Fall seed supplies could be tight; wheat and more... or less

seed

By Vance Ehmke

If you're looking for seed wheat, rye or triticale to plant this fall, you might want to start looking sooner rather than later.

One of the consequences of having the worst Kansas wheat crop in the past 50 to 60 years is that the supply of seed wheat will be much shorter than normal. The tight seed supply situation also affects triticale and especially rye. Prices will also be higher. And, in cases, much high-

In addition to reduced new crop yields with the '23 crop, the amount of carrvover certified seed from last year is at extremely low levels, according to Steve Schuler, Kansas Crop Improvement Association.

He notes that normal certified seed wheat carryover runs about 800,000 bushels. "This year it's only 183,000 bushels." And

that makes new crop production all the more important. But for many Kansas certified seed wheat producers yields of 20 and 30 bushels per acre were far more common than the normal 40, 50 and 60-bushel per acre vields.

While the supply of certified seed is smaller, likely the demand is higher. For instance, many Kansas wheat growers harvested no wheat whatsoever because of the drought and later hail storms or because they abandoned their crop because of poor stands or because weeds simply took the crop. And many hauled their crop to the elevator because of concerns about quality issues like head sprouting, high moisture contents, low test weights and weed contamination. Other farmers need additional supplies of seed wheat because they fallowed the acres they abandoned this spring and will plant back to wheat this fall.

Commercial

cleaner Rusty Swonger, Minneola, says, "It's just flat ugly." His seed wheat cleaning jobs are off easily 35 to 50%. Not only that but Swonger is concerned about the quality of seed wheat he is cleaning. For instance, while cleaning for one farmer, he noticed the grain was already hot because it was harvested at too high of a moisture content, then heated in the bin. "And that heat can destroy the ability for the

seed to germinate.' Swonger savs other things to be concerned about with seed that was saved for fall planting include high loads of weed seed, grain that had sprouted in the head or seed that could have low germination because pre-harvest herbicide treatments were applied too early before hard dough. "All of these things point out the need for having germination and quality tests on your seed especially if it's home-produced. These tests have already been done on certified seed," he

Co-worker Caleb O'Hanlon says the seed situation is even more critical with triticale and rye. His seed cleaning jobs have been cut in half because this year's rye and triticale production was so poor. O'Hanlon cites one example of a rye grower who normally produces 40,000 to 50,000 bushels but this year he binned just 15,000 bushels because of the drought. Other low-yielding fields were abandoned this spring because of severe weed infestations.

A major north central Kansas seed dealer says supplies of rye are almost nonexistent. And prices reflect that with asking prices on some rye running \$20/bushel and more. And while seed wheat prices are also higher because of the shortage, on the upper end some wheat prices are running between \$25 and \$30/bushel. However, other certified seed wheat growers like Orville Williams from Montezuma feels a strong obligation to longterm customers to hold the line as much as possible on prices. But neither can you overlook the supply realities with production of many popular varieties cut by 50 to 75% in cases. "Many of us just don't have

a lot to sell." Yet another western Kansas certified seed wheat grower says he's almost afraid to put out ads on his seed. "We were already getting calls two to six months ago from farmers looking for seed knowing they were going to need it because of the drought. Several of these farmers produced no

wheat whatsoever and will have to buy everything they plant."

On the optimistic side, Tyler Benninghoven with Plains Gold says seed wheat growers in northeastern Colorado had very good crops. "Thus, many of the Colorado State University varieties could find their way into Kansas fields this fall. A lot of the dryland wheat in this region vielded 50 to 70 bushels per acre with some irrigated running as high as 105 to 115 bushels per acre," he says.

Benninghoven tions, though, about farmers selling wheat to their neighbors for planting. "Most of the current wheat varieties are PVP protected so farmer-to-farmer sales are illegal though in most cases the farmer is allowed to plant back on his own land," he con-

Summer fellowship helps to boost Kansas agriculture, organizers say

By Pat Melgares, K-State Research and Extension

news service On a charred portion of the Kansas prairie, aspiring research scientist Giovanni Moore is on the lookout for a remarkable beetle that protects humans and livestock from parasites and pathogens by feeding on or removing animal feces.

Appropriately named, the dung beetle is considered by biologists an important part of a pasture ecosystem, feeding on or storing feces to provide housing and food for their young. In doing so, they are transporting nutrients to the subsoil, which improves nutrient cycling, soil structure and forage growth.

For farmers, the benefits to their land and livestock herds also are real: reduced parasite pressure, better aeration, reduced compaction, reduced runoff after rain events and decreased ammonia levels.

Even so, it may seem a bit odd that Moore - a senior and animal science major at Prairie View

(Texas) A&M University is spending her summer tracking the small beetle on a Kansas pasture.

The common thread is Kansas State University, which each year since 2006 has offered a summer research fellows program for students from 1890 and 1994 U.S. land-grant institutions, historically black colleges and universities, and Hispanic serving institutions.

Moore is one of 20 undergraduate students selected to participate this summer. She's paired with K-State entomology assistant professor Cassandra Olds to compare the effects of spring, summer and fall prescribed burning on insect populations.

"The information I'm collecting," she said, "is for the betterment of the livestock ecosystem. Every living thing – big or small – plays a significant role in maintaining a balanced ecosystem. Dung beetles are a part of this category of beings that help to maintain and preserve nature."

A push for graduate school Zelia Wiley, director

of the K-State College of Agriculture's Diversity Programs Office, said the K-State Research and Extension Summer Research Fellows Program is designed to expose college students to opportunities available to them in graduate school.

Students work 35 hours per week, and receive a stipend to cover housing, meals, transportation and some personal expenses. In 17 years, 115 students have participated; 96% of those have completed the summer fellowship and nearly half (43%) have used it as a springboard to graduate school.

"What we've seen is that many of these students have never been exposed to graduate school, but when they're here, many show such a great passion to learn and teach," Wiley said. "Those two traits alone speak to the success of our efforts."

Lonnie Hobbs, who was hired in July as an assistant professor in K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics, participated in the Summer Research Fellows Program in 2017. He completed a doctoral degree at K-State this summer.

"Being in the summer program positively changed the course of my life," he said, "and has helped me to get on the path I am on now.'

Helping black farmers, increasing youth's interest in agriculture

McKenzie Scott, a junior studying animal science at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, spent her time at K-State this summer developing a strategic plan to identify ways to make resources available to minority farmers in Kansas.

In partnership with the Kansas Black Farmers Association, Scott conducted a survey on behalf of the Diversity Programs Office aimed at improving outreach and education.

"This is important because we can determine the challenges that KBFA members are facing in their operations," said Scott, who hopes to eventually attend veterinary school. "The strategic plan that we will develop will provide them with the resources and education they'll need to flourish (in agriculture)."

Keshauna Davis, a senior majoring in agribusiness at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, helped to lead a project to educate underserved and urban youth about career opportunities in agriculture.

"Teaching youth about agriculture is important because they need to know where their food. their accessories and their belongings come from." Davis said. "And, the world needs more people to carry on the job of feeding everyone because the population is getting larger each year."

A boost for agriculture

Students are also involved in projects using artificial intelligence and drones to manage pests in farm crops; defining the metabolic changes that facilitate efficient muscle growth in production animals; exploring the sensitivity of pigweed populations to various herbicides: and nearly a dozen others.

"The summer research fellows program continues to validate that K-State's research has an impact on the rest of the world," Wiley said. "What happens here each summer in this program is an indication that we are continuing to contribute to society: many of the projects are examples of how the university's departments are keeping up with the times (and) conducting research that is relevant to Kansans in urban and rural areas."

Moore, for one, believes she'll carry on that commitment in the rest of her schooling and professional career.

"Being a part of this program has been a major component to furthering my education, and has opened doors to new opportunities," she said, noting she's learned how to extract DNA from living organisms, identify various arthropod species and more. "I've had the chance to sit and talk to people and companies that make a difference in our world."

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Kansas Hay Market Report

Proud sponsors of the Kansas Hay Market Report are Bestifor and Yoder Seed Cleaning.

Compared to the last report, demand remains slow, and trade activity is slow. Grinding alfalfa and ground and delivered alfalfa prices continue their softer trend, with dairy hay retaining its value. Grass hay prices this past week were mostly steady. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for July 25th, it was a mostly dry week across the region with the most significant rains falling over eastern Colorado and western Kansas. All of western Kansas saw a full categorical improvement this past week. The categorical percent area for abnormally dry conditions(D0) remained at 16%, moderate drought (D1) decreased to near 24%, severe drought (D2) decreased to 18.5%, extreme drought (D3) decreased to near 25.5%, and exceptional drought (D4) decreased to near 4%.

Southwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa steady; grinding alfalfa steady and ground and delivered 20.00 lower; movement slow. Alfalfa: Dairy, 1.40-1.50/point RFV. Good, Stock or Dry Cow 220.00-280.00. Grinding alfalfa, large rounds, new crop 250.00-260.00, large square 3x4's and 4x4's new crop 250.00-260.00. Ground and delivered locally to feed lots and dairies, new crop 280.00-290.00. Grass Hay: Bluestem: none reported. Oat hay, new crop 3x4's 160.00-170.00; Teff large rounds 180.00-185.00; Corn stalks, ground and delivered 180.00-195.00. The week of 7/23-7/29, 4,096T of grinding alfalfa and 25T of dairy alfalfa was reported

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Southeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa and grinding alfalfa steady, grass hay mostly steady, movement slow. Alfalfa: horse or goat, none reported. Dairy 1.40-1.50/point RFV. Good, stock cow 270.00-280.00 delivered. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, large square 3x4 270.00-280.00; Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares, 175.00-180.00/ton, large square 3x4 175.00-180.00,large round 145.00-155.00. Brome, large square 180.00-190.00.The week of 7/23-7/29, 593T of grass hay was reported bought or sold.

Northwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa steady, grinding alfalfa lower; movement slow. Alfalfa: Horse or goat, small squares none reported, 3x3 squares 300.00 new crop 1st cutting. Dairy, Premium/Supreme 1.40-1.50/point RFV. Stock cow, fair/good 295.00-300.00. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, large square 3x4's 250.00-255.00. Alfalfa ground and delivered 280.00-300.00

North Central-Northeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground and delivered, grass steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: Dairy 1.40-1.50/point RFV; Horse hay, premium small squares, 13.00/bale, 3x4's 290.00-300.00; Stock Cow 3x4's 230.00-240.00; Fair/good, grinding alfalfa, large rounds none reported, large square 3x4's 240.00-255.00, Alfalfa ground and delivered 275.00-300.00; Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares new crop 8.00-9.00/bale, large 3x4 squares 150.00-160.00, good large rounds 140.00-180.00. Brome: small squares 10.00-11.00/bale, large rounds, 145.00-155.00,large square 3x4's 185.00-195.00.Wheat straw: large rounds 110.00-125.00, large squares 120.00-130.00. Corn stalks: large squares 100.00-125.00 FOB. The week of 7/23-7/29, 1,063T of grinding alfalfa and 262T 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

*RFV calculated using the Wis/Minn formula.

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

Genome sequencing breakthrough boosts corn breeding, connects to UNL legacy

University of Nebraska-Lincoln scientist James Schnable and international colleagues have created the first complete map of the corn genome, a landmark achievement that can enable major longterm advances in crop health, resilience and productivity.

"These research findings can help us build tools to predict which new corn varieties will perform well in particular environments, because we will be better able to identify the functions of individual genes in corn," said Schnable, Charles O. Gardner Professor of Agronomy

Schnable and scientists from Iowa State University and China recently published their findings, titled "A Complete Telomere-to-Telomere Assembly of the Maize Genome," in the journal Nature Genetics. Their findings come one year after the complete mapping of the human genome.

Scientists have devoted much effort this century to identifying the full breadth of the corn genome, the set of genetic material that plays a critical role in determining a corn plant's physical characteristics, growth and health. Mapping the full breadth of corn's genetic

material has been a longtime challenge because the corn genome is large and immensely complex.

Technology used in the first draft of a corn genome, in 2009, identified a significant portion of corn's wide variety of genetic material. Still, many genetic regions were too complex to be deciphered by the technology available at that time. In all, more than 100,000 gaps in the genetic sequence remained to be filled.

"Our team drew on the latest technology, plus the particular expertise of the individual team members, and that finally made possible the mapping of the complete corn genome," Schnable said. In that first study, scientists had been able to map the centromeres — the complicated middle portions of chromosomes — for only two of corn's ten chromosomes, for example. Schnable and his colleagues were able to sequence all ten.

Schnable focused on regions of the corn genome containing genes called nearly identical paralogs: two or more genes located next to each other that

are so similar it was hard or impossible to tell them apart in previous genomic-mapping efforts. Genetic repetition takes on extraordinary complexity in the corn genome, resulting in large areas of chromosomal material packed together in ways that have defied individual identification and analysis.

With this new complete analysis of a much-studied corn line known as Mo17, Schnable said, "We're now able to resolve each of those individual genetic copies and start to do a better job of figuring out what individual genes do, rather than having all this combined into a mishmash where it's hard to figure out which gene is doing what."

The idea for this international project originated with Chinese researchers. Schnable has known Jinsheng Lai, a Chinese scientist and the paper's lead author, for more than a decade, going back to when Schnable was a postdoctoral researcher at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. "When he was putting this project together, he reached out to me to participate because of my expertise in this field," Schnable said.

This new corn genome sequence has particular long-term value for developing improved corn varieties by strengthening the scientific understanding of how differences in corn genetics affect varieties. "Rather than conducting selection, we will have the potential to design and engineer corn varieties to adapt to changing climates and grow in more nitrogen-limited conditions," Schnable said. "We can be more nimble in adapting corn to future challenges in terms of increasing yield and using less nitrogen and water.

New opportunities also are possible, long term, for creating higher-value secondary products, such as additional value for dried distillers grains from ethanol plants.

This groundbreaking research connects to the university's long history of cutting-edge study of corn genetics, Schnable noted. At the start of the 20th century, corn geneticist Rollins A. Emerson did pioneering work on the Nebraska faculty in rediscovering the laws of genetic inheritance established by Gregor Mendel.

Emerson later was a professor at Cornell University and in the 1920s was a mentor to doctoral student George Beadle, a Nebraska native and Husker alumnus who in 1958 received a Nobel Prize for his innovative work in genetics. The university's

Beadle Center, which facilitates research in biochemistry and biological sciences and includes the Center for Biotechnology, is named after him. Emerson also mentored another, later Nobel Prize recipient, Barbara McClintock, one of the 20th century's central figures in corn genetic science.

In the 1960s and '70s, Charles O. Gardner, the Husker scientist for whom Schnable's professorship is named, was a leader in quantitative genetics and plant breeding. Gardner, a Regents Professor of Agronomy, served as president of the Crop Science Society of America and "developed new breeding methodologies and trained a whole generation of students," Schnable said.

With the complete corn genome now sequenced, scientists will be able to proceed to important follow-up research to study and determine the function of individual genes that weren't identified in previous corn genomic research. "Many of these genes are likely involved in corn's ability to adapt to different environments and different stresses," Schnable said.

The university "is well positioned to study this," Schnable said, "because we have such a powerful research and Extension network and we're able to grow corn varieties all across the state. One of my research groups here at the university is testing hundreds of corn hybrids across the 400-mile breadth of Nebraska and into Iowa."

These Husker research initiatives, he said, "can help us build better models of how corn plants respond in different environments so we can develop those varieties that will thrive."

two or more genes located next to each other the UPCOMING SPECIAL ISSUES

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Fall Full of Bullz - September 6th, before Noon
G&G Farm Show Edition - October 25th, before Noon
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Gary Moss, Water Conservation

By Ron Wilson, director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University

National Public Radio is broadcasting a news report about a new water conservation effort, but not from Washington D.C. or southern California. Part of it came from the cab of a combine in Kan-

They were reporting on an innovative water conservation initiative being led by northwest Kansas farmers.

is Garv Moss fourth-generation farmer near Hoxie in Sheridan County, and a member of the advisory board for this water conservation project. Moss produces irrigated corn, soybeans and wheat and has a cow-calf

Through the years, Moss has seen the significance of the Ogallala Aquifer, the huge underground water reservoir that underlies the western High Plains. He's also seen groundwater levels fall.

In 1972 the State of Kansas created a state-level position of Chief Engineer and provided for groundwater management districts across the state. Over the decades, groundwater districts in some regions were seeing depletion of underground water.

Moss and other producers saw a need to get together in their part of northwest Kansas. "In 2008, we started holding meetings because the groundwater table was dropping pretty significantly," he said. The group worked on ways to use water more efficiently, such as re-nozzling sprinklers.

Under Governor Sam Brownback, the Kansas Department of Agriculture conducted a review of state water policy and recommended changes that were adopted by the Kansas Legislature in 2012. Among other things, the legislation allowed a producer to carry over water credits if water use was reduced.

This provided incentive to conserve, rather than the "use it or lose it" policy of the past. The legislation also authorized groundwater management districts to create what was called a Local Enhanced Management Area.

A LEMA helps groundwater management districts conserve water by setting goals and control measures for a specific locally defined region. "It gave us a tool to more effectively manage water conservation ourselves,' Moss said.

Six high priority areas were identified for water conservation in Sheridan County. Ultimately, a LEMA - known as Sheridan Six -- was proposed and approved by the Chief Engineer.

Sheridan Six The LEMA included 99 sections of land and 193 agricultural water wells. (The LEMA does not apply to residential water wells.) Moss served as chair of the Sheridan Six LEMA advisory board. It was the first LEMA adopted in the

"In 2013, we adopted a five-year plan to reduce the amount of water pumped by 20% compared to the five-year average," Moss said.

In the first year of the plan, world grain prices rose significantly. "It was tough," Moss said. "Prices were high and some farmers were saying, 'Why do we have to cut back on water and production when prices are up?" However, Sheridan Six stayed the course.

"By the end, achieved nearly a 30% reduction in water use," said. Moss Research showed that producers inside the LEMA fared about as well financially as outside producers near-

"We want to do the right thing," Moss said. "We want to sustain our operations and pass it on to our kids.

Gary's sons, Jake and Jaxsen, attended K-State and came back to Sheridan County. Jake has a business in Hoxie and Jaxsen is farming with Gary. Each boy has a son of his

Grass & Grain, August 8, 2023 Page 15 own, who would represent the sixth generation on the

"I believe (the water policy) is working," Moss

said. The group's innovative and voluntary conservation strategy captured national attention. When the new policy was implemented, reporters from places such as the Wall Street Journal and National Public Radio made their way to Hoxie to cover the story. "One NPR reporter rode with me in the cab of my combine," Moss

That's exciting to hear in a rural community such as Hoxie, population 1,211 people. Now, that's rural.

It made national news when farmers in Kansas voluntarily adopted this plan to cutback and conserve their own water use. We commend Gary Moss and others involved with Sheridan Six for making a difference with this longterm strategy.

For water conservation and for Kansas, that is good news.

State of Kansas. National Bison Association lobbies for American bison

Summer congressional recess is starting, and things are heating up for bison-focused legislation.

"We have two leading issues for the bison industry, both important to the integrity of our national mammal. First, continued funding for vital Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) vaccine research and vaccine development which is nearing completion. Second, passage of the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act- distinguishing North American Bison from Water Buffalo," said Lydia Whitman, program manager for the National Bison Association.

The bison industry is grateful for the tireless work of the USDA Agriculture Research Service on the Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) vaccination. Over 15 years of work on the vaccine has resulted in significant progress, with the proof-of-concept study currently under way. Due to the relatively small bison population of approximately 400,000, there is little incentive for commercial production of the vaccine for use in private, public, and tribal herds. As such, the National Bison Association is

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requesting \$2 million in funding in the next Farm Bill to support the development, production, promotion, and distribution of the MCF vaccine. This funding amount was suggested by the leadership of USDA ARS who are working on finalizing this vaccine in the near term

The NBA is also lobbying Congress to fix the ongoing regulatory issue of imported water buffalo being deceptively substituted for American bison and being marketed, in some instances, as "Wild Buffalo". Due to a regulatory loophole, water buffalo can be labeled simply as "buffalo" under current FDA policy, not "water buffalo," which is clearly deceiving the consumer into thinking that they're purchasing bison, or American buffalo, thereby threatening the food safety of bison meat.

