

Kansas Hay Market Report

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Compared to the last report, demand remains slow to moderate, trade activity remained slow, and prices were steady. Folks are busy finishing up harvest, which for many areas has been less than stellar. Not much hay has been moving or purchased in part due to the harvest but also, reports indicate that many feed yards are using silage or grinding their own feed hay. Widespread rain was gratefully received recently and according to CO-CORAH'S, ranged from 9.5" to a trace, unofficially there were reports in excess of 10"-12" inches in the south Lyon County area. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for October 24th, the categorical percent area for abnormally dry conditions (D0) increased to 16%, moderate drought (D1) decreased to 17.5%, severe drought (D2) remained near 30%, extreme drought (D3) remained at 19%, and exceptional drought (D4) increased to near 1.5%.

Southwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, and ground and delivered, steady, movement slow. Alfalfa: Dairy, 1.40-1.50/point RFV. Good, Stock or Dry Cow 220.00-250.00. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, large rounds new crop 205.00-215.00 delivered short haul, large square 3x4's and 4x4's new crop 205.00-215.00 delivered short haul. Ground and delivered locally to feed lots and dairies, new crop 240.00-250.00. Alfalfa/oat hay mixed ground and delivered 240.00-245.00. Grass Hay: Bluestem: CRP large rounds 75.00. Corn stalks: large rounds 80.00-85.00

delivered, large squares 95.00-105.00, ground and delivered 125.00-135.00. The week of 10/22-10/28, 4,595T of grinding alfalfa and 1,250T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought or sold.

South Central Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground and delivered, and alfalfa pellets steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse, small squares 13.00/bale; Dairy 1.40-1.50/point RFV. Good, Stock cow, 225.00-235.00. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, large rounds new crop 200.00-210.00 delivered, 3x4 and 4x4's new crop 205.00-210.00 delivered, rained-on large square 3x4 and 4x4 140.00-150.00. Alfalfa ground and delivered 235.00-245.00. Alfalfa pellets: Sun cured 15 pct protein 315.00-325.00, 17 pct protein 325.00-335.00, Dehydrated 17 pct protein 410.00-420.00. Grass hay: Bluestem, large rounds 165.00-185.00 delivered, large square 3x4's 150.00-160.00 FOB, small squares 200.00-205.00; Brome, small squares 245.00-250.00/ton. Sudan, large rounds 95.00-105.00. Milo, large rounds 95.00-105.00. The week of 10/22-10/28, 6,575.5T of grinding alfalfa and 0T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought or sold.

Southeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa steady, grass hay steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: horse or goat, none reported. Dairy 1.40-1.50/point RFV. Good, stock cow 260.00-270.00 delivered. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, none reported. Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares, 200.00-205.00, mid square 3x3's 180.00-200.00, large square 3x4 175.00-185.00, large round 155.00-170.00. Brome, large round 160.00-170.00, large square 185.00-200.00. The week of 10/22-10/28, 944T of grass hay was reported bought or sold.

Northwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa steady, grinding alfalfa 15.00 lower;

K-State researchers seek ways to improve pig gut health and decrease mortality

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

As the U.S. swine industry shifts toward improving gut health in newly weaned pigs to decrease mortality rates, a Kansas State University student is studying ways to incorporate low acid binding ingredients into swine diets.

Ethan Stas, a graduate research assistant in K-State's Department of Animal Sciences and In-

dustry, said acid binding ingredients are key to a concept known as acid-binding capacity, or ABC-4, which looks at the pH level of a pig's stomach before the animal's gastrointestinal tract matures.

"ABC-4 is the amount of hydrochloric acid required to reach a stable pH of 4 for an ingredient or diet," he said. "For swine, we utilize a pH of 4 because once the pig's stomach increases above (that level of acidity), this is where impaired nutrient utilization and health problems can occur."

He adds: "When that pig is weaned and switched from a liquid milk-based diet to a dry cereal-based diet, the amount of lactic acid is reduced. At weaning, the pig's gastrointestinal tract is still developing and its hydrochloric acid production in the stomach is limited until that gut fully matures. This can cause an elevated stomach pH which can be associated with decreased protein digestion and opportunity for pathogenic organisms."

movement slow. Alfalfa: Horse or goat, small squares none reported, 3x3 squares 300.00 new crop. Dairy, Premium/Supreme 1.40-1.50/point RFV. Stock cow, fair/good none reported. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, large rounds 220.00-225.00, large square 3x4's 225.00-230.00. Alfalfa ground and delivered 260.00-280.00.

