

# Controlling mustard weeds may be key to spring crop yields, says K-State specialist

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

Kansas State University weed specialist Sarah Lancaster is urging producers to be on the lookout for rosette weeds in the mustard family, saying controlling those could be a key to producing a better yield in the coming season.

The mustards, she says, have two phases: One as a rosette close to the ground, and a flowering phase.

"That means they don't have a stem; the leaves are all stacked up right on top of each other," Lancaster said. "So it can be difficult to see that rosette unless you're walking your fields,

or you have a really bad problem."

Controlling the weeds "will require good scouting and finding the right weather conditions to spray," she said.

Despite the name, mustard weeds can be a variety of colors. Some are mustard yellow while others are white or purple flowering plants.

"Mustards are a large family of flowering plants, sometimes called the brassicas," Lancaster said. "They have flowers that have four petals in the shape of a cross and a lot of them tend to smell bad because they have high sulfur content in the plant."

Some examples of plants that are mustards include:

- Canola.
- S h e p - herd's-purse.
- Field pennycress.
- Bushy wallflower.
- Pinnate tansy-mustard.
- Blue mustard.
- Wild mustard.

"If farmers know that they have a history of problems with these winter annual mustards in their fields, it would be a good idea to be walking fields and be on the lookout for mustard weeds," Lancaster said.

Lancaster recommends spraying mustards when they are in rosette form

because there is more leaf surface area to absorb the herbicides. Treating mustards this fall prevents crops from competing all winter and should help to improve the yield of field crops in the spring. Lancaster suggests controlling mustards with herbicides.

"We often recommend Group 4 (plant growth regulating) herbicides such as 2,4-D and dicamba to control broadleaf weeds, but not all Group 4 herbicides are created equal," Lancaster said. "2,4-D is more effective at controlling mustard species than dicamba, but it is important to be cautious of using 2,4-D in the fall because we want to make

sure that wheat is fully tilled, otherwise the yield potential of the plant can be reduced."

MCPA, Husky or Talinor are other herbicide options, in addition to Group 2 (ALS-inhibiting) herbicides like Glean, Olympus, or Powerflex. Lancaster warns that ALS-inhibiting herbicides are prone to developing herbicide resistance.

"We have populations of flixweed and bushy wallflower in Kansas that have developed resistance to ALS-inhibiting herbicides," she said.

Mustard weeds can spread from neighboring fields, roadsides or a poorly managed field.

"Anytime we're spraying herbicides, remember that they're going to be most effective when the plants can take the herbicides in, and so this time of year, we need to be aware of temperatures in addition to dry conditions persisting in a lot of the state," Lancaster said.

She said 50-60 degrees Fahrenheit is the ideal temperature for spraying weeds in the fall. Crop rotation is another method of weed control wheat producers can consider.

"It's important to be walking fields to know what you have so that you can make accurate herbicide decisions going forward," Lancaster said.

# Consider alternative feeds when traditional sources are expensive

**By Heather Smith Thomas**

When traditional feeds are in short supply or expensive, stockmen must find cost-effective ways to balance a ration. Janna Block, beef nutritionist with Hubbard Feeds and former livestock systems specialist at North Dakota State University (NDSU), says drought conditions make it challenging to feed cows adequately through winter.

"Make an inventory of feeds you have on hand and their nutritional values and try to complement those," advises Block. "Usually the base ration will be hay or forage of some kind. List what you have on hand and lab analysis, if possible," she says. If growing and/or harvesting conditions were abnormal (too dry or too wet), quantities and qualities may be different than other years.

If the crude protein level is below 7%, rumen microbes can't function. Hay quality cannot be determined on visual inspection alone. It is important

to evaluate hay by looking at the condition of the bales, color, odor, etc., but this won't tell you everything. It might be green, but still low in protein. A forage analysis provides the whole picture, she says.

Figure out how many pounds of feed per cow are needed. Some people don't assess stocking rates, and most people don't want to reduce numbers. But for the herd to stay healthy and performing, it may be necessary to sell some cows. It's not always wise to buy expensive hay that might take several calf crops to pay for. Sometimes it's better to sell a few cows and buy less hay, adds Block.

Some people utilize straw and a protein supplement, but straw can be scarce and expensive.

"Straw is mainly a filler," Block says, providing a rule of thumb. "You can go up to 50% of the diet as straw for a mature cow in mid-gestation, but you need something else to go with it, and (you) must

have adequate protein to utilize the straw."

The amount of straw a cow can digest depends on several factors, she says. It makes a difference what kind of straw (oat, barley, wheat) it is and how mature it was when harvested.

Says Block: "About half the ration is the amount of straw a cow can digest in a 24-hour period. Make sure you are not overloading cows with low-quality forage that won't go through the digestive tract quickly. If cows don't have enough protein, they can't eat enough to meet their needs because it won't be digested very quickly."

The gut stays full, and they can't eat more feed, she explains. This can happen on any low-quality, dry, mature forage; cows can become impacted (sometimes fatally) when they don't have enough protein, especially if they are short on water.

Vitamins and minerals are important for the health of the fetus.

"Vitamin A is deficient

in drought-affected forages, and it needs to be provided via supplement or injection, particularly during the last couple months' gestation," she explains. "Then it will transfer to the newborn calf through colostrum. A cow with inadequate levels of vitamins and minerals may have weak/blind calves, retained placentas and other problems."

Before you buy, figure out the cost per pound of the nutrient you are trying to supply.

Traditional supplemental feeds also may be scarce or more expensive. Before you buy, figure out the cost per pound of the nutrient you are trying to supply. In drought situations, you may be looking at all the nutrients (not just protein), because some feeds are deficient in everything — energy, vitamins, etc.

"You can still look at the primary component and figure cost per pound of that nutrient. Add transportation cost, feed delivery costs, etc., when com-

paring products. There are many good calculating systems for this. There is one through NDSU, and Nebraska has good ones. Any Extension service will have a feed-cost calculator that can help you," she says.

Most people are familiar with protein supplements because protein is important, but energy must also be adequate, clarifies Block. In some cases, we might be feeding the wrong type of supplement. This is where feed analysis comes in, along with looking at nutrient requirements.

In some situations, energy may be the first limiting nutrient requirement that must be met, and then fill in with protein. If energy is lacking, we'd feed a different type of supplement than if we were just short on protein. It's crucial to get the right combination, she says.

When buying low-quality hay (if that's all you could find or afford), it's important to figure out how to supplement it.

"Although corn is expensive, if we look at cost per pound of nutrient, it provides more energy than hay," Block says. "In some cases, corn might be a better buy. It depends on how much of the ration you need to make up with some type of concentrate."