"Owning a bison farm, I am aware of what it takes to raise bison and the said. "When a product is labeled as 'buffalo,' conproduct contains bison. "This bill makes absolutely certain that only bison products are labeled as buffalo and that any water buffalo products have their own specific label," she said. "This will help consumers make better choices and bolster the American bison industry."

The Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act of 2023 (H.3866), recently introduced in the House by Representatives Miller and Yadira Caraveo (D-CO-8); and A bill to provide clarification regarding the common or usual name for bison and compliance with section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug. and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes (S.258) introduced in the Senate by Senators John Hoeven (R-ND), and Michael Bennet (D-CO), and co-sponsored by Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Jon Tester (D-MT), Mike Braun (R-IN), Tina Smith (D-MN), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), John Thune (R-SD), Jerry Moran (R-KS), and Roger Marshall (R-KS) will provide this much-needed clarification of terms for bison. Both proposals are supported by the National Bison Association and National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition.

"The diverse membership of the National Bison

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Association has helped create and shape this legislation, and now is the moment that we need support from members and other bison stakeholders to ensure this legislation becomes enacted," stated National Bison Associa-

priorities

Matheson, "We encourage NBA members to contact their representatives and push for hearings in the House and Senate on this bill, or better yet, inclusion in the next U.S. Farm

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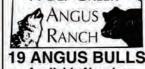
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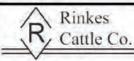
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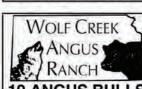
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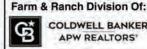
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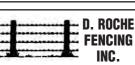


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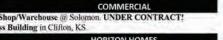
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Rep. Mann champions House-passed lesser prairie-chicken resolution

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed S.J.Res. 9, a resolution which disapproves of the Biden administration's rule that lists the Northern Distinct Population Segment of the lesser prairie-chicken as threatened and the Southern Distinct Population Segment as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Rep. Mann introduced this resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives. and the federal govern-

"My resolution pushes back on an unnecessary and burdensome regulation that threatens the livelihoods of people in rural America," said Mann. "I am proud of my colleagues for rejecting the Biden administration's rule that designates the lesser prairie-chicken as a threatened species in places like Kansas. Farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers are the original conservationists,

ment must get out of their way and let them do what they do best."

On December 22, 2022, in the 117th Congress, Mann introduced the bicameral joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to strike down the listing of the lesser prairie-chicken.

On January 12, 2023, Mann led a group of his colleagues in requesting a delay of the final rule that would list the lesser prairie-chicken under the Endangered Species Act. Following this letter, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service moved the effective date from January 24 to April 1, 2023.

On February 8, 2023, Mann led a group of his colleagues in reintroducing their joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act

to strike down the listing. On April 18, 2023, the **House Natural Resources** Committee's Subcommit-

tee on Water. Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing concerning Mann's joint resolution of disapproval.

On April 28, 2023, the **House Natural Resources** Committee passed Mann's resolution out of commit-

On May 3, 2023, the U.S. Senate passed the resolution by a vote of 50-48.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the resolution by a vote of 221-206.

Helping dairy cows through extreme heat

Heat waves put extra stress on livestock. A University of Missouri Extension dairy specialist advises taking specific, ongoing steps for dairy cows throughout heat waves.

Heat abatement

"Dairy cows become heat-stressed starting at 65 degrees Fahrenheit,' said Scott Poock, state Extension specialist in veterinary medicine. "Fans should start running at that temperature and by 70 degrees, soakers should be started."

Place soakers and fans

in the holding area near the parlor, Poock said. "This is the spot on the farm that cows will experience the most heat stress during the day, and soakers and fans should be running at each milking, not just during the heat of the day."

Soaking the coat of the cow - with large drops of water rather than small, misty droplets - allows evaporative cooling to occur. Providing comfortable stalls will encourage cows to lie down more quickly and for longer periods, which will be a benefit during heat stress.

Nutrition needs in heat stress

The cow's dry matter intake tends to decrease during heat stress, said Poock. "The energy density of the ration is usually increased. But that increase can expose the cows to potential subacute ruminal acidosis (SARA). To help mitigate SARA. add sodium bicarbonate to help improve rumen health.

Sodium bicarbonate can be fed at 0.5%-1% of the diet (1/4 to 1/2 pound per head per day).

Adding fat to the diet can help increase energy density without affecting SARA. However, added fat cannot exceed 2%-3% of the diet because it will depress milk fat production.

Reproduction management in heat stress

There is always a decrease in fertility during heat stress, and that means decreases in conception and pregnancy rates.

"The producer can use beef semen and/or embryos to try to improve this," Poock advises. "Because most embryo loss during heat stress occurs within the first several days after conception, using embryos that are seven days old can improve pregnancies. At Foremost Dairy we have used embryos and seen an increase in pregnancies."

Poock said synchronizing the cows and using timed AI can overcome decreased estrus expression during heat stress. "It is important to utilize proven synchronization protocols and be 100% compliant,"

By Lisa Moser, K-State **Research and Extension**

news service Known as tornado alley. Kansas has a reputation for weather events. Tracking weather data confirms that Kansas weather is continuing to change, which influences how animal and plant life adjust, said Kansas State Univer-

Temperature shifts

sity meteorologist Chip

We've always lived in an evolving climate and there is a gradual transition where some things

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ed glass & etched glass pcs.; pocket knives; Jack Rabbit plane; Coke & Pepsi bottle openers; post office box doors; Firestone watering can; Kansas tags inc. 1931; Shiny Bright Christmas decorations; adv. yard-

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ress, table top w/vise; Precision tool box; Delta 10" miter box. MOWER TRACTOR, SPRAYER, ETC: JD 112 tractor; ATV sprayer; limb shredder

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are going to phase out as we get warmer," Redmond said.

Redmond said for the past century, meteorologists have been measuring temperature and precipitation. Some patterns have been observed.

"Over the last 100 years, the average overnight low temperatures have increased as much as half of a degree per decade," Redmond said. "This atmosphere is holding more moisture and that influences how much the temperatures fall at night.'

He also said the warmer ground temperatures impact what plants and animals can live in Kansas today compared to past

"Old World Bluestem and other invasive species are able to thrive in areas that used to be harshly colder and we are even seeing armadillos' habitat expanding in Kansas because their food availability is still there in the winter," Redmond said.

Caring for the trees

As Kansas experiences weather shifts, it is important to focus on some key things to help the trees thrive, said Kim Bomberger, Northeast District forester with the Kansas Forest Service

"While we cannot control what the climate is going to do, we can manage species selection, how and where we plant, and how we care for the trees to help them be as healthy as possible," Bomberger

She recommends that

homeowners first evaluate the soil type in their landscape and match the tree species that are best suited for that type of soil. Soil samples can be submitted to local extension offices for analysis and recommendations.

"A lot of plants actually prefer a slightly acidic soil so we need to make sure we're planting the right trees that will tolerate the site's soil conditions," Bomberger said. "Alkaline soils are common in Kansas and require a specific selection of trees that will tolerate soils with a higher pH."

Her next tip is to look at the tree's water requirements, especially in years of drought.

"It takes three to five years for the roots to get established and that will mean watering the tree regularly when the rainfall is insufficient," Bomberger said. "Providing supplement irrigation in times of insufficient rainfall helps established trees withstand moisture extremes." To make sure that the water is getting where it needs to go, Bomberger

said she uses mulch to keep grass and weeds from the trunk of the tree. "Good cultural care and the proper application of mulch will help our trees withstand the climate they

erger said. In addition, Bomberger said that proper pruning is important to keep a tree's structure strong when faced with strong winds.

are experiencing," Bomb-

It is also important to look at the diversity of trees in the landscape, Bomberger said, and this will help in the event of an insect or disease impacting the area trees.

"We need to have a diverse mix of trees that tolerate our climate and stressors such as insects and diseases that can make them more vulnerable," Bomberger said. "And the best way we can build resiliency is to make sure we have a mix of species in our landscapes.

For more information, Bomberger recommends people check out the tree planting and care tab on the Kansas Forest Service website.



UPCOMING ONLINE AUCTIONS

Primitives, Farm Equipment, Tools, JD manure spreader, old horse pull manure spreader, tractor weights, air compressor, misc. camping equipment, animal health items (syringes, banding eq, tattoo gun & supplies). ONLINE BIDDING OPENS: Thursday, August 10 with Soft Close Wednesday, August 16

USD 405 SURPLUS EQUIPMENT (Lyons, KS)

Folding lunch tables, desks, cabinets, laminating machine

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Tribute established for Lynn Smith, retiring executive director of Pioneer Bluffs Pioneer Bluffs Board president Nancy Mattke has an-

nounced that a \$30,000 donation from anonymous donors will honor the accomplishments and legacy of retiring executive director Lynn Smith.

The donation will establish the Lynn Smith Home and Ranch Heritage Fund. "The purpose of the fund," said Nancy, "will be to build upon Lynn's achievements over the past 15 years and continue her legacy into the

The fund will provide financial support for the continued revitalization of the farmhouse built in 1908 and the barn built in 1915. In addition, it will support the ongoing Ranching Heritage mission of Pioneer Bluffs.

Lynn served as the first executive director of Pioneer Bluffs, beginning in 2008. Under Smith's leadership, Pioneer Bluffs became widely recognized as the only Center dedicated to preservation of Flint Hills Ranching

NCBA president hits back at animal rights activists and policymakers

National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) president Todd Wilkinson, a South Dakota cattle producer, responded to attacks on the Beef Checkoff and NCBA from animal rights activists and their allies in Congress:

"As a cattle producer, I know what it means to work hard for every dollar, and I am proud to invest my money in the Beef Checkoff. It's extremely disappointing to see members of Congress, who have historically been allies to agriculture, turn on the cattle industry and attack our producer-led checkoff.

