



## Healing veterans, healing the land – KLICA donates work to SAVE Farm

By Donna Sullivan, Editor

Healing – that is the primary mission of SAVE Farm near Riley; healing for the hearts and minds of veterans impacted by war as they defended and protected our nation. Servicemember Agricultural Vocation Education is what the acronym stands for, and the healing goes beyond the veterans to the land itself as they work to be good stewards with their sustainable agriculture program.

The idea for SAVE Farm began in 2012 when retired Col. Gary LaGrange and his daughter Shari used beekeeping as therapeutic training for soldiers from Ft. Riley. It occurred to them that agriculture training could be of benefit to not only the veterans, but the ag industry itself. With the average age of farmers approaching 60, farm succession is of increasing concern. More than 60% of veterans have family members with farming backgrounds, and many of the veterans have skills that could transfer well to agriculture.

Retired Major General Tod Bunting now serves as chairman/CEO of the organization. In 2017 they entered into a lease agreement to farm 308 acres near Riley and in 2020 the group was able to purchase that property through a conservation loan and in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy. According to Bunting they've grown wheat the past two years, have a sorghum plot this year and have money through a grant to also grow corn and soybeans, which they hope to do in the future. They also have a cattle herd and practice intense rotational grazing.

Since its inception between five and six hundred veterans have gone through the 20-week program, with a minimum of 18-20 hours per week of instruction. A team of four primary instructors lead the modules, Pat Murphy, Dr. Lucinda Stuenkel, Eric Peck and Melissa Wahl. They also utilize guest instructors and Bunting says they can always use more.

Recently, the farm was the beneficiary of work donated by the Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association (KLICA). Executive Director Jon Unger-



With equipment donated by area businesses and labor donated by Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association (KLICA), a tile outlet terrace system was installed on SAVE Farm near Riley.

er described meeting LaGrange at their state convention several years ago. "Our membership was really moved and touched by their talk and they stayed around and talked to our directors afterward," Ungerer said. "They said they were buying this farm and it was going to need some work. Our directors said, 'That's right up our line,' and agreed to help them." Ungerer said KLICA members went out a few years ago and did some work and discussed what needed to be done on the cropland. "It evolved from there," he continued.

The last weekend in July they began work on a tile outlet terrace system, installing five tile lines and constructing a little over 10,000 feet of corresponding terraces throughout the following week. The pipe was donated through a LICA Association member and the labor and equipment was also donated by members. "To me, it's two-

fold," Bunting said. "First, we are very serious about being good stewards of the land. The work made that field more efficient, to hold water the best we can and minimize soil erosion. Second, when we deal with our veterans, we show them who all at some point in time has donated their time, talent or treasure; people in every discipline in Kansas who have made it possible for them to come here and train. People who will never meet you have come to make sure this farm is well-managed and keeps going so you can have a place to come and train and heal and learn how to farm. It's a good way to manage the land and show veterans they are cared for."

Bunting said they have had students graduate the program and start their own farms, work for other farmers or take jobs in the ag industry. They often have farmers contact them wanting to hire someone after they have been

trained.

"In five months we aren't working miracles," Bunting pointed out. "But we will graduate trained apprentices, then farmers can take them to higher levels from there."

Melissa Wahl, who is a founding board member and one of the instructors, said the partnership between SAVE Farm and

Photos by Donna Sullivan

KLICA, NRSC, and Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) is very valuable. "Being a good steward of the land is so important," she said. "We've got to take care of what we have." She said the work done by KLICA on Save Farm is truly something to see. "It is absolutely beautiful the way they designed the ter-

aces and the tile works," she said. "And it accommodates the equipment of today, compared to many decades ago with this farm was first terraced."

"These contractors came out and volunteered their time for us," she said. "It's a very, very good thing to support our veterans."

"They volunteered their time and effort to do this because they think SAVE Farm is a worthy organization, training our nation's veterans," Ungerer said.

Those contributing to the SAVE Farm project were:

- Foley Equipment
  - o D6 Cat Dozer
  - o 320 Cat Excavator
- Berry Tractor
  - o D61EX Komatsu Dozer
- Murphy Tractor
  - o 672GP John Deere Motor Grader
- KanEquip
  - o JCB 220XLC Excavator
- Modern Ag
  - o Satellite GPS systems
- Prins/UFG
  - o \$500.00 donation
- Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.
  - o Pipe
- J&J Drainage Products
  - o Corrugated Metal Pipe End Pieces
- Joe Schletzbaum Construction, LLC
  - o Risers
- SAVE Farm Construction Time Assistance
  - Joe Schletzbaum
  - Paul White
  - Kent Henderson
  - Randy Myers
  - Steve Dick
  - Keith Babcock
  - Brad Mullen
  - Jeff Schell
  - Dave Orear
  - Steve Peter



### Kansas farm real estate value up 25%

Kansas's farm real estate value, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, increased from 2021, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Farm real estate value for 2022 averaged \$2,630 per acre, up \$530 per acre (up 25%) from last year.

Cropland value increased 24% from last year to \$2,950 per acre. Dryland cropland value averaged \$2,850 per acre, \$600 higher than last year. Irrigated cropland value averaged \$4,000 per acre, \$300 above a year ago. Pastureland, at \$1,850 per acre, was \$350 higher than the previous year.

Cash rents paid to landlords in 2022 for cropland increased from last year. Irrigated cropland rent averaged \$143.00 per acre, \$4.00 above last year. Dryland cropland rent averaged \$61.50 per acre, \$3.50 higher than a year earlier. Pasture rented for cash averaged \$21.00 per acre, \$1.00 above the previous year.

County level averages of 2022 cash rents paid to landlords will be released on August 26, 2022 and will be available through NASS Quick Stats, located at <http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>.

Access the national publication for this release at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/pn89d6567>

Find agricultural statistics for your county, state, and the nation at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

### EPA requests petition for partial rehearing in glyphosate litigation

Recently EPA submitted a petition to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals requesting a partial rehearing of the three-judge panel's June 17 ruling on the glyphosate interim decision. In that ruling, the panel vacated the interim decision's human health risk assessment and sent back the ecological risk assessment to EPA to complete an Endangered Species Act analysis by October 1. It is regarding this remand of the ecological portion of the interim decision for which EPA is seeking a partial rehearing.