As long as there is some fiber in the diet to keep the digestive tract functioning normally, you can often make do with something like corn. A nutritionist can help you figure out a balanced ration.

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# Kansas Hay Market Report

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Compared to the last report, demand remains low, trade activity picked up a bit, and prices were mostly steady and although there were no price changes, dairy hay seems to have a softer undertone. Folks are still getting a lot of alfalfa offered to them but there are not many takers. Most producers state that they could use some rain as fields and pastures are drying out. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for November 14th, pockets of drought were mainly focused across eastern and southern sections of the region, with worsening conditions noted in parts of Kansas and neighboring states. The categorical percent area for abnormally dry conditions (D0) decreased to 20%, moderate drought (D1) increased to 26%, severe drought (D2) increased to 35%, extreme drought (D3) remained just over 7.5%, and no exceptional drought (D4) was recorded.

#### Southwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa and ground and delivered steady, grinding alfalfa mostly steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: Dairy, 1.40-1.50/point RFV. Good, Stock or Dry Cow 240.00-250.00. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, large rounds 155.00-170.00, large square 3x4's and 4x4's 170.00-180.00. Ground and delivered locally to feed lots and dairies, new crop 230.00-240.00. Alfalfa/oat hay mixed ground and delivered 235.00-240.00. Grass Hay: Bluestem: CRP large rounds 75.00-100.00. 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 11/12-11/18, 5,251T of

grinding alfalfa and 275T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought or sold. The average paid by feedlots on November 1 for alfalfa ground and delivered was \$288.56, down \$11.87 from the previous month, which includes mixed hay loads, usage was 512T/day, down 12% and total usage was 15,875.5T.

#### 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 195.00-205.00 delivered, 3x4 and 4x4's 195.00-205.00 delivered. Alfalfa ground and delivered 230.00-240.00. Alfalfa/Forage Mix ground and delivered 180.00-190.00. 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 11/12-11/18, 7,569T of grinding alfalfa and 83T of dairy alfalfa was reported bought or sold. The average paid by feedlots on November 1 for alfalfa ground and delivered was \$232.91, down \$12.16 from the previous month, which includes mixed hay loads, usage was 255T/day, down 7% and total usage was 7,919.5T.

#### 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, large rounds 195.00-205.00, large square 3x4's 205.00-215.00. Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares, 200.00-205.00, mid square 3x3's 180.00-200, large square 3x4 170.00-180.00, large round 155.00-170.00. Brome, large round 160.00-170.00, large square 185.00-200.00. The week of 11/12-11/18, 1,167T of grass hay was

reported bought or sold.

#### Northwest Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa steady; movement slow. Alfalfa: Horse or goat, small squares none reported, 3x3 squares, 300.00. Dairy, Premium/Supreme 1.40-1.50/point RFV. Stock cow, fair/good none reported. Fair/good grinding alfalfa, large rounds 200.00-215.00, large square 3x4's 200.00-215.00. Alfalfa ground and delivered none reported.

#### North Central-Northeast Kansas

Dairy alfalfa, grinding alfalfa and ground and delivered mostly steady, grass hay steady to 5.00 lower; 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 210.00-220.00. Alfalfa ground and delivered 245.00-275.00. Alfalfa/Sudan grass mix ground and delivered 200.00. Grass hay: Bluestem, small squares new crop 9.00-10.00/bale, large 3x4 squares 160.00-170.00, good large rounds 140.00-150.00. Brome: small squares 10.00-11.00/bale, large rounds 130.00-170.00. Oat hay, large rounds 160.00; Sudan: large round 170.00-180.00 delivered. Milo stalks: 70.00-90.00. Soybeans: 70.00-90.00. Wheat straw: small squares 5.00-6.00 per bale. Corn stalks: large round 60.00-70.00. The week of 11/12-11/18, 162T of grinding alfalfa and 250T 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.



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## K-State plans course to train rural grocery specialists

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

Kansas State University officials have opened registration for an online course that organizers say will help to keep grocery

stores open in rural communities.

Rial Carver, the program leader for K-State Research and Extension's Rural Grocery Initiative, said the course – the Rural Grocery Transition Specialist Program – provides training for economic developers, Extension professionals and other resource providers to support rural grocers through business transitions.

Registration is available online. The cost is \$685. There will be three offerings in 2024. The first class begins Jan. 15, and participants should expect to spend 15 to 20 hours to complete the course over a 13-week period.

"Grocery stores are critical businesses in rural

communities because they serve as essential sources of healthy food, drive local economies, and provide space for community members to gather and connect," Carver said.

In 2021, K-State's Rural Grocery Initiative conducted a survey of rural grocers, finding that 30% are at or above retirement age (66), and 23.9% plan to retire within one to five years. Further, more than 72% did not have a business transition plan.

"Business transitions are inevitable, but research consistently shows that business owners struggle to develop these plans," Carver said. "Without a transition plan in place, businesses are more likely to close alto-

gether, which isn't good for the business owner or the community they serve."

The Small Business Development Center notes that it takes up to five years or more to properly prepare a business for transition from one owner to another.

According to Carver, the online courses will prepare specialists throughout the state who can help rural grocers through a transition plan.

"The course is designed for resource providers who work in rural areas, who want to help retain critical amenities in those communities but who haven't received training on supporting rural grocery or business transition planning," Carver said.

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## Three steps to take for a more productive New Year on your operation

By Lacey Fahrmeier, DVM, Valley Vet Supply Technical Service Veterinarian

Help your operation make forward progress into the New Year. It's really important to make a conscious effort to analyze this past year's herd health and objectively reflect on what worked and what didn't. Doing so will help guide decisions for an even better year ahead and maximize the success of your operation from an animal health perspective.

Now is the time to have these conversations – you really don't want to be discussing your neonatal calf health plan when you have three scouring calves on your mudroom floor in January.

During what I refer to as the 'offseason' for veterinarians – when the dust settles on fall work – is the best time for you and your veterinarian to invest time in planning for the coming year. Now is the ideal time to have these conversations, not when you're in the middle of a herd health outbreak or are running on fumes during the heat of calving season.

Having two-way communication is the foundation to a productive veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). With that in mind, let's go over the three steps I feel are invaluable.

**Step 1:** Review outcomes from the previous year's health protocol, successes and any room for improvement.

Telling your veterinarian about any issues you are facing will allow them to help you address those concerns and solve problems. To enhance your operation's overall health and profitability, here is a quick checklist of things I feel should be evaluated every year.

### Cow herd

- Conception rate from the previous year compared to others
- Reproductive goals for the herd and whether they were met
- Any increased rate of abortions or stillbirths
- Level of body condition
- Any increase in diseases, such as pinkeye or foot rot

### Calf crop

- Overall neonatal health; mortality, sickness,

response to treatment, vigor, etc.

