



# Kansas Hay Market Report

Compared to the last report demand remains good, prices remained steady, trade activity was slow. Contributors report that new hay sales continue to be slow as there is not much out there TO buy, however, if you beat the bushes, you might be able to find a few loads

here and there. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for March 7th, much of the High Plains remains in long-term drought, with the central High Plains seeing some expansion of moderate drought (D1) from southeast Nebraska to northeastern Kansas based on continued lack of

recent precipitation, low stream flows and soil moisture. However, southeast Kansas received heavy rain from severe storms that extended from the South and Southeast into the Great Lakes regions. The categorical percent area for Abnormally dry conditions(D0) decreased to 10%, moderate drought (D1) increased to near 10%, severe drought (D2) remained near 13%, extreme drought (D3) remained near 17%, and exceptional drought (D4) remained near 35%.

### Southwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground and delivered steady, movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, supreme small squares 12.00-14.00/bale. Dairy,1.40-1.50/point RFV. Good, Stock or Dry Cow 295.00-305.00. Grinding alfalfa, large rounds, 285.00-300.00, large square 3x4's and 4x4's 300.00-315.00. Ground and delivered locally to feed lots and dairies 340.00-350.00. Alfalfa/grass hay mix ground and delivered 300.00-310.00; Grass Hay: Bluestem: none reported. Corn stalks: none reported. The week of 3/5-3/11,

4,095T of grinding alfalfa and 550 Tof dairy alfalfa was reported bought or sold. The average paid by feedlots on March 1 for alfalfa ground and delivered was \$310.07, up \$11.07 from the previous month, usage was 678T/day, up less than 1% from the previous month and total usage was 18,995.5T.

### South Central Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, and alfalfa pellets steady, grinding alfalfa mostly steady, ground and delivered 5.00 higher, movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, small squares 325.00/ton. Dairy 1.40-1.50/point RFV. Good, Stock cow, 300.00-310.00. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, large rounds 290.00-300.00 delivered, 3x4 and 4x4's 290.00-300.00 delivered. Alfalfa ground and delivered 315.00-330.00; Alfalfa/Soybean: ground and delivered 300.00-315.00. Alfalfa pellets: Sun cured 15 pct protein 325.00-335.00, 17 pct protein 345.00-350.00, Dehydrated 17 pct 395.00-400.00. Grass Hay: Bluestem, large rounds none reported. Sudan: large round 125.00-130.00. Corn stalks: large rounds 110.00-120.00. Soybeans, large round 140.00-150.00. Milo: large rounds 125.00-135.00. The week of 3/5-3/11,

7,845.75T of grinding alfalfa and 100T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought or sold. The average paid by feedlots on March 1 for alfalfa ground and delivered was \$267.88, up \$5.69 from the previous month, usage was 247T/day, up 5.5% from the previous and total usage was 7,160T.

### Southeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa steady and grass hay mixed; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse or goat, none reported. Dairy 1.40-1.50/point RFV. Good, stock cow 260.00-270.00. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, large rounds none reported, large square 3x4250.00-260.00; Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares 160.00-165.00, good 3x4 squares 160.00-170.00, large round 120.00-130.00, Brome, 3x4 and 4x4 squares 155.00-165.00. Corn stalks: large round 120.00-130.00 delivered. The week of 3/5-3/11, 1,364T of grass hay was reported bought or sold.

### Northwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa and grinding alfalfa steady, movement slow. Alfalfa: Horse or goat, small squares 345.00-355.00 delivered, 3x3 squares 305.00-320.00 delivered. Dairy, Premium/Supreme 1.40-1.50/

point RFV. Stock cow, fair/good none reported. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, large square 3x4's 300.00-315.00. Milo stalks, large rounds 145.00-150.00.