In its earlier ruling, the court panel directed EPA to issue a new ecological risk assessment, presumably including a finalized ESA analysis, by October 1. However, in its request for a partial rehearing, EPA points out that to finalize an ESA consultation is a multi-year process, for which the panel granted EPA only 106 days. Additionally, finalizing an ESA consultation requires EPA to coordinate with both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine

Fisheries Service, neither of which are parties to the lawsuit or are subject to the court's order. As a result, EPA cannot comply with the court's order, as it relies on cooperation from parties outside of EPA's control.

EPA requested that the court grant the rehearing to, preferably, consider lifting the October 1 deadline. If the court is unwilling to do so, the agency requested the court vacate the interim decision in its entirety since it cannot comply with the order as it stands. EPA also suggested it may withdraw the ecological portion of the interim decision if the court does not lift the deadline or vacate the interim decision.

American Soybean Association is party to the litigation and is continuing to carefully monitor the case for developments. Additionally, ASA is regularly seeking additional advocacy opportunities to protect grower access to glyphosate and other vital crop protection tools.

### Fearless and Free

The Tricked Out Trick Riders put on an impressive show during the Wild Bill Hickok Rodeo in Abilene at the Central Kansas Free Fair.

Photo by Shelby Mall



## A Sticker of Satisfaction

By Glenn Brunkow, Pottawatomie County farmer and rancher

I am writing this on the day of the primary elections, complete with my "I Voted" sticker on the left pocket of my shirt. I am proud to say that I exercised my right to vote, and, in my mind, I made all the right choices. To my knowledge I have participated in every election since I turned 18, and I intend to exercise it every opportunity I get for the rest of my life.

I don't know if you have noticed but we are at a serious crossroads in the history of our great nation. That crossroads makes exercising the right to vote even more critical now than ever. That is especially true for those of us in agriculture. We are an ever-shrinking number, and we must take every chance we can get to make our voices heard; that is especially true when it comes to the polls.

That is also why it is so critical for each of us as Farm Bureau members to get involved with Voters Organized to Elect Farm Bureau Friends, or VOTE FBF. First, let me encourage you to support it monetarily. The dollars are used to support candidates friendly to agriculture and are only generated through donations from members. It doesn't have to be much if each of us donates every year.

More importantly get involved in the county process to decide which candidates to support. Like everything else in Farm Bureau, the decision of which candidates to support starts at the county level. Increasingly we are seeing candidates recog-

nize this and start to attend county board meetings and this gives us an opportunity to have discussions with them about our views. Those recommendations along with voting records are heavily considered by the Vote FBF board when deciding which candidates to endorse.

I would also hope that when you do go to the polls you will look at the list of candidates endorsed by VOTE FBF and consider supporting them. They are the candidates who have the best interest of agriculture in mind and most closely align with our policy. In the end you will make up your own mind and vote for the candidates that best represent you, but the list of endorsed candidates is a good place to start.

The most important thing is to get out and vote in November. It is the best way for us to make our voices heard. It was engrained in me early on that if you did not participate and vote, you really had no right to complain. I know I still get a feeling of pride every time I go to the polls and cast my vote. Regardless of how I feel about the slate of candidates or the issues I am voting on, I do get a great deal of satisfaction participating in the process. It isn't perfect, but it is the best in the world. So go cast your vote and wear that sticker with pride, you earned it.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

## 4-H ambassadors serve as leaders, role models in their community

By Annika Wiebers, K-State Research and Extension news service

To be an ambassador is to represent a specific group or organization to the public, but for the hundreds of 4-H ambassadors across Kansas, it means much more than that.

Kyanna Lankton, a Coffey County 4-H ambassador said group members "serve as youth leaders and help organize many different events through the 4-H year. We work to reach out to the community to promote the 4-H program, and perform community service projects."

This year, she notes, the Coffey County group hosted a contest to see which 4-H club could collect the most baby items, then donated the items to those in need.

"Serving the community," Lankton said, "is something that 4-H takes very seriously, and I think it has made Coffey County 4-H and the community better to see the ambassadors doing good deeds."

According to Lankton, 4-H ambassadors promote and support their local 4-H program through such activities as 4-H Days, TV or radio appearances, community service projects, organizing and executing the awards ceremony at the fair, and announcing during the end of year banquet.

"Every year, the ambassadors host a fun event to kick off the county fair," Lankton said. "Previously we have hosted barnyard Olympics, but this year we hosted a kickoff party with yard games and lemonade for socializing."

Because the job of 4-H Ambassador is no easy task,

## More than a Neighbor: Josh Mueller

Paying the Checkoff. Collecting the Checkoff. Managing the Checkoff. As a rancher, auction market owner and Kansas Beef Council Executive Board member, Josh Mueller sees his Checkoff dollars, as well as those of his family, neighbors and customers, advance the beef industry at each step along the way. He joined the KBC Executive Board more than four years ago and is honored to sit with cattlemen and women from across the state.

Mueller runs a small cow herd, offers custom grazing, custom backgrounding and cattle feeding with his father. Additionally, he and his wife own El Dorado Livestock Auction as well as being an order buyer and representative for Superior Livestock Auctions for the past 20 years. Mueller works with multiple segments of the beef industry

every day.

His career has afforded Mueller a front-row seat to the progress in the beef community over the last several decades. He started buying cattle in high school but knew long before his career would be in the cattle industry. "I've been in the business for 30 years and you can just see the progress," Mueller said. "With everything we are involved in, maybe we see it more than others, but I think we've made tremendous strides," Mueller said.

Mueller credits the decades of progress to the Kansas Beef Council (KBC) and the Beef Checkoff. "I strongly believe, without the Checkoff, beef producers would be light years behind other proteins in market share," he said. "It has been proven through economic studies the return on investment is as high or high-

er than any other input on a percentage basis. If you're open-minded you can just see it: the awareness of beef and how it's used, the research that has been published and the different cuts of meat that have been developed. The Checkoff has created more demand."

Specifically, KBC recently funded research supporting a campaign with which we are all too familiar. "A taste comparison between beef and alternative protein substitutes showed consumers overwhelmingly chose ground beef over plant-based alternatives. K-State published the research results," Mueller said. "While obvious to many of us, this research will be used in combination with the nutritional information to further solidify beef's place on healthy plates around the world."

In addition to the impacts they make on their community, 4-H ambassadors also have the opportunity to grow their own skills and gain real-world experience.

"My time as an ambassador has made me a better leader and communicator," Lankton said. "I have learned to communicate with (local) Extension agents, my fellow ambassadors, volunteers, and youth in 4-H. I have become a better leader by learning to work as a team with my ambassadors and communicating with them."