North Central-Northeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa, ground and delivered and grass hay steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: Dairy 1.40-1.50/point RFV; Horse hay, premium small squares, 12.00-13.00/bale; Stock Cow 3x4's 230.00-240.00; Fair/good, grinding alfalfa, large rounds 210.00-220.00, large square 3x4's 225.00-235.00. Alfalfa ground and delivered 270.00-275.00. Alfalfa/Sudan grass mix ground and delivered 200.00. Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares new crop 9.00-10.00/bale, large 3x4 squares 165.00-175.00, good large rounds 150.00-160.00. Brome: small squares 10.00-11.00/bale, large rounds 130.00-180.00. Oat hay, large rounds 160.00; Sudan: large round 170.00-180.00 delivered. Wheat straw: small squares 5.00-6.00 per bale. Corn stalks: large round 60.00-70.00. The week of 10/22-10/28, 171T of grinding alfalfa and 100T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought or sold.

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

*RFV calculated using the Wis/Minn formula. **TDN calculated using the Western formula. Quantitative factors are approximate, and many factors can affect feeding value. Values based on 100% dry matter (TDN showing both 100% & 90%). Guidelines are to be used with visual appearance and intent of sale (usage). Source: Kansas Department of Agriculture -Manhattan, Kansas Kim Nettleton, 785-564-6709.

production and the health of their pigs.

"Understanding potential ways to lower the ABC-4 levels of early nursery diets can help producers improve the performance and health status in their production system," Stas said. "It is a growing topic, and we are continuing to try and learn as much as we can."

The 2023 K-State Swine Day is scheduled for Nov. 16 on the K-State campus in Manhattan. The registration fee is \$25 per person if paid by Nov. 8, and \$50 after that date or at the door. K-State students may attend free of charge if they register by Nov. 8.

Registration is available online at asi.ksu.edu/swineday, or by sending a check payable to the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, Attn: 2023 KSU Swine Day, 218 Weber Hall, 1424 Claflin Road, Manhattan, KS 66502.

For more information, contact Katie Smith at 785-532-1267 or katiemsmith@ksu.edu.

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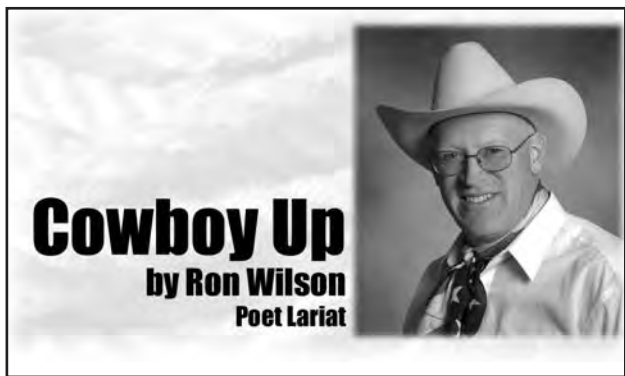


KANSAS AG REPORT



Ken Rahjes, Host

For TV Show times check your local listings or watch at kansasagreport.net



Cowboy Up

by Ron Wilson
Poet Lariat

Royal on the Rise

The little girl joined her dad on the trip to Kansas City. Her father, an ag teacher, was taking a bunch of his ag students to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, and young Jackie McClaskey got to go along. She was excited by the sights and sounds they encountered, including a stop at the historic livestock show: The American Royal.

Decades later, that same young woman is helping lead the American Royal to new heights.

Jackie McClaskey is president and CEO of the American Royal. A Kansas farm kid, she has served several roles in the state, including as Secretary of Agriculture. One issue she heard about was the increasingly urgent need for the American Royal's West Bottoms facilities to be expanded and improved.

The Royal began in 1889

In big win for corn growers, Commerce significantly lowers duties on phosphate fertilizers

The U.S. Department of Commerce recently announced it was lowering duties placed on phosphate fertilizers imported from Morocco from 19.97% to 2.12%. The decision comes after the agency conducted an administrative review of the duties, which is performed annually by retroactively examining the price of shipments and other factors.

The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), which has been a vocal opponent of the duties, applauded the decision, calling it a big win for corn growers.

"This victory was made possible by corn growers across the country who spoke out against these duties as they faced skyrocketing fertilizer prices and product shortages at the behest of The Mosaic Company," said NCGA president Harold Wolle. "While the best duty on fertilizers is no duty at all, we are nonetheless thrilled that corn growers bearing the brunt of these tariffs will feel financial relief thanks to this decision."