"I am especially disappointed in Rep. Victoria Spartz who claimed in a recent interview that she paid into the wheat checkoff, which does not exist at the federal level. I'd encourage people to understand the truth about how Checkoff programs operate by visiting their websites. or better yet, by getting involved in the Checkoff programs themselves rather than spreading misinformation that furthers the goals of anti-agriculture activists.

"The Beef Checkoff was

created by cattle producers, voted on by producers, and is directed by producers. It's a program that delivers a \$11.91 return on investment and strengthens demand for our high-quality beef. The Checkoff is also extremely transparent and if anyone wants to know where Beef Checkoff dollars go, all you have to

do is visit the Cattlemen's

Beef Board website.

"Groups like Action also have no business claiming to represent America's farmers and ranchers. Their leaders, including Angela Huffman and Joe Maxwell, are career animal rights activists who have spent years attacking animal agriculture. In fact, the Animal Agriculture Alliance just added Farm Action, and other groups like the Organization for Competitive Markets to their Animal Rights Extremism list. Members of Congress should listen to the folks who are raising cattle and keeping our nation fed, not animal rights extremists hiding behind an organization that falsely claims to represent the interests of farmers and ranchers.

In the past 15 years, most of the century-old buildings have been restored or renovated and a new log cabin has been built. The barn is now an event space, regularly filled with those attending Prairie Talks, concerts, barn dances, youth activities and weddings. The grounds are open to the public and nearly every day visitors come to explore the nature trail, have a picnic, experience a self-guided tour or simply for bird watching or creek

Nancy said others can donate to the Lynn Smith Home and Ranch Heritage Fund, and one such opportunity for contributions would be the upcoming Match Day

Program in November, sponsored by Emporia Community Foundation. This year ECF will make \$175,000 available in matching funds to 35 participating organizations, including Pioneer Bluffs.

"I am humbled and honored by this recognition," said Lynn, "There is so much that can be accomplished with this size of gift, and the possibilities will grow exponentially if it inspires additional contributions."

"We are excited about this very generous donation, and grateful for the commitment and contribution Lynn has made to Pioneer Bluffs," said Nancy. "Her leadership has been paramount to our success, and it is very fitting that this fund will continue her work.

We want to see your Kid's Corner pages!

Send us any completed Kid's Corner page and you could win a prize!

*Contest will run July 25th, August 8th, 15th, and 22nd — 4 chances to win!!!!

Winners will be drawn randomly from all submissions received by 9 a.m. the Friday prior to the edition.

*No limit on number of submissions, but you may only win once per contest.

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Book: "The Prairie Nature Built"

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Week 2 - August 8:

Book: "B is for Buckaroo" *CONGRATULATIONS* Rachel M. • Wakefield, KS



Week 3 - August 15:

Deadline to win: 9 a.m. Friday, August 11th*

(2) Youth Passes to the Flint Hills Discovery Center

*Winner will be drawn from submissions received by deadline. Pool will start over each week, so if you would like to enter multiple weeks, you must send multiple entries. Entries received after deadline will be entered into the next week's pool. If no submissions are received for a contest week, contest will be pushed back to the next week until all 4 prizes have been won. Week 4 - August 22:

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING Deadline to win: 9 a.m. Friday, August 18th All non-winning entries received for previous weeks

> will be entered to win! (one entry per child) Family Pack (4 tickets) for the Kansas State Fair Monster Trucks September 17, 2023 @ 5:00 PM

BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME, AGE, MAILING ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER WITH EACH SUBMISSION. *We do not sell or distribute any information received. It is used for contact purposes only.

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MATERIALS FOR ONE SHARK:

- scissors
- glue/glue stick
- black marker
- grey & blue construction paper

DIRECTIONS:

- Cut out the triangle patterns on the grey paper
- Arrange the triangles on the blue paper to form a shark
- Glue the triangles in place
- Draw an eye, teeth, and other details of your choice







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Grand Champion Market Swine Grant Robinson, Hollis Hustlers 4-H



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Grand Champion Market Goat Sawyer Kolman, Clyde Roadrunners 4-H



Reserve Champion Market Goat Broden Kolman, Clyde Roadrunners

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Carpenter Cattle Company to host KLA/K-State Field Day

Carpenter Cattle Company will host the August 17 Kansas Livestock Association (KLA)/Kansas State University Ranch Management Field Day in a pasture located at the intersection of Eagle Eye and Logan County Road 150 in Logan County. Educational sessions during the field day will cover a variety of topics.

Keith Harmoney, professor and range scientist at the K-State agricultural research center in Hays, will explain why less desirable or weedy plants may show up during or after drought. He also will offer solutions, if there are any, that could and arguably should be done to control the particular species.

In a market outlook, Don Close with Terrain will highlight the opportunities and challenges that come with rebuilding the U.S. cow herd. Inflationary risk for consumer demand, cattle replacement costs and weather all will impact how long the rebuilding phase will take. Close is the chief research and analytics officer for Ter-

rain, leading the team of economists and analysts who provide insights for customers of American AgCredit and Frontier Farm Credit.

Wayne Carpenter will discuss why Carpenter Cattle Company has been involved with U.S. Premium Beef (USPB) since its inception more than 25 years ago, and the benefits they have received in marketing cattle and having ownership in processing through USPB. Brian Bertelsen, vice president of field operations for USPB, will give a brief overview of the company and share insight as to what drives premiums on the USPB value-based grid.

The field day will begin with registration at 3:30 p.m. and conclude with a free beef dinner at 7:00 p.m. All livestock producers and others involved in the business are invited to attend.

To get to the field day location from Oakley, travel west on US-40 for 21 3/4 miles. Turn northwest (right)

on Apache Acre and continue straight through the town of Winona for about 6 miles. Turn north (right) onto Logan County Road 170, then travel 4 miles. Turn west (left) onto Eagle Eye and travel 2 miles to intersection with Logan County Road 150, where there is a pasture entrance. From Goodland, go east on I-70 for 17 miles. Take exit 36 and go south (right) on Thomas County Road 2 for 2 miles. Turn east (left) onto Thomas County Road M, then travel 1 mile. Turn south (right) onto Thomas County Road 3 and go 12 miles. Turn west (right) onto Fort Fox/Thomas County Road A and travel for 1 3/4 miles to Logan County Road 150. Turn south (left) onto Logan County Road 150 and travel 1 mile to the pasture entrance at Logan County Road 150 and Eagle Eye Road. Field day directional signs will be posted.

The Farm Credit Associations of Kansas and Huvepharma are sponsoring the event. For more information, go to www.kla.org or call the KLA office at (785) 273-5115.

Aerial seeding cover crops is a possibility

By James Coover, Wildcat Extension District Crop Production Agent

Cover crops are nice and all, and are shown to have numerous soil benefits, but they do not always fit into the crop rotation. Most of the corn ground will likely go back into wheat this fall, especially with the current wheat market prices. However, there are a lot of soybean acres this year, both long-season and double-cropped. Since soybeans are often harvested in late October to early November, it does not leave much room for a cover crop. This is especially true if corn will be planted in early April. While cereal rye can be planted in November and still get a stand established, clovers and brassicas do not stand a chance. The cereal rye will not really grow much before the hard winter freezes. It would be better if evdirectly into the soybeans in September while they were still standing. This could be where aerial seeding may be something to consider.

Seeding by air is nothing new. It started in the 1930s and '40s when tree seeds were dropped by air to reforest areas after wildfires. This type of reforestation practice has been attempted even in recent years, though from what I've read, none of it works very well because it's hard to get the tree seeds into the forest floor soil. However, flying on cover crops has proven to work pretty well... if the weather is right, if the timing is right, with the right seed, and by someone who knows how. Also, check the sovbean herbicides as well. Some have plenty of long enough residual that any sort of seeding is unlikely to work.

When to Fly On Seed For the most part, we are talking about seeding into soybeans in southeast Kansas. Some places farther north might seed into later planted corn, but very little corn is planted late here. The right time to fly on cover crop seed in sovbeans is right when the leaves start to yellow and perhaps the first few have started to drop. The idea is to get the seed through the soybean canopy and touch the soil. Then, the soybean leaves will fall on them and create a moisture barrier to help with germination. If the soil is wet when seed-

ing, that is even better.

Timing the Weather

I have heard farmers say that aerial seeding works 50% of the time. That 50% of the time it worked because the weather was right. Aerial seeding is effectively broadcasting the seed and then not rolling it in. The stand entirely depends on getting a week of cloudy and rainy weather. The seed can sit there for a

little while on dry soil, but the worst-case situation is where there is enough moisture to get it germinated but then dries out. Sometimes our Septembers are hot and dry, like all last fall, but some years we get some moisture that blows in during the hurricane season in the Gulf. Aerial seeding is always a gamble, but it is best to have the odds in your favor.

Choosing the Right Seed

Anything with smaller seeds is ideal. Ryegrass, clover, and brassica seed work best, but some of the other cereal grains might work as well. Another advantage is that smaller seeds mean less pounds per acre and therefore fewer refills for the applicator. Ryegrass seed is pretty light and can get blown around some before getting to the ground. A seed coating can help. but this is not necessary. The larger seeded legumes have very little chance of working even in the best of conditions. Wheat is a possibility, even though the seeds are a little bit larger. However, I do not recommend flying on a wheat crop for grain. Some years might actually work, but there is a serious risk of winterkill and spring freeze damage to wheat that germinates on the soil surface. Another aspect of seed selection is what is the crop rotation and intent with the cover crop. Is the field going back into early April planted corn or soybeans planted in May? Is the field going to be grazed, hayed, or only used as a cover?

Risks of Aerial Seeding

I have talked to a few farmers who said it works great when the weather is right, and I have talked to some farmers who will never try it again. It is no secret that it is not always going to work. That can be a real barrier consider-

aerial seeding. However, per acre, it is not that much more expensive when considering the cost of equipment, diesel, and time when planting with a ground seeder. The real choice comes down to this if the soil moisture is good, the weather forecast looks right, and the crop is at the right stage, think about giving aerial seeding a try. Otherwise, it is not worth the risk. It is best to start small when deciding whether to try aerial seeding, and of course, talk to your NRCS office if there is a program to help with cost reimbursement.

