ment of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Department of Agriculture are available to answer questions about

cultural needs. KDHE can also assist with questions concerning building debris and recovery from the widespread storms and wildfires that impacted

Kansas on December 15. KDHE district office personnel or County Emergency Managers can provide appropriate forms and assist with their completion, KDHE will issue

possible upon receipt of completed forms. If a federal disaster is declared, government agencies and persons who seek FEMA reimbursement for costs incurred for disaster response

approvals as quickly as

may need to demonstrate

prior authorization was

obtained for disposal or

open burning. The use of these forms will provide that demonstration.

To request forms or assistance completing forms, you may contact the county KDHE district office, county Emergency Manager or the KDHE Bureau of Waste Management at (785) 296-1600.

Links to some common

forms used to dispose of disaster debris can be found on the KDHE web-

Information about recovery resources, including mental health resources, for farmers and ranchers, can be found on the Kansas Department of

Agriculture website.

KLF, Cargill partner to help producers rebuild

\$100,000 to the Kansas Livestock Foundation (KLF), the charitable arm of the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), to help with relief efforts underway for producers impacted by the weather events of December 15. These and other funds will be used to purchase fencing supplies, feed and other priority needs identified by local KLA leadership in counties affected by severe weather and wildfires that burned nearly 400,000 acres. Livestock producers in the hardest hit areas lost fence, livestock and feed resources. Homes and outbuildings also were among the losses.

"Like everyone, we're saddened by the impacts

Cargill has donated recent severe weather had on farming and ranching operations across Kansas," said Hans Kabat, president of Cargill's North American protein business. "Cargill has long been a trusted partner for farmers and ranchers and we're proud to stand with KLA and the Kansas Livestock Foundation to offer our support in helping families begin to rebuild."

> Donations to KLF for relief efforts are welcome and encouraged. To donate, go to www.kla.org and click on the KLF wildfire relief link. Checks can be sent to KLF, 6031 SW 37th Street, Topeka, KS 66614.

> "We appreciate Cargill's substantial contribution in support of Kansas livestock producers

impacted by the fires and other severe weather," said KLA Chief Executive Officer Matt Teagarden. "With the help of Cargill and other generous donors, those affected will be better equipped to recover and rebuild.'

KLF has a proven process to equitably distribute funds collected, with every dollar donated going to those Kansas producers impacted by the recent weather event. Applicants do not have to be KLA members. Those interested in applying to receive funds can call the KLA office at (785) 273-5115 to be placed on a list to receive the application when it is finalized. Once completed, the application also will be accessible at www.kla. org/resources/wildfire-relief-resources

KLF was established in 1983 to operate solely and exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes that advance the interests of the Kansas livestock industry. For more information about KLF, contact Ryan Higbie by calling the KLA office or emailing ryan@kla.org.

Transportation and Agriculture departments urge end to reduced and poor service for U.S.-grown agricultural commodities

Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack urged the world's leading ocean carriers to help mitigate disruptions to agricultural shippers of U.S. exports and relieve supply chain disruptions created by the COVID-19 pandemic by restoring reciprocal treatment of imports and exports and improving service. Ocean carriers have made fewer containers available for U.S. agricultural commodities, repeatedly changed return dates and charged unfair fees as the ocean carriers short-circuited the usual pathways and rushed containers back to be exported empty. The poor service and refusal to serve customers is exemplified by many ocean carriers suspending service to the Port of Oakland. DOT and USDA are calling on the carriers to more fully utilize available terminal capacity on the West Coast. The Port of Oakland, Port of Portland, and other West Coast ports have excess capacity to alleviate supply chain congestion. However, the suspension of service by ocean carriers at the Port of Oakland earlier this year has required agricultural exporters to truck their harvests to the already heavily congested Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Restoration of service would not only ease the congestion at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach in Southern California but would allow the prompt export of American goods overseas and ease the strain on the supply of long-haul truckers necessary to transport goods from Northern California to Los Angeles and Long Beach.

The letter was sent to Ed Aldridge, President, CMA CGM America LLC; Tenny Hsieh, President, Wan Hai Lines America; Feng Bo, President, COSCO North America; Kee Hoon Park, CEO, SM Line; Benjamin Tsai, President, Evergreen Shipping Agency; Uffe Ostergaard, President, Hapag-Lloyd AG North America; Jeremy Nixon, President, Ocean Network Express; George Goldman, President, Zim American Integrated Shipping Services; Paul Devine, President, OOCL (USA) Inc.; Doug Morgante, Vice President, Maersk Inc.; Fabio Santucci, President and CEO, MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company USA; Cheng-Mount Cheng, Chairman and CEO, Yang Ming Marine Transport Company.

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- 75 choice reputation blk bwf strs & replacement quality hfrs, long weaned, 2 rds shots, 600-800 lbs.
- 55 blk, few Char cross strs, 825-875 lbs. • 55 blk, few Char cross hfrs, 775-825 lbs.

- 36 Hinkson genetics blk strs (30) and hfrs (6). Spring & Fall shots, weaned Oct. 15, 500-
- . 65 choice blk & Red Ang cross strs & hfrs, weaned Oct., 2 rds shots, green, 500-600 lbs. • 80 Angus strs & hfrs. green. 2 rds shots, long weaned, 500-650 lbs.
- 55 rwf, bwf, few blk strs, weaned Oct. 21, 2 rds shots, 550-600 lbs.



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- 40 big choice Blk 1st calf hfrs bred to Mytty In Focus & Final Answer Ang bulls for Feb. 1 calving for 75 days. Current on all breeding shots, plus 1st rd Scour Bos.
- 8 big Char 1st calf hfrs bred Red Ang for Feb.-March calving.
- 70 choice South Dakota origin Red Ang 1st calf OCV bred hfrs. Bred to Tanner, Kniebel, & Pieper 13-17 calving ease LBW Red Ang bulls for Feb. 1 calving for 75 days. Current on all breeding shots, plus 1st rd Scour Bos.
- 40 big choice blk 1st calf hfrs bred to Mytty In Focus & Final Answer Ang bulls for Feb. 1 calving for 75 days. Current on all breeding shots, plus 1st rd Scour Bos.
- 8 big Char 1st calf hfrs bred Red Ang for Feb. March calving
- 10 big choice bwf 1st calf OCV hfrs bred to LBW Ang bull for Feb. March calves. 40 mostly blk, few bwf 1st calf hfrs bred Angus bulls for Feb. 15 - March calves.
- 15 blk Sim 1st calf hfrs out of Dikeman LBW Sim bulls, bred LBW Dikeman Sim bulls to start calving March 1.

1ST CALF HEIFER PAIRS

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- . 60 blk, blk Baldy, Char (5), Red Baldy (4) cows, 6 yrs w/ mid July-Nov. crossbred calves by
- side. Ang & SimAng bulls turned in Dec. 1. Calves all worked.

• 8 blk cows, 3-8 yrs w/ late Fall calves by side. **BRED COWS**

- 80 blk & bwf cows, 3-5 yrs, bred Ang for Feb. & March calving. Cows worked & poured. 20 blk cows, 6-10 yrs, bred for March-April calving.
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Kansas Hay Market Report

**DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY, THERE WILL BE NO REPORT NEXT WEEK, DECEMBER 28TH. THE NEXT REPORT WILL BE PUBLISHED JANURAY

Hay market prices remained steady for alfalfa and grass hav, with movement slow. Most producers were busy cleaning up from the storms that marched across Kansas on Wednesday, December 15th. Damage ranged from minor, a few shingles off the roof or small tree branches down to devastating when wildfires erupted in 11 counties. In all just under 400,000 acres were burned, of which roughly 365.850 acres were scorched in the 4-County Fire that stretched across Ellis, Russell, Osborne and Rooks counties. Relief efforts are underway and information to help can be found at the Kansas Department of Agriculture website, www.agriculture. ks.gov. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for the week of December 14th, abnormally dry conditions (D0) increased to 31.5%, moderate drought (D1) decreased to 12%, severe drought (D2) increased to 7% and extreme drought (D3) bumped up slightly to near .70%.

** Prices below reflect the average price. There could be prices higher and lower than those published.

Southwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa steady, ground and delivered steady, movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, premium small squares 260.00-280.00. Dairy 1.05-1.10/point RFV, Supreme 195.00-250.00.00, Premium 180.00-205.00, Good 155.00-185.00. Stock or Dry Cow 185.00-195.00. Grinding alfalfa 180.00-185.00. Ground and delivered locally to feed lots and dairies, 195.00-205.00; Grass Hay: Bluestem, small squares 8.00/bale, 3x4's and 4x4's 85.00-95.00, large rounds 75.00/bale: Brome, none reported: Sudan: none reported: Wheat: large straw rounds 60.00-75.00. Corn stalks: large round 75.00 delivered. The week of 12/12-12/18, 7,377T of grinding alfalfa and 175T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought/sold.