The issue stems from a decision by Commerce in 2020 that favored a petition by the U.S.-based Mosaic to impose duties on phosphate fertilizers imported from Morocco and Russia. Mosaic had claimed that unfairly subsidized foreign companies were flooding the U.S. market with fertilizers and selling the products at extremely low prices.

Soon after the decision, NCGA launched an aggressive campaign that called on Commerce to reverse the decision and for Mosaic to withdraw its request for tariffs. Over the past three years, NCGA has led the charge to raise concerns by filing an amicus brief, sending a letter to the White House, and informing Members of Congress about the impact.

In October of this year, the National Corn Growers Association – along with 62 other agricultural groups, including state corn grower organizations – sent a letter to Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo calling on her to consider the current difficulties faced

and outdoor arenas plus barns, educational and exhibit space, the Royal will have one million square feet under roof and in outdoor learning spaces. This is a \$350 million project involving private and state support on a 220-acre site. They broke ground in spring 2023. The new facility is expected to be completed in the last quarter of 2025.

While the Royal is a premier livestock show, it is much more than that. The mission of the American Royal is "to be the nation's leader for food and agriculture education, events, and engagement." Year-round activities include horse shows, rodeos, ag education, and barbecue competitions. 2024 will be the 125th birthday of the American Royal.

But by 2016, the need for enhanced facilities led the American Royal to announce a major move: Relocation to Wyandotte County, Kansas. In 2019, Jackie McClaskey joined the Royal staff to develop the new facility. In 2022, she became the president and CEO.

"It's not just about a new home, it's a new American Royal," Jackie said. The massive new facility will be able to accommodate modern livestock shows and other competitions plus much more. Including the connected indoor

by farmers as she recalculates duties on phosphate fertilizer imported from Morocco. That letter and previous actions by corn growers culminated in today's decision.

In a separate matter, in September, Commerce was ordered by the U.S. Court of International Trade to reconsider the duty rate calculation because of flaws found in Commerce's analysis. A decision on that matter is expected on Dec. 13.

A Royal Opportunity

By Ron Wilson, Poet Lariat

Just as a young calf needs to stretch and grow, The need for ag education must expand also.

The American Royal began as a livestock competition, And now it must expand to match the industry's condition.

Just as agriculture's changed to produce abundant bounty,

Now the Royal is moving over to Wyandotte County.

In the area called the Legends near the Kansas Speedway,

The American Royal's new home is progressing today.

On 220 acres near 118th Street, The new facility's structures will cover one million square feet.

That's three connected arenas: main, multi-purpose, and outdoor,

Plus offices, huge horse barns, and trailer parking galore.

A Learning and Engagement Center will help with education,

With auditorium, classrooms, event hall, and kitchen for demonstration.

It will be ideal for modern livestock and horse shows and more,

With opportunity to reach an urban public therefore.

We look forward to this new era in which we will enter,

As the Royal takes its role as the food and ag epicenter.

The new facility will benefit the greater agricultural community

In its upcoming new home: It's a Royal Opportunity.

Happy Trails!

Each year the Royal involves nearly half a million youth and adults. In addition to the above events, the Royal provides ag and veterinary student scholarships and hosts interactive school tours for second through fifth graders.

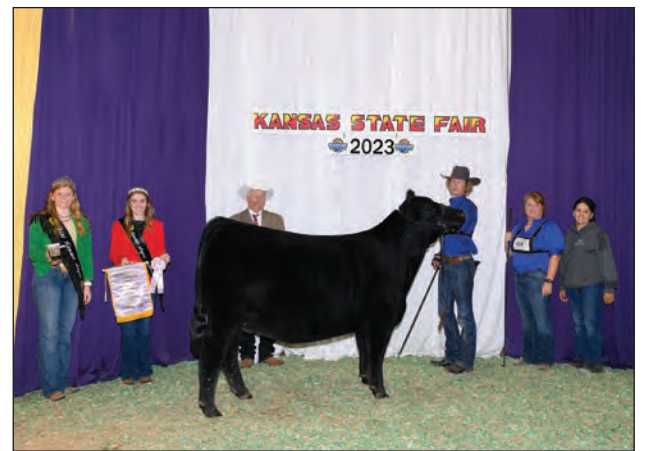
Such educational outreach is vital in a paradoxical time when consumers are more concerned about where their food comes from, yet society is increasingly urbanized. As the American Royal website states: "Never before have consumers been more connected to their food. Never before have consumers been more disconnected from agriculture... Our vision is a world where food and agriculture are celebrated, and all generations are committed to its future."

"We can be the food and agriculture epicenter here in the center of the country," Jackie said. The new facility is intended to create a premier, state-of-the-art food and agriculture showcase for discovery, learning and engagement.