Perhaps the most important expectation of a 4-H Ambassador? According to Lankton, it's to serve as a role model for other 4-H members.

"I think having leaders to look up to that aren't adults and realizing that youth can be leaders has made an impact on Coffey County," Lankton said. "I can remember looking up to the ambassadors when I was a young 4-H'er, and I hope that I have made that same impact on some of today's youth too."

More information on opportunities available through Kansas 4-H is available at local Extension offices in Kansas.

Mueller welcomes conversations with cattlemen about the role KBC plays. "I like to express to them the power of their dollar and the strategic alliances we have with the Cattlemen's Beef Board and Federation of State Beef Councils as well as partnerships with other states that make our investment go further."

More than anything, Mueller is passionate about seeing the beef industry succeed and keeps that at the forefront of all aspects of his job. "It's very important to me producers realize the KBC board is made up of fellow beef farmers and ranchers just like them, from various industry segments, and what we do affects our operations the same as theirs," Mueller said. He does not take lightly the responsibility of managing Checkoff dollars. He reiterates the meticulous processes that are in place to ensure the money collected from producers is spent correctly and sensibly.

"Our role at the auction market of both collecting the dollar and then also remitting those funds to KBC is crucial to the system," Mueller said. "I can put producers' minds at ease knowing not only does their investment make it to its intended place but that it is also spent wisely with a great deal of thought and purpose."

Everyone in the beef community has a vital role to play in the Beef Checkoff. Whether it's paying, collecting or managing dollars, there is a need for people like Mueller who are willing to have the tough conversations, volunteer their time and keep moving their herds and the industry forward.



We are in the dog days of summer. Okay, when I said that out loud Roo, the cow dog, looked up from her nap on her dog bed, growled and went back to sleep. Even the dogs aren't taking credit for the blazing hot weather we have been having. I guess the extreme hot and cold serve the purpose of making us appreciate the four or five nice spring and fall days we get each year.

While it has been miserable weather to be outside, it has been good weather for putting up hay. Well, even that is as long as the air conditioning holds up in the tractors. I had the compressor go out in my baling tractor and it was hard on this fat guy. I thought I could gut it out but after an afternoon of baling with the wing windows open, I poured my melted self out of the cab and spent the evening rehydrating. I promise I did not forget to call the mechanic the next morning to get that problem fixed.

I know, years ago we baled little square bales with open station tractors. All I can say is that I am not that tough, and I really appreciate cab tractors, round balers, and air conditioning. That is, I appreciate them when they work; when they don't give me a tractor without a cab any day. I know I am soft, and I freely admit it. That is a case where the good old days maybe weren't so good after all. I got in on just enough of that to realize just how good I have it now, although my doctor would probably argue for small square bales each year when I get my physical.

One thing about this haying season is that I have a new appreciation for it. I have always liked baling hay – well, that is when things are going well. There is something satisfying about baling hay and putting it away for the winter season. I guess I am weird that way, but there are few things that bring me more joy than a full baleyard. This year it is especially satisfying because after sitting on the sidelines for a couple of months it is nice to get back to the swing of things. I am nearly back to full speed, which is absolutely amazing to me. A year ago, if you had told me I would get my hips

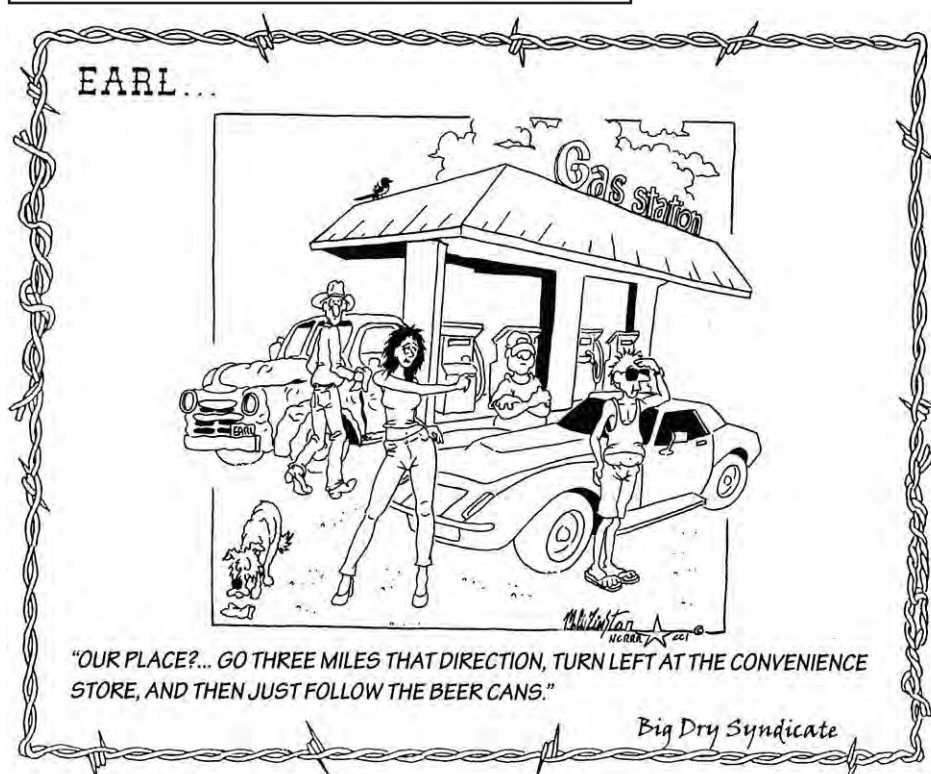
replaced and be back in the tractor seat in two weeks I would have laughed at you. Now, nine weeks after the first hip and five weeks after the second hip I am nearly healed, and I have a greater appreciation for being able to do what I love to do. I did not realize just how bad I was in pain or for how long I was.

It's too bad it takes something like that to make us appreciate just how good our lives are. Maybe you are different, but I tend to be so busy living my life that I forget just how good I have it and how much I love doing what I am doing. Now I am excited to climb up in the cab everyday and I get to make hay. Sitting and watching others do your job makes you realize just how much you miss it. If it doesn't maybe, you are in the wrong profession.