### North Central-Northeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground/delivered and bluestem grass hay steady, movement slow. Alfalfa: Dairy 1.40-1.50/point RFV; Horse hay, premium small squares, 12.50-13.50/bale, 3x4's 290.00-300.00; Stock Cow 3x4's 220.00-230.00. Fair/good, grinding alfalfa, large rounds 235.00-245.00, large square 3x4's 240.00-250.00; Alfalfa ground and delivered 275.00-300.00; Alfalfa/Prairie grass mix ground and delivered 270.00-275.00. Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares 8.00-8.50/bale, large 3x4 squares 150.00-160.00, good large rounds 140.00-150.00. Brome: small squares 9.00-9.50/bale, large square 3x4's 170.00-180.00. Sudan: large square 3x4's 130.00-140.00 delivered. Wheat straw: small squares 6.00/bale, large rounds 110.00-115.00, large squares 115.00-125.00. Corn stalks: large rounds 95.00-100.00. The week of 3/5-3/11, 953 T of grinding alfalfa and 175 T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought or sold.

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

\*\*\*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

\*\*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.

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# Beef Fest names winners in feedlot, carcass contests

Steers entered by Putman Farm near Emporia and heifers owned by Anderson Ranch of Alma won the overall gain contest as part of the 2022 Flint Hills Beef Fest feedlot and carcass awards. The steers from Putman Farm gained 3.94 lbs. per day from the time they went on grass in April 2022 until harvest from the feedlot on January 3, 2023, while the Anderson Ranch heifers gained 4.12 lbs. per day.

The top-ranking Putman steers were first place in the feedlot contest, with an average daily gain of 4.89 lbs. In second place

were steers from Spring Creek Ranch of Cassoday. The steer carcass contest was won by entries from Woodbury Farms of Quenemo, with second place awarded to cattle owned by Plum Creek Ranch of Neosho Rapids.

In the heifer division, the winning pen from Anderson Ranch gained 4.77 lbs. per day in the feedlot contest, while cattle owned by John, Heather and Andrew Sigle of Wilsey finished second. Entries from Loomis Ranch of Council Grove took both first and second place in the heifer carcass contest.



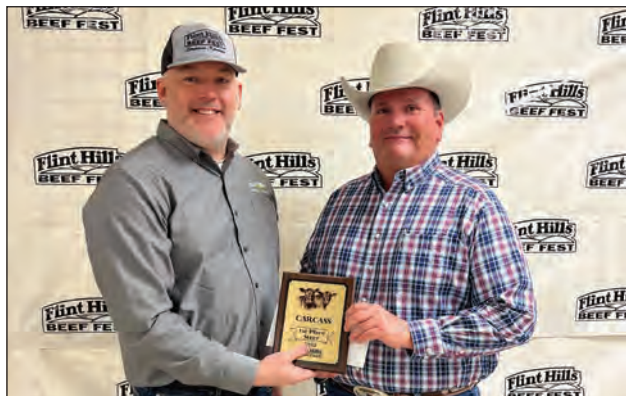
1st Place Heifers Carcass was earned by Loomis Ranch. Pictured are Jason Loomis and Justin Loomis with daughter Jessie, Council Grove.



1st Place Heifers Feed Lot and Overall Gain was awarded to Julia and Matt Anderson, Alma.



The Olma Peak Steers Award was presented to Jim and Donna Bates and grandson Bo, Galesburg.



John Woodbury, Quenemo, won the 1st Place Steer Carcass award.



1st Place Feedlot Steers and Overall Gain was won by Dale and Judy Putman, Emporia.



The Pres White Heifers Award went to Lee Glanville and Wes Cahoon, Cottonwood Falls.

## Mexico's beef consumption defies inflation

Despite record levels of inflation hitting consumers in Mexico, beef consumption in that country is expected to increase in 2023, according to a recent USDA Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN) report.

The food inflation rate in Mexico is the highest reported in more than 20 years, the report said, marking a year-over-year increase of 8.35 percent in December and 14.14 percent for the year. Even so, Mexico's economically healthy hospitality, restaurant and institution sector, coupled with population growth, continues to drive up total domestic consumption. In fact, restaurants with average bills above 45 dollars have not seen an impact on beef consumption.