"I want the Royal to be a place where people can convene, consumers

can learn about agriculture, and young kids are inspired to think about agricultural careers," Jackie said.

Maybe the Royal will help lead young people to an exciting future, just as it did for Jackie McClaskey on that trip with her father years ago.



RW Saras Dream 207 won reserve grand champion female at the 2023 Kansas State Fair Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Show, Sept. 16 in Hutchinson. Jayce Dickerson, Paradise, owns the March 2022 daughter of PVF Blacklist 7077. She first claimed reserve junior champion. Brian Barragree, Absarokee, Mont., evaluated the 69 entries. Photo by Legacy Livestock Imaging

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

80 acres, M/L, of South Central Jackson County, KS
Heavily Wooded Wildlife Habitat Hunting Property

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2023 * 2:00 PM

Auction Location: St. Francis Xavier Church Hall,
301 E. James St., MAYETTA, KS 66509 (SE corner of town)

PROPERTY LOCATION: From the Jct. of Hwy. 75 and 158 Rd. at Mayetta, KS, go 6 3/4 miles West to "K" Rd., then 1 mile North to 166th Rd., then 1/4 mile East to the SW corner of the property.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 15, Township 8 South, Range 14 East, Jackson Co., KS. This property consists of 80 acres, M/L, of a heavily wooded wildlife sanctuary made up of many tall Hackberry, Cottonwood, Walnut, Hedge, Cedar, Dogwood shrubs and various other trees. Wildlife that has been seen is deer, turkey, quail, coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, rabbits and squirrels. This property is a well-known spot for mushroom hunting in the spring. **Come take a look at this quiet, secluded property.** The purchaser may use this property for this year's hunting season.

For more info or viewing, please call John E. Cline, Broker, 785-532-8381
For Pictures check our website: www.clinerealtyandauktion.com

TERMS & POSSESSION: The Sellers require a non-refundable 10% down payment day of sale with the balance to be paid on Thursday, January 4, 2024. Possession to be immediately upon signing of contract. Buyer and Sellers to equally split the Owner's Title Insurance fee and the Escrow closing fee. 2023 taxes to be paid by Sellers. Statements made sale day take precedence over printed material. Sale subject to Sellers' confirmation. Cline Realty & Auction, LLC represents the Sellers' interests.

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Auction Conducted By: **CLINE REALTY & AUCTION, LLC**
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Bar S Pride 123 won grand champion cow-calf pair at the 2023 Kansas State Fair Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Show, Sept. 16 in Hutchinson. Jayce Dickerson, Paradise, owns the June 2021 daughter of Silveiras Forbes 8088. A March 2023 bull calf sired by Malsons Insight 96H completes the winning pair. Brian Barragree, Absarokee, Mont., evaluated the 69 entries. Photo by Legacy Livestock Imaging

PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023 — 9:00 AM

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GUNS & FARM RELATED ITEMS
1962 Winchester 290 auto short, long & long rifle, original box, never fired; Winchester mo. 59 12 ga.; Winchester .22 short, hex barrel; Winchester 1893 black powder goose gun; Winchester Mo. 12 12 ga.; Walther 9mm pistol; LC Smith dbl. barrel 12 ga.; Stevens crackshot .22; Remington .22 pump; 2 Mosin Nagant rifles; Ruger stainless steel 10-22, new in box; Hatfield single shot 20 ga., new in box; Hatfield youth mo. 20 ga., new in box; Marlin 30-30 lever action; 2 Winchester 94 30-30 lever action rifles, 1 Golden comm., 1 NRA; Keltec-P11 9mm; Clayco Sports mo. 6 over/under 12 ga.; Diamondback DB 9 9mm; Mossberg 12 ga.; 12 ga. shells; Winchester .300 Win Mag ammo 150 & 180 grain, new in boxes; 6.5 Grendel brass with primers; gun rack; 6 gun cabinets; Trenton 130# anvil, nice; Craftsman band saw; Delta 10" contractor's table saw; Delta 6" jointer; Delta 12" band saw; DeWalt 12" chopsaw; Craftsman 10" chopsaw; Ready Heater Pro 100 space heater; Kero-sun heater; (150) 2x4' shop lights; new portable RV waste water tote; Craftsman 22" 4 cyl. elec. start snow blower; 5.3x12 trailer tires & wheels; implement jack; utility cart; chainlink gates; Briggs 5 hp eng.; Briggs 8 hp eng., never run; planes; tap & die set; vises; fuel pump; drills; hand drawn equip.; crocks; wringer washer; RR cart; head gate; old bottles; roller mill; Garst sign; Carson & Barnes Circus adv.; seasoned hedge firewood; like new love seat; Oak 2 drawer file cabinet; chains & boomers; table of old tools; socket sets; line trimmers; hand tools; nail guns; buggy seat; air compressors; jack stands; decorations; button, marble, stamp & scissor collections; buckets; sad irons; wood stove; enamel; horse collars; 1976 Coleman lantern, new; Coleman cooler; sled; jewelry; pocket watches; knives; baseball cards; JD oil filter; hitch pins; & more.