- Any specific disease challenges, such as summer pneumonia while out on pasture
- Calf performance, including weaning weight
- If you retained ownership, how calves performed at the next sector of the industry
- Any feedback from buyers relating to calf health, all the way to the rail or breeding

Overall herd health protocol (vaccinations, deworming and antibiotics)

- Efficacy of programs based on year's performance
- Any adjustments you feel may be needed
- Administration logistics and timing
- Whether the first line of antibiotic treatment remains effective, or if any additional treatment options were necessary
- Any new marketing strategies that may impact the program, for example moving to an all-natural program

**Step 2:** Explore new technologies available on the market and outline any questions you may have for your veterinarian.

ian.

As veterinarians, we want to be a resource for you and we hope that you feel comfortable coming to us with questions. Because of this, I feel inquiry is another important aspect of this conversation with your veterinarian. This is a good time to share whatever is top of mind for you as a producer. Maybe you have heard about a new technology; speak with your veterinarian about their opinion. Could it be a good fit for your program and is it cost-effective? Prep a list of questions you may have about the science behind it while you have that expert in the room.

In addition to asking about any new technologies in the market, inquire about any new research. Things are constantly evolving, especially in the arena of immunology. Employing evidence-based medicine is paramount for any operation to help ensure herd health and productivity. It's important to sit down and find out if we have learned anything new in the past year that might alter your current plan.

Asking us questions is not a hindrance by any means – we want to help. The clients that I enjoy working with the most are the ones who push me to continually raise the bar. They are the ones who ask the hard questions and are constantly wanting to do better.

**Step 3:** Develop a plan for the coming year or make any adjustments necessary to the previous year's plan, to ensure success and positive strides.

So, you have reviewed the past year's wins and losses, and you have talked about potential new technologies with your veterinarian. Now, in the final component of the discussion, utilize all of this information to develop a plan for the upcoming year, if you did not have a protocol in place – or make any necessary changes to the previous year's plan to better serve you moving forward.

I encourage you to walk away from this process with actionable tasks; you don't want to let those ideas and the enthusiasm that you have for your program fizzle out after the meeting. Have some

actionable items such as three main goals we are going to try to improve upon this year, here's how we're going to do it and when.

To make things easier on you both, adhering to schedules and timelines, go ahead and look to calendars to schedule out important herd work with your veterinarian.

One last thought is that having this nice, beautiful herd health plan provides a great baseline to guide us. But, keep in mind that things can happen, challenges can arise that we cannot foresee, and we have to be willing to be adaptable and pivot. Having this baseline will help to guide you, help you remain profitable and help to maximize animal health.

I encourage producers to ask questions and to not blindly adhere to a protocol just because it's the way we have always done it. Review outcomes, ask questions and work closely with your veterinarian in a year-in-review to ensure a more productive year ahead.

Continue learning at ValleyVet.com.

## Panelists talk capturing value during Angus Convention

By Sarah Kocher, Angus Communications

It's easy to get stuck in the mindset of, "Well, that's how we've always done it." Fortunately, change and innovation run aplenty in the cattle business.

In November, the 2023 Angus Convention's educational program highlighted innovations in the beef cattle industry and gave producers a chance to talk about challenges and opportunities they see in the future.

One session, the Capturing Value panel, discussed marketing strategies for cattlemen who run cow-calf and seedstock operations and how they can work together to increase profitability.

Four uniquely qualified panelists – Travis Mitchell with Clemson University's Cooperative Extension Service, South Carolina Cattlemen's Association and Mitchell Farms; Lydia Yon, Yon Family Farms; Tracy Woods, 44 Farms; and Doug Stanton, IMI Global – encouraged producers to take advantage of value-added programs and to stay informed about industry trends and opportunities.

Together they represented a variety of experiences and marketing strat-

egies, having worked with producers from across the U.S. – whether selling at local livestock auctions or large video sales – and of varied herd sizes.

From a seedstock perspective, Woods and Yon talked about how they try to help their customers find success marketing their cattle. About half of the session's audience self-identified as seedstock producers.

"We definitely are data-driven, but we also try to be very tuned in to what our customers need from us and what we need to do to help facilitate them being profitable," Yon said.

Yon Family Farms, based in Ridge Spring, South Carolina, hosts two sales a year, selling around 450 bulls annually. She said herd sizes in the Southeast present another challenge – trying to stay competitive even when producers are not able to sell cattle as load lots on their own.

Yon and Mitchell work together to do this, being in the same county (Saluda County, South Carolina). Mitchell provides presentations for local producers to discuss marketing options they have and how to make the most of the value they have created.

"With Extension, I'm in the relationship business," he said. "I serve a lot of time throughout the day and the week of being a liaison between the seedstock producer and the commercial cattlemen or between the commercial cattlemen and the verification agency – however that might look."

For around ten years, Mitchell has helped organize sales at his local livestock auction twice annually for farmers and ranchers working together to make uniform load lots. This is done in coordination with his county's cattlemen's association.

"They're doing a good job of going out, making the right genetic selections, and we want to make sure that they're getting paid for that," Mitchell said.

Additionally, they have implemented uniform vaccination protocols and G.A.P. Certification (Global Animal Partnership Certification) for the cattle included in the sales. With some of these sellers using genetics from Yon Family Farms, Yon shared the impacts she has seen for their customers.

"They might've had only two or three people bidding on their calves competitively when they

sold them," Yon said. "Now that they can have those tags (and value-added programs) on their lots when they sell them, they might have five or six people bidding, and you all know what that does."

Mitchell estimates 25% of the producers involved in the sales receive carcass data back from buyers, and that percentage has been growing.

Woods was also asked about the impact of carcass data during the panel. He works as the chief genetics officer for 44 Farms in Cameron, Texas. In that role, he helps build supply chains, which focus on meeting consumers' demands for high-quality meat.

He shared what carcass data does for producers wanting to capture more value.

"I think 90% of the people that we give the carcass data back to, really, they want to make it better for both parties," Woods said. "They obviously want to wean more weight. They want you to buy a heavier calf, but they want an end product that everybody is going to want and that's Certified Angus Beef® (brand)."

On the panel, Stanton talked about the types of verification services IMI Global provides and what

those resources can do within the current cattle market.

"We've seen record prices on the calves and the yearlings compared to a year ago," he said. "We expect that to continue for the next two to three years. We have been a little pleasantly surprised by the fact that premiums in the marketplace have been at or above the base price of what they were over the last couple of years."

IMI Global is an agricultural and food verification and certification company. Stanton helps manage beef verification programs like Age and Source, AngusLinkSM value-added programs, NHTC claims and others.