I guess that is a message we all need to hear these days. I swear everything I see on the news is bleak and you have to wonder what is going on with our world. I know I do, and I was especially when I was recuperating. It is too easy to get ourselves down, to believe there is nothing to celebrate. I am here to tell you there is more right in this world than there is wrong, you just have to know where to look for it.

I found it sitting in my tractor seat mowing hay, in the smell of the freshly mowed grass or watching the cows on pasture. I hope that you find that joy and satisfaction with your job. I hope you can see a path to better times or to be able to stop and realize that right now is one of those better times. I know I find moments of happiness and joy in my work, and I have a new appreciation for those moments now.

Sure, there will also be plenty of those times when you question your choice of occupations. I still have those times too. Maybe it is just the renewed cool of the air conditioner that has me happy; it sure doesn't hurt my mood. I would guess it has more to do with my return to good health and the time away that makes me appreciate what I do. Even in the dog days of summer and even in the heat.



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# Governor cuts ribbon on North America's largest wheat protein plant

Governor Laura Kelly joined Amber Wave, a leader in sustainable agriculture, food ingredients, and low-carbon fuels, to cut the ribbon on a state-of-the-art wheat protein ingredients facility in Phillipsburg that will be the largest wheat protein producer in North America within two years. The company is investing more than \$250 million into the facility and is creating more than 60 new jobs as it ramps up to full capacity.

The ribbon-cutting comes during the Governor's Prosperity on the Plains tour promoting economic development in Kansas.

"Kansas is known for its high-quality wheat, and this cutting-edge facility will strengthen the competitive edge we have in the market," Kelly said. "Now Kansas wheat farming families will have a massive direct buyer close to home and major food, baking, and pet food companies are able to have their wheat needs met here in Phillipsburg. This investment shows why our constant efforts to bring businesses to Kansas matter: Every local business



Gov. Laura Kelly, center, was joined by U.S. Senator Jerry Moran; Kansas Rep. Ken Rahjes, Kansas ag secretary Mike Beam, David Toland, other dignitaries and representatives of Amber Wave in cutting the ribbon on a new wheat protein ingredients plant in Phillipsburg.

owner and community member benefits."

The plant's location puts it in the heart of the country with rail access to both coasts and core Midwest customers for the diverse variety of products being made in Phillipsburg. All the wheat Amber Wave needs is grown within 100 miles of the plant.

"This is a big win not just for Phillipsburg and western Kansas but the entire state," Lieutenant

Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. "Amber Wave's facility underscores Governor Kelly's continued commitment to increasing prosperity in all areas of the Kansas."

In addition to building a wheat mill and vital wheat gluten plant, the company retrofitted the existing Prairie Horizon Agri-Energy corn-based ethanol plant to produce ethanol from wheat starch. The

plant will use the latest technology in wheat milling and protein extraction while creating a significantly lower carbon footprint than traditional corn ethanol plants to produce biofuels.

"Recognizing the rising demand for high-protein ingredients and innovative feed products, coupled with renewable fuels that reduce our carbon footprint, this investment fits with what we have

successfully done many times in Summit's history," said Bruce Rastetter, CEO of Summit Agricultural Group, Amber Wave's parent organization. "We evaluated several sites in various wheat-growing areas and Prairie Horizon is ideally located. The wheat protein we will produce is a healthy ingredient used widely within baked goods, pet food and growing aquaculture feed markets."

"Today, wheat protein demand in the U.S. is heavily reliant on imports," Rastetter said, "and with consumers demanding more transparency about the origins of the food they eat, we see a real opportunity."

Courtesy photo

## Music from the "Great American Songbook" to be at Pioneer Bluffs

An 18-member orchestra that has performed for notables that include President George W. Bush and Luciano Pavarotti is coming to the Flint Hills for a special concert

On Saturday, August 27, the Great Plains Jazz Orchestra will present Big Band Jazz and music from "The Great American Songbook" on the shaded lawn of Pioneer Bluffs near Matfield Green. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the 90-minute concert begins at 7:00 p.m.

The Great American Songbook features the most important and influential popular songs and jazz standards that have stood the test of time. The Great Plains Jazz Orchestra includes vocalists reminiscent of Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr, and Frankie Valli, who will perform familiar tunes such as *Mack the Knife*, *The Lady is a Tramp*, and *Young and Foolish*.

The Great Plains Jazz Orchestra is a highly acclaimed ensemble under the direction of Keith Woolery. "We look forward to sharing our music with the people of the Flint Hills," says Woolery. "We hope you will feel the



An 18-member orchestra will present music from The Great American Songbook on Saturday, August 27 at Pioneer Bluffs near Matfield Green. Courtesy photo

same sentiment as former president George W. Bush, who exclaimed after our performance, 'I love the band; this was great entertainment!'"

Cowboy caviar, prepared with locally sourced food by Chef Tracey Graham, will be served, along with ice cold bottled water. A cash bar will be available.

In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the loft of the Pioneer Bluffs barn.

A donation of \$20 is suggested for this unique

program. Reservations requested, but not required. For reservations or additional information, contact Lynn Smith at lynn@pioneerbluffs.org or (620) 753-3484. Details can be found at pioneerbluffs.org or on the Pioneer Bluffs Facebook event page.

The mission of Pioneer Bluffs is to preserve and share the ranching heritage of the Flint Hills. A National Register Historic District, Pioneer Bluffs is on Flint Hills National Scenic Byway K-177, 14 miles south of Cottonwood

Falls or one mile north of Matfield Green.

## Beyond Meat cuts sales forecast

Beyond Meat recently lowered its revenue forecast for the year and announced job cuts as rising inflation hurt the company's efforts to make its pricier plant-based meat more affordable for consumers, Reuters reports.

Higher prices of plant-based meat have slowed the growth of the category with people trading down

to lower-priced chicken and beef, said Beyond Meat chief executive Ethan Brown.

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**Millie Conger, Tecumseh, Wins This Week's Contest And Prize**

Winner Millie Conger, Tecumseh:  
**SCRAMBLED EGGS CUPS**

20-ounce package refrigerated-style hashbrown potatoes (Southern-style)

- 1 1/4 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided
- 6 large eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 10 thick slices bacon, cooked & crumbled

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine potatoes and 3/4 cup cheese. Divide into 12-cup muffin tin. Press down and have on bottom and sides. Bake until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Mix eggs, milk and salt. In a large skillet melt butter then pour in egg mixture. Cook and stir eggs until done. Stir in bacon. Spoon into cups and sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake until cheese is melted, 3-5 minutes. Cool 5 minutes before serving.