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GRASS & GRAIN

Sustainability in agriculture: how the industry is answering the call to produce more with less

By Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) staff

Several notable drivers poised to impact the future of agriculture are taking shape, and American farmers are already feeling the heat. Their future success depends on their ability to meet demands for increased sustainability while facing a severe labor shortage, rising input prices and increasingly unpredictable weather events. Producing more with less will be a key goal in the new era of agriculture.

Sustainability concerns among consumers continue to drive change. In a 2021 survey of 750 U.S. consumers by C.O.nxt and Menu Matters, 80% of consumers reported that sustainability is important to some degree when deciding what foods and beverages to purchase from a supermarket or order from a restaurant. Food companies and retailers have taken notice, with companies such as Unilever, PepsiCo, General Mills, Walmart and Whole Foods leading efforts to reduce their global footprint.

"The challenges facing our customers are growing in complexity and society is asking more and more of them," said Garrett Goins, manager PS&C for crop care products at John Deere and chair of AEM's Sprayer Technology Leadership Group. "The days of abundant resources in farming inputs are over. Labor, fertilizer and crop protection are all growing in scarcity and increasing in cost."

Farmers are turning to technology to reach their goals. "We've evolved from precision agriculture to digital agriculture," said Scott Shearer, Ph.D., PE, professor and Chair of Food Agricultural and Biological Engineering at The Ohio State University.

Precision agriculture describes farming tools that are based on observing, measuring and responding to within-field variability. "Digital agriculture is broader," said Shearer. "It covers everything from when the seed goes in the ground until there are end products on the consumer's table. Everything is connected to the internet." Digital agriculture applies artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML), to interpret huge amounts of data to support a farmer's decision-making and improve the efficiency of farm operations.

Farmers will welcome autonomous technology

The lack of skilled labor for operating equipment is challenging farmers, but fully autonomous solutions provide reason for optimism.

"COVID exacerbated the labor shortages in rural America," said Shearer. In addition to improved productivity from being able to operate 24/7 during critical times of the year, Shearer believes autonomy will eventually enable smaller machines that will reduce soil compaction. "Compaction from large machines is increasing runoff from agriculture and compromising soil health," he said.

"Truly autonomous farming will be possible in the very near future," says Seth Crawford, AGCO's SVP and GM of Preci-

sion Ag and Digital. "Our products already automate many difficult processes for operators, and that's the first step toward full autonomy." According to Crawford, autonomy involves far more than just automating the tractor, but also the various steps in farming. "You first have to make sure the entire job gets done right. It's making sure that every pass, whether it's tilling, planting, seeding and harvest, can be done to perfection with full autonomy."

Earlier this year, John Deere revealed a fully autonomous tractor that's ready for large-scale production and just recently announced it will produce the machinery/technology pieces of a complete, full-season-capable autonomous cropping package by 2030.

Precision agriculture will advance to plant-based decision-making

While some precision agriculture tools such as guidance systems and connectivity are near full adoption (90%), others have room to grow. AEM recently quantified the environmental benefits of precision agriculture in a study and found that precision agriculture has improved fertilizer placement efficiency by 7%, and has the potential to improve an additional 14%. According to Crawford, variable rate technology and section control technology are currently used by about 50% of farmers, but adoption is still growing. Variable-rate technology allows fertilizer, chemicals and other farm inputs to be applied at different rates across a field, without manually changing rate settings on equipment or having to make multiple passes over an area.

Section control technology improves efficiency by automatically turning off planter sections or individual rows in areas that have been previously planted, or areas designated as no-plant zones such as waterways. This prevents overlap and eliminates wasted seed and other inputs in odd-shaped fields.

"The biggest challenge is building the technology into the machine and making it reliable and easy to use," said Crawford. "We have proven the payback is one to two years in most cases, now it's a matter of making it easy to use." To increase adoption, AGCO is focusing on strong test programs and identifying areas where farmers struggle with set-up.