"Third-party verification is essential for validation of whatever trait it is," he said. "You have a little more money in your pocket, and it's a good time to try (value-added programs), because we feel like the premiums are still going to be there in the marketplace."

Woods echoes this, saying many producers are already doing the work needed to qualify for programs, and getting paid for added value in their cattle is one way to be recognized.

"A lot of people don't want to be at the top of the totem pole, if you will, but they want to get some recognition for the good things that they're doing," he said.

Mitchell knows that a little guidance goes a long way in getting cattlemen through the learning curve with these marketing programs. He adds the curve is often not as steep as they think.

"What I've noticed over my Extension career is commercial cattlemen do a great job of raising cattle," Mitchell said. "They do a great job of taking care of calves, weaning, vaccinations, spending their money on the right genetics, but they lack sometimes in making sure that they're marketing those cattle."

"As a commercial cattle producer, take responsibility in marketing your cattle and reach out and use these resources that are available to you," he told the audience.

Audience members were able to ask more specific questions related to their individual operations and marketing strategies during the session. For more stories from the 2023 Angus Convention, visit [angus.org](http://angus.org) and view "News and Announcements."

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# Fencing pools and ponds for safety's sake

By James Coover, crop production agent, Wildcat Extension District

How can the tiny little legs of my toddler move so fast? His feet hardly touch the ground, and he is off, sprinting towards one thing or another. Fortunately, we live out in the country and the nearest road is down a long driveway. However, what scares me the most is we have a big pond on our front lawn surrounded by tall grass and deep mud. It's full of frogs, fish, turtles, and shiny water that acts like a beacon to toddler attention.

Farm ponds can be a serious hazard on the

farm, just as pools and fishponds can be a hazard in anyone's back yard. According to the CDC, children ages one to four have the highest rate of drowning. On average, two kids under the age of four, and ten under the age of 18 die from drowning each day in the U.S. Many more that survive drowning can face long term health problems. Most of these drownings happen in backyard pools, merely because they are much more common. Farm ponds can be just as dangerous.

In the winter ponds are likely even more dangerous for slightly older kids. It can be fun to slide

around on the ice, but it rarely gets cold for long enough here to freeze ice thick. It needs to be at least four inches thick across the entire pond; something we haven't seen here for a long time. Beneath that ice is deep water or thick mud, both of which are barely above freezing temperatures.

Keeping a pond or pool safer for toddlers and young children will often involve a fence. CDC also stated that a completely fenced-off pool reduces the risk of drowning by 83%. That's not an absolute, but is a huge risk reduction. Fences can be expensive, but there are

several cheaper options depending on how permanent they need to be or how nice they look. Of course, it's also important to teach young kids how to swim as well. Drowning is another leading cause of death and injury for kids ages five to 14.

On the pricier and prettier side, we have wrought iron, wooden panels, and chain link fences. Wrought iron fencing, as the name suggests, is iron or steel but has been galvanized dipped, and painted to prevent rusting. Aluminum fencing or chain link are other slightly cheaper choices.

Whichever the metal, these are more for the yard because they look nice but are considerably more expensive. Wooden panel fences are similar but can have all sorts of designs and styles. Remember though, this is to keep kids out of things. It doesn't need to be all that tall, but it can't have kid-sized holes.

On the cheaper side, we have fences used mostly for livestock. Stock wire panels are those steel semi-flexible panels composed of thin bars in squares, often used for goat and sheep pens. Chicken wire or rolled mesh fences are cheap but require a fair amount of support posts. Plastic mesh fence can be cheaper, but this isn't going to stand up long and might not even stop a determined toddler. This is more useful for keeping chickens in a pen or rabbits out of a garden. Barbed wire and panels might be common in cattle operations but aren't spaced to stop kids.

If you have enough time, there are natural options as well. Plenty of bushes can grow thick enough to act as a nearly impenetrable fence. Japanese holly, barberry, or forsythia can grow pretty thick and have spring flowers or fall color. If you want that fancy Old English look, shaped privet hedges or boxwood can add fancy design. However, all of these require at least a few years of

foresight before growing together enough to cover any gaps.

No matter what fence you choose, the most important thing is that it's there to keep those speedy toddlers from getting hurt. I hope that my exploration of fencing ideas for my own pond has given you ideas for your own. Everyone has their own style, price points, and access to materials.

Mostly the point of this article was to bring attention to the dangers that water features, including farm ponds, can present to children, and to get people

thinking about their own protection measures. For me personally, I'm considering a wood-slatted snow fence with some enforcing wire. It only needs to be semi-permanent, but on the cheaper side and held up with T-posts. After all, my pond is 500 feet long, and someday my boy will be old enough that no fence will be able to stop him.

If you have any questions about fencing or farm safety, please give us a call at 620-724-8233 or email me at jcoover@ksu.edu.

For more information, please contact James

## Pottawatomie County Conservation District receives Governor's Recognition award

The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation (DOC) is pleased to announce a 2023 recipient of the Governor's Recognition of Conservation District Service award. This award recognizes individual conservation districts and provides an opportunity to showcase the districts' pride in accomplishments and dedication to conservation.

This recognition program was officially adopted by the State Conser-

vation Commission (SCC) in 2006. The recognition of five counties receiving this award took place this year during the SCC Luncheon at the KACD Annual Meeting held on Monday, November 20, 2023 held in Wichita. The District's office location is in the USDA Service Center in Westmoreland and partners with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of Pottawatomie County.

The District was chartered in February of 1945.



Taken at the SCC Luncheon, pictured back row from left are: Chalee Braun, Mark Kopp, Front L to R: Mike Beam (Kansas Secretary of Agriculture), Jody Reves, Dennis Schwant (holding plaque) and Molly Schmidt



Conservation District Staff, Board and NRCS Partners include, back row from left: Marlene "Molly" Schmidt (District Manager), Jody Reves (Vice-Chairman), Mark Kopp (Chairman), John Haug (NRCS Soil Technician) Front L to R: Irene Johnson (Board Member), Michael Bartmess (NRCS District Conservationist), DeWayne Frank (Board Member), Dennis Schwant (Treasurer), Chalee Braun (Assistant District Manager) and Peyton Freeman (NRCS Rangeland Specialist)

**HEARTLAND REGIONAL STOCKYARDS**

907 NW 3rd St., Plainville, KS • 785-688-4080  
**TO CONSIGN, CALL:** Brandon Hamel 785-434-6280  
 hrstockyards.com

**Special Cow Sale**  
**Sat., December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
 12:00 Start Time

**LISTINGS:**

- 80 blk, 3 year olds, northern origin, all have raised calves, March calvers.
- 26 red, 3-5 year old, bred Bar S and Brent Charolais, Feb. calvers.
- 35 bwf 3-5 year old, bred Dix Angus and Walt Angus, complete vaccine program, Feb./March calvers.