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## Committee approves legislation to reject Biden WOTUS rule

Recently the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved a joint resolution to overturn the Biden administration's new waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, a bill to promote the development of energy infrastructure and ensure water quality under Clean Water Act Section 401, a package of General Services Administration (GSA) resolutions that will save taxpayers over \$382 million. The Committee also passed its views and estimates on the budget and its authorization and oversight plan.

H.J. Res. 27 eases regulatory burdens for small businesses, manufacturers, farmers, home and infrastructure builders, local communities, water districts and everyday Americans by invalidating the Biden administration's overreaching rule redefining "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act.

"As American families and businesses continue suffering under the economic crises caused by the disastrous Biden policies of the last two years, this administration has inexplicably decided to move the country back toward the overreaching, costly and burdensome WOTUS regulations of the past," said Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chairman Sam Graves (R-MO). "Congress has the authority and responsibility to review onerous rules like this one handed down from the Executive Branch, and I'm proud that our committee voted to preserve regulatory clarity and prevent such overzealous, unnecessary and broadly defined federal power."

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# Sunflower prices unchanged or up at nearby crush plants

Nearby sunflower prices were unchanged to up 30 cents week before last at the crush plants. New crop NuSun and high oleic prices were down 60 cents to unchanged. Prior to that new crop prices had been very stable, reflecting good seed demand this year. Something else to consider is the oil premi-

ums that crush plants pay on sunflower. Sunflower is the only oilseed that pays premiums for oil content above 40%. Considering oil premiums that are offered at the crush plants on oil content above 40% at a rate of 2% price premium for each 1% of oil above 40%; this pushes a contract with 45% oil content gross

return 10% higher per cwt. The AOG \$24.45 contract increases to \$26.90, and the cash \$26.15 contract moves up to almost \$29.00. All eyes continue to be on the ongoing talks to extend the Black Sea Grain Initiative that allows safe passage of shipping vessels through the Black Sea, which was set to expire

on March 18. Most officials are optimistic that the initiative, which was originally brokered in July and renewed in November, will again be prolonged in the near future. If it is not renewed, markets will definitely take a bullish turn as buyers scramble to cover nearby needs. South American produc-

tion trends continue to dominate the direction of prices for now, with traders also speculating on

potential U.S. acreage for the upcoming 2023 growing season.

## Kansas 4-H Youth Council elects leadership team

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

It may not have crossed Emma Littich's mind when she first enrolled in the Kansas 4-H program at age seven, but the world was about to open up to her.

More than ten years later, there she was: Leading Kansas governor Laura Kelly on a tour of the Kansas State Fair and advocating for the Kansas 4-H program.

And a few months after that, standing before a Kansas House of Representatives committee explaining the virtues of the state's largest youth organization to the government's lawmakers.

Kansas 4-H "has taught me things that I wouldn't have otherwise learned from any other organization," said Littich, who was recently elected president of the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council.

Beth Hinshaw, a Kansas 4-H youth development specialist, said the council is made up of a group of young leaders who work to "improve their leadership

skills and inspire all youth through project work, state events and relationships."

"They believe in sharing their passion (for 4-H) with other Kansas youth by helping them find their spark and overcoming hard challenges that will enhance their growth and develop life skills," Hinshaw said.

Littich, from Lindsborg, is currently a freshman at Kansas State University majoring in elementary education with a minor in leadership studies.

Now 18 years old, she first enrolled in the Smoky View 4-H Club at age seven, and over the years participated in numerous 4-H projects: citizenship, clothing construction and buymanship, foods and nutrition, foods preservation, health and wellness, leadership, performing arts, poultry, visual arts, shooting sports, home environment, and wildlife.

"As a future educator, the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council has provided me with opportunities to work with youth in several different

capacities," Littich said. "Throughout these experiences, I have learned that everyone is different, but together - with all our different strengths - we can achieve anything."