Shearer said he has observed that farmers in

Ohio are doing a much better job of soil sampling and applying nitrogen at key times in the growing process to do more with less. The Y-drop system and high clearance sprayers are new tools that extend the nitrogen application window. It's the combination of these technologies that delivers a nitrogen solution directly to the soil surface at the base of the corn plant for optimum plant uptake and nitrogen use efficiency.

The AEM study found that precision agriculture reduced herbicide placement efficiency by 9%, but that did not include new vision technology and artificial intelligence (AI) which takes precision agriculture to the plant level. Targeted spraying technologies from John Deere and AGCO detect weeds among corn, soybean and other crops, and they spray herbicide on only the weeds. John Deere reports a 77% reduction in herbicide among users. With supply chain issues causing shortages in herbicide and increases in cost of 30% in just the past year, targeted spraying technology represents significant savings for farmers.

"Farmer adoption of technology is often tied to their profitability," said Shearer.

The key will be applying AI and analysis to data to improve shared insights between growers across the agriculture ecosystem.

A recent study published by Purdue University revealed the data farmers are currently collecting:

- 82% collect yield monitor data
- 77% collect soil data
- 47% collect satellite or drone imagery data
- 73% create GPS maps from their data

More farmers will answer the call related to sustainability

With a focus on improving soil health through natural methods rather than chemicals, sustainable agriculture is an old idea that has been gaining traction among sustainability advocates and farmers. In 2019, General Mills committed to advance regenerative agriculture on 1 million acres of farmland by 2030. In February, the USDA announced that it will invest \$1 billion to support America's climate smart farmers, ranchers and forest landowners.

Mitchell Hora, founder and CEO of Continuum Ag, is on a mission to advance regenerative agriculture, promoting techniques such as no-till farming,

the use of cover crops and grazing livestock on crop land. He works with farmers in 38 states and 16 different countries.

Regenerative agriculture at scale is in its infancy. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, just 12% of farm acres were no-till, 11% were reduced tillage, and just 2% of farm acres utilized cover crops.

Hora's approach relies on Haney soil tests that measure both organic and inorganic nutrients, software to analyze soil data, experimentation and insights to help farmers profit from the start. Hora's 700-acre family farm in Iowa, has been no-till since 1978 and utilized cover crops since 2013. As soon as possible after harvest, Hora plants a cover crop and continues to let it grow in the spring. "In the spring we will plant green and then terminate the cover crop later based on soil moisture data," said Hora. Careful management of the carbon nitrogen ratios and understanding the organic nutrients in the soil is necessary.

Since planting cover crops, the Horas have maintained above-average yields on corn and soybeans while using 33% less nitrogen, 100% less potassium, and 75% less phosphorous, and a 100% less lime. The amount of organic matter in the soil increased by 1.43% from 2010-2020.

More organic matter in the soil also means greater resiliency to floods and drought. Soil with more organic matter holds more water during an extreme rainfall, reducing runoff. It also can support plants better during droughts.

"The average farm in the U.S. can only infiltrate a half-inch of water per hour," said Hora. "On our farm, we can infiltrate four inches of rainfall in five minutes."

Hora also hasn't had to replant crops and no longer purchases federal crop insurance. All of this improves the bottom line of the farm.

"If you enable the biology to do the work for you, you don't have to spend money on inputs," said

Hora.

"The savings of precision ag are real," added Goins. "It's a little bit here and a little bit there, but the savings add up."

Carbon credits are another reason why sustainable agriculture practices may flourish. The National Academy of Sciences estimates that regenerative agriculture can sequester 250 million tons of carbon dioxide in the U.S. annually, or around 4% of our emissions. Farmers could be paid for carbon credits to offset the emissions of corporations.

Hora and Shearer said they believe the industry needs a tool to more accurately measure a farmer's carbon footprint. "To reward innovation, we need to show the farmer the actual carbon impact of their operations," added Hora.

Modern farming requires new skills

To produce more with less, agriculture has be-

come a high-tech industry and that means farmers will require new skills or will need to hire experts in the fields of GIS mapping, advanced soil testing, prescription maps, data analytics and computer networking.

"Our role is to work with farmers to understand the issues we're all trying to solve together -How can we increase yields with less inputs, and improve their outlook," said Crawford.

"Farmers trust their local dealers and input suppliers for a lot of advice and we work with them to ensure that's part of the overall customer experience."

Lastly, there is a role for universities as well. "We continue to educate the private sector," said Shearer. "We're neutral, unbiased assessors. We want to make certain products and services align well with the science."

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USDA releases assessment on carbon markets

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a General Assessment of the Role of Agriculture and Forestry in the U.S. Carbon Markets, a comprehensive look at current market activity, barriers to participation, and opportunities to improve access to carbon markets for farmers and forest landowners. The report is the first of USDA's deliverables under the Growing Climate Solutions Act (GCSA).