**PLUS MANY MORE TO COME!**

**Herington LIVESTOCK COMMISSION Co.**

**CATTLE SALE EVERY WEDNESDAY: 12:00 PM**

**NO SALE HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2023**

**SPECIAL SALES: 1<sup>ST</sup> WEDS. OF EACH MONTH** | **NEXT SALE: NOV. 29**  
 CHECK WEBSITE FOR CONSIGNMENTS

Manager: Tracy Ediger, 785-366-6645 \* Barn Phone: 785-258-2205  
 Seth Bartel, 620-382-7041 • Tate Becker, 785-258-4165  
 Dave Bures, 402-766-3743 • Tim Wildman, 785-366-6152  
 KFRM AM 550, Every Wed., 8:00 a.m. • [www.HeringtonLivestock.com](http://www.HeringtonLivestock.com)

**GRASS & GRAIN**

Wednesday, Dec. 6th,  
 Grass & Grain staff will be at

Herington Livestock  
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Stop by to visit and have a cookie or donut!

**SALE BARN TOUR**

Start or Renew a subscription and receive a FREE gift!

**GSI GRAIN BINS**

ALL SIZES AVAILABLE  
 Hopper Bins Available  
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 Harder AG PRODUCTS  
 West Highway 50  
 PEABODY, KANSAS 66866  
 Phone 620-983-2158  
[www.grainbinsusa.com](http://www.grainbinsusa.com)

**JC LIVESTOCK SALES INC.**  
 Wednesday Sale, Hogs NOON • Cattle 12:30 PM

**NO SALE WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22**  
 due to Thanksgiving Holiday!

**Special Cow Sale: Wed., Dec. 6, 12:30 PM**  
 in conjunction with our Regular Sale. Replacement cows sell 1st followed by calves & yearlings and weigh up cows & bulls sell last.

- 45 Ang X Spring bred cows ..... 3-9 yrs old..... Dispersal
- 9 Ang X Spring bred hfrs ..... 2 yr ..... Dispersal
- 16-16 Ang X ..... Fall Pairs ..... 2-3 yrs old
- 7-7 Ang X ..... Fall Pairs ..... 5-7 yrs old
- 10 Ang X Spring bred hfrs ..... 2 yr..... bred to AngXGel LBW
- 7 Ang X ..... Spring bred cows ..... 4-6 yr old
- 50 Ang X Spring bred hfrs ..... 2 yr..... AI bred to LBW Angus
- 20-20 Ang X ..... Fall Pairs ..... 2 yr old
- 20 Ang X ..... Spring bred hfrs ..... 2 yr old
- 15-15 Ang X ..... Fall pairs ..... 7 & up
- 15-15 Ang X Fall pairs ..... 2 & 3 yrs ..... short exposed to Ang

Watch online with [cattleusa.com](http://cattleusa.com) (Tab J.C. Livestock Sales)  
 Must register to bid.

If you need assistance in marketing your cattle please call & we will be happy to discuss it with you.

**JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS • Barn Phone 785-238-1471**  
 Seth Lauer 785-949-2285, Abilene

**KARL LANGVARDT** Cell: 785-499-2945  
**MITCH LANGVARDT** Cell: 785-761-5814  
**LYNN LANGVARDT** Cell: 785-761-5813

**CLAY CENTER LIVESTOCK SALES INC.**  
 Cattle sales Tuesday, 11:00 AM.

Report from November 21st, 2023

LIGHT RUN DUE TO THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.  
 COW AND BULL MARKET STEADY

**SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR LATEST CONSIGNMENTS!**

**NEXT SHEEP & GOAT SALE: SAT., DEC. 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
 Hay & Equipment - 9:00 A.M.  
 Sheep & Goats - 11:00 A.M.

**NO SALE TUES., DEC 26**  
 DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY!

Clay Center, Ks • Barn Phone 785-632-5566  
 Clay Center Field Representatives:  
 Tom Koch, 785-243-5124, Lance Lagasse, 785-262-1185

**50 Angus-based Black Spring Bred Heifers consigned to the JC Livestock Sale for Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

Pelvic measured ~ Vaccinated  
 BVD-PI negative ~ Culled for Disposition  
 Known & Trusted Genetics  
 AI Bred, due starting Feb. 1, 2024  
 to RL Justice, Crawford Guarantee 9137  
 and Connealy Guardrail 923E  
 Clean up bulls: calving ease/low birth weight  
 Blythe registered Angus bulls

For more info call:  
 Blythe Family Farms, White City  
 Duane Blythe or Debbie Lyons-Blythe  
**785-349-2652 or 785-466-1883**

## NASS releases farm labor report

In the Northern Plains region (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) there were 37,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 2023, down 3% from the July 2022 reference week, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Workers numbered 43,000 during the week of October 8-14, 2023, down 4% from the October 2022 reference week. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$18.68 per hour during the July 2023 reference week, up 6% from the July 2022 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$18.87 per hour, up \$1.30. Livestock workers earned \$17.44 per hour, up \$0.59. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at \$18.18 was up \$0.93 from

the 2022 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 45.2 hours during the July 2023 reference week, compared with 44.4 hours worked during the July 2022 reference week. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$19.37 per hour during the October 2023 reference week, up 6% from the October 2022 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$19.88 per hour, up \$1.42. Livestock workers earned \$17.30 per hour, up \$0.42 from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$18.89, was up \$1.01 from the October 2022 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 47.9 hours during the October 2023 reference week, compared with 45.9 hours worked during the October 2022 reference week.

## USDA begins reports on 'Prop 12' hogs

For the first time, the USDA will report how many hogs are being raised in compliance with animal confinement legislation (ACL), such as Proposition 12 in California. Prop 12 bars the sale of pork produced on farms outside the state that do not provide at least the same amount of floor space for breeding sows as the 24 square feet required in California.

The new classification will appear in the National Weekly Direct Swine Non-Carcass Merit Premium report, said the Ag-

ricultural Marketing Service. Until now, ACL hogs were listed as "other," a category that includes hogs raised under programs that pay a bonus for meeting protocols for animal welfare, antibiotic-free, diet/feed, genetics, meat quality, process verified, sow housing, and weight. The volume of ACL-compliant hogs under federal livestock reporting laws has become large enough to be listed separately, said the AMS.

"This addition will provide pork industry

stakeholders with the information necessary to make informed production and marketing decisions relating to ACL-compliant hogs," said the USDA agency.

The National Pork Producers Council, with members throughout the pork supply chain, said it "advocated for and remained engaged with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service throughout the process."

