 blk bull 1985 @ 76.00 1410 @ 43.50 1120 @ 75.00 1 blk bull 1 blk bull 2175 @ 74.50 1 blk bull 2040 @ 73.50 1 blk bull 2240 @ 73.25 1 blk bull 1850 @ 71.50 1 blk bull 1800 @ 71.00 1 blk bull 1695 @ 70.00 1 blk bull 1955 @ 68.50 1 blk bull 2135 @ 65.00 1 wf bull 2055 @ 63.00

1 blk bull

1490 @ 62.50

CONSIGNMENTS FOR DECEMBER 8:

- 45 SimAngus strs & hfrs, 500-650 lbs.
- 20 blk steers, 575-625 lbs., weaned, vacc.
- 130 blk bwf strs & hfrs, 450-600 lbs., vacc. 160 blk char hfrs, 650-675 lbs., long time weaned, vaccinated
- 75 blk strs, 700-725 lbs., long time weaned, vacc.
- 65 black heifers, 800-825 lbs. 62 black steers, 800-850 lbs.
- 60 black steers, 850-875 lbs.

61 black x-bred steers, 925-950 lbs.

CONSIGNMENTS FOR DECEMBER 15:

40 blk strs & hfrs, 500-600 lbs., weaned, vacc.

40 blk strs & hfrs, 650-800 lbs., weaned, vacc. LIVE ON DVAuctions.com

Our CONSIGNMENTS can now be viewed after 12 Noon on Mondays by going to WWW.Grassandgrain.com & logging onto the online subscription

WATCH OUR AUCTIONS

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

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

LELAND BAILEY LYNN REZAC **REX ARB**

TOPEKA, 785-608-4005 ST. MARYS. 785-456-4943 MELVERN, 785-224-6765



Livestock Commission Company, Inc.

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

AUCTIONEERS: DENNIS REZAC & REX ARB