"The Biden-Harris administration is working aggressively to ensure farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and tribal communities have opportunities to be part of the solution to climate change, all while cultivating new revenue streams and fostering investment in rural communities," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This landmark report demonstrates both the potential and the challenges that carbon markets present for agriculture and forestry."

USDA is taking a hard look at how to foster additional confidence and landowner participation in carbon markets. The next step in implementing the GCSA is for USDA to make a determination regarding whether to establish the Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program, which would facilitate better technical assistance to producers interested in participating in carbon markets, as well as a process to register market verifiers.

UNL faculty continue leadership in creation of national ag data network

A team of University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty is set to carry forward the third phase of a multidisciplinary initiative to create a network of national ag data repositories. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved funding for the project, in which UNL faculty are taking the lead nationally in coordinating a wide range of academic institutions and ag stakeholders.

The project aims to create a secure cyber framework, supported by appropriate policy and regulations, to enable efficient producer access to precision-ag data assembled by ag equipment, sensors, drones and satellites. That data currently exist separately on a wide range of software platforms.

The planned repository, called the National Agricultural Producers Data Cooperative, would enable producers to retrieve and use the data for maximum efficiency, profitability and environmental sustainability. USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture recently issued a \$957,350 two-year grant for the initiative's third round of funding.

The first phase involved building a community of specialists and stakeholders, and the second phase saw the launch of pilot projects to begin addressing technical and regulatory complications. The third phase expands on those projects and enlarges the pool of academic and private-sector collaborators, says Jennifer L. Clarke, a UNL professor of statistics and food science and technology and director of the university's Quantitative Life Sciences Initiative.

Ag producers' needs provide the central guidance for the project. "It's critical for this project to put producers first," says Clarke, who has a lead role in the NIFA-funded initiative. "It's crucial that they drive what we develop and how it's governed and managed."

Stakeholders provided guidance through a survey at the project's national conference in May at Nebraska Innovation Campus. The project also is soliciting input through a survey sent to stakeholders this fall. A white paper of framework recommendations based on stakeholder input will be released this month.

Additional Husker faculty members with key duties for the ag data initiative are Joe Luck, precision agriculture and biological systems engineering; Laura Thompson, ag Extension and farm research; Matt Spangler, beef genetics; Scout Calvert, University Libraries; Hongfeng Yu, advanced cyberinfrastructure and high-performance computing; and Trenton Franz, hydrology and water management.

The project's ongoing work has shown that in many cases there's no need to re-invent the wheel. The NIFA-funded initiative is building in part on work begun in 2014 by the Agricultural Data Coalition, for example. "There are already existing parts of infrastructure and existing initiatives that we can leverage," Clarke says.

UNL beef herds will play an important role in one part of the project as researchers develop strategies to improve management of beef genetics data. That work will be in partnership with two federal repositories, the USDA's Animal Germplasm Resources Information Network and the Bovine Genome Database, and with the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center, Nebraska.

U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer, Nebraska's senior senator, has provided important support in advocating for continued USDA funding of the initiative, Clark says.

Some programs frequently utilized by cattle producers were directly impacted when the farm bill expired September 30, including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). According to NCBA, while many larger programs have full funding and function until January 1, 2024, CRP and EQIP both have lapsed and need either a new farm bill or an extension of the current one to resume normal operations.

Important programs negatively impacted by expired farm bill

CRP payments on existing contracts will continue, but no new agreements can be authorized. Additionally, any CRP contracts that have expired cannot be renewed until action is taken on the farm bill. EQIP is funded through 2031 due to additional funding included in the Inflation Reduction Act, but the payment limitation cap of \$450,000 has expired and also will need a new farm bill to put the cap back into effect.

NCBA will continue working with Congress to deliver a farm bill for producers and end the uncertainty surrounding these critical programs.

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Consider fall grazing of alfalfa

By Ross Mosteller,
Meadowlark District Extension Agent, Livestock and Natural Resources

There is a notable change in the air this morning as I write this. Freeze warnings are being announced, with excessive heat warnings seeming still to be recent experiences – you've got to love Kansas weather! A killing freeze signals the end to many things, but it can also mean the beginning for others. In many areas, fall forage is running short this year and there could be interest in grazing alfalfa this fall/winter. Alfalfa can provide good grazing opportunities, but comes with considerations for both the plant and animal health sides of the equation.