California has set January 1, 2024, as the compliance date for Prop 12.

## Gardiner Angus Ranch announces the passing of GAR Sunrise

Gardiner Angus Ranch announces the passing of GAR Sunrise (16933958). Sunrise made headlines when he earned the Lot 1 designation and sold during the 2012 Gardiner Angus Ranch spring production sale. During his service at Select Sires, he became one of the Angus breed's high-use AI sires. According to a 2022 year-end report from Select Sires, Sunrise sold 151,065 units of semen throughout his lifetime.

The 2012 GAR spring sale was the first sale at the ranch to incorporate internet bidding, enabling interested bidders the option to view online videos prior to the sale. GAR Sunrise's video was viewed more than 1,000 times prior to the sale. For the first time in GAR history, beef producers placed real-time bids online hoping to outlast the competition sitting on the seats. Two commercial Angus producers and longtime GAR customers, Rob Sellard, Bucklin, Kansas, and Randy Bayne, Protection, Kansas, purchased Sunrise on a winning bid of \$95,000.

When Sunrise sold in 2012, he ranked in the top 3% of the Angus breed for calving ease and early growth, top 4% for heifer pregnancy and top 1% of the breed for end prod-

uct merit. As a 13-year-old bull, today Sunrise ranks in the bottom 45% of the breed for stature, top 10% for marbling at +1.17, and top 4% for \$Grid with 322 carcass records posted.

GAR Sunrise leaves a legacy of generational Angus progeny with birth to harvest value. Sunrise's EPD data is still impressive, but over a decade, the genetic improvement in his progeny was remarkable. Structural soundness and foot quality have always been a foundation for longevity in beef production and a focus at Gardiner Angus Ranch. Sunrise progeny were recognized for foot quality and structural soundness throughout their lifetime. His daughters were recognized for excellent udders, moderate milk, exceptional foot quality and the ability to thrive in any environment. While describing Sunrise's place in modern Angus history, Mark Gardiner said, "GAR Sunrise was a sire that attracted the interest of many commercial cow-calf producers who understood the value of a sire that produced progeny with elite carcass quality and moderate, structurally sound, highly productive females in the herd. Sunrise proved his value year after year and left a legacy of progeny with exception-

al value. He returned to the ranch in 2021 and enjoyed retirement grazing in our pastures."

## Survey uncovers consumer beef preferences

Every day reports are released stating what the modern consumer wants from the beef industry. Media outlets - both agriculture-specific and mainstream - report that the general public wants to switch to all organic or cut out all red meat. Despite this, there may be a difference between what the consumer theoretically wants and actually buys.

Ted Schroeder, professor and researcher of agricultural economics at Kansas State University, and a team of other K-State researchers wanted to learn if these reported consumer preferences - especially those around sustainability - match up with consumer spending habits.

Schroeder and his team sent out a nationwide survey in mid-March of 2023 and received over 3,000 useable responses. The sample of people surveyed closely matched US Census demographic data.

During the survey, participants ranked nine beef attributes in order of importance. The nine attributes were: animal welfare, produced without hormones or antibiotics, low-carbon beef (defined as beef produced with 10% less greenhouse gas emissions), price, supports local farmers, freshness, flavorful/ juicy/ tender, safety of food and nutritious content.

Freshness was deemed the most important attribute with 51% of respondents putting it in their top three attributes. Safety of food and price were ranked second and third, respectively, for the next top importance.

## Cattle producers praise farm bill extension

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) praised Congress for passing a government funding package that includes a one-year extension of the 2018 Farm Bill through Sept. 30, 2024, and extends the Livestock Mandatory Reporting program until Jan. 19, 2024.

"NCBA is thankful for Congress passing legislation extending critical programs that farmers and ranchers across the country depend on. These extensions give much-needed certainty to cattle producers, and NCBA will continue engaging with Congress and the Biden administration as they work to deliver a long-term Farm Bill, as well as a clean reauthorization of Livestock Mandatory Reporting," said NCBA president Todd Wilkinson, a South Dakota cattle producer.

## FDA grants supplemental claims for dairy and beef replacement heifers

Over the past year, cattle producers had the opportunity to harness the therapeutic potential of Pennchlor® (chlortetracycline Type A medicated article), coupled with the coccidiosis control and performance enhancements offered by Rumensin® (monensin Type A medicated article) in their starter rations. But now, two new supplemental claims are available for the well-established combination of Pennchlor and Rumensin. These additional claims now extend this combination's therapeutic advantages for dairy and beef replacement heifers.

At a time when input costs, including feed, are above historic levels, the ability to use these products in combination gives producers more options to improve the sustainability and efficiency of their business.

In addition to their well-established benefits,

these additional claims offer a more comprehensive solution for the health and growth of replacement beef and dairy heifers. The combination of Pennchlor and Rumensin effectively treats bacterial enteritis caused by Escherichia coli and bacterial pneumonia caused by Pasteurella multocida, provided these pathogens are susceptible to chlortetracycline. Additionally, it promotes an increased rate of weight gain and aids in the prevention and control of coccidiosis due to Eimeria bovis and Eimeria zuernii.

"With these expanded claims, we are not only enhancing animal health but also giving producers more flexibility to adapt their treatment and feed programs and to optimize performance in their dairy and beef replacement heifers," adds Dr. Padraig Lucey, Elanco dairy technical consultant.

"We are delighted to

provide these new claims for dairy and beef replacement heifers. This reflects our unwavering commitment to deliver innovative solutions that empower livestock producers to produce healthier, more productive herds," says Lisa Wallace, Pharmgate Animal Health marketing manager.

Contact your Elanco or Pharmgate representative for additional information or your cattle veterinarian and/or nutritionist. To access labeling or other forms, go to <https://www.pharmgate.com/usa/>.

The label contains complete use information, including cautions and warnings. Always read, understand and follow the label and use directions.

Federal law restricts medicated feed containing this veterinary feed directive (VFD) drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

tageous for the beef industry because the consumer is king, but we must realize what they say and how they actually spend their money doesn't necessarily always line up," Randall Debler, KBC executive committee chair, said. "Schroeder and his team did excellent work collecting and analyzing data that the beef community can use to continue making a great product."

This consumer insights research is partially funded by the Kansas Beef Council through the Beef Checkoff, but opinions and

recommendations in the report are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of KBC.

Place your  
Classified Ad  
Online



www.grassandgrain.com

## Five cows stolen in Pottawatomie County

A KLA member has reported five Angus cows missing from a pasture south of Onaga. The cattle were stolen at the end of October. All the cows have a G slash brand on their left hip and were carrying white ear tags with Georg Farms stenciled on the front.