**Jackie Doud, Topeka:**  
**NO-BAKE SNOW BALLS**  
8 ounces cream cheese  
8-ounce can crushed pineapple, well drained  
1 cup chopped pecans  
3 cups coconut

Combine cream cheese and pineapple. Fold in pecans. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour. Roll into 1-inch balls and roll in coconut. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.

## Proper Handling Of Frozen Food Is One Part Of Food Safety Plan

MANHATTAN — When working in the kitchen, sometimes the temptation is to snack on the ingredients while we are cooking. Who can resist eating a bite of delicious dough when mixing up a batch of cookies?

But what does that mean when it comes to eating frozen foods like a kernel of corn as it hits the cooking pan?

"It is important to read the package directions to make sure the food is cooked to the proper endpoint temperature," said Sandy Procter, a K-State Research and Extension nutrition specialist. "Frozen corn was packaged with the intention that it

is to be cooked to be completely safe. We may not always read it, but the label says cook before serving or something similar."

Oftentimes the microwave is the choice for families working with frozen foods. Procter reminded consumers of the importance of proper sanitation following defrosting and cooking in the microwave.

"If the last thing the microwave was used for was to defrost raw meat, there may be some juices dried on the surface that make it unsanitary," she said. "So, a good practice is to use a disinfecting wipe to clean out the microwave after each use to prevent bacteria growth."

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Kellee George, Lenexa:**  
**ROAD HOUSE SEASONING**

- 2 tablespoons salt
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon turmeric

In a bowl mix all ingredients. Place ingredients in a gallon zip-lock bag. Shake well each time you use some to keep mixed.

**NOTE:** Great seasoning for steaks before you grill them. Let stand on meat a few minutes before grilling.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:**

- SLOPPY JOE**
- 1 pound ground beef
  - 1/4 cup chopped onion
  - 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
  - 3/4 cup ketchup
  - 2 teaspoons tomato paste
  - 2 1/2 teaspoons Worcestershire Sauce
  - 2 1/2 teaspoons brown sugar
  - Salt & pepper to taste

Brown ground beef and

onion. Add remaining ingredients. Let simmer a few minutes. Serve on buns or toasted Texas Toast.

**Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:**  
**BLT MUFFINS**

- 2 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 3/4 cup crumbled & cooked bacon
- 1/2 cup chopped & seeded plum tomatoes

Set oven to 400 degrees.

In a bowl combine flour, baking powder and sugar. In another small bowl whisk milk and mayonnaise. Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in bacon and tomatoes. Fill 12 muffin cups two-thirds full. Use greased muffin tin or line with paper liners. Bake 20-25 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Let set 5 minutes before serving. Serve warm with piece of lettuce.

\*\*\*\*\*



My list was made of all the things that needed to be done before we went to Wisconsin. We had met with the neighbors who were going to be watching my cats, given them their instructions and thanked them profusely for being willing to take on the task of my fur children. Then all of a sudden, life strikes again, and plans changed.

About two weeks before we left, I got the call that my sister-in-law was not feeling well, and shortly thereafter, my brother Mike tested positive for Covid; I had been staying far away to ensure that our trip to Wisconsin was going to be able to happen, but this universe likes to remind us constantly that we are not in charge.

A couple of days before we were scheduled to leave, Kyle got a message from his boss that he had tested positive for Covid, this happened to be the day after he and Kyle had spent the day together in a car and in the Kansas City office. Clearly Kyle started to panic, he called his parents to let them know what was going on and they respectfully requested we delay our trip to ensure both of us avoided Covid before making the trip to Wisconsin.

They had requested five days after Kyle's contact with his boss before we would journey their way, which would have had us heading their way on Sunday, August 7th. Well, life yet again reminded us we were not in charge. Kyle started having symptoms remarkably similar to his boss, a scratchy throat and headache. He tested for the next few days and then on the morning of Saturday the 6th, his test came back positive.

We were both devastated and had to figure out what was next. We knew that besides getting Kyle healthy, we also wanted to do everything we could to prevent me from getting it.

We decided I would stay at the house, but that Kyle would quarantine to the primary bedroom, bathroom, and office. He shut himself in there and stayed put, forcing us to have to talk through the door and avoiding all contact with each other. I moved into the spare bedroom and had the rest of the house to roam.

I let my boss know what was going on and he required a negative Covid test before I could come to work that next Monday. I was completely symptom-free, but totally understood where he was coming from. I took my first test Saturday morning and was thrilled it was negative. I knew I had to take another one Sunday night and although still symptom-free, I was worried that I would test positive just being in the same house as Kyle. Thankfully, I did not, I had my second negative test and was allowed to go back to work on Monday.

Kyle had multiple different symptoms, and luckily, I have remained completely without symptoms. Our options of when we will make up the trip to Wisconsin have dwindled as we approach back-to-back bridal shower weekends and get closer and closer to the wedding. Currently we are hoping for a trip around Labor Day, but as we have learned in the past couple of weeks, time will tell, and we must just go with the flow.

Michele grew up in Junction City and graduated from Kansas State University. She worked in the restaurant management field for six years before deciding to switch careers and now works as an office manager for a company that manufactures oilfield products. Her passion for blogging and food can be followed on Instagram: [boobsbrainsandbaking](#).

If you would like to contact Michele with comments please email [mcarlyon88@gmail.com](mailto:mcarlyon88@gmail.com)

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3. Send it to: Woman's Page Editor, Grass & Grain, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505. OR e-mail at: [auctions@agress.com](mailto:auctions@agress.com)

Good hand washing and regular sanitizing of food preparation surfaces are also important practices to follow, Procter said.

"The food that comes to us frozen is safe, but as soon as we move it from the freezer the food is at risk for contamination if we don't handle it properly," she said.

Another food safety reminder is knowing the temperature danger zone for food before it puts consumers at risk for food poisoning.

"We say food is in the temperature danger zone when it is between 40 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit for more than two hours," Procter said. If food is outside on a 90 degree or warmer day, Procter that time span shortens to one hour.

Another risk in food preparation is not bringing food to the proper internal endpoint temperature, said Procter, so she advised reading the direc-

tions on the package for guidance.

"Checking the label and reading the instructions even on familiar products is important because manufacturers don't have to tell us when they make changes to how the food should be prepared," she said. "We have the safest food supply in the world, but it is important that we know how to handle that food safely, as well."