In addition to Littich, the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council's newly elected officers include vice president Jaden Huehl of Sylvan Grove; secretary Channing Dillinger of Hugoton, and public relations chair Claire Helsel of Sharon Springs. Each was elected for a one-year term.

In addition, 12 other Kansas youth were selected to serve as members of the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council for 2023. By hometown, they include:

- El Dorado - Kylee Barlett.
- Hays -- Grace Schmeidler.
- Independence - Gabe Schenk.
- Kingman - Sukesh Kamesh.
- Moundridge - Ellie Seeger.
- Ness City - Eve Rider.
- Netawaka - Brooke

Slipke.

- Plains - Kaylen Langhofer.
- Russell - Kierra Eck.
- Salina - Carson Fouard.
- St. John - Ian Dunn.
- Wamego - Emilia Wilkerson.

"Our goal is to provide opportunities for the youth of Kansas to grow in their project work and develop and enhance life skills," Littich said. "Through state events, regional events, social media and many other forms of outreach, we hope to reach as many youth as possible."

Hinshaw noted that some of the events in which the council will be directly involved include Citizenship in Action (held in mid-February), 48 Hours of 4-H Community Service, the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, and the Kansas State Fair.

More information on the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council and numerous 4-H activities is available online from the Kansas 4-H office. Interested persons can also contact their local K-State Research and Extension office.

"I have been a 4-H'er since I was seven, and I would not be the person I am today without it," Littich said. "4-H has taught me so many skills and provided me with countless opportunities that I would not have otherwise had. I am forever grateful for every moment I have spent in 4-H."



These young Angus enthusiasts won top honors in the novice showmanship division at the 2023 Kansas Angus Futurity Junior Show, Jan. 21-22 in Hutchinson. Pictured from left are Hallie Mullen, Ulysses, champion; and Molly McCurry, Hutchinson, reserve champion.

Photo by Jeff Mafi, American Angus Association

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The 2023 Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council includes, front row from left: Brooke Slipke, Sukesh Kamesh, Carson Fouard, Ian Dunn, Gabe Schenk and president Emma Littich; Back row: Eve Rider, Kierra Eck, Ellie Seeger, Kaylen Langhofer, vice president Jaden Huehl, secretary Channing Dillinger, public relations chair Claire Helsel, Grace Schmeidler, Emilia Wilkerson and Kylee Barlett.

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- Bring on Spring - March 28<sup>th</sup>
- Hay & Grazing - April 4<sup>th</sup>
- Ag Tech - April 18<sup>th</sup>
- Cattle Empire - May 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Wheat Harvest, 4-week series - starts June 6<sup>th</sup>
- County Fair - July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Ag Finance - August 8<sup>th</sup>

### DEADLINES:

- Hay & Grazing - March 29<sup>th</sup>, before Noon
- Ag Tech - April 12<sup>th</sup>, before Noon
- Cattle Empire - May 17<sup>th</sup>, before Noon
- Wheat Harvest - May 31<sup>st</sup>, before Noon
- County Fair - June 28<sup>th</sup>, before Noon
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# Applications open for Angus Foundation's Commercial Cattlemen Scholarship

The Angus Foundation offers a variety of scholarship opportunities, including to youth beyond the seed-stock industry. Applications are open for the Foundation's Commercial Cattlemen Scholarship, which awards \$1,500 to four outstanding youth in the beef industry. This scholarship is unique from others offered by the Foundation as it aims to support students specifically from the commercial sector of the industry.

"We're proud to offer this scholarship opportunity to students from commercial cattle backgrounds," said Jaclyn Boester, Angus Foundation executive director. "We recognize the importance of supporting young people using Angus genetics and want to help them succeed in our industry."

Young men and women whose families use Angus

genetics in their commercial operations are eligible to receive the scholarship. Students should be pursuing an undergraduate degree or vocational program at an accredited institution of higher education. Selection emphasis is placed on the applicant's knowledge of the cattle industry and their perspective of the Angus breed.