If you are wondering what sort of cover crops to try in your operation, give me a call at any Wildcat Extension office.

For more information, please contact James Coover, Crop Production Agent, at jcoover@ksu.edu or (620) 724-8233.

Red Angus scholarship winners announced

Through the support of the Red Angus Foundation Inc., the Red Angus Association of America is pleased to award college scholarships to JRA members who are active in the association, their communities and the beef industry. Recipients completed an extensive application and interview process, and have proven their communications skills, professionalism and potential for leadership. Each scholarship recipient plans to attend either a two-year college or four-vear university in the coming year.

The following five JRA members will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship.

Brooke Calteaux is the daughter of Brian and Annette Calteaux of Winona, Minnesota, where she is a senior at Winona Senior High School. She plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-River Falls to major in agricultural education with a minor in ag business. As a member of the Happy Hart 4-H Club, she is currently the president and has held the office of secretary and reporter/historian. Additionally, she is the president of the Winona County 4-H Federation and serves on the Minnesota State Fair Beef Committee. Calteaux is also very active in FFA where she currently serves as secretary. Calteaux's passion is Red Angus, and in addition to being the Minnesota Junior Red Angus president, she is also the Minnesota Junior Red Angus breed ambassador. She is looking forward to the next chapter in her life, educating tomorrow's consumers and expanding her knowledge in the industry.

Natalie Evans is the 18-year-old daughter of Sean and Amy Evans of Jacksonville, Illinois, She is a freshman pre-veterinary medicine major at Murray State University. Currently, she is employed at MSU's swine farm and is involved in the Swine Club. Block and Bridle and the Pre-Vet/Vet Tech Clubs. She has the ambition to go to veterinary school and work in large animal medicine. Evans enjoys showing Red Angus at the national, state and local levels. Her interest in large animal medicine was first sparked when she began showing Red Angus seven years ago. She is forever grateful that the Red Angus breed introduced her to her passion, and encouraged her to network with other breeders and learn more about the beef

Morley Griffith, daughter of Matt and Twana Griffith, grew up on a small cow-calf operation in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and has been exhibiting cattle since the age of five. She has won various national titles throughout her tenure in the junior livestock program. While

she is proud of her success in the show ring, she is most proud of the relationships she has built and how she has grown as a cattle woman. Griffith has taught workshops on beef byproducts, herdsmanship and the beef supply chain across the country. She recently won the state 4-H beef record book. She has a passion for advocating for the beef industry and is the current Oklahoma Cattlewoman's Beef Advocacy Champion, Griffith plans to attend Oklahoma State University and double major in agriculture leadership and strategic communications. Griffith credits her passion and drive to the cattle industry that has blessed her so much.

Brett Sartin of Strafford, Missouri, is a 2023 graduate of Fair Grove High School. Sartin is the son of Clint and Veronica Sartin. He is a third-generation cattle farmer from southwest Missouri who has been active in various agriculture related organizations. He has served on the board of the Missouri Junior Red Angus Association and Fair Grove's FFA Chapter. He has been successful in show rings across the Midwest, twice winning reserve champion steer at the national level. Sartin is seeking an agribusiness degree and looking forward to enhancing his family's farming, real

estate and construction

operations while keeping their rich traditions in ag-

riculture alive. Calley Stubbs of Sharon Springs, is the daughter of Becky and Darrell Vandike and Adam and Jill Stubbs. Stubbs is currently attending Butler Community College in El Dorado, where she is a member of the livestock judging team. She is also involved in Collegiate Farm Bureau and serves as the vice president for the North American Junior Red Angus Event junior board. Stubbs hopes to become a ruminant nutritionist and keep developing her herd of Red Angus cattle.

RAAA is also pleased to announce the recipient of the \$500 Dee Sonstegard

Memorial Scholarship. Zachary Griffeth of



grassandgrain.com

Marietta, Oklahoma, is a graduating senior at Turner High School and is the son of Kelley and Anne Kimmey. He plans to attend Oklahoma State University to pursue an animal science degree with

a ranching operations emphasis. Griffeth has been an active member of the Red Angus breed since he was eight, and plans to return to Love County to join his parents in the ranching operations.



Public Notice by Kansas Pork Association

and the National Pork Board Selection of
2024 National Pork Board Delegates

The election of pork producer delegate candidates
for the 2024 National Pork Producers (Pork Act)

The election of pork producer delegate candidates for the 2024 National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body will be conducted electronically on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Voting can be done at the following link: www.kspork. org/2024-delegate-election. After submitting the electronic ballot, a "Thank You for Voting" message will be displayed to confirm the electronic vote was successful. Any producer, age 18 or older, who is a resident of the state and has paid all assessments due may be considered as a delegate candidate and/or participate in the election. One vote per eligible producer. For more information, contact Kansas Pork Association, 2601 Farm Bureau Road, Manhattan, KS 66502, phone 785-776-0442.

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Soaring temperatures stressing the corn crop cent moisture will help

By David Hallauer, **Meadowlark District** Extension agent, crops and soils

Fortunately for us, corn originated from a tropical grass and has been observed to withstand temperatures upwards of 112 degrees F - for short periods. Even as we hope to avoid 112, we unfortunately may see multiple days of triple digits.

Withstanding high ing during them are two different things. Plant growth typically decreases as temperatures exceed 95 degrees F. If moisture is adequate, we don't see a lot of decline in plant photosynthetic capacity from 'normal' summer temperatures. Plants continue to grow and yield isn't greatly affected. Ninety-five degrees and above is a different

simultaneously, drought stress typically closely follows heat stress periods especially when they last for a time. Leaf rolling will be the obvious first sign as the plant attempts to limit leaf moisture loss (transpiration). As it does so, photosynthesis is reduced. If that occurs only for a few hours in the heat of the afternoon, there's little concern. The earlier

stress don't always occur the longer it persists, the greater the potential for yield losses to occur.

> Multiple studies over time have attempted to quantify the yield loss resulting from stresses. One study found losses of three to nine percent per day possible when the crop experienced drought stress and leaf rolling for four or more consecutive days. Milk and dough stage losses can reach six percent. With any luck, re

mitigate this to a degree (daily water use requirements from early tassel until blister stages average almost a third of an inch). Soil moisture levels that rebounded with moisture since mid-July are trending downward again. With close to ten inches of water needed from early tassel to the end of the blister stage (and another nine plus inches until maturity...), rains are need-

with temperatures lower than expected would be helpful as well.

It is that time of year - but it's still never pleasant to see the crop 'tested.' For more information on crop growth stage to see where you're at, check out KSU's Corn Growth and Development reference at: https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/ MF3305.pdf.

temperatures and thriv-While heat and drought it starts in the day and Cattle Chat: influence on cow productivity ikemia vir

By Lisa Moser, K-State **Research and Extension** news service

When traveling abroad to regions that experience different disease threats. there can be some preventative measures that can keep a person from experiencing sickness that occurs in a particular area of the world.

And in some cases, those diseases are carried by insects. In much the same way these vectors can also transmit bovine leukemia virus to beef cattle, say the veterinarians at the Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute on a recent Cattle Chat podcast.

"Bovine leukosis is a viral infection that infects the immune system of cattle and once cows have

HEARTLAND REGIONAL

907 NW 3rd St., Plainville, KS

Early Consignments:

150 mostly blk strs, 500-675#, w/pc/og

• 153 mostly blk strs, 600-800#, w/pc/og

• 110#, mostly blk st/hfr, 700-800#, w/pc/hi

10:00 - Light Yearlings

• 100 blk strs, 550-700#, w/pc/og

• 75 bwf strs, 750-850#, w/pc/og

300#, blk strs, 775-850#, w/pc/og

the virus in their bodies it stays with them for life," said K-State veterinarian Brian Lubbers.

He said that while most cattle have the virus in their bodies, it is not common for the virus to develop into cancer.

"Clinical signs of cancer include swollen lymph nodes and rapid weight loss, but those leukosis cases are uncommon compared to the number of animals that carry the bovine leukemia virus," Lubbers said.

Along with spreading this through biting insects because this is a blood-borne disease, Lubbers said humans can also transmit the virus by using palpation sleeves or equipment such as needles, ear taggers and tattoo guns on multiple animals.

To learn more about the impacts of the disease in beef cattle, K-State veterinarian Bob Larson joined with his veterinary colleague, Shaun Huser, and several others to see if there was a connection between BLV and cow fertility.

Larson said the study was done with 2,820 cows from 43 beef herds In 13 counties in northeast Kansas. The researchers looked at the age of the cow, the size of the herd. the proximity to other herds in the area, and whether or not the cows became pregnant during the breeding season. All of the animals were also tested for the virus presence as well as the virus load.

"We found that this

virus is very common, as about 55% of the cattle were BLV positive... Once the cattle were four to five years of age, that number increased to about 80% of the herd," Larson said.

Regarding the connection to fertility for BLV-positive cows, Larson said: "We found no effect on the probability of getting pregnant early in the breeding season."

Because of the high level of spread in the herds

of this virus, there is no treatment currently and it is difficult to prevent the transmission, according to the veterinarians. Depending on whether

they are working with a commercial or purebred herd, some producers may regularly test for the disease and look at different management strategies.

"Some producers may group the infected cows away from the others that don't carry the virus as

a way to reduce the risk of virus spread, but that comes at a cost." Larson said. "The cost may not warrant an intervention at this time, but looking ahead we hope that this research can help us find a cost-effective way to manage this virus."

To hear the full discussion, listen to the Cattle Chat podcast online or through your preferred streaming platform.

Mead Lumber announces

Mead Lumber, a leadof its rebranding initiative. The rebranding ini-

ing supplier of building materials and services. has announced the launch

rebranding initiative been the cornerstone of

 80 CharX st/hfr 450-600# oc/ss/hr • 50 hlk st/hfr. 325-450#, oc/ss/hr 20 blk st/hfr. 300-450#. oc/ss/hr

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65 blk strs, 800-825#, w/pc/og

1:00 - Calves

60#, blk strs, 825-875#, w/pc/og

• 250 bwf/rwf st/hfr, 400-500#. oc/ss/hr

30 bwf/rwf st//hfr. 350-500#. oc/ss/hr

55 Red st/hfr 400-550# oc/ss/hr

120#, blk strs, 800-850#, w/pc/og/Neb. Orig PENDING

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CATTLE SALE EVERY WEDNESDAY: 12:00 PM

Check our website for August 2, 2023 sale results!