To learn more on this topic, Procter recommended checking out K-State's Rapid Response Center ([www.rrc.k-state.edu/](http://www.rrc.k-state.edu/)) or their local Extension office.

She also encouraged families seek information at the [foodsafety.gov](http://foodsafety.gov) website regularly for potential food recalls. Another resource for families is the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline, 1-888-674-6854 or chat live at [ask.usda.gov](http://ask.usda.gov) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central time, Monday through Friday.

## Back to School Shopping... Where Did the Summer Go?

By Julie Smith, Family Resource Management and Entrepreneurship Agent, Wildcat Extension District  
The older I get, the faster the summers seem to go. I feel like I was just attending graduation parties yesterday, but my daughter starts her sophomore year of high school in just over two weeks. Yikes!

If summer went just as fast for you, odds are you have not had a lot of time to think about back-to-school shopping. Even if you have not planned well this year, here are some tips to consider as your family prepares for the 2022-23 school year.

- 1) Inventory your home first. There may be items on the supply list that you already have and will not need to purchase again.
- 2) Compare prices. It is tempting in today's world to buy everything on Amazon and avoid a trip to the store.

Keep in mind though that brick and mortar stores keep our local economies healthy and many stores are running great deals on school supplies right now.

3) Get creative. Instead of loading the cart with brand new clothes, take your kids on an adventure to garage sales, thrift stores and consignment shops. You can really stretch your dollar and kids feel great about scoring their own deals.

Personally, I am a lover of all things school and office supplies, so my best advice to save money during your shopping trip is to stick to the list. Enjoy the last few weeks of summer and best of luck for the new school year!

For more information, contact Julie Smith at [julie-smith@ksu.edu](mailto:julie-smith@ksu.edu) or by calling 620-238-0704.

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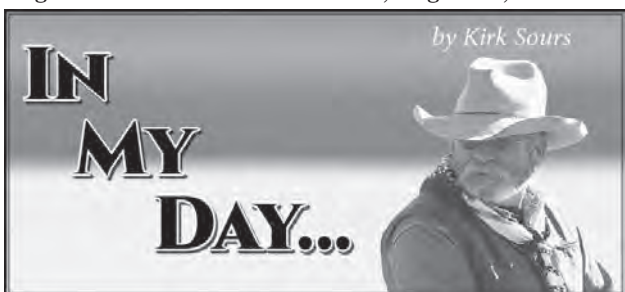
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## Prairie Pizza

I spent a little over a year working for the University of Nebraska at the Gudmundsen Ranch. There were several research projects going on simultaneously concerning everything from native grass management, nutrition/supplementation effects on prenatal, calving and lactating cows, (these two studies actually intersected on upland winter pasture where dry cows were fed varying amounts of ear corn on dry pasture), forage production

on wet meadows, grasshoppers and horn flies.

In the summer of 1984 there were two entomology grad students at the ranch: Kevin and Eric. Kevin, because I can't remember his name, and Kevin seems like a good name for an entomologist. Eric, I remember well because he reminded me of Eric Clapton, and because he bunked in the calving barn, which was on my side of the sprawling ranch headquarters, where I would walk over

on a Sunday afternoon or evening and visit with him.

Kevin was working on a grasshopper study and he could be seen at all hours of the day during the grasshopper season, out in the distant pastures and hay meadows, casting his big butterfly net over undisturbed growth trying to contain grasshoppers for the count, and documentation of the various stages of growth, as well as taking clippings of grass, I supposed to see if there was a particular species that the hoppers preferred over the other native species. Kevin told me, in the few conversations I had with him that one grasshopper, during its life cycle of just a few weeks, will consume enough forage to feed a 600-lb. steer for one day. Impressive as it was, that was actually the only thing that stuck with me over

these last 40 years about Kevin.

Eric, on the other hand, was, for an entomologist, an interesting case study himself. Not only did he look like the rock and roll legend, he was quite an entertaining cuss, with a cold bottle of beer never more than an arm's length away, at least while he was working at the barn. I wish I had more information about what the purpose of his project was, because I'd love to have read his paper on it. In retrospect, I suspect it had to do with the development of IGR products, considering what I saw him doing.

He talked a lot, but about everything else in the world except what he was doing; only when I asked him direct questions did he tell me about his project. Eric was doing research on horn flies. He spent endless hours alone,

sitting amongst grazing and loafing herds of cattle, counting flies, literally (I guess that's why he was always glad to see me walking over toward the barn). He would flag fresh cow patties with cow ID, time and date, and after a few days of solidification he would pick them up, bag and stack them carefully in the wooden box on the back of his ATV. He had built that box out of old pallet lumber and painted it white, with bold red lettering that declared, "Prairie Pizza: We Deliver!"

Outside his bunkhouse door at the barn was an old wringer-style washing machine with the wringers removed, which just made it a ten-gallon tub on legs. Eric would fill that washer with water and then unpack and soak those dried cow pies, one at a time, till they disintegrated and the fly larvae floated to the

top. He would skim them off and count those larvae just like he had counted those flies per cow.

Two.

That's the number of patties per tub of water before he would change it to drain the slurry. It's also the number of tubs per beer that Eric drank during the process. The beer per patty ratio was probably much higher when I wasn't present to talk to, so I figured I was key in the scientific accuracy of the outcome of the study simply by my presence.

Horn fly product users, you're welcome!

Kirk Sours is a ranch manager in northeast Kansas, shaped and molded by the Kansas prairie since the age of eight. His major hobby is writing commentary, short biographical stories, and he is active in the community. Email him at: [sours.kirk@yahoo.com](mailto:sours.kirk@yahoo.com).

# Midge, sorghum aphid found in Kansas

By Pat Melgares, K-State Research and Extension news service

While there's no reason for alarm, a pair of Kansas Extension agents are at least urging the state's sorghum producers to be on the lookout for a couple of pests that have recently shown up in this year's crop.

Anthony Zukoff, the coordinator of the Insect

Diagnostics Program at Kansas State University's Southwest Research and Extension Center in Garden City, said the sorghum midge was recently found in the southwest part of the state.

If not for the destruction it causes, the midge is a remarkable insect. The adult lifespan of the fragile, reddish-orange fly is a mere 24-48 hours, but

during that time females can lay 50-120 eggs – to the detriment of sorghum plants.

"Heads with severe midge damage take on an overall flattened appearance with blank areas," Zukoff said. "These blank areas are where midge larva feed within the developing seeds and completely consume them."