"I'm grateful for the Commercial Cattlemen Scholarship awarded by the Angus Foundation," said Tucker Huseman, 2022 scholarship recipient. "I come from a commercial ranching background and scholarships like this allow me to pursue my passion for beef cattle production through my education."

The applicants or their parents/guardians must have transferred or been transferred an Angus registration paper in the last 36 months (on or after May 1, 2020) and

must be considered commercial and not seedstock in their operation. The scholarship applies to any field of study. A separate application, from the general Foundation application, is required for the Commercial Cattlemen Scholarship. The application can be found on the Angus Foundation website. Applicants having received or applied for Angus Foundation undergraduate scholarships, using the standard general application this year or in past years, will not be considered for this scholarship.

For more information on the Commercial Cattlemen Scholarship, visit [AngusFoundation.org](http://AngusFoundation.org). Since 1998, the Angus Foundation has awarded more than \$4.2 million in undergraduate and graduate scholarships.

# January market report offers insight for American lamb producers

The American Lamb Board (ALB) and the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) provide monthly market reports aimed at delivering timely and useful information for American Lamb producers. The recently released January report summarizes USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) annual sheep inventory report and provides insight on lamb imports, market values and retail lamb prices.

## Smaller U.S. Lamb Flock

The U.S. lamb flock is smaller going into 2023, although live lamb prices have strengthened. Wholesale values continue to adjust and are anticipated to move higher but will rely on consumer demand recovering. Production costs remain high. Moderating inflation and improving supply chains are still concerning. Cold storage inventories at the end of 2022 were above year ago

levels.

## Sheep Inventory Lowest on Record

The US sheep and lamb inventory totaled 5.02 million head as of January 1, 2023, which is 45,000 head below last year and the lowest on record. The number of breeding sheep was 3.67 million head, down 1% from 2022. There were 635,000 head of replacement ewes, equal to 22% of the ewe flock. There is a bright spot, though—market lambs were 3,000 head higher than a year ago, at 1.28 million head. Fewer ewes meant a 2% decline in the 2022 lamb crop to 3.11 million head,

another record low.

## Largest Slaughter Lamb Imports in 20 Years

Imports of Canadian slaughter sheep were around 31,500 head in 2022, based on weekly data from USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). This is the largest number of slaughter imports in 20 years and 4,000 more head than 2021. Five U.S. processing plants are approved to accept slaughter sheep from Canada, with four of them in the eastern US. Slaughter imports are driven by smaller domestic supply and demand growth in the ethnic market.

At the 2022 American Lamb Summit, sponsored by ALB and Premier 1 Supplies, Nick Forrest, Forrest Family Farm, spoke on how the US Lamb Industry can increase its competitiveness and recapture market share from imports.

## Lightweight Lambs Selling Higher

In January, feeder lambs sold on video markets ranged from the mid-\$130/cwt to \$160/cwt, with lighter-weight lambs selling for a higher price. Auction markets serving the ethnic market sold light-weight lambs at more than \$200/cwt. Since November 2022, the National Negotiated Live Slaughter Lamb has been trending upward, but prices are still about \$1.00 per pound lower than a year ago and 17% lower than two years ago.

Wholesale lamb values were lower in January compared to 2022, but still well above values from 2021 and 2020. All major cuts were down from 2022, with the largest price declines seen in the shoulder (down 26% per pound), leg (down 25% per pound), and

loin (down 24% per pound). Costs for processing and packing increased over the past year to \$77/cwt, up \$15/cwt from last year.

The Livestock Marketing Information Center is forecasting live lamb prices to improve as 2023 continues, anticipating prices above a year ago later in 2023.

## Retail Lamb Prices Remain High

"During this past tough year, ALB worked to support our loyal American Lamb retail and foodservice customers and invest in programs and strategies that can strengthen our long-term competitiveness," said Peter Camino, ALB chairman. "Making American Lamb the preferred choice of consumers, chefs and retailers is at the core of your American Lamb Checkoff's promotion, information and research programs."