South Central Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, alfalfa pellets, ground and delivered steady, grinding alfalfa steady to 5.00 lower, movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, small squares 255.00-275.00. Dairy 1.05-1.10/point RFV, Supreme 195.00-250.00.00, Premium 180.00-205.00, Good 155.00-185.00. Good, Stock cow, 170.00-180.00. Fair/good grinding alfalfa 155.00-165.00 delivered. Ground and delivered 185.00-195.00. Alfalfa pellets: Sun cured 15 pct protein 230.00-240.00, 17 pct protein 240.00-250.00, Dehydrated 17 pct 310.00-315.00. Grass Hay: Bluestem, large rounds 80.00-90.00, large squares 100.00-110.00. Brome: large round 95.00-100.00, large squares 110.00-120.00. Oat hay, good large rounds 120.00-125.00, good 3x4 squares 130.00-135.00. Sudan: large rounds 85.00-95.00. Corn stalks: large rounds 70.00-75.00 delivered. The week of 12/12-12/18, 7,625T of grinding alfalfa and 1,163T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought/sold.

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa steady, grass hay steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse or goat, 260.00-270.00. Dairy 1.00-1.05/point RFV. Good, stock cow 180.00-190.00, with an instance of premium stock cow 220.00-240.00. Fair/Good grinding alfalfa, none reported. Ground and delivered, none reported; Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares 120.00-130.00, good 3x3 squares 115.00-125.00, good, 3x4 and 4x4 squares 100.00-110.00, large rounds 70.00-85.00. Brome, good, small squares none reported, 3x4 to 4x4 squares 115.00-125.00, large rounds 85.00-95.00. Wheat Straw: 3x4 and 4x4 squares 60.00-80.00. The week of 12/12-12/18, 1,099T of grass hay was reported bought/

Southeast Kansas

Northwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered steady, movement slow. Alfalfa: Horse or goat, small squares 300.00-400.00 delivered. Dairy, Premium/Supreme 1.05-1.10/point RFV. Stock cow, fair/good 175.00-185.00. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, 170.00-180.00. Oat hay, 3x3 square 135.00-145.00; Sudan, none reported. Wheat straw, large squares 75.00-85.00.

North Central-Northeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grass hay steady, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered steady to 5.00 higher, movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, premium small squares, 9.00-10.00/bale. Dairy 1.05-1.10/point RFV, Supreme 195.00-250.00.00, Premium 180.00-205.00, Good 155.00-185.00. Stock Cow, 160.00-170.00. Fair/good, grinding alfalfa 140.00-150.00; Ground and delivered 165.00-175.00. Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares 6.50-7.00/bale, large 3x4 to 4x4 squares, 130.00-140.00 delivered, good, large rounds 90.00-100.00, Brome, small squares 7.25-8.00/bale, 3x4 to 4x4 squares none reported, large rounds 90.00.00-105.00; Wheat Straw: Small squares 5.00-6.00/bale, Large 3x4 to 4x4 squares 85.00-100.000. Certified weed free grass mulch large rounds, 80.00-90.00. The week of 12/12-12/18, 746T of grinding alfalfa and, 227T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought/sold.

** Prices above reflect the average price.

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

*CWF Certified Weed Free

*RFV calculated using the Wis/Minn formula.

**TDN calculated using the Western formula. Quantitative factors are approximate, and many factors can affect feeding value. Values based on 100% dry matter (TDN showing both 100% & 90%). Guidelines are to be used with visual appearance and intent of sale (usage).

Source: Kansas Department of Agriculture - Manhattan, Kansas, Kim Nettleton 785-564-6709.

K-State beef cattle experts discuss how nutrition and stress in utero impact animals for a lifetime

By Lisa Moser

During pregnancy, regular checkups are key for mother and baby to maintain good health. The same is true for beef cattle, according to the experts at Kansas State University's Beef Cattle Institute.

"In the case of replacement heifers, research has shown that if their diet was restricted when they were in utero, there can be some long-term negative implications for them as

they become cows," said Phillip Lancaster, beef cattle nutritionist on a recent Cattle Chat podcast.

Lancaster's comment came during a discussion about fetal programming.

"Fetal programming relates to how we feed and manage the cow during pregnancy and its impact on the calf's performance at birth and throughout its lifetime," said Brad White, veterinarian.

In extreme caloric re-

strictions that are the result of drought or mismanagement, veterinarian Bob Larson said there is likely a negative impact on the pregnancy.

"It is conceivable that a cow that appears to be malnourished will have a calf that is negatively impacted," Larson said.

In early gestation, malnourishment can impact the development of the gastrointestinal track and liver. Later in the pregnancy, it can impact muscle, ribeye size and marbling, Lancaster said.

"Nutrition has been the focus of the research, but the fetus can also be impacted if the cow experiences a stressful event while pregnant," he said.

To keep the cows in good nutrition, Lancaster said protein supplementation is important as well as adding energy to the diet and providing vitamins and minerals.

"If the cows are out on pastures with low quality forage, make sure you are providing them with a protein supplement," Lancaster said

White added: "If the cows maintain a good body condition throughout the pregnancy, it is likely that the calf will be born healthy, but for some extra assurance you may want to consult with a nutritionist to make sure the cows are getting what they need through supplements."

To hear more of this discussion, listen to the Cattle Chat podcast online.



diversified agriculture and natural resource agent, Wildcat Extension

District

As a child during the month of December, I would anxiously await Christmas, excited to see what presents I would find under the tree Christmas morning. Now, I get just as excited for kidding season and I would guess that many producers feel the same way. While anxiously waiting the first set of 2022 kids to hit the ground in the coming months, now is the time to make sure the nutrient requirements of does are being met to help ensure strong, healthy kids and does in the spring.

While preparing for kidding season, ensure there is adequate shelter for does and kids and that you are stocked up on the supplies you need. It is also important to ensure that does receive the nutrients they need during the last four to six weeks of gestation, also referred to as late gestation, when about 70 percent of fetal growth occurs. While the energy and protein requirements of the doe increase during late gestation, her rumen capacity decreases. This decreased rumen capacity means the doe cannot meet the higher nutrient requirements consuming more feed. Instead, the doe must consume higher quality, more nutritious feed. Supplemental nutrition is usually required, especially for does that are carrying multiple fetuses (twins, triplets, quads). Ensuring the doe has access to good quality forage, supplementing with grain if needed, will help ensure does are consuming adequate nutrients to support fetal growth, help prevent pregnancy toxemia (ketosis) and milk fever, and help ensure the arrival of

strong, healthy kids. Nutrient requirements will vary by age, weight, body condition, number

erally, does require 12 percent protein and 60 percent total digestible nutrients (TDN) during late gestation. To determine the protein and TDN in your hay, you can send in a hay sample for testing through your local Extension office. Not meeting the nutrient requirements of does can result in pregnancy toxemia (ketosis), low birth weights, weak kids, and poor milk production. Pregnancy toxemia (ketosis) is caused by decreased blood glucose levels (blood sugar) and a rapid breakdown of fat to maintain blood glucose levels and meet energy requirements. Calcium is an important part of the diet for pregnant does for bone development in kids and milk production. Does need around .4 percent calcium in their diet. If does do not receive enough calcium or have too much calcium during late gestation, it can result in milk fever. The ratio of calcium to phosphorus should range from 2:1 to 1:1 for pregnant and lactating does. Milk fever (hypocalcemia) is a blood calcium deficiency due to the body's system not being able to activate and mobilize calcium, which most commonly occurs in

dairy does right before or after kidding. While i is important to ensure the nutritional requirements of does are met, it is also important to avoid over-feeding with grain. Overfeeding can result in overweight does that have an increased risk of difficult births due to larger kids and pregnancy toxemia. Meeting the nutritional requirements for does includes managing the way they are feed as well as what they are fed:

· Weigh any supplemental grain to ensure they are fed the correct

amount. · Do not feed on the ground. Make sure the feeders are clean and

· Ensure there is adequate space at the feeder(s) for all does to eat at

the same time.

• Feed does that need supplemental feeding separately from does that do not need extra feed.

 Encourage exercise by placing feed and water in different areas of the

· When feeding grain, increase the amount they are being fed gradually.

 Remember that water is the most important nutrient. Requirements increase during pregnancy, almost doubling during the last month. Water should be clean and icefree to ensure adequate intake. If animals do not drink enough water, it can reduce dry matter intake.

Along with meeting the nutrient requirements, it is also important to check does during late gestation for worms. To determine which females need to be dewormed, check their FAMANCH score, evaluate their body condition and hair coat, and/or collect a fecal sample for a fecal egg count. Three to four weeks before kidding, does should be vaccinated for colstridal diseases and tetanus, as late gestation vaccinations are important to protect kids against enterotoxaemia. To vaccinate does, used. When kids are born, they do not have a fully functioning immune system. By giving the doe a CD/T or Covexin-8 booster before kidding, it will protect the doe and the kids will receive passive immunity through the colostrum and milk. Also remember when working does during late gestation, to make the handling process the least stressful for the does as possible.

For more information, please contact Adaven Scronce, Diversified Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent, adaven@ ksu.edu or (620)331-2690.