Zukoff said sorghum is only susceptible to midge damage during the bloom period when flowers are bright yellow. Female

midges fly to blooming sorghum and crawl over seed heads, depositing eggs in the open flowers.

"Once the flowers take on a brownish rusty color, they are not attractive to females and are no longer able to be infested," Zukoff said. "Adult midges do not damage sorghum; all yield loss is due to the larvae."

Historically in Kansas, the midge has been considered a minor pest confined to the southeast part of the state, according to

Zukoff. Kansas producers have never actively treated fields for the pest.

"However, between 2017 and 2021, there were reports of large infestations resulting in significant losses in southwest and southeast Kansas," Zukoff said. "So far, there is no clear pattern to these events, and locations that experienced losses one year have not necessarily ended up with problems in the years following."

Zukoff noted there are no treatment or threshold recommendations for sorghum midge in Kansas, though "states south of us recommend treatment at (a threshold) as little as one midge per sorghum head."

"There are a variety of treatment options in those states, but cultural practices are shown to help reduce losses from this pest, including planting early in the season," so that fields are blooming before mid-August.

Meanwhile, near Ellsworth, Midway Extension District agricultural agent Craig Dinkel reported a single case of the sorghum aphid (previously called

the sugarcane aphid) in a farmer's sorghum crop last week. Since then, some isolated cases have been found in other parts of Kansas.

Even so, Dinkel said "I am not foreseeing the sorghum aphid to be a widespread infestation this year." He noted he has "checked multiple fields" and found just the one infestation.

"Right now, producers should just be monitoring their milo fields for the sorghum aphids knowing what varieties they have planted," Dinkel said. "Many seed companies have bred tolerance into milo, but still some varieties – like the one I checked – are susceptible to the aphids."

He adds: "Patience is key. If producers find sorghum aphids in a field, it doesn't mean they will become a problem to spray for. Our beneficial insects have adapted to the sorghum aphids and have controlled them very well."

More information on pests that affect Kansas farm crops is available at local Extension offices.

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# K-State entomology team wins Wilbur-Ellis award

Wilbur-Ellis is announcing the winners of the first Wilbur-Ellis Innovation Award, which invited student teams from U.S. colleges and universities to submit innovative ideas for feeding a growing world population.

The winner of the \$25,000 Grand Prize is the Kansas State University Entomology Team for their submission "Insects Recycling to Feed the World." The winning submission explored using "plastic-degrading insect microbial symbionts" (bacteria) to give insects plastic degrading abilities, which would turn plastic waste into biomass for a variety of productive uses.

Four additional teams are being honored with \$5,000 Honorable Mention Awards. They are:

- CIBER Squad, representing the University of California, Riverside
- Zumwalt Acres, representing the University of Texas at Dallas and Middlebury College
- Team SLAPS,



The Kansas State University entomology team worked together to win the \$25,000 grand prize in the first Wilbur-Ellis Innovation Award.

representing California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, the University of Washington, and the University of California, Berkeley

• Kansas State University Grain Science Team, representing Kansas State University

The honorable mention submissions explored enhancing the honey bee population, the potential of basalt to improve soil health, an alternative way to produce meat, and expanding ocean farming. To see the names of all the winning team members and read summaries of their submissions, visit

the Wilbur-Ellis Innovation Award website.

The Wilbur-Ellis Innovation Award was launched in 2021 as part of the company's 100th anniversary celebration. "Our 100th anniversary was an opportunity to celebrate our history," said John Buckley, Wilbur-El-

lis president and chief executive officer. "We're proud of our past, but at Wilbur-Ellis we're always looking ahead. And we wanted to engage young people in thinking about the big challenges facing the world. I can't think of a bigger challenge than sustainably feeding a growing world population."

By 2050, the global population is expected to increase by two billion people. "As the population expands, we'll need innovative ideas and partnerships of all kinds to feed more people," Buckley said. "As a company that partners with farmers and ranchers throughout North America, supporting innovation in agriculture is something we do every day. And as we've experienced disruptions in the food supply - intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine - we've all become very aware of the critical role agriculture and food production play in our lives."

With the Innovation Award, Wilbur-Ellis is giving young people a forum for surfacing new, out-of-the-box ideas that could have a positive impact on this critical imperative. With the success of the first Innovation Award - which engaged more than 120 students working in over 30 teams - Wilbur-Ellis will sponsor the award for a second year, launching the competition in the fall of 2022 and expanding it to include college and university students in the U.S. and most of Canada.

"We're very happy to sponsor the Innovation Award for a second year," Buckley said. "The young people who participated in the first competition are exceptionally bright and the ideas they brought forward have real promise. We want to encourage that again with the 2023 award, because when creative minds come together, we can find new and better ways to feed a growing world."

## Senate acts on NEPA resolution, WRDA bill

Recently, the U.S. Senate passed S.J. Res. 55, a joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act to reverse the White House Council on Environmental Quality's rulemaking related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The resolution was introduced by Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) and garnered the support of all Senate Republicans plus Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.V.). Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) supported the measure but was unable to vote be-

cause of COVID-isolation protocols.

Proponents of the resolution argued that the NEPA rule revisions undermine important provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act intended to streamline key elements of a broken federal permitting process and are a substantial roll-back of the Trump administration's 2020 NEPA regulations, which were the first major modernization of federal environmental reviews since 1978.

An NCBA statement in

support of S.J. Res. 55 said, "For years, the National Environmental Policy Act process was inefficient and unreasonably costly. Bureaucratic delays held up critical transportation projects, water infrastructure and basic stewardship activities. With this rule, the administration has turned back to the clock to a process that they themselves recognized as broken. Ranchers and the lands they manage need clear, predictable and timely NEPA analysis. Thank you to Senator Sul-

livan and his colleagues for listening to ranchers and rural communities."

"This action by the Senate is great news," said TCEA director of government relations Josh Wingardner. "But to take effect, the joint resolution must also pass the House of Representatives and be signed by President Biden, which is unlikely."

The U.S. Senate also voted overwhelmingly to pass the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Among the various flood mitigation and water de-

velopment projects, the bill includes authorization and funding to modernize the U.S. waterways infrastructure. The bill was praised by agricultural groups and their members.

Congress has passed a WRDA every two years since 2014. The legislation provides stakeholders

with the opportunity to address important navigation, ecosystem and flood protection issues critical to American industries and communities. A conference committee will be formed to reconcile the differences between the Senate bill and the House version passed in June.