That focus is evident in the ambitious 2023 strategic plan, including increasing demand for American Lamb by 5% and taking 5% market share from lamb imports by the end of 2023.

# Grass growth and development

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

It's easy to take perennial forage crops for granted. They green up when it gets warm. We graze or hay them. They go dormant in winter and do it all over again the next year. Production levels might be slightly different. Species composition may change slightly. Often, however, the changes are so slight we don't even notice much—until we do. An understanding of what's going on in those plants right now can help explain why we see changes from time to time.

As temperatures start to get warmer, cool season grasses (brome/fescue) are slowly emerging from dormancy. As they do so, they are using energy stored in roots to put out new leaves and tillers. As long as there's ample energy in the 'system' leaves come on until there is enough new foliage to support continued leaf growth and root energy replenishment. The plant is off and running and all is well.

Sometimes all is not well, however. We see lots of stands, particularly hayed stands, where phosphorous (and on an increasing basis, potassium) is low. Low phosphorous levels may mean less plants. Less plants means less production—and more opportunity for invasive species.

Maybe the stand didn't have enough time last fall to recover prior to dormancy (late haying, drought stress, grazing pressure, etc...) and not enough fall growth occurred to replenish root reserves. Green-up could be delayed and species that were just waiting for an opportunity to take off jump ahead of our more desirable species.

There may not be much you can do at this point, but observation is still in order. Do you see differences in green-up between stands? If so, why? Are weeds increasing in a particular part of the pasture or hay field? What does that then mean for management through the remainder of the season? Plan now to make observations that can help you enhance management going forward—instead of taking for granted the stand is going to do it all on its own.

**\*\* AUCTION \*\***  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023 - 10:00 AM**  
 At the house, 119 S. Main Street, BARNES, KANSAS  
**HOUSE & ACREAGE - Sells at 12:00 Noon**  
 Well kept three bedroom home on 1.34 acres on the edge of Barnes, Kansas. Spacious living room and dining room. Large kitchen and utility room. Three bedrooms, one full bathroom, and one half bathroom. Central heat and AC. Updated windows, vinyl siding, and roof. Oversized one car garage and a metal building.  
 Great location on the edge of town, large cedar windbreak on the north and west and other mature trees on the property.  
 To see the property, call 785-325-2734 for an appointment, or come to an Open House on Thursday afternoon, March 23 from 5-6 p.m. & Sunday afternoon, March 26 from 1-2 p.m.  
**Terms on the Real Estate:** Ten percent down, the balance due in 30 days. Possession at closing.  
**\*\* PERSONAL PROPERTY - Starting at 10:00 AM \*\***  
**VEHICLE - Sells at Noon**  
 2021 Ford Edge SE, 4,170 miles, 2.0L, AWD, auto, blue, like new!  
**LAWN TRACTOR, SCOOTER, OUTDOOR ITEMS, APPLIANCES, FURNITURE, HOUSEHOLD, COINS**  
 Golden Mobility 4 wheel scooter, like new; tilt-a-rack carrier for scooter; John Deere D130 lawn tractor, 22 hp; tools; outdoor items; collectibles; Amana refrigerator; Midea 13.8 cu.ft. upright freezer; Estate top load washer; Admiral dryer, electric.  
 Many more items - check website for full listing!  
 Also selling at 12:00: 146 Acres Barnes Township, Washington County, Kansas Land.  
**THE ESTATE OF BEVERLY WEICHE**  
 Washington, Kansas  
 785-325-2734, 747-6888, 747-8017  
**Terms on Personal Property:** Cash or good check. Announcements day of auction take precedence over previous advertising. **LUNCH!**