In some cases, the last cutting of alfalfa may not have had enough tonnage to warrant haying, but still has enough biomass for livestock to benefit from grazing. In general, a properly managed alfalfa stand should have good regrowth following a killing freeze. Another positive situation is when an alfalfa field sits adjacent to field with crop residue. Standing alfalfa can provide a protein source to help livestock better utilize the residue. A side benefit is that grazing alfalfa in late fall or winter can reduce alfalfa weevil infestations by removing stems and plant parts that serve as a wintering site or a spring lay-

ing site for weevil eggs.

All classes of livestock can benefit from grazing alfalfa. Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have shown yearlings can have 1.5 to 2.5 lb/d ADG (average daily gain) and cows can increase body condition score before harsh winter months. One of the greatest concerns for livestock is bloat. Unfortunately, you never can be completely certain that alfalfa won't cause bloat, as it is in the class of bloating legumes. Feed additives such as poloxalene and ionophores can limit bloat risk, but require regular consumption to be effective.

Bloat risk is much lower a week after a hard freeze that causes wilting, so one week post-hard freeze is a good run of thumb for turning out. Always use good management methods to help reduce the risk further. This includes; having full ruminants before turning out to alfalfa, wait until midday (after frost or dew is gone) before turning out, provide other dry, palatable feeds or even bloat retardants and defiantly keep a close eye on animals for the first couple days.

Alfalfa plants need six weeks of uninterrupted growth prior to a killing freeze to properly winterize. Winterization allows for accumulation of energy in the roots of alfalfa plants. While alfalfa can be grazed during this time,

it is not recommended unless absolutely needed. As with a late cutting, any harvest will increase the likelihood of winterkill and impact future productivity. Fall-grazed alfalfa can be incredibly high-quality but low quantity. Graze lightly leaving at least eight inches of stubble on average to minimize depletion of the stored energy reserves.

Just like with normal range and pasture settings, rotational grazing can be a good tool to more effectively utilize standing, frozen alfalfa. Properly managed grazing may allow plants to better winterize than a late hay cutting but is still a risk for the stand. Plan grazing to be done when the field is dry and firm. If the soil is too wet, animal hooves can damage plant crowns. Having a sacrifice area or an adjacent lot ready to pull animals into if conditions get wet, can avoid excessive damage to the stand.

There is often fear associated with grazing alfalfa due to bloat potential or hurting the alfalfa stand. These are very valid concerns, but with additional management and timing, alfalfa stands can provide valuable supplemental forage in the fall and winter months. Alfalfa can be grazed safely, just be careful and attentive. K-State's Alfalfa Production Handbook C683 provides additional information.

ASA recognizes Ward Bakenhus as Builder of the Breed

The American Shorthorn Association Awards hosted their Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday, October 22, 2023, at the Hilton Kansas City Airport in Kansas City, Mo.

Ward Bakenhus of Columbus, Nebraska was honored as a 2023 Builder of the Breed. The prestigious "Builder of the Breed" recognizes Shorthorn breeders who have shown true dedication for an extensive time and contributed to the stewardship of the Shorthorn Breed. This award recognizes their efforts in breeding and promoting Shorthorn cattle, which have added to genetic improvement of the breed. Individuals are recognized who have continuously been supporters and promoters for both the Shorthorn breed and the beef cattle industry. Builder of the Breed award winners are recognized for making a lasting impact on our breed.

Bakenhus embodies the Builder of the Breed qualifications through his commitment to the Shorthorn breed. He was born into the famous Ar Su Lu Shorthorn program and was involved at a young age in day-to-day operation of the cattle and crop farm as well as being part

of the American Junior Shorthorn Association. Upon graduation, he returned to the family farm to continue the development and success of the Ar Su Lu herd.

Bakenhus led the family to exhibit annually at the National Western Stock Show Yards Show for many years, with the record of exhibiting more than any other operation in the breed. The family held an annual female and bull sale for many year

and their cattle became foundation animals for several other breeders. He was a major contributor in providing genetics and direction to Shorthorn herds all over the country. He has been a fixture to the Shorthorn breed, even serving a two-year term on the ASA board of directors.

The American Shorthorn Association congratulates Ward Bakenhus on his prestigious honor as being selected as a 2023 Builder of the Breed.



Greene Elba's Mocha 2118 won reserve grand champion cow-calf pair at the 2023 Kansas State Fair Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Show, Sept. 16 in Hutchinson. Garrett Greene, Powell Butte, Ore., owns the April 2021 daughter of Greene Pokerface 1304. An April 2023 daughter sired by Gateway Follow Me F163 is at side. Brian Barragree, Absarokee, Mont., evaluated the 69 entries.

Photo by Legacy Livestock Imaging

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