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Kansas Farm Bureau's End Hunger Fund helps at the local level

From Kansas Living magazine, a publication of Kansas Farm Bureau

Access to adequate, healthy, affordable food isn't a new concept. It's something every family strives for — to meet the nutritional needs of our kids and ourselves. What was new to many of us was the onset of a pandemic in 2020, how it impacted our food supply and how families found access to food. Through its End Hunger campaign, Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) hoped to ease the impact COVID-19 had on many Kansas families

According to Feeding America, 15 million children and 45 million people had limited availability or were uncertain about the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods last year. As the state's largest farm organization, KFB knew its work to help those experiencing food insecurity needed to be front and center through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

"With or without a global pandemic, it's important all families have access to food," Terry Holdren, CEO of Kansas Farm Bureau, says. "COVID-19 will have long-term impacts on the economy, and there's going to be more people who may have difficulties when it comes to adequately feeding themselves and their families. This is an opportunity to help them."

Phase one of the campaign focused on a partnership with Farm Bureau Financial Services (FBFS) to encourage county Farm Bureaus and FBFS agents to contribute to the fund, then KFB's Foundation for Agriculture matched their donation. The effort raised nearly \$100,000 that went to 148 locations to deliver food relief in all 105 counties across the state.

"We welcomed the opportunity to team up on this project to provide some hope in an uncertain time," Michelle Hubert, regional vice president of FBFS, says. "Farm Bureau Financial Services stands strong on helping Kansas communities thrive."

Hungry for More

The generous support and success of the first phase of End Hunger brought a second opportunity. The second phase of the program aims to provide grant funding for county Farm Bureaus and local FBFS agents to develop projects in their communities.

"We were thrilled with the success we saw in phase one," Holdren says. "This second phase will provide the same opportunities while also offering added flexibility to tackle specific hunger issues in communities head on."

Two county Farm Bureaus that participated in phase one have been awarded grant dollars in the second phase for their innovative ideas to help food insecurity in their communities.

Filling the Freezers

In northeast Kansas, Jackson County Farm Bureau coordinator Donna Ashcraft said her board of directors wanted to continue the work her county association and agents started in the initial cam-

"We participated in phase one of the matching donation program but wanted to get our members more involved in phase two," she says. "We had been discussing what we could do and started talking about purchasing 4-H livestock. A board member said, 'Why don't we take advantage of the premium we offer for the 4-H animal, have it processed locally and donate that to the food pantry? Everybody loved the idea."

The project was set in motion and Ashcraft visited with the local FBFS agents, who were all supportive of the idea of "Filling the Freezers" - the name of the project funded through KFB's End Hunger grant.

"The three agents each contributed to the effort, and they eagerly agreed to work with us," Ashcraft

The county Farm Bureau and FBFS agents -Rob Wareham, Mitchell Nicol and Casey Patterson - purchased a steer at the 4-H livestock sale paying the floor price and the premium. The steer was processed locally and packaged into one-pound servings of ground beef that went to the JCMA New Hope Center Food Pantry.

"Farmers and ranchers know how important it is for all families to have access to safe, nutritious food," Garrett Holaday, Jackson County Farm Bureau president, says. "We are excited to be a part of the solution."

"We're advocating for agriculture by doing this public service because we're offering this food we grow and nurture to those who are in need." Ashcraft says. "People see that we're producing food not just for profit, we're producing it for the good of others, too."

Filling the Freezers is expected to provide nearly 2,400 servings of fresh, local, nutritious protein to Jackson County community members.

Healthy Food Prescription

Program Three years ago, Riley County and the City of Manhattan jointly appointed the Manhattan Food and Farm Council Since then, many partnership initiatives have helped increase avenues of food access for neighbors in the community.

"The Food and Farm Council's purpose is to serve as the local food system communication, advocacy and education network of partners," Vickie James, registered dietitian and coordinator for the Farm and Food Council, says. "Together we tackle food issues that are too challenging to resolve independently.

"Our three focus areas are reducing food insecurity by increasing access to healthy food, reducing food waste and increasing education for things like food skills, food safety and healthy eating.'

The Food and Farm Council is a partner of the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition. Its mission is to create a healthy, equitable community through policy, systems, environmental and personal change. It was this coalition that took the initial leadership role to apply for, and was ultimately awarded, a grant through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas called "Pathways to a Healthy Kansas."

"The Pathways to a Healthy Kansas grant is structured with the opportunity to select different packages of work that fit the challenges and needs in your community," James says. "For Riley County and the Food and Farm Council network of partners, that meant one of the actions taken was setting in motion efforts to make sustainable changes in our food system."

One sustainable change the coalition focused on was increasing opportunities for people to eat more fruits and vegetables. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests eating a diet high in fruits and vegetables can reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer, inflammation and diabetes. However, some struggle to eat the recommended 2 ½ cups of fruits and vegetables per day. Kansas Health Matters and Kansas Department of Health and Environment reports 42.5 percent of Riley County's adults eat less than one fruit serving per day. They also report 23.3 percent of adults eat less than one vegetable serving per

"Because of this data. and our focus on both increasing fruit and vegetable consumption and supporting local agriculture, four program partners came together with the Council to create the Healthy Food Prescription Program," James says. "Partners include the Riley County Women, Infants and Children Nutrition program (WIC), Pawnee Mental Health Adult Rehabilitation Program, Kansas State University Lafene Student Health Center and the Manhattan Downtown Farmers' Market."

The Healthy Food Pre-



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scription Program can help create sustainable solutions to help everyone in Riley County eat more fruits and vegetables. To sustain the program, many ongoing funding sources are needed beyond the Pathways to a Healthy Kansas grant.

Good timing and a network of connected individuals led James to Mary Mertz, who serves on the Riley County Farm Bureau board of directors. She was looking for opportunities to participate in phase two of the End Hunger campaign.

"The goal is to continually build out more partnerships and work together," James says. "You're more likely to impact more peoples' lives in a healthy way by collaboration and this is a great example of

Riley County Farm Bureau was awarded grant money through the End Hunger fund and provided an additional \$1,500 to further support the Healthy Food Prescription pro-

"The clients of WIC, Pawnee Mental Health and Lafene can be screened through a simple questionnaire tool to gauge the food insecurity level of the individual," James says. "At that point, more educational resources, including participation in the Healthy Food Prescription Program, are provided."

Program participants are given a \$20 Healthy Food Prescription voucher, redeemable for fruit and vegetables at Manhattan's Downtown Farmers' Market, held every Wednesday and Saturday. The client remains completely anonymous, removing issues of stigma.

"This allows active implementation of the psycho-education consumers are provided regarding the link between healthy nutrition, mental health and whole-body wellness by removing the financial barrier of accessing fresh produce," Krystal Lantz, adult rehabilitation services supervisor at Pawnee Mental Health Services, says.

Since Manhattan is in Riley County, home of Kansas State University, students are also an important part of the community and can participate in the voucher program, too.

"K-State students struggling with inadequate fruit and vegetable intake related to food insecurity often have the additional barrier of being new to the area and perhaps not being aware of off-campus food resources such as the Manhattan Downtown Farmers' Market," Dianna Schalles, coordinator of nutrition counseling at Lafene Health Center, says. "The Healthy Food Prescription voucher gives them an extra incentive to visit the farmers market with the added mental health bonus of enjoying some time outdoors interacting with our local community."

For moms and their families, a balanced diet is immensely important. When families are struggling, the ability to include healthy fruits and vegetables becomes costly.

"The voucher program is a great way to get more fruits and vegetables into the homes of food-insecure and vulnerable populations," Cathy Jones, WIC nutritionist and breastfeeding coordinator, says. "At WIC, the most vulnerable would be the pregnant women we serve and their families. Adequate prenatal nutrition is so vital for the growing baby and the mother. Fruits and vegetables are central to a nourishing diet, but they are often the first thing to get dropped from a grocerv budget when money is scarce. We love that this partnership and program also supports local producers and the local food-system economy."

The program is in its infancy, but organizers and program partners are hopeful this will create an avenue for healthy food choices to underserved members of the communitv. reaching approximately 500 to 1,000 individuals and their households in its first year.

"It just breaks your heart when vou know there are people in this community going hungry," Mertz says. "We as human beings and fellow citizens of Manhattan need to take care of our neighbors and make sure all adults and children here in Riley County are being nurtured with food."

"The Riley County Farm Bureau and End Hunger grant support of this program is valuable as a jump start to implementation in other areas of Kansas," James says. "More communities can take this idea, form partnerships and replicate the program across the state."

Serving Kansas Communities

KFB's End Hunger fund is dedicated to helping county Farm Bureaus and Farm Bureau Financial Services agents come together for the benefit of Kansas communities. Several other programs are being funded to help local communities lessen the prevalence of food insecurity. After all, food insecurity affects many of us and there's help available, but it takes people who are passionate about seeing a change in their communi-

To get involved with your county Farm Bureau, contact your local office at www.kfb.org/contact. For more information about the End Hunger program, visit www.kfb.org/endhunger. If you're interested in more information on the Healthy Food Prescription Program, contact Vickie James at rileycountyfoodandfarmcouncil@ gmail.com.







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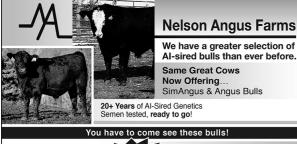
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"Remembering the Past, Planning for the Future," theme for 71st SAKW annual meeting

of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW) 71st Annual Meeting is to be held in the Hotel Topeka at City Center on February 1-2, 2022. Barb Oltjen, president of SAKW from Robinson will preside over the meeting that will bring together representatives from the 74 watershed districts in Kansas, many state and federal agencies, organizations, and individuals.