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR AUGUST 9, 2023

- 50 mostly blk strs, off grass, 850-875#
- 60 mostly blk strs, 900-925#
- 60 mostly blk strs, Native, 875-900# • 120 mostly blk strs, off grass, 875-900#
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ALL SIZES AVAILABLE Hopper Bins Available FINANCING AVAILABLE tiative is aimed at updating the company's look and creating consistency across its business units, both with employees and customers. As part of the rebranding initiative, Mead Lumber will unveil a new and modern logo, an all-new website, and a new web address, which is www.meadlumber.com. among many other initiatives. Some of its locations will also be changing their name to Mead Lumber, while others will keep their name but will follow the new logo and design scheme. "Our team has been working tirelessly to develop a fresh look for our brand that better represents the quality, reliability, and innovation that our customers have come to expect from us," said Dave Anderson, CEO of Mead Lumber. "This new branding highlights our commitment to providing top-notch service and support for all of our customers. At the heart of the rebrand is Mead Lumber's brand promise: "To Make You Feel at Home. From Design to Finish®". This promise has always

their business, and they are committed to continuing to deliver on it in everything they do. Mead Lumber believes that this promise sets them apart from their competitors and is the reason why their customers keep coming back. Mead Lumber will continue to offer the best products and services in the building supply industry. The company remains committed to providing its customers with top-quality materials and services, and to building long-lasting relationships with them and the communities we serve together. "We're proud of our history and where we've come from, but we're also excited about where we're going," said Barry Kriha, director of marketing at Mead Lumber. "This rebrand is an exciting time for us as we aim to strengthen the connection that our customers have with us. We believe this fresh approach will help us stand out in a highly competitive industry and attract new customers and employee-owners as well."

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ESTOCK SALES Wednesday Sale, Hogs NOON • Cattle 12:30 PM

Report from August 2nd, 2023

5	448	327.50	7	343	302.00		
9	412	324.00	9	463	290.00		
13	525	315.00	16	535	284.00		
48	548	311.00	15	546	277.00		
25	615	300.00	6	624	276.00		
75	627	294.25	28	692	262.50		
8	681	282.50	21	667	260.50		
6	700	274.50	21	660	257.00		
5	785	271.75	46	719	255.25		
66	752	271.25	16	705	250.75		
11	837	254.00	21	683	248.75		
108	806	253.75	21	850	225.50		
40	816	247.75					
68	817	247.25	TOP BUTCHER COW:				
66	874	246.25	\$125.00 @ 1,430 LBS.				
10	866	242.00	TOP BUTCHER BULL:				
123	912	240.00	NO TEST				
150	919	238.50	BRED COWS: NO TEST				
17	947	237.50	PAIRS: NO TEST				

1002 212.50 **FAT HOG TOP: NO TEST** 13 EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR AUG. 9

- 40 AngX strs & hfrs, 600-750#, w.v. 80 AngXSim strs & hfrs, 600-750#, w.v. 25 AngX strs & hfrs, 700-800#, w.v.
 40 AngX , strs & hfrs, 600-750# • 20 AngX Sim strs, 550-750#, w.v. • 6 mix strs, 700-800#, w.v.
- 50 blkX strs, 825-875#, w.v **PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME!**

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CLAY CENTER LIVESTOCK SALES INC.

Cattle sales Tuesday, 11:00 AM.

Report from August 1st, 2023

6 678 275.00 57 782 230.50 863 244.75 953 188.00 244.25 1000 178.00 932 239.50 **TOP BUTCHER COW:** 61 20 234.50 \$126.00 @ 1.805 LBS. 889 TOP BUTCHER BULL: 66 820 225.50 **HEIFERS**: \$135.50 @ 2,005 LBS. **BRED COWS: NO TEST** 260.00 PAIRS: \$1,450-\$2,050 243.00

ANNIVERSARY SALE TUES., AUGUST 29

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COWS: \$68-\$125.00; BULLS: \$120-\$137.00

	HEIFERS		5 Red	563@270.00
	11 blk	530@225.00	7 mix	563@254.00
	6 mix	580@215.00	9 blk	616@272.00
	70 mix	651@248.00	39 bkbwf	605@269.00
٥	32 mix	684@243.00	6 bkbwf	603@259.00
5	18 Red	629@239.00	6 mix	632@254.00
	10 blk	632@239.00	16 mix	624@251.00
	62 mix	686@235.50	14 bkbwf	608@248.00
1	8 mix	609@228.50	33 bkbwf	735@267.00
,	153 bkbwf	717@246.50	12 blk	754@263.00
	46 bkbwf	710@244.75	10 mix	736@257.00
٠	55 mix	779@238.50	24 mix	711@251.00
l	250 bkbwf	765@238.00	31 mix	795@246.00
I	33 mix	744@233.00	5 blk	794@245.50
Į	6 mix	792@230.00	96 blk	801@244.50
l	23 bkbwf	748@229.50	35 mix	830@244.50
	49 mix	796@225.00	131 blk	870@244.00
	141 bkbwf	832@236.00	45 mix	896@234.50
1	60 bkbwf	855@231.00	60 blk	901@236.00
l	16 mix	850@227.00	52 blk	998@236.00
l	6 blk	826@195.00	12 blk	1059@228.00
STEERS		20 mix	1019@223.00	
1	23 mix	561@270.00		
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EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR AUG. 9

- 80 mostly blk strs & hfrs, 500-700#
- 40 Herf & blk strs & hfrs, 500-800#
- 43 blk strs & hfrs, 45 days weaned, 600-800# 90 Red & Char strs & hfrs, off grass, 600-800#
- 37 blk & Red hfrs, 650-725#
- 25 Red Ang repl. hfrs, no implants, Mushrush genetics, 750-775# • 30 blk hfrs, 750-800# 200 mix hfrs, 750-800# 60 blk & red strs & hfrs, 750-800# • 100 blk & bwf hfrs, 750-825#
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Cattle producers provide guidance on cell-cultured products Members of the National Cattlemen's Beef Associ-

ation (NCBA) recently passed a directive at the NCBA Summer Business Meeting to continue the association's advocacy efforts on transparent labeling and inspection of cell-cultured protein products.

"Cattle producers are not afraid of a little competition, and I know that consumers will continue choosing real high-quality beef over cell-cultured imitations.

said NCBA president Todd Wilkinson, a South Dakota cattle producer. "Our priority is ensuring that consumers accurately know the difference between real beef and cell-cultured products through transparent and accurate labeling. We have already been successful at engaging the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct robust inspections and oversight to protect food safety."

This directive was brought forward by the Tennessee

Cattlemen's Association, California Cattlemen's Association and Florida Cattlemen's Association and passed at the Summer Business Meeting. All policies passed at this meeting will be forwarded to NCBA's general membership for a full vote in the fall. This grassroots policy process ensures that NCBA's policy positions reflect the views of cattle producers.

Hard White Wheat Special Edition Harvest Report 2023

By Marsha Boswell This Hard White Wheat Special Edition of the Kansas Wheat Harvest Reports is brought to you by the Kansas Wheat Commission, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers Kansas Grain and Feed Association and the Kan-

sas Cooperative Council. Hard white (HW) winter wheat varieties continue to be popular among some western Kansas farmers for their high yields, disease resistance and quality. The biggest challenge for hard white is market liquidity and continuity of trade into the marketplace. Kansas Wheat continues to work with the grain handling industry and Federal Grain Inspection Service to revise the grain standards to facilitate the movement of hard white wheat in domestic and international markets and lessen the burden on grain handlers. For additional information on Kansas Wheat's comments submitted to FGIS. visit https://www.federalregister.gov/documents /2022/10/12/2022-22113/united-states-standards-forwheat.

Hard white winter wheat is very similar to hard red winter (HRW) wheat apart from a gene impacting the color of the outer bran coat. It can be used for stand-alone whole wheat products with a lighter color or can be used interchangeably mills with hard red winter, depending on protein and extraction needs.

Hard white wheat had been growing in export demand, primarily to Nigeria out of the Texas Gulf, but the past two years of drought-stricken production shortfalls have impacted that business for Kansas farmers

Joe is the top seeded variety in west central Kansas, making up 14.3 percent of planted acres. Hard white wheat varieties also make up 11.4 percent of acres in southwest Kansas. Overall, hard white wheat was seeded on 4.7 percent of Kansas' 8.1 million acres, accounting for 380,700 acres seeded to hard white wheat in the fall of 2022. In these areas, the multi-year drought caused many seeded acres to be abandoned, including an estimated 60% of Kansas' dryland hard white wheat acres.

In addition to Kansas, hard white wheat is also grown in Colorado, Nebraska and California. The U.S. Wheat Associates Hard White Wheat Committee estimates U.S. total hard white wheat produc-

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55 Mostly Black Steers

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36 Black Heifers

65 Char Cross Steers & Heifers

80 Black/Red Steers & Heifers

35 Mostly Black Steers OG

75 Mixed Yearling Heifers

60 Red/Char Steers

62 Black Steers OG

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180 Black Yearling Steers & Heifers 40 Black Steers & Heifers

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tion to be just over 17 million bushels this year.

Overall, the quality of this year's hard white wheat crop is excellent. While southwest Kansas had to abandon many acres, hard white wheat production increased in areas to the north.

Eric Sperber from Cornerstone Ag in Colby says they've taken in four times the hard white wheat they got last year. At this point, hard white is making up about 40 percent of their bushels.

"It's a lot more than I was anticipating," said Sperber. "It has been a number of years since we dumped this much white wheat."

Overall, the quality of this year's hard white wheat in the Colby area is comparable with the hard red winter with test weights ranging from 57 to 60 pounds per bushel, with the average ending up on the lower end with the delayed harvest. Earlier-harvested wheat had higher test weights, but they've decreased after the recent rain. Proteins consistently averaged 12.5

Sperber says Cornerstone is trying to find demand in the market for hard white, as there is currently no international demand. U.S. wheat is priced out of the market. Even if hard white wheat was competitive, other classes are higher priced than international competitors' prices, so loading a vessel to Nigeria with multiple classes is not an option.