KLA is offering up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the thieves. The reward program only applies when the producer is a KLA member. Anyone with information on these cattle should contact the Pottawatomie County sheriff's office at (785) 457-3481.

## GRASS & GRAIN

is on facebook

## EMPORIA LIVESTOCK SALE CO.

Bonded & Insured

SALE EVERY WEDNESDAY IN EMPORIA, KANSAS AT 11:00 AM

620-342-2425 or 800-835-7803 toll-free • Fax: 620-342-7741

### NO SALE HELD NOV. 22<sup>ND</sup>

### EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR NOV. 29

• 41 blk hfrs, 700-850# PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME!

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!  
YOUR BUSINESS IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED!

For Cattle Appraisals Call:

BRODY PEAK, 620-343-5107 GLENN UNRUH, 620-341-0607  
LYLE WILLIAMS, Field Representative, 785-229-5457  
MATT REDDING, Field Representative, 620-364-6715  
DALTON HOOK, Field Representative, 785-219-2908  
WIBW 580 - 6:45 A.M. Thurs; KVOE 1400 - 6:30-6:45 A.M. Thurs. & Fri.

To see more consignments go to: [emporialivestock.com](http://emporialivestock.com)

## Holton Livestock Exchange, Inc.

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

MARKET REPORT FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023  
RECEIPTS: 779 CATTLE  
FOR FULL RESULTS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.HOLTONLIVESTOCK.COM](http://WWW.HOLTONLIVESTOCK.COM)

STEERS	HEIFERS
2 blk Troy 267@307.50	15 blk Onaga 790@220.00
5 bkbw Hiawatha 485@295.00	14 bkbw Soldier 1040@207.00
22 blk Troy 497@291.00	
5 bkGry Blaine 607@272.00	2 blk Mayetta 245@255.00
5 bkbw Topeka 503@262.50	8 bkbw Hiawatha 422@242.50
6 blk Topeka 573@258.00	7 blk Enterprise, W/397@240.00
6 blk Troy 581@257.00	10 bkCh Blaine 594@240.00
14 blk Circleville 743@240.00	25 mix Enterprise, W/573@234.00
10 bkCh Enterprise, W/677@229.00	9 blk Troy 495@230.00
63 blk Soldier 903@224.00	15 bkCh Enterprise, W/660@215.00

SPECIAL COW AUCTION:  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 \* 6:00 PM

Dan Harris, Auctioneer & Owner • 785-364-7137  
Danny Deters, Coming, 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  
Mark Servaes, Atchison, Field Rep. • 816-390-2549  
Barn Phone • 785-364-4114  
[WEBSITE: www.holtonlivestock.com](http://WWW.HOLTONLIVESTOCK.COM)  
EMAIL: [dan@holtonlivestock.com](mailto:dan@holtonlivestock.com)

View our auctions live at [Imaauctions.com](http://Imaauctions.com)

## Central Livestock

811 N. Main St.  
South Hutchinson, Ks

[www.centrallivestocks.com](http://www.centrallivestocks.com)

Clint and Dalli Turpin ~ Owners  
Office: 620-662-3371

Hay Auction- Every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.  
Cattle Auction- Every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.  
Sheep/Goat Auction- Every 3rd Saturday at 11:00 a.m.  
Horse/Tack Auction- Every 2nd Saturday

November 28<sup>th</sup> - Calf/Yearling Sale  
December 9<sup>th</sup> - Horse & Tack Sale  
ALL WEIGH COWS & BULLS SELL AT THE END

## EL DORADO LIVESTOCK AUCTION, INC.

316-320-3212  
Fax: 316-320-7159  
2595 SE Highway 54, P.O. Box 622,  
El Dorado, KS 67042

Market Report - Gold Buckle Cow Sale  
Sale Date 11-21-23. 1,200 head

We had a fantastic sale at our annual Gold Buckle Female Classic. Thank you to our consignors as well as our buyers that came from all over the world.

(700) Bred Cows: \$1,350-\$2,850; (202) Cow/Calf Pairs: \$1,525-\$3,375; Breeding Bulls: Avg. to high dressing bulls \$2,000-\$3,000.

Some Highlights Include:

BRED COWS	
34 bkbw, 3 yr bred \$2850	27 bkbw, 6-7 yr bred \$2050
21 blk, bred HF \$2750	8 Rd Ang HF pairs \$3375
10 bwf Rpl hfrs, 588# \$1575	11 Rd Ang HF pairs \$3000
13 bkbw, 4-5 yr bred \$2500	39 blk HF pairs \$2975
13 bkbw, 4-5 yr bred \$2475	6 mix, 4-5 yr pairs \$2860
	8 blk, S.M. pairs \$2385

NEXT SALE: THURSDAY, NOV. 30:

• 31 pairs, 5 & 6 years old, Ang cows & Gelbvieh/Ang calves

GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR DAILY CONSIGNMENT UPDATES  
[WWW.ELDORADOLIVESTOCK.COM](http://WWW.ELDORADOLIVESTOCK.COM)

We welcome your consignments!

If you have cattle to consign or would like additional information, please call the office at 316-320-3212

Check our website & Facebook for updated consignments: [www.eldoradolivestock.com](http://www.eldoradolivestock.com)  
To stay up to date on our latest announcements you can "Like" us on Facebook

Josh Mueller Owner/Barn Manager (316) 680-9680 Seth Greenwood Asst. Barn Manager/Fieldman (620) 583-3338 Kyle Criger Fieldman (620) 330-3300	Van Schmidt Auctioneer/Fieldman (620) 345-6879 Charly Cummings Auctioneer/Fieldman (620) 496-7108 Brandon Fredrick Fieldman (620) 204-0841
--	--

Cattle Sale Every Thursday 11:00 AM

# Kansas milk production down 1 percent in October

Milk production in Kansas during October 2023 totaled 348 million pounds, down 1% from October 2022, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The average number of milk cows was 173,000 head, 2,000 head less than October 2022. Milk production per cow averaged 2,010 pounds.