**\* LAND AUCTION \***  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023 - 12:00 NOON**  
 At the house, 119 S. Main Street, BARNES, KANSAS  
**146 Acres Barnes Township, Washington County, KS Land**  
 This farm, 146 acres, more or less, consists of approximately 86 acres upland cropland and 44 acres native grass pasture, with the balance being waterways and timber. The cropland soils are primarily gently sloping Crete soils. There is a large pond and the fences are good. There are no growing crops.  
 The FSA bases and yields are 26 acres wheat, 38 bushels; 11 acres milo, 86 bushels; and 39 acres soybeans, 37 bushels. The 2022 taxes were \$2,014.41.  
 This farm is well located between Barnes & Waterville, on the Washington/Marshall County Line. From Barnes, Kansas: 3 1/2 miles east on Hwy 9 to County Line Road, then 1/2 mile south to the northeast corner of the farm. From Waterville, Kansas: 3 miles west on Hwy 9 to 1st Road, then 1/2 mile south to the northeast corner of the farm.  
 This farm will be sold at the same time and place as the house & acreage in Barnes, vehicle and household items, located at 119 S. Main Street, Barnes, Kansas.  
**THE ESTATE OF BEVERLY WEICHE**  
 Land Auction by:  
 Washington, Kansas  
 785-325-2734, 747-6888, 747-8017  
**TERMS:** Ten (10) percent down, the balance due in 30 days. Immediate access for spring planting and grazing. Full possession at closing. Announcements day of auction take precedence over previous advertising.

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# Could you benefit from prairie strips?

By Maddy Rohr, K-State Research and Extension news service

Insects can benefit crops in many ways but can often be hard to attract or keep around agricultural fields. Kansas State University assistant professor in entomology Tania Kim is researching the benefits of prairie strips in Kansas' climate to better utilize insects in agriculture.

Also known as conservation strips or floral enhancements, prairie strips utilize forbs and grasses to draw insects to benefit the ecosystem around

crops, and decrease pesticide use.

Kim said prairie strips can be planted around the border or along contour lines within the fields depending on the slope of the land, or other challenges.

"Iowa State University found numerous benefits of prairie strips including enhancing water quality, reducing soil erosion and increasing carbon sequestration," Kim said. "They have also looked at the benefits for wildlife, like birds, as well."

While Iowa State is leading a study on re-

search and application, Kim said Michigan State University is also looking at ways to bring pollinators to farm fields and support them in a sustainable way.

Of her own work, Kim said she "wanted to see if prairie strips would benefit drier landscapes in Kansas."

Kim specifically is interested in the impact prairie strips would have on soybean crops.

"There could be that added benefit of increasing pollination, where wheat and corn doesn't

necessarily need pollinators. But also, there are several beneficial insects that are brought in that can reduce pests in soybeans."

Kim said decomposers can also be attracted to the prairie strips, including ground beetles, dung beetles and ants.

"They feed on other insects, but they can also feed on seeds of weeds. There's that potential for weed control as well," Kim said.

Prairie strips may include high diversity mixtures of many forbs and

perennial grasses.

"You want perennial plants that will flower throughout the season... a mixture so that they provide season-long floral resources for those insects," Kim said.

While it may be a time investment for the prairie strips to be established, there is potential for increased pest suppression, which means less insecticide being sprayed, Kim added.

"If your crop relies on pollination, I think there's that added benefit, so you don't have to bring in hon-

eybees. You can rely on the wild bees," she said.

Some management is required to maintain plant health and growth.

"Much like our natural prairies, there is mowing that's going to have to be done, or prescribed burns required on an annual basis," Kim said.

Kim recently outlined her work on Agriculture Today, a podcast available from K-State Research and Extension. The website for Agriculture Today is [www.agtoday.net](http://www.agtoday.net).