He reports that one large producer in the area was seeing better than 80 bushels per acre yields on hard white variety Joe, from the Kansas Wheat Alliance. The dryland field was planted after corn. Average yields in the area on all hard wheat ranged from 25 bushels per acre on hail-damaged wheat to 70 bushels per acre.

Another producer used Joe as a wheat streak mosaic virus deterrent by planting it around the edges of his hard red winter wheat field. Instead of harvesting the two classes separately, he harvested them together, thinking there wouldn't be much hard white in the load. Unfortunately, Cornerstone had to classify this as wheat of other classes, resulting in a lower price than either HRW or HW alone. Even with their genetic and end use similarities, it is still important for farmers and grain handlers to keep it segregated to avoid grain grading

Every Thursday at 12 Noon

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500-700#

500-725#

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Rick Horton of Leoti reports that the newest hard white wheat variety, KS Big Bow, is outyielding its predecessor, Joe, by four to five bushels per acre on his farm in west central Kansas. KS Big Bow was released by Kansas State University in 2022, is marketed by Kansas Wheat Alliance, and will be available to farmers this fall.

Horton says KS Big Bow has the potential to outyield Joe even more, as it was planted with a low population on his farm due to limited seed availability last fall. He says it could be up to 15 bushels per acre above Joe's yield.

In addition, Horton says KS Big Bow is a stronger plant with better standability and better grain quality, calling it a

"better version of Joe." Protein was averaging 13.3%, about one percent higher than Joe, and test weights remained at 60 pounds per bushel, even after multiple rains on it. He started to see a little bit of sprout damage on Joe after the rains, but none on KS Big Bow. The harvestability was good, with no shatter.

Compared to Joe, KS Big Bow has improved yield, drought tolerance, straw strength, sprouting tolerance and better baking quality. KS Big Bow also has wheat streak mosaic virus resistance, stripe and stem rust resistance similar to Joe.

The Horton family started harvest on July 4, about a week later than normal, was kept out of the fields for several days due to rain, and wrapped up on July 19. They didn't destroy many acres, but kept some of the fields that should have been destroyed for seed. Wheat barely came up in the

fall, but a .20 to .30 inch rain after planting helped it emerge. While this has been a late harvest because of cool temperatures, Horton says this year's crop had the "best finishing weather.'

Stewart Whitham, also from Wichita County, grows 100% hard white wheat varieties: two-thirds of his wheat acres were planted to KWA's Joe and the other third are Plains-Gold's Breck this year. His wheat is half dryland and half irrigated.

He reports that by May, half of their wheat had been abandoned, due to the drought it suffered over the winter. Even with decent stands in the fall, the wheat did not grow after its initial fall tillering.

Whitham started test-cutting on July 4, but a storm came in that evening and kept him from starting harvest until July

With these storms have come hail, which has destroyed another 20 percent of Whitham's wheat crop.

While his harvestable acres have been cut back to only 30 percent of what was planted last fall, Whitham is seeing good quality characteristics for this year's hard white wheat crop. Test weights have been hanging in there, even after recent rains, at 59 to 60 pounds per bushel. Protein levels are strong, and yields are about twothirds of what he would typically expect. Whitham has seen no sprout damage in his fields as of vet. a strong testament to recent genetic improvements in hard white wheat varieties. Sprout damage would have been eminent in older hard white wheat

Both varieties have been good for Whitham, and he plans to grow them again next year. He also plans to add the newest hard white wheat variety from Kansas Wheat Alliance, KS Big Bow. His acres will remain about the same this fall. He said Breck has a little better standability than Joe, but they were both good, healthy plants with no disease pressure.

All Whitham's hard white wheat is stored on his farm and is marketed directly to flour mills or grain companies as is warranted by demand. Unfortunately, Whitham says demand is currently stagnant across the world and it is tough to create a marketing plan with current market volatility. He emphasized the need to increase both international and domestic demand when it comes to hard white wheat.

As with others in the area. Whitham is fighting weed pressure and weather events to get his harvest wrapped up.

Ron Suppes, who farms in Lane County, has all hard white wheat, namely two Kansas Wheat Alliance varieties, Joe and KS Silverado.

He had to destroy 32 percent of his planted acres due to the drought. The remaining acres are averaging about 20 bushels per acre. He noted that Joe weathered the drought better than KS Silverado. Average test weights for his farm are 58 to 58.5 pounds per bushel, and protein is averaging 15 percent.

Suppes began wheat

harvest on July 17, nearly a month later than his normal start date of June 20. Scattered rain events and humidity kept the wheat from drying down until mid-July. But Suppes noted that unlike other areas in the state that have received a year's worth of moisture in the last two months, his area has only received five to 14 inches from one end of the farm to another, and the soil profile remains short.

He's fighting weed pressure from kochia as well as noxious weeds like bindweed. He has given up on producing any seed wheat this year.

"This has been an exceptional year, and I don't mean good," Suppes said, noting that it is costing more to harvest the wheat than it is worth. "We have to keep wheat in our rotation," he said.

Suppes markets his hard white wheat to mills in Kansas, South Dakota and North Carolina.

U.S. Wheat Associates produces an annual Crop Quality Report that includes grade, flour and end-product data for all six U.S. wheat classes. The 2023 Annual Wheat Quality Report will be available at uswheat.org.

The 2023 Harvest Report is brought to you by the Kansas Wheat Commission. Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Kansas Grain and Feed Association and the Kansas Cooperative Council. To follow along with harvest updates on Twitter. use #wheatharvest23. Tag us at @kansaswheat on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to share your harvest story and photos.



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MARKET REPORT FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023 **RECEIPTS: 1038 CATTLE** FOR FULL RESULTS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.HOLTONLIVESTOCK.COM

STEERS
17 blk bwfLancaster 425@326.00
10 blk Lancaster 391@308.00
5 blk red Effingham 493@307.50
16 blk bwf Lancaster 481 @ 304.00
6 blk bwfHolton 579@294.00
8 blk Holton 658@279.00
15 blk red Holton 670@279.00
6 blk bwfEffingham623@268.00
7 blk bwfValleyFalls 680@267.00
59 blk Wetmore813@258.75
10 blk Holton 737@258.00
24 blk Goff 752@253.00
21 blk red Sabetha 670@245.00
65 mix Goff 835@245.00
114 mix Goff 919@235.00
20 blk char Sabetha 789@227.00
13 mix Goff 1051@222.00

HEIFERS Onaga 215@320.00 Powhattan 334@317.00 5 blk 6 blk char Wetmore 362@300.00 13 blk bwf Horton 418@285.50 6 blk bwfLeavenworth399@284.00 Holton 406@281.00 9 blk Lancaster 486@270.00 9 blk red Holton 611@265.00 Holton 586@264.75 6 blk bwfMayetta 570@263.50 9 blk bwfCentralia 558@263.25 12 blk red Centralia 483@257.00 5 red blk Netawaka 665@255.00

11 blk gry Eudora 610@242.50

6 blk red Sabetha 693@238.00

Sabetha1197@171.00 Dan Harris, Auctioneer & Owner • 785-364-7137 Danny Deters, Corning, Auct. & Field Rep • 785-336-1622 Dick Coppinger, Winchester, Field Rep. • 913-683-5485 Steve Aeschliman, Sabetha, Field Rep. • 785-284-2417 Larry Matzke, Wheaton, Field Rep. • 785-268-0225 Craig Wischropp, Horton, Field Rep. • 785-547-5419

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\$239.75. Trend on Calves: Steady on a light test. Trend on eeder Cattle: \$2-\$4 higher across the board. Butcher Cows: High dressing cows \$110-\$131; Avg. dressing cows \$90.50-\$116.50; Low dressing cows \$88-\$95. Butcher Bulls: Avg. to high dressing bulls \$125-\$137.50. Trend on Cows & Bulls: Steady w/firm undertone Some Highlights Include: 2 blk 565@268.009 red 417@270.00 2 blk 650@273.009 red 515@258.00 9 mix 650@265.00 595@245.00 661@264.00 4 blk 17 blk 36 blk 659@253.00 745@254.50 67 mix 664@255.50 17 blk 762@260.00 15 mix 31 mix 686@245.00 68 blk 775@253.75 64 blk 745@237.75 845@247.25 138 blk 130 blk 748@240.00 872@246.25 60 blk 56 mix 840@230.00 67 blk 962@239.75 55 mix 846@234.50 7 mix 1095@223.00

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lb. steers, \$250-\$275; heifers, \$231-\$258; 600-700 lb. steers,

\$240.50-\$273: heifers. \$222-\$255.50: 700-800 lb. steers \$241-\$271: heifers. \$227-\$240.50: 800-900 lb. steers. \$237-

\$247.25; heifers, \$224-\$234.50; 900-1,000 lb. steers, \$220-

Next Sale: Thursday, AUGUST 10, 11 AM

• 790 mixed steers, off grass, 800-925lbs

415@280.00

3 red

- 170 mostly black heifers, off grass, 775-825lbs
- 140 mostly black steers, off grass, 850-900lbs
- 4 loads Charolais cross steers, off grass, 850-900lbs 100 mixed heifers, 2/3 black, 550-750lbs

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Schwieterman Market Outlook

A marketing commentary by Bret Crotts

It was a rough week for the wheat market, and particularly the Hard Wheat contracts, which seemed to spend most of the week in free-fall mode. There were a couple signs of hope in the wheat when market rallied off the Russia/Ukraine war news, but those types of rallies have turned out to be selling opportunities and the bounces seem to last a shorter and shorter amount of time. The problem remains the same as it has for over a year, which is that the war in Ukraine

Seven Day Forecast

WEDNESDAY

Partly Cloudy High: 88 Low: 64

THURSDAY

Partly Cloudy High: 87 Low: 65

FRIDAY

Sunny High: 91 Low: 66

SATURDAY

Mostly Cloudy High: 90 Low: 67

SUNDAY

High: 89 Low: 64

MONDAY

TUESDAY

High: 87 Low: 62

0-2 3 4 6 7 8 9 10 11+

0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very High, 11+: Extreme Expose

Grass & Grain Weather Report

with all its supply and production disruptions, has still not resulted in any better export sales for the U.S. The threat of a global supply disruption and the hope of better exports gives the wheat market a spark for a little bit, but until something material arises in the cash market, we have to look at these headlines as a selling op-

Corn fared a bit better than the wheat, but not much. There was not a lot of rain through the bulk of Iowa and Illinois, so it

Precip 0.25"

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+6.8

This Week's

6:35 a.m

6:37 a.m

6:38 a.n

Aug. 9, 1878 - The second most deadly tornado in New Date England history struck Wallingford, Coan. killing 34 7/28

people, injuring 100 and destroying 30 homes. The tornado 7/29 started as a waterspout over a dam on the Quinnipiac River. 7/30 It was 400 to 600 feet wide.