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# USW trade team visit to Kansas reinforces the importance of trade relationships with top customers from Colombia

Farmers aren't the only ones who keep a close eye on Mother Nature's shenanigans during the growing season. Around the world, grain buyers, millers and bakers track the progress of the U.S. wheat crop, eagerly awaiting the quantity and quality of each year's harvest. Moving past the headlines and putting these critical customers in direct contact with the U.S. wheat industry is the job of U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) – the industry's export market development organization.

To do so, USW invests funding from USDA Foreign Agricultural Service export market development programs to bring trade teams of overseas customers and stakeholders to the United States each year. These visits provide important selling points in a world marketplace where Kansas wheat producers compete against their counterparts in Canada, Argentina, Australia and the Black Sea.

"While harvest results differ from county to county and state to state, America's hard-working farm families produce enough wheat every year to fill our tables while still supplying world wheat trade,"



said Aaron Harries, vice president of research and operations for Kansas Wheat. "Coordinating local visits connect our customers with the dependable folks who work to provide the right kind of wheat for their specific end-use needs."

On the heels of a team of next-generation flour millers and commodity buyers from the Middle East and North Africa, Kansas Wheat recently hosted a team of senior managers

and wheat buyers from five Colombian flour mills and the leader of Fedemol, the Colombian milling and wheat food industries association. Over nine days, these customers also visited Washington state and Ohio. The team had a busy day in Kansas on Friday, July 29. At the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center, the team received an overview of the Kansas wheat industry and an HRW crop update before touring the facility. The team also had

a briefing by the neighboring IGP Institute.

After lunch, the team traveled to Salina to tour the Cargill terminal elevator and the Kansas Grain Inspection Service station. Back in Manhattan, the team also visited Engrain, which provides innovations in milling and baking that improve bread volume, optimize pasta texture and enrich baked goods.

The in-person visit to Kansas and other wheat

states reinforces the reliable reputation of U.S. wheat and helps maintain exports to this important customer. Colombia is currently the largest destination for U.S. wheat in South America. The United States enjoyed a 30% market share in the 2021 calendar year at nearly 20.14 million bushels (548,000 metric tons), up from 22% the prior year. Colombia imports U.S. wheat through ports on the Gulf of Mexico that receive U.S. HRW and SRW and ports on the Pacific Ocean that receive U.S. SW wheat.

Within Colombia, wheat is not a profitable crop, driven by climate. Most wheat farms are located in the southern part of the country and do not exceed four acres. As a result, average wheat production over the last ten years is less than about 14.7 bushels (400,000 metric tons). Less than half of this locally grown wheat is purchased by the milling industry with the majority of domestic production consumed directly in rural areas.

However, Colombians do enjoy their wheat foods. In the 2021 calendar year, Colombian wheat

consumption totaled 62.24 million bushels (1.83 million metric tons). The majority of that wheat – 76% – was consumed as bread or pastries, above the Latin American average of 69%. Cookie and cracker consumption made up 9.5% and 14.5% was consumed as pasta.

And this market still has room to grow. Colombian per capita wheat and bread consumption remain the lowest in South America, about half that of neighboring countries. For example, bread consumption was 56 pounds per capita per year, compared to 215 pounds in Chile.

This combination of growth opportunities, favorable importing logistics and increasing market share make teams like this one from Colombia an important activity for Kansas Wheat and other state wheat commissions to work with USW to showcase the reliability, quality and value of the wheat grown here in the Heartland every year.

Learn more about the different trade teams USW has organized this summer at <https://www.uswheat.org/wheatletter/u-s-wheat-customer-trade-teams-are-back/>.

## Short forage supplies require producers to make tough decisions

Dry weather and short pastures have reduced forage supplies, prompting livestock producers to ponder "could have, would have, should have" scenarios, says University of Missouri Extension livestock specialist Eric Meusch.

Producers should try to match their herd needs to anticipated forage supplies, Meusch says. This requires planning before a drought. Many factors will be out of your control if you wait until drought actually hits.

During drought, producers have control over some factors but not others. It is important to manage controllable areas to meet animal needs and be profitable. Good grazing systems give producers flexibility to decide when and where livestock grazes, he says.

Fencing and proximity of available water are important factors. Properly managed systems let producers, rather than

the cows, control grazing heights of pastures, rest periods and rationing of grasses.

The most critical factor in pasture management during a drought is understanding and estimating proper stocking rates, he says. Stocking rate is a measure of forage demand. Carrying capacity is a measure of forage supply. Weather and pasture management determine carrying capacity.

How do you know when your herd is overstocked? Stocking for a year with "average" rainfall basically means you will be overstocked half of the time, Meusch says. By stocking

for 90% of average, you risk being overstocked one out of four years. Stocking at 80% of average reduces the risk of being overstocked to one of every eight years. By using a conservative stocking rate, a producer reduces the impact of a drought and has flexibility to hold yearlings or add stockers when rainfall is adequate. "Having too much grass isn't a bad thing," he says.

When forage and pasture supplies are low, consider how and where you will buy feed. If alternative supplies are unavailable or too expensive, another option is to sell cows.

Culling cows is an option when there are too many cows and not enough feed. Review the herd for open cows, cows in poor condition, depreciating older cows and late-conceiving cows, Meusch says. "Ideally, producers will have a drought plan in place that has already identified the cows that can be culled. Having such a plan in place makes it quicker and easier to sell cows if culling is required."

When feed is limited, consider the energy requirements of different classes of livestock, he

says. "Understanding and prioritizing for the needs of pregnant and lactating cows is crucial for surviving a drought. Calves can be weaned early and stockers can be sold, but cows must be maintained if they are to be profitable in coming years."

Spring-calving cows with calves on their sides are probably the most flexible right now because calves can be weaned, making cows easier to maintain. Fall-calving cows, however, need to be carefully managed to ensure they maintain their body condition through

the calving and breeding season. A drought this time of year is particularly challenging for fall-calving cows, Meusch says.

MU Extension beef nutritionist Eric Bailey offers tips for culling in a 2018 news release, "Drought cuts pasture growth, farmers face culling cow herds," at [muelx.us/n3495](https://muelx.us/n3495).

More information on forages is available from the Alliance for Grassland Renewal at [grasslandrenewal.org](https://grasslandrenewal.org). The alliance includes partners from university, government, industry and nonprofit groups.



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