The SAKW 71st annual meeting starts off with a keynote address from Attorney General Derek Schmidt. AG Schmidt has been asked to comment on how the redefining of the Waters of the US (WOTUS) jurisdictional authority of past years might challenge the WOTUS proposed jurisdictional authority of the EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers today.

The National Biodies-

el Board (NBB) welcomed

the release of a new re-

port The Economic Rene-

fits of the Biodiesel Blend-

ers' Credit, from Capital

Policy Analytics. The re-

port calculates annual

economic benefits of \$15

billion and environmen-

tal benefits of \$4.3 billion

from U.S. biodiesel pro-

duction. In 2020, the U.S.

market for biodiesel and

renewable diesel reached

3 billion gallons with sup-

port from the \$1 per gal-

expires at the end of 2022.

Letting it expire would

harm the U.S. economy

and the environment, the

data show," the report

of research also demon-

strates that the biodiesel

tax credit easily passes a

"A significant body

"The current tax credit

lon tax incentive.

states.

mand of 2020, the entire contingent of registered guests will be shuttled to the State Capital for a two-hour meet and greet session to include a catered barbecue lunch for and with our State Legislators and other invited

The second day of the conference will begin with our second key note address from Dan Sebert, National Watershed Coalition Executive Director. Mr. Sebert has been asked to speak on partnerships of the past and how to build on those for the fu-

NWC Chairwoman Lisa Knauf, representing the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma will accompany Dan Sebert to Topeka, giving us a dy-

cost-benefit analysis, and

that the environmental

benefits alone from each

gallon of biodiesel that

replaces petrodiesel ex-

ceed two dollars a gallon,

or more than double the

cost of the credit," the

renewable diesel industry

supports 65,000 U.S. jobs

and more than \$17 bil-

lion in economic activity

each year. Every 100 mil-

lion gallons of production

supports 3,200 jobs and

\$780 million in econom-

ic opportunity. The new

report estimates that ex-

piration of the tax incen-

tive would eliminate as

many as 3,000 jobs in the

biodiesel and renewable

diesel industry. The total

employment loss through-

out the supply chain as-

sociated with production

would be between 7,500

The U.S. biodiesel and

report continues.

Conservation Partnership presentations.

Activity reports from several agencies: Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources and Conservation, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be presented throughout the conference.

Just how well do we understand and recall watershed district rules and regulations as per the watershed district law? Hakim Saadi, State Watershed Manager, KDA/DOC will quiz, challenge, and score how well we all did - a presentation that will be both entertaining as well as educational.

A panel composed of Tom Schumann, Kansas

Due to popular de- namic duet of Watershed Regulatory Director from the US Army Corps of Engineers; Scott Satterwaite, KDHE; and Brock Emmert, Watershed Institute will lead the discussion and receive questions on subjects such as Intermittent Stream Assessment, Water Quality Certification, and availability of mitigation credits through in lieu of fee and banking procedures.

> Information on annual meeting registration, motel reservations, resolutions listings, and the complete meeting agenda can be found on the SAKW website at www.sakw. org. Additional questions about the annual meeting can be directed to Herbert R. Graves Jr., SAKW Executive Director, 785-263-6033, or by e-mail at sakwwatersheds@gmail.

NBB releases study on benefits of the Biodiesel Tax Incentive

and 9,000 jobs.

Moreover, the report finds that in 2019 use of biodiesel reduced U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 18 million metric tons. The cumulative greenhouse gas emission reduction since the inception of the biodiesel tax incentive is more than 100 million metric tons.

The report authors write, "We believe that ending the credit in 2022, when the current legislation providing for it expires, would be inadvisable and would likely devastate the market, resulting in the destruction of thousands of jobs, an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and other local air pollutants, and the undoing of much of what the previous 17 years accomplished - namely, the establishment of

a robust market for an important fuel and an essential tool for reversing climate change."

Kurt Kovarik, NBB's Vice President of Federal Affairs, stated, "This report demonstrates how remarkably effective the tax incentive has been in supporting the emergence of biodiesel and renewable diesel. As more and more American consumers demand better, cleaner fuels, a long-term and forward-looking tax incentive can help the industry sustainably grow and diversify. We appreciate the bipartisan support in Congress for continuing this policy."

Biodiesel production supports approximately 13 percent of the value of each U.S. bushel of soy-

Ag equipment industry faces global challenges by advancing technology and practices that boost productivity while reducing greenhouse gas emissions

The global agriculture engine and equipment industry is rapidly evolving to face numerous challenges including feeding a growing population, the climate crisis and labor shortages. Continued improvements to engines, equipment and the technology that integrates the work of the machine with the land, are increasing efficiency and are the foundation for farming in the future.

"U.S. agriculture is among the most productive and economically valuable in the world; producing more yield in less time with fewer inputs thanks largely to the advancements in the diesel powered machines and equipment that do the planting, harvesting and tending to the land," says Diesel Technology Forum Executive

Director Allen Schaeffer. "Technology on the farm today is giving them a lot of information and insights today that they didn't have the past to make some decisions," Director, Global Marketing & Sales at John Deere Power Systems.

"The innovations in powertrains, fuels and equipment technology that serve farmers around the world are impressive. They contribute to reducing greenhouse gas, and other emissions, and reducing inputs on the farm. Beyond the machines themselves, innovations in farm practices like automation and precision agriculture have evolved to bring further important benefit," says Schaeffer.

Those innovations will be critical to meeting the dual challenges of greater demand for food and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

These topics were the subject of a virtual event recently organized by the Diesel Technology Forum, that discussed the state of farming, machines and equipment; opportunities for reducing emissions from smart and precision farming technologies, and the outlook for the future, including which fuels and technologies will meet the challenges of greater food demand and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Speakers went into detail about the demand for food in the year 2050. The industry will need to feed 9.7 billion people around the world then according to a prediction by The Global Harvest Initiative.

"Global ag productivity needs to increase 70 percent by 2050 in order to deliver on that 50 percent growth in food demand," says Block, With the increasing demand for food by a growing

population, and less arable land to use to grow it, the industry is focused on the future, right now. "As we think about the future, I don't think a one

size fits all (approach) is going to get us there," says Ann Schmelzer, the General Manager of Global Ag Business for Cummins. She spoke about power options available on the market today and those Cummins is exploring in the future, including hydrogen and electrification as well as advanced diesel.

"Diesel right now is still the primary power of choice for many reasons. And there are still a lot of advances that we are working on with our base technology."

While diesel engines power most of the agricultural equipment around the world, they are evolving to run more on fuels other than diesel, including renewable and biodiesel. Panelists also discussed the prospect of additional reductions in allowable emissions from both California and the U.S. EPA

Interim results of an off-highway low-nitrogen oxide (NOx) demonstration project with the Southwest Research Institute was reviewed and is showing promise to further reduce emissions in diesel engines with advanced catalysts and Selective Catalytic Reduction systems, noted Tom Harris, Senior Technical Specialist with Tenneco. "Leverage what you have to make a relatively quicker impact on CO2 in the near term, but then again, thinking about that as a bridge technology that ultimately has an impact while we're waiting for the final solution if you will, in terms of whatever that is from a powertrain solution for the ag industry."



Brome roundtable to be held in January

The Frontier Extension District will be partnering with Marais Des Cygnes Extension District to host a series of meetings dealing with stand loss of smooth brome this past fall. The meetings will be held on the following dates and times: January 13th, 7:00 p.m. at the Overbrook Livestock Commission, January 20th, 9:30 a.m. at the Marais Des Cygnes Extension office, and January 20th, 7:00 p.m. at the Anderson County Community Building. The meetings will be in roundtable fashion and everyone is encouraged to discuss their thoughts and ideas.

Extension agents and KSU forage specialist, Bruno Pedreira, will be on hand to discuss your brome concerns, have suggestions for forage crop alternatives, and present ideas for you to start considering. We will also be looking at fertilizer expenses, seed costs, etc.

Fall army worm damage of our brome fields varied greatly throughout eastern Kansas. The majority of the hay meadows that were damaged were those fields that were harvested late, in this case mid-July and after. The army worm moths sought those late harvest fields as sites

to lay their eggs. These fields had regrowth that was just a few inches tall when the worms began feeding and within a couple of days those fields turned brown. Many producers weren't concerned about the brome browning, as we were experiencing hot days and dry weather, they assumed the brome was going dormant. Questions started arising after we got a rain in early September, and the brome wasn't greening up. And the questions haven't stopped. What do we do now?

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Registration now open for 2022-2023 SowBridge educational series Housing Systems.

SowBridge, the distance educational series for those who work with sows, boars and piglets, and with genetic and reproductive issues, begins its next program year in February, and registration is now under way. New this year, the series will be provided online through Zoom, although participants will be able to use a call-in option instead if they prefer.

Ken Stalder, Iowa State University animal science professor and Extension swine specialist, said suggestions from participants guide the selection of future topics and speakers, and the live interaction with session speakers will not change.

"SowBridge provides all participants with the opportunity to hear directly from experts, and to contact those experts following the individual sessions," he said.