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a slight chance of showers and

thunderstorms, high temperature of 88°, humidity of 68%. Southwest wind 9 to 13

mph. The record high temperature for today is 109° set in 2006.

Last Week's Almanac

92/67

91/67

91/67

Thursday

93/72

98/73 95/71

105/73

Normal rainfall

Departure

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is likely that we see another week of lower crop condition ratings on Mon-We have a supply and demand report on Friday, which will likely show a cut to the yield estimate, but probably a corresponding cut to demand as well. Traders do not seem worried about either lower crop condition or a lower production estimate because the assumption is that demand is poor enough to offset the bulk of any production decline. So, it seems, that the corn is in the same situation as

Aug. 9, 2023

81/62

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Wamego

Council Grove 90/64

Date Degree Days

Today's Local Outlook

Washington

92/68

Clay Center

Sun & Moon Chart

1:10 a.m.

3:38 a.m.

4:38 u.m. 5:40 a.m.

Sunset 8:29 p.m

8:28 p.m

8:24 p.m.

8:23 p.m. 8:21 p.m.

89/64

0

Blue Rapids

244

Ogden

94/65

Manhattan

88/64

3

4:48 p.m.

7:22 p.m.

7:59 p.m. 8:29 p.m.

Degree Days

By

Auction

Junction City. 91/64

the wheat, in that we need to see better demand in order to see better prices. Sovbeans are a bit dif-

ferent than the corn and wheat since the November beans have held support at the 38% retracement of the last leg up. Demand has improved, although we are still behind the normal sales pace. This is the time of year when we have seen the Chinese make big purchases, so hopefully they show up this year.

Of the corn, wheat, and soybeans, the soybeans definitely have the most bullish set-up. A little bit worse than expected condition ratings, and a little bit bigger than expected yield cut on Friday would probably result in new contract highs. Corn and wheat are definitely due for a rebound, but in order to see sustained strength we need some better demand news.

Cattle futures performed well last week. There were some new contract highs in the deferred contracts and there were lots of contracts that made their best close of the year. The August live cattle are nearing the delivery period and can't get left behind by the cash market. The weakness in the corn, combined with the strength in the live cattle is ideal for that market. Be very patient with hedges and remember that put options are part of an effective hedging strategy.

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

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K-State expert makes case for snakes

By Bailee Farmer. K-State Research and

Extension news service

Snakes often get a bad rap around home properties, perhaps because of their sharp fangs and their scaly bodies, but a Kansas State University expert says snakes aren't always as mischievous as we think.

In fact, K-State fisheries and aquatics Extension specialist Joe Gerken said snakes help the environment and are beneficial to the ecosystem.

Most snakes, he said, help manage animals such as mice and rats, which eat plant seeds in abundance. He said that when rodent populations get out of control, a lack of seeds may impact plant growth

ronment.

Snakes also help to manage fish. People often worry that snakes will eat all of the fish in a pond, but Gerken said that's not always the case.

"Most of the fish that they are eating are sick, diseased, dying or recently dead, so you're not going to have a problem with fish that you want to keep," he

Gerken cited research indicating that snakes living in or around ponds and other bodies of water increase fish growth rates. He said the increase in growth rate relates to snakes preventing overpopulations.

"If you have too many mouths to feed in your pond, and not enough food,

we get some of those fish out, whether it's by fishing or having snakes, that helps the growth rate of our fish," Gerken said.

According to Gerken, snakes can also benefit ecosystems by feeding other wildlife such as hawks and owls, and he advises not to kill snakes for this reason.

"There are a lot of benefits when (the snake) is dead, but let's keep the killing of the snakes to the owls and wildlife and learn to live with them," he said.

Gerken acknowledged that snakes can be intimidating, but there are ways to keep them at distance.

"They're going to be more scared of you than you are of them," he said. "So there's definitely benefits of having them there, but doing things like keeping your grass mowed down, cleaning up rock piles or log piles, especially around your pond will keep snakes away," he

More information on managing wildlife is available online from K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resourc-







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Tuesdays

We sold 1297 cattle August 1. Steer and heifer 2 blk/red hfrs calves were in good demand at higher prices. Feeder 60 blk/bwf hfrs steers and heifers sold steady to \$2.00 lower. Cows 55 blk/red hfrs and bulls were steady to \$3.00 higher.

STEER & BULL CALVES 69 blk/bwf strs 889 @ 241.60 548 @ 317.00 44 blk/bwf strs 3 blk/char strs 762 @ 240.00 5 blk/bwf strs 419 @ 307.00 890 @ 239.00 11 blk/char strs 445 @ 305.00 124 blk/red strs 914 @ 237.25 1 blk str 3 blk/bwf strs 457 @ 290.00 60 blk/red strs 926 @ 237.25 456 @ 274.00 49 blk/bwf strs 898 @ 236.75 8 wf strs 962 @ 234.25 1 bwf str 500 @ 268.00 60 blk/red strs 517 @ 255.00 937 @ 222.25 3 wf strs 60 mix strs 518 @ 253.00 929 @ 220.60 2 blk/bwf bulls 60 mix strs 1 red str 445 @ 251.00 **HEIFER CALVES** 30 blk hfrs 475 @ 287.00 STOCKER & FEEDER STEERS 399 @ 278.00 8 blk/red strs 582 @ 285.00 7 blk hfrs 580 @ 278.00 480 @ 276.00 2 blk strs 3 blk hfrs 678 @ 271.50 373 @ 263.00 13 blk/char strs 2 wf/bwf hfrs 482 @ 263.00 13 blk/bwf strs 605 @ 269.00 19 blk/bwf hfrs 690 @ 268.75 495 @ 257.00 54 blk/bwf strs 2 blk hfrs 310 @ 255.00 2 blk/sim strs 608 @ 263.00 1 blk hfr 650 @ 259.00 3 x-bred hfrs 483 @ 250.00 2 blk strs STOCKER & FEEDER HEIFERS 41 blk/red strs 726 @ 253.00 21 blk/sim strs 781 @ 253.00 8 blk hfrs 596 @ 269.00 595 @ 259.00 5 x-bred strs 628 @ 246.00 8 blk hfrs 768 @ 245.00 573 @ 255.00 3 x-bred strs 2 blk/bwf hfrs 13 blk/bwf hfrs 126 blk/red strs 871 @ 243.75 617 @ 252.50 872 @ 242.75 599 @ 249.50 62 mix strs 8 blk/bwf hfrs 63 blk/bwf strs 831 @ 242.00 10 blk hfrs 622 @ 245.00

698 @ 237.50 1620 @ 108.00 844 @ 234.00 1520 @ 106.00 849 @ 230.50 1 blk cow 1340 @ 105.00 **COWS** 1 red cow 1305 @ 104.00 1535 @ 120.50 1 blk cow 1 bwf cow 1090 @ 102.00 1 bwf cow 1375 @ 120.00 1 bwf cow 1260 @ 100.00 1 blk cow 1530 @ 119.50 1 blk cow 1425 @ 99.00 1 blk cow 1630 @ 118.50 1 blk cow 1325 @ 98.00 1 blk cow 1630 @ 118.00 1 blk cow 1625 @ 90.00 1 blk cow 1635 @ 117.50 **BULLS** 1680 @ 116.50 2140 @ 139.00 1 blk cow 1 blk bull 1 bwf cow 1470 @ 116.00 1 blk bull 1770 @ 134.50 2030 @ 134.00 1 blk cow 1295 @ 115.00 1 red bull 1 char cow 1420 @ 114.00 1 blk bull 1970 @ 130.00 1 blk cow 1550 @ 113.00 1 blk bull 2405 @ 128.00 1 blk cow 1340 @ 111.00 1 blk bull 1915 @ 124.00 1 blk cow 1200 @ 110.00 1 red bull 1575 @ 120.00

CONSIGNMENTS FOR TUESDAY, AUG. 15, 2023:

200 Hereford steers, 700-825 lbs.

• 100 Hereford heifers, 650-750 lbs., OCV vacc The above cattle are homeraised, raised from Brainard Cattle Co., all fully vaccinated off grass 600 blk char red steers, 875-950 lbs., off grass

WATCH OUR AUCTIONS LIVE ON DVAuctions.com CONSIGNMENTS FOR TUESDAY, AUG. 8, 2023:

• 70 Angus strs & hfrs, 450-650 lbs., weaned, vaccinated

• 62 blk strs & hfrs, 600-700 lbs., vaccinated

• 40 blk strs & hfrs, 600-700 lbs., off grass

• 26 blk strs & hfrs, 700-750 lbs., off grass

• 20 blk strs & hfrs, 650-725 lbs., weaned,

20 blk steers, 650-700 lbs., off grass

• 50 blk heifers, 875-925 lbs., preg open

• 134 blk red heifers, 850-900 lbs., off grass • 250 blk steers, 775-825 lbs., off grass

• 250 blk char red steers, 850-875 lbs., off grass

• 70 Hereford steers, 775-825 lbs., off grass

• 125 blk red steers, 775-825 lbs., off grass • 80 blk steers, 875-900 lbs., off grass

• 60 blk steers, 900-925 lbs., off grass

• 120 blk red steers, 850-900 lbs., off grass

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

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

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

LELAND BAILEY LYNN REZAC **REX ARB**

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

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St. Marys, Ks.