# Looking at the challenges of moisture in sheep barns

By Ross Mosteller, Meadowlark District Extension agent, livestock and natural resources

I'm writing this the day after the very well-attended Northeast Kansas Sheep and Goat school. The McLouth school cafeteria was filled with over 70 individuals anxious to learn more about sheep and goat management. This interest surely speaks to the need for a new KSRE Sheep and Goat Extension specialist. South Dakota State recently published a good publication on how moisture effects enclosed sheep facilities and seems like a timely topic to discuss today. You may view the full publication authored by Kelly Froehlich & Xufei Yang at: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/2023-03/P-00261.pdf>

While the focus of discussion will be sheep today, the same principles apply to all livestock confined in enclosed facilities. Lambing indoors helps increase lamb survivability, but this comes with challenges of regulating temperature, humidity and comfort. Providing dry, draft-free facilities is key to healthy lambs and ewes mitigating respiratory issues. Moisture accumulation can become a challenge during extreme cold or transitional periods such as winter to spring, as temperatures swing.

Air holds water and moisture issues in barns are the result of conden-

sation as water changes states. Not only do animals need water to survive, so do some undesirable organisms that can cause respiratory and other health concerns, like bacteria, viruses, fungi, etc... Stale, moisture-rich, "recycled" air in closed barns generally lends itself to health issues for livestock.

Making barns comfortable and dry is a balancing act of air temperature, humidity, and ventilation. Periods of extreme cold and/or fluctuating temperatures make moisture issues more of a challenge. Closed barns stay warmer at the expense of less ventilation, trapping moisture, increasing humidity, and creating an unhealthy environment. Ventilation draws in cooler, drier air and expels warm moist air, keeping the barn dry but potentially too cold for lambs.

Two options that could help maintain balance in temperature and humidity would be to add heat or increase the amount of insulation to the barn. Adding heat helps maintain a comfortable temperature while allowing for proper ventilation. Increasing in-

sulation in the barn can help to maintain a comfortable temperature as well. When done properly insulation can potentially decrease the formation of condensation on walls and roofs of barns making it drier by simply keeping the barn warmer and increasing the air moisture holding capacity.

Besides adding heat or insulation to help maintain balance, producers can consider a few additional tips:

- Shear ewes prior to housing indoors. Wool can hold up to 30% of its weight in moisture. A sheep with seven pounds of wool can potentially also hold up to 2.1 pounds of water.

- Fix dripping or leaky waterlines/water fountains as these can add more humidity and moisture.

- Consider grinding bedding materials such as straw. As moisture enters through the cut ends, larger straw stems take more time to absorb moisture and longer to dry out.

- Increase barn ventilation drawing out moisture-laden air during the day on warmer days. Unheated barns can be cool-

er inside than outside during the day, leading to more condensation.

• Note and address any drainage or environmental issues adding to moisture accumulation inside.

Whether you are considering building a new or renovating an old barn, make sure to consider the balance of temperature and moisture to ensure the barn will provide an envi-

ronment ideal for the type of animals being housed. Thoughtful planning can mean a healthier barn, healthier animals, and increased profits.



MLA Proven Queen 2156 won grand champion female at the 2023 Cattlemen's Congress Show's Junior Angus Show, Jan. 5 in Oklahoma City, Okla. Dakota Allen, Ottawa, owns the May 2021 daughter of BNWZ Dignity 8017. She first claimed intermediate champion. Jason Hoffman, Thedford, Neb., evaluated the 241 entries.

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## LAND AUCTION

Thursday, April 20, 2023 @ 7:00pm  
United Methodist Church, 921 5th St., Clay Center, KS

Excellent tillable and timber in the Southwest corner of Clay County.

**Tract 1: NE/4 of 6-10-2**

153 ac+/- acres total

91 Ac +/- Tillable, 23 Ac +/- waterway/meadow  
39 Ac +/- timber/habitat  
Located at the SW corner of 7th & Hackberry  
Taxes: \$2,174.04 on 153 taxable acres

**Tract 2: W/2 of the NE/4 1-10**

78 ac+/- acres total

24 Ac +/- Tillable, 32 Ac/- meadow  
22 Ac +/- timber/habitat  
Located 1/2 mile east of Frontier on 7th Rd.  
Taxes: \$705.38 on 78.2 taxable acres

Possession subject to tenant rights. Cash rent and taxes prorated to date of closing.  
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