Stalder, who also is the Iowa contact for Sow-Bridge, said cost remains at \$200 for the first registration from an entity, and half that amount for each subsequent registration from the same entity.

Wednesday of every month and run from 11:15 a.m. to about 12:15 p.m. Central time. During each session, participants can ask questions of the industry expert presenter and discuss with other participants from the comfort of their home, office or swine unit. Each registration provides access to one Zoom connection (or call-in) per session and all program materials for each registration, including recordings of the live

Registration is due

Sessions are the first Jan. 18, 2022 to ensure participants receive materials for the first session on Feb. 2. A brochure with information and a registration form is available on the IPIC website. Iowa residents who want more information can call Stalder at 515-294-4683.

2021 session dates and topics are as follows:

Feb. 2. The Impact of Non-edible Trim Loss on Cull Sow Value.

March 2. Proposition 12 Implications.

April 6. Estrus Detection and Insemination Strategies for Different

Nov. 2. Body Assessment Methods.

Settings.

Dec. 7. Preweaning

May 4. Lactation Feed-

June 1. Global African

July 6. What Will Hap-

Aug. 3. How Does Mass

Sept. 7. How Does

Oct. 5. Fan Mainte-

PRRS 1-4-4 Compare to

nance and Ventilation

pen if ASF Comes to the

Swine Fever Overview.

Depopulation Work?

Other Strains?

ing Strategies.

Piglet Survival.

Jan. 4, 2023. PCAI: An Update on Adoption in the U.S.

For more information on the sessions or registration, contact Sherry Hoyer at Iowa Pork Industry Center at Iowa State by phone at 515-294-4496 or email shoyer@iastate.

SowBridge is provided through a cooperative effort of 15 colleges and universities - including Iowa State - from the nation's major swine producing

Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services available to producers

There is a general sense that this had been a great year for the agricultural community. Commodity prices are up and producers are making money. However, nothing is that simple. There are still many producers that continue to struggle and have found themselves in precarious financial and legal situations. The cause of stress in agriculture has its roots in financial and legal challenges of the farm or ranch business.

The Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS) is a state agricultural mediation program that helps farmers and ranchers explore options through mediation as well as other financial and legal concerns they might have. They are part of a national program funded by Congress beginning in 1988 to use mediation as a tool to work with producers and lenders to resolve financial difficulties short of bankruptcy or foreclosure. For example, KAMS helps with appeal options for USDA adverse decisions: farm loan delinquency, denial, or adverse decisions for USDA farm programs.

KAMS is designed to be a safe and confidential place for farmers and ranchers to call to receive assistance and be proactive in addressing their needs with legal, financial, and mediation services. The program's staff serves as an unbiased party that can align people with resources to help them make a good decision.

The KAMS staff is available to visit with callers, confidentially and at no cost, regarding any agricultural legal or financial issue, including such topics as answering questions regarding USDA denial letters, clarifying confusing paperwork, understanding appeal options available, agricultural credit situations, property rights issues, farm foreclosures, and landlord/tenant disputes.

What is Mediation?

The mediation process is designed to assist farmers, agricultural lenders, and USDA agencies to resolve disputes in a confidential and non-adversarial setting outside the traditional legal process.

Mediation is a voluntary, confidential process in which a neutral third party (the mediator) helps those in conflict identify issues, options, and possible solutions. A mediator does not make a determination nor a judgment of who is right or wrong. The mediator is there to facilitate open, frank discussion of the issues. The participants are encouraged to discuss all issues, options, and possible solutions. A successful mediation is almost always based on the voluntary cooperation and participation of all the parties.

KAMS' support services contribute to successful mediations. Parties participating in mediation who understand their legal rights and obligations, have taken the time to explore financial options, and have satisfactorily prepared often have a more positive outcome. KAMS refers producers to the KSRE Farm Analyst Program and Kansas Legal Services as part of the mediation process.

Why Participate in Mediation?

Mediation maintains confidentiality, restores communication and fosters important business relationships, allows the parties to reach their own mutually acceptable solutions, provides a time-saving, affordable alternative to appeals and litigation, provides a neutral setting in which to openly discuss sensitive issues.

KAMS specialists provide initial information and guidance at no cost through a toll-free hotline, 1-800-321-FARM (1-800-321-3276). A statewide network of cooperating agencies and programs includes a pool of trained agricultural mediators, K-State Research and Extension financial consultants, and Kansas Legal Services. To find out more about mediation and KAMS, you can go to the KAMS website at https://www.k-state.edu/kams/ or the K-State Research and Extension Ag Manager website at https://www.agmanager.info.

Registration open for Kansas 4-H Horse Panorama

Registration opened Dec. 13 for an event that gives Kansas kids a chance to showcase their skills and knowledge about horses.

The 2022 Kansas 4-H Horse Panorama will be held Jan. 28-30 at the Rock Springs Ranch, located about five miles south of Junction City.

"This is an event for Kansas 4-H members who are enrolled in the horse project to test their knowledge, showcase their public speaking skills and network with other youth who share a common interest," said Kelsey Nordyke, a 4-H youth development specialist at the Southeast Kansas Research and Extension Center.

Youth do not have to actually own a horse to be involved, Nordyke said. More than 50 Kansas 4-H members participated in the 2021 event.

Nordyke said the event includes a horse quiz bowl, hippology, public speaking, demonstration and illustrated talks, model horse expo, logo contest and photography.

Hippology, which is the study of horses, is a unique event similar to a skillathon "where kids identify parts of the horse, feed items, minerals and feed ingredients, colors and genetics of the horse, parts of equipment we use to care for horses," and other topics, Nordyke said.

The quiz bowl and hippology contests include both team and individual awards. Youth can compete by age group in senior or intermediate divisions. Nordyke said in the senior division, the top teams in quiz bowl and hippology, as well as the top individuals the public speaking and demonstration contests are eligible to represent Kansas at the National Western Stock Show in Denver in early January.

More information and registration for this year's Kansas 4-H Horse Panorama is available online. Interested individuals can also contact their local extension office.



Risk Management Skills for Kansas Women in Agriculture to be held in Clay Center

Registration is now open for a four-part workshop being held at three dozen locations in Kansas to help farmers and ranchers deal with the uncertainty of fluctuating grain and input prices. This workshop will be held in-person locally in Clay

Risk Skills for Kansas Women in Agriculture will focus on numerous topics, including determining costs of production, utilizing crop insurance, crop marketing plans, and government farm programs.

The workshop is a series of four sessions, held

Jan. 12 - Local networking; enterprise budgeting.

Jan. 19 - Crop insurance; stress and resiliency. Jan. 26 – Crop marketing; family communication.

Feb. 2 - Farm bill programs; special speaker and awards.

in-person with handson activities following a discussion on each topic. Sessions will begin with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and conclude by 8:30 p.m.

An optional fifth session is scheduled for Feb. 23 to cover beef cow/calf risk management focusing on enterprise budgeting, cattle marketing, and cow/ calf insurance options.

The series costs \$50 if registered by Dec. 31. Registration includes all meals and program materials. After Dec. 31, the cost increases to \$75. The optional Feb. 23 session costs an additional \$10, or

propriate time is import-

ant. "If we intervene too

early and the cow or heifer

is not dilated, we can in-

jure the tissues and hurt

the calf," Hanzlicek said.

"If we intervene too late,

a lot of times that's when

we end up with stillborn

once a cow has reached

the second stage of labor,

According to Hanzlicek,

calves.'

wants to attend that session.

To register for the series visit: www.AgManager.info under "Events" or contact River Valley Horticulture Extension agent Kelsey Hatesohl at 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ ksu.edu.

Preparation is key to successful season

K-State Research and **Extension News**

Kansas State University veterinarian Gregg Hanzlicek said being prepared ahead of calving season is the best way for producers to assure they will bring home the newborn calves successfully.

"We're approaching the end of the second trimester and moving into the third trimester which means the metabolic demands of that cow or heifer are going to increase tremendously," Hanzlicek said.

A key to having a successful calving and production season is for cows and heifers to be in the appropriate body condition, which according to Hanzlicek is a score of five to seven. He said he has seen many cattle in the three to four range in the past few

"We're far enough away from calving that we can add condition to these cows and heifers without (creating) an economic burden," he said. "It really comes down to having a formulated ration that is balanced for protein and energy.'

For those wanting to add scour vaccines to their prevention program, "it's time to decide what vaccine they are going to use,' Hanzlicek said. "Look at the label and schedule on the calendar when they the cows and heifers.'

Hanzlicek said heifers will require two doses of the scours vaccine, while cows need one. The timing of those vaccines is "very, very important," he said.

Also, Hanzlicek recommends establishing a clean calving area to help reduce the risk of scours. "There's two major risk factors for scours," he said. "One is the lack of colostrum consumption. The other is a contaminated environment that the babies are born into."

Hanzlicek recommends having a location to move the pairs off the calving area to keep the calving facility less contaminated

Getting the calf here safely is another factor to consider, "Most operations are going to have to help at least one animal during the calving season," Hanzlicek said. The last national survey indicated that one of every 100 heifers and two of every 100 adult cows will need

assistance. Being prepared to pull a calf is important. Hanzlicek said producers should have the following items on hand:

> Clean straps or chains. OB sleeves. Lube.