## Grass & Grain Weather Report Nov. 29, 2023

Seven Day Forecast	In-Depth Local Forecast	Today's Local Outlook																																								
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Sunny High: 43 Low: 22  <b>THURSDAY</b> Mostly Cloudy High: 44 Low: 24  <b>FRIDAY</b> Mostly Cloudy High: 45 Low: 23  <b>SATURDAY</b> Cloudy High: 47 Low: 27  <b>SUNDAY</b> Cloudy High: 48 Low: 26  <b>MONDAY</b> Mostly Cloudy High: 50 Low: 30  <b>TUESDAY</b> Partly Cloudy High: 52 Low: 31	Today we will see sunny skies, high of 43°, humidity of 76%. Southwest wind 7 to 10 mph. The record high for today is 71° set in 1998. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight, overnight low of 22°. South southwest wind 8 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 18°.	Washington 50/30 Blue Rapids 45/22 Seneca 45/24 Clay Center 45/21 Manhattan 43/22 Wamego 43/22 Ogden 41/20 Junction City 43/22 Abilene 42/21 Council Grove 42/23																																								
<b>Last Week's Almanac</b>																																										
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<b>Local UV Index</b> 0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very High, 11+: Extreme Exposure																																										
<b>Weather History</b> Nov. 29, 1969 - Dense fog along the Jersey Turnpike resulted in a chain reaction of vehicle collisions during the morning rush hour. A propane truck jackknifed and was struck by a trailer truck. Other vehicles continued to pile into the fiery mass.																																										
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# USMCA dispute panel limits Canadian market access

Last week's ruling by a U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) dispute panel allowing Canada to restrict the dairy access that the United States negotiated for in the USMCA pact weakens the agreement's value to the US dairy industry, according to the National Milk Producers Federation and the U.S. Dairy Export Council.

An earlier panel ruled in January 2022 that Canada had improperly restricted access to its market for U.S. dairy products. In response, Canada made insufficient changes to its dairy tariff rate quota (TRQ) system, resulting in an outcome that still fell far short of the market access the U.S. expected to receive under USMCA. To address that shortcoming, the U.S. brought a second case to challenge the changes that Canada instituted. Friday the panel announced that Canada was not obligated to make further changes.

"It is profoundly disappointing that the dispute settlement panel has ruled in favor of obstruction of trade rather than trade facilitation," said Jim Mul-

hern, president and CEO of NMPF. "Despite this independent panel's adverse ruling, we'd like to thank the Biden administration and the many members of Congress who supported us for their tireless pursuit of justice for America's dairy sector. We urge Ambassador Tai and Secretary Vilsack to look at all available options to ensure that Canada stops playing games and respects what was negotiated."

Since the U.S. Trade Representative initially launched the first dispute settlement case against Canada in 2021, USDEC and NMPF have worked with USTR, USDA, and Congress to try to secure full use and value of USMCA's dairy TRQs for American dairy producers and processors.

"By allowing Canada to ignore its USMCA obligations, this ruling has unfortunately set a dangerous and damaging precedent," said Krysta Harden, president and CEO of USDEC. "We do however want to express our appreciation for allies in Congress and the administration for their efforts and commitment to fighting for U.S. dairy. This is unfortunately not the only shortcoming in Canada's compliance with its international commitments. We are committed to working with USTR and USDA to evaluate efforts to address Canada's

continued harmful actions that depress dairy imports while simultaneously evading USMCA's dairy export disciplines."

When first implemented in 2020, USMCA established 14 different TRQs, which allow a predetermined quantity of imports at a specified low tariff rate. The TRQ system that Canada implemented awarded the vast majority of TRQ volumes to Canadian processors and granted very limited access to TRQs to distributors - resulting in limited market access for U.S. exporters. Minor modifications to that system made in 2022 have continued that imbalanced approach.

House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member David Scott and Chairman GT Thompson released the following statement following Friday's announcement.

"We are disappointed in today's announcement and the decision of the dispute panel. It is critical the U.S. encourage and enforce USMCA, and this decision allows Canada to continue their questionable protectionist practices that disallow fair access to Canadian markets. We appreciate Ambassador Tai and the Biden administration's continued pursuit to ensure fair market access for U.S. dairy producers."

## Hiebert named runner-up at state speech competition



The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) Speech Competition was held at their 79th Annual Convention on Monday, November 20 in Wichita. Runner-up at the state contest was Madelyn Hiebert, senior at St. Marys High School. Madelyn earned this opportunity as she was the winner of the Pottawatomie County Conservation District's local speech contest on October 12th and the KACD Area IV first place contestant held on October 25th. Madelyn's speech was given on the topic set by the KACD. This year's theme was "Healthy Soil, Healthy Life". Miss Hiebert chose to inform others of the importance, care, and the future of our soil. The placing earned Madelyn a scholarship provided by Farm Credit Associations of Kansas. Madelyn is the daughter of Anthony Heigert of rural Paxico. She is pictured above with Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Beam.

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Sell Or Buy Cattle By Auction STARTING TIME 10:30 AM Tuesdays

We sold 1241 cattle November 21. Steer and heifer calves sold at steady prices on vaccinated weaned calves. Feeder steers and heifers were steady to \$5.00 lower. Heavy cows and bulls were steady and light thin cows sold \$5.00 lower.			
<b>STEER &amp; BULL CALVES</b> 1 blk bull 285 @ 311.00 3 blk/sim str 303 @ 296.00 2 blk str 343 @ 294.00 6 blk str 511 @ 288.00 3 blk str 465 @ 285.00 3 blk str 473 @ 281.00 1 blk bull 380 @ 278.00 4 x-bred str 416 @ 270.00 4 blk/bwf str 458 @ 270.00 2 blk str 453 @ 265.00 1 bwf bull 510 @ 259.00 6 x-bred str 475 @ 250.00 3 blk bulls 493 @ 241.00 2 x-bred str 470 @ 230.00	123 blk/bwf str 893 @ 230.00 6 blk str 712 @ 229.50 7 blk str 590 @ 229.00 128 mix str 879 @ 228.75 9 blk str 757 @ 222.00 61 mix str 898 @ 218.00 5 blk str 752 @ 210.00 63 blk/bwf str 923 @ 210.00 60 mix str 954 @ 208.25 60 blk str 1011 @ 207.00 60 blk/bwf str 962 @ 206.00 62 mix str 970 @ 204.50	<b>HEIFER CALVES</b> 1 blk hfr 195 @ 274.00 2 blk hfr 315 @ 260.00 1 blk hfr 285 @ 259.00 3 blk hfr 310 @ 255.00 9 blk/bwf hfr 411 @ 251.00 5 blk hfr 345 @ 250.00 9 blk hfr 494 @ 240.00 1 blk hfr 355 @ 238.00 1 blk hfr 360 @ 235.00 3 blk hfr 483 @ 230.00 4 blk hfr 484 @ 228.00	<b>STOCKER &amp; FEEDER HEIFERS</b> 4 blk/bwf hfr 495 @ 228.00 8 blk/red hfr 470 @ 225.00 2 blk hfr 475 @ 225.00 5 red hfr 468 @ 224.00 2 x-bred hfr 470 @ 215.00 18 blk/bwf hfr 579 @ 229.50 11 blk hfr 609 @ 222.00 3 blk hfr 660 @ 214.00 68 blk/bwf hfr 838 @ 211.75 22 blk hfr 807 @