Working calf pullers. Veterinarian's phone they should give birth within 30 minutes. A heifer should calve within an hour. Second stage labor is when the heifer or cow can be observed experiencing uterine contractions, or

are visible.

the water-bag or calf's feet

they are unable to extract the calf within 15 minutes, then help - either a veterinarian or someone with more experience -- should be called.

Following calving, the calf should be up and nursing within two hours, Hanzlicek said. If not, a colostrum replacer can be given to help get the calf started.

"Colostrum-based powders are the best way to go, and I would recommend that every producer have one or two bags of powder replacer on hand during the calving season," Hanzlicek said.

number. If assistance from the MU Extension agronomist offers tips to offset high nitrogen prices

If there was ever a time to do a soil test, this is it, says University of Missouri Extension agronomist Tim

Rising fertilizer prices make it too expensive to guess on how to apply nutrients, says Schnakenberg.

Soil tests can prevent buying and applying fertilizer where not needed. See the MU Extension publication "Soil Sampling Hayfields and Row Crops" at extension. missouri.edu/g9217

Schnakenberg offers several other tips to offset high prices

- When prices are high, producers might want to prioritize lime over fertilizer if the soil's pH is low. Lime application improves nutrient availability in the soil, which leads to more fertility from resources already waiting to be tapped
- · Using manure from dairy or poultry operations might be a good way to add needed nutrients. Consider demand, trucking costs and the source of the litter.
- · Reduce nitrogen loss by injecting manure and commercial sources into the ground instead of spreading on top of the ground.
- Use nitrogen stabilizers with commercial sources

• Split applications sometimes can be a more efficient way to reduce losses. Check with your local Extension agronomist for the most precise method of nitrogen applications on specific crops and forages.

Don't overlook ways to more efficiently distribute manure already generated on the farm, Schnakenberg says. If you feed grass hay solely in a bunk at the same location each time, move hay feeding areas around to distribute the manure to other parts of the farm. MU research has also confirmed that a well-planned rotational grazing system greatly helps manure distribution

Legumes such as clover and alfalfa are also good longterm sources of nutrients. They fix nitrogen for grass hay crops. Incorporate these legumes into pastures to potentially eliminate the need for nitrogen. Legumes take time to reach their full potential, especially if broadcast over the winter or sowed in the spring.

If prices continue to rise, Schnakenberg recommends applying phosphate and potash in the fall or early winter. There is little to no loss, and there may even be benefits from early application because there is time to work nutrients into the upper soil profile where roots can fully access them when needed next year.

This recent price hike is a reminder to continuously monitor nutrient levels and maintain fertility as part of a management plan, says Schnakenberg. "It becomes economically unfeasible to fix problems that have developed over the last decade, leaving us suffering production losses that aren't easily remedied."

In any case, don't get into the mindset of only applying nitrogen, he says. Many fields continue to show stress resulting from missed or reduced applications of phosphate and potash after the 2008 fertilizer price hike.

The plant structure of roots, stems and leaves must be built by nutrients like phosphorus and potassium before nitrogen can spur growth, Schnakenberg says. If large amounts are needed and you have to cut corners somewhere, consider at least addressing crop nutrient removal issues and forgoing build-up recommendations. Consult an agronomist for advice on this kind of manage-

Grazing on solar sites can enhance value, keep land in agriculture use

As solar projects across the nation continue to expand, solar grazing has emerged as a valuable tool, according to a new fact sheet recently released by the Center for Rural Affairs.

"Using livestock to manage vegetation at solar sites can enhance site value by keeping land in agricultural use, providing new income streams for local farmers, and adding environmental benefits and enhanced soil health," said Heidi Kolbeck-Urlacher, senior policy associate for the Center.

Solar grazing is the use of livestock, usually sheep, to manage vegetation at solar sites. It takes the place of traditional mowing, offering numerous environmental and financial benefits and meeting clean energy and agricultural goals simultaneously. Solar grazing is considered a form of agrivoltaics, which is a term used to describe combining agriculture with renewable energy. Other types of agrivoltaics include producing

hay, berries, vegetables, and honey at solar sites.

"Making the Case for Solar Grazing" addresses the economics and environmental benefits of solar grazing, offers steps for the planning process, what developers and farmers should consider when developing a contract, the appropriate seed mixes to consider, and recommendations to policymakers that incentivize beneficial practices.

Kolbeck-Urlacher said for project developers, contracting with local farmers to use solar grazing as a management tool can reduce operations and maintenance costs.

"Including solar grazing as a goal in the beginning stages of project planning will allow developers to tailor sites for optimal grazing management," she said. "Solar grazing is most successful when deployed as part of a strategic, rotational grazing plan."

To view "Making the Case for Solar Grazing" visit //cfra.org/publica-





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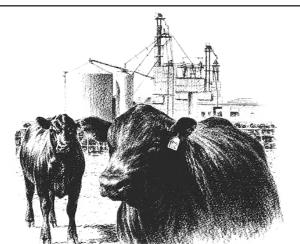
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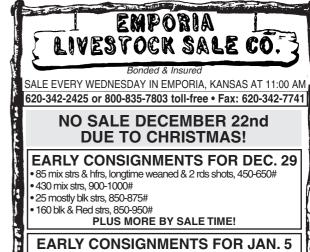
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Farm analyst program helps Kansas producers make financial decisions

sity farm analyst LaVell Winsor is hailing a program in the Department of Agricultural Economics that has a long history of helping farm families review their finances and make a financial plan.

The university's Farm Analyst program offers one-on-one consultation,

ranchers and extension agents who are trained as K-State Research and Extension analysts. The program has provided assistance to more than 1.000 farm families.

"A lot of people will work with us now, when it's better times financially, and we help them with their budgets to try to figure out how they're

Some families, she added, work with a farm analyst annually while others only consult with an analyst when they are looking at an expansion. experiencing a financial difficulty, or making a major change

"We'll go out to the farm and work with the family for the day, going

"This is available to farmers across Kansas or anybody who has a land ownership interest in Kansas."

Analysts use a financial tool called FinPack to build a full financial analysis of the operation. "We can look at alternatives side by side and try to consider every asmight be looking at making," Winsor said.

A common scenario is exploring land purchases. According to Winsor, analysts can help analyze a land purchase by taking into consideration the loan, property taxes, acres, and the likely revenue and expenses associated with the purchase.

"It is really import-

we work with provide us with the best information that they have," Winsor said. "Then, we can put together something that can be a tool to make decisions."

To schedule a farm analysis, interested families can call the Kansas Agriculture Mediation Service at 800-321-3276, or visit www.agmanager.

Report: higher wages, rising input costs and supply chain problems pushing up pork prices but not profits

In a report issued recently on retail pork prices economists with Iowa State University, North Carolina State University and the National Pork Producers Council found that pork prices, not industry profits, are rising. Prices are rising due to increased transportation costs, supply bottlenecks and delays and increased labor costs throughout the pork chain. Those factors, said Iowa State's Dermot Hayes, NC State's Barry Goodwin and NPPC's Holly Cook, were either caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other factors that have affected prices up and down the pork chain over the past 18 months, the report noted, include a 2.5 percent loss in pork packing capacity that resulted from a federal court order stopping faster harvesting line speeds, higher energy costs, rising feed costs and, most importantly, a shortage of workers, which has hindered productivity and caused wages to

This report shows there are numerous issues affecting pork prices, but increased profits, whether at the retail, wholesale, or farm level, are likely not a significant contributor to the rising prices," said NPPC President Jen Sorenson, "Pork producers, for their part, are continuing to produce hogs to meet the strong demand for pork the industry has seen despite the pandemic.'

The report also found the farm-to-wholesale price spread - the difference between what producers receive for hogs from packers and what packers receive for pork from retailers – has remained relatively constant over the past two years aside from a spike in May 2020 when some packing plants shut down because of COVID illnesses among their workforce. (With fewer places to send their hogs, producers were paid less for them.) The wholesale-to-retail spread, however, has significantly widened over the past few months as the farm-to-wholesale price spread has declined. That likely is the result of higher costs for transporting pork to retail outlets, of labor in retail stores and distribution centers and from delays and bottlenecks in the supply chain. Retailers

"Although there are significant food production, processing and distribution challenges," said Iowa State's Hayes, "there are likely no permanent, structural barriers in the way of getting back to cheaper food. It is unclear whether the same can be said about energy prices, wage inflation and other current challenges.'

The long-term outlook for labor, which according to the report is a critical factor in easing supply chain challenges and high prices, is dependent on future immigration policy and agricultural labor reform and, if not addressed, "will continue to be a limiting factor in food and pork production for the foreseeable future,' the report concluded.

NPPC has been urging lawmakers to address the agricultural labor shortage by expanding the existing H-2A visa, which allows temporary seasonal foreign farmers workers into the country, to year-round agricultural laborers

likely are passing along some of those extra costs to brush control options this winter

By David G. Hallauer. Meadowlark District Extension agent, crops and soils/horticulture

The 2022 edition of the KSU Chemical Weed Con*trol Guide* is at the printers (access the online version at: https://www.bookstore. ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/CHEM-WEEDGUIDE.pdf - print copies available after

the first of the year). It includes herbicide recommendations for all our major field crops plus pasture and rangeland recommendations, including brush control options.

It's pretty easy to see where most of our interest lies when it comes to brush control - over two and a half pages are devotDuring this time of the year, however, foliar isn't an option, and it might be time to consider some of the options that get a little less page space: cut stump, soil applications, and this week, basal bark considerations.

Many woody species can be effectively con-

ed to foliar applications. trolled through mid-winter via application of herbicide to the bark at the base of the tree. Most labels call for mixing with an oil-type carrier for better penetration across the bark to the living tissue just below the bark that needs to absorb herbicide for control to take place. Mixtures

plied to the circumference of the tree from the ground all the way up to a height of 12 to 18 inches. This allows the tree to absorb product to kill it standing. It takes more product than cut stump treatments (next week...), but avoids time spent cutting and piling trees.

Avoid treatment when

ground is saturated, snow covered, or frozen, or efficacy may be reduced. Labeled products include PastureGard HL, Remedy Ultra, and Milestone. Always read and follow label directions. Not all product application windows or oil/diluent mixes are iden-

should be liberally apremains strong in ten states

(AP) - The economy remains strong in rural parts of ten Plains and Western states, but some of the bankers surveyed in December said they are worried about how inflation will affect farmers.

The overall index for the region slipped from November's 67.7 reading but the report said the index remained firmly in positive territory at 66.7 for December. Any score above 50 suggests a growing economy, while a score below 50 suggests a shrinking

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss said the region continues to benefit from low interest rates and strong exports. The USDA estimates that agricultural ex-

ports are up 23% over last year.

But the persistently high inflation is a concern as land costs and the price of supplies farmers need are expected to keep growing next year.

"Inflation is real and affecting folks in our service area," said Jeff Bonnett, CEO of Havana State Bank in Havana, Illinois.

Yet the bank CEOs are optimistic about the next six months. The survey's confidence index rose to 55.2 in December from November's weak 48.4 reading.

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

Getting started on 4-H project work – the school holiday break is a time for youth to work on their projects

school winter break is often a time when families enjoy an interruption to the routine of classes, sports and other youth activities.

It is also a great time to get going on 4-H projects. said Beth Hinshaw, Kansas State University southeast area Extension specialist. For those 4-H'ers ages 7-18, the break from school gives them an opportunity to get started on project-based, hands-on learning experiences.

"We have more than 30 different project areas in Kansas 4-H," Hinshaw said. "I tell 4-H'ers to pick a project that sounds interesting and then figure out what types of learning experiences that you want from that project. Use the holiday time to research. plan, get project supplies and get started.'

She said there are many resources for 4-H'ers and their families to help guide them through a project area. Those include project leaders. information sheets, project curriculum and Kansas 4-H Project challenges.

"Often 4-H'ers will pick a project area when they are young and they'll build mastery in that area over their time in 4-H," Hinshaw said. "Experiences with a 4-H project can lead to a career path someday and success in

ate our partnership with

She also said the 4-H experience will be different among the youth across the state and even within a project area.

"Everyone's project experience is going to look a little different because it is guided by what they are interested in," Hinshaw said, adding that some

4-H'ers prefer hands-on experiences while others opt for self-study and time with a mentor. To learn more about

the Kansas 4-H program and see the available project resources and pathways, go to the Kansas 4-H website, or visit your local Extension of-

fice. KDWP expands research footprint with additional office in Emporia

A second Emporia location will provide the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) with additional storage, laboratory and office space, affording Emporia Research and Survey staff the ability to scale future research efforts. KDWP purchased the former Dynamic Discs building at 3601 W. Sixth Ave. earlier this fall. The agency's location at 1830 Merchant St. will remain its full-service office for public services such as fishing and hunting licenses, boat registrations, and park permits.

Currently, 14 full-time employees with specialties related to fisheries, furbearers, migratory birds, wildlife disease and upland game animals operate out of the agency's approximately 4,250-square-foot Merchant Street location.

In addition to larger employee working quarters, the newly acquired office space will benefit

KDWP research programs - such as increasing federal grant opportunities related to invasive species - allow staff to house large equipment, and create room for a dedicated lab-

oratory space. "Our laboratory is currently housed in our compound across the interstate from King Lake," Koch explained. "It's a salvaged maintenance shop from the 1970s, so we're really looking forward to having a modern lab facility that will meet current and future needs of our biologists."

The new facility won't just meet the needs of the state agency. KDWP staff will welcome faculty and staff from nearby Emporia State University (ESU) to frequent the new lab facility, added Koch.

"The partnership between KDWP and ESU has always been a very positive one, which we look forward to continuing,"

said Koch. "Our expansion, combined with ESU's new Prophet Aquatic Research and Outreach Center (PAROC), will create a top-notch learning and research environment for many years to come."

KDWP and ESU entered into a cooperative agreement in the 1980s when KDWP's building at 1830 Merchant Street began operating - and fortunately for both parties, that partnership has only grown stronger with time.

"We deeply appreci-

KDWP," said Brent Thomas. dean of ESU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "Our partnership with KDWP has helped our faculty provide students with a diverse array of research opportunities, internships and hands-on applied learning. In addition, many new and exciting collaborations are forming now that we have opened the PAROC facility and hired Dr. Rachel Bowes as our new endowed professor of aquatic sciences.'

KDWP's Emporia Research and Survey office at 1830 Merchant Street is open from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on weekdays. The front desk can be reached at (620) 342-0658.

To learn more about KDWP, visit ksoutdoors.

To learn more about ESU's PAROC center, visit https://www.emporia.edu/ about-emporia-state-uni-

versity/campus-organi-

zations-and-attractions/

prophet-aquatic-re-

search-outreach-center/.

Holton Livestock Exchange, Inc. 1/2 mile East of Holton, KS on 16 Highway Livestock Auction every Tuesday at 11:00 AM ****STARTING TIME: 11:00 AM****

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MARKET REPORT FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021 **RECEIPTS: 1102 CATTLE** FOR FULL RESULTS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.HOLTONLIVESTOCK.COM

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HEIFERS

83 bk bwf 517@183.50 Morrowville 12 bk bwf 530@179.00 Holton 13 bk bwf 455@170.50Morrowville 15 mix 542@161.00 Soldier 35 bk bwf 537@152.50 Seneca 10 blk 741@146.50 Winchester

McLouth

Soldier

11 blk red 682@152.00

10 blk bwf 648@141.00

25 hwfrwf 689@158.00 Morrowville 17 blk bwf 677@138.00 Seneca Early consignments for January 4, 2022 • 110 blk bwf s&h 450-650 w75d&v3 • 25 blk s&h 500-550 w&v2 • 30 blk hfrs 500-600 w60d&v • 35 blk strs 500-600 w30d&v • 35 char simm x s&h 500-600 w&v • 200 blk s&h 500-700 w60d&v2 • 145 mix s&h 500-750 w&v2 • 30 blk & red s&h 550-600 w30d&v • 85 char x s&h 550-700 w&v2 • 17 blk strs 575-700 w&v2 • 30 blk & red hfrs 550-650 w&v2 • 40 blk s&h 600-650 w60d&v2 • 24 blk s&h 600-700 w&v

• 109 blk s&h 600-800 w&v2 • 22 blk s&h 650-750 w90d&v2 • 59 blk bwf strs 700-900 w&v • 240 blk strs 750-800 w&v • 80 mix hfrs 775-825 w&v HAPPY HOLIDAYS! **** CLOSED DECEMBER 28 ****

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Market Report - No Sale last Thursday due to holiday.

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Tues., Jan. 4th - Regular Sale Sat., Jan. 8th - Horse & Tack Sale Tues., Jan. 11th - Calf/Yearling Special ALL WEIGH COWS & BULLS SELL AT THE END

Governor Laura Kelly takes action to exempt sales tax on fencing materials for Kansans affected by wildfires

has directed Kansas Department of Revenue Secretary Mark Burghart to work with state legislators representing the communities impacted by the wildfires to fast-track legislation extending the sales tax exemption for

fence materials and services as outlined in Notice 17-01.

"Kansas farmers and ranchers are the backbone of this state, and the devastating wildfires they experienced last week have taken an enormous toll on their liveli-

Kelly said. "I am directing Secretary Burghart to work with our legislators to fast-track legislation to exempt sales tax for Kansans trying to replace damaged or destroyed fences."

Tax exemptions must

hoods," Governor Laura be passed by law through the Kansas Legislature. Currently, Notice 17-01 only applies to wildfires that took place in 2016 and 2017.

> On December 9, 2021, Governor Kelly declared a State of Disaster Emergency due to the elevated

dangers of wildfires. On December 16, 2021, Governor Kelly directed the Kansas National Guard and Kansas Forest Service to deploy aerial assets to the affected areas to assist with fire suppression efforts in multiple counties with active wild-

Additional information about recovery resources, including mental health resources, for farmers and ranchers, can be found on the Kansas Department of Agricul-

ture website.

announce intent to merge rogressive Ag Cooperative and

Cooperative and MKC have unanimously approved a Letter of Intent to pursue an Agreement and Plan of Merger, which if supported by the members of Progressive Ag Cooperative, would result in the merger of Progressive Ag Cooperative with MKC.

Board Chairman for Progressive Ag Cooperative Derek Totten says the board recognized the value this merger would bring to member-owners and is very excited about the opportunity. "After considerable due diligence, we believe unification is the best way to generate stockholder value and benefits, compete in the marketplace, and build a strong

"This merger would provide improved efficiencies in operations where both companies currently have grain assets, create opportunities to expand our technology and other services to producers' operations in our footprint, resulting in improved financial performance, and ensuring our relevancy in the industry," Totten says. "Increasing and improving the value to both members and employees of Progressive Ag Cooperative is our primary focus.

Noting similar visions and values, Allan Wegn-

"Together, we have identified benefits and we look forward to working together for the future of our cooperatives, the members and our employees," Wegner said. "The synergy we can gain by combining the two organizations will allow our cooperatives to continue to achieve more success."

Progressive Ag Cooperative and MKC are currently finalizing due diligence and developing the required merger documents to be approved by both boards. A vote by Progressive Ag Cooperative members will be required to approve the merger, which is anticipated to take place early in 2022.

Donors will help producers recover from storm and wildfire

from across the country continue to donate funds for wildfire and severe storm relief to the Kansas Livestock Foundation (KLF). As of December 21,

the foundation collected or had commitments for \$507,748. All the proceeds will be used to help producers affected by recent wildfires and severe weather. A total of 396 do-

nations were made from December 15 through December 21.

Large contributions or commitments to KLF relief efforts have been from Cargill at \$100,000; Tyson line stallion auction that raised \$47,485. In addition, four Farm Credit Associations of Kansas, Oklahoma Ag Credit, Premier Farm Credit, Farm Credit

of Southern Colorado and CoBank are donating a total of \$141,000 to KLF.

Donations still are welcome and encouraged to help producers rebuild. Checks can be sent to KLF, 6031 SW 37th Street, Topeka, KS 66614. Please put wildfire relief in the memo supply donations, Heartland Regional Stockyards at Plainville and the Russell County Fairgrounds in Russell are serving as collection and distribution sites. Contact the auction market at (785)688-4080 and the Extension office at (785) 483-3157.



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North American Meat Institute to CDFA: modified Prop 12 rules remain flawed; more time needed

In comments submitted to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) said, despite modification to proposed rules for Proposition 12 (Prop 12 or the law), the proposed rules remain flawed and more time is needed for compliance.

"Until CDFA publishes final rules, no one can adequately prepare to comply with a law with criminal sanctions and that authorizes civil litigation," said Mark Dopp, general counsel and chief operating officer at NAMI. "Rather than apply 'band-aids' to address some challenges, NAMI suggests CDFA go further and afford everyone in the supply chain, from hog producers all the way to food service and retail entities, the 28-month preparation time the law, and the voters, contemplated before enforcing any aspect of Prop 12 or its regulations."

Although CDFA modified the proposed rules and are to be applauded because they account for complexities in the supply chain or they bring the proposal more in line with the law, unfortunately, many parts of the May 2021 proposed rules remain intact and flawed. NAMI identified these flaws in its July comments and during the August public hearing.

Prop 12 directed CDFA to promulgate regulations implementing the law by September 1, 2019. The rules are yet to be finalized even though some provisions take effect January 1, 2022.



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We sold 1514 cattle December 21. Steer and heifer 4 blk/red hfrs calves were in good demand at steady prices. We had a really nice run of feeder steers and heifers that sold steady to \$5.00 higher. Cows and bulls were steady.

60 blk/bwf strs

64 blk/char strs

4 blk/bwf strs 878 @ 161.60 7 blk strs 429 @ 214.00 661 @ 161.00 39 blk/bwf strs 2 blk strs 418 @ 213.00 60 blk/bwf strs 926 @ 160.60 3 blk strs 278 @ 207.00 58 blk/bwf strs 903 @ 160.50 3 blk/red strs 490 @ 204.00 7 blk/bwf strs 615 @ 160.00 1 blk str 350 @ 202.00 60 mix strs 945 @ 157.00 1 char str 350 @ 200.00 906 @ 155.00 61 mix strs 1 blk str 310 @ 197.00 9 blk/red strs 693 @ 150.00 355 @ 196.00 1 blk str 958 @ 150.00 60 mix strs 1 blk str 330 @ 195.00 951 @ 146.50 54 mix strs 490 @ 194.00 5 blk/red strs 1 char str 455 @ 192.00 **HEIFER CALVES** 493 @ 191.00 2 blk/char strs 3 blk hfrs 360 @ 166.00 2 blk bulls 450 @ 190.50 5 blk hfrs 350 @ 165.00 428 @ 188.50 2 blk/red strs 7 blk/char hfrs 457 @ 165.00 5 blk/char strs 528 @ 183.50 4 blk hfrs 444 @ 162.00 2 red/char bulls 535 @ 180.50 3 blk/bwf hfrs 350 @ 161.00 2 blk/char strs 528 @ 175.00 365 @ 161.00 3 char hfrs 7 blk bulls 504 @ 170.00 470 @ 160.00 2 char hfrs 353 @ 159.00 2 blk/red hfrs STOCKER & FEEDER STEERS 475 @ 158.00 1 bwf hfr 605 @ 177.85 84 blk/bwf strs 465 @ 157.00 3 blk hfrs 75 blk/bwf strs 668 @ 172.25 5 blk/bwf hfrs 446 @ 156.00

1 char hfr

504 @ 151.00 1 blk cow 1530 @ 63.00 1 red cow 6 blk/bwf hfrs 522 @ 151.00 1 blk cow 1695 @ 62.50 **STOCKER & FEEDER HEIFERS** 1 blk cow 1160 @ 62.00 1 blk cow 1410 @ 60.50 70 blk/red hfrs 739 @ 152.75 1380 @ 60.00 550 @ 152.00 1 blk cow 1 char hfr 1 blk cow 1615 @ 59.50 128 blk/bwf hfrs 848 @ 151.00 1150 @ 58.50 1 bwf cow 69 blk/bwf hfrs 790 @ 149.85 1995 @ 57.00 1 wf cow 65 blk/red hfrs 857 @ 149.00 23 blk/bwf hfrs 1 red cow 1365 @ 56.00 674 @ 148.00 1305 @ 54.00 1 blk cow 46 blk/bwf hfrs 761 @ 146.50 1140 @ 53.50 3 blk hfrs 585 @ 146.00 1 blk cow 1255 @ 53.00 1 red cow 12 x-bred hfrs 583 @ 145.50 1300 @ 51.50 1 blk cow 3 blk hfrs 583 @ 145.00 1 wf cow 1285 @ 51.00 4 blk/bwf hfrs 716 @ 141.00 1070 @ 50.00 3 blk/red hfrs 723 @ 139.00 1 sim cow

BRED COWS & PAIRS COWS & HEIFERETTES 3 blk/bwf cows/cvs @ 1200.00 1 blk hfrt 1235 @ 84.00 1 blk cow/cf @ 1025.00 1 red hfrt 910 @ 81.00 1 blk cow @ 840.00 1 blk hfrt 860 @ 77.00 1 bwf cow 1390 @ 68.50 2 blk/bwf cows @ 830.00 1 blk cow @ 810.00 1 blk cow 1640 @ 66.50 1 char cow @ 800.00 1 char cow 1320 @ 66.00 1 blk cow @ 775.00 1 blk cow 1260 @ 65.00 @ 760.00 1 blk cow 1 blk cow 1635 @ 64.50 1 blk cow @ 735.00 1600 @ 64.00 1 bwf cow

> WATCH OUR AUCTIONS LIVE ON DVAuctions.com

@ 700.00 1 blk bull 1535 @ 63.50 1 red cow @ 700.00 1 blk cow 1 blk bull 2125 @ 81.00 @ 650.00 1 blk bull 2 blk/bwf cows 1875 @ 80.00 **BULLS** 1270 @ 75.00 1 blk bull 2005 @ 86.00 1 red bull

NO SALE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28!

CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 4, 2022:

- 107 blk strs & hfrs, 350-400 lbs., weaned, vacc.
- 50 blk strs & hfrs 650-700 lbs.
- 62 blk strs 850-875 lbs.
- 60 blk red strs 900-925 lbs. • 60 blk strs 925-950 lbs.
- 61 blk xbred strs 925-950 lbs.

CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 11, 2022:

25 Angus first calf hfrs 1000-1100 lb Start calving Feb. 1 for 60 days Ai'd bred or bred low birth weight Angus bulls all off one ranch out of Montana. Have had vaccinations, ocv'd AI to Connealy Concord, clean up bulls Connely Optimizer and Bar Paycheck.

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

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

FOR INFORMATION OR ESTIMATES.

60 blk/bwf strs

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

859 @ 163.25

LELAND BAILEY LYNN REZAC **REX ARB**

460 @ 155.00

TOPEKA, 785-215-1002 ST. MARYS, 785-456-4943 MELVERN, 785-224-6765



Livestock Commission

Toll Free Number......1-800-531-1676

Website: www.rezaclivestock.com **AUCTIONEERS: DENNIS REZAC & REX ARB**

Company, Inc. St. Marys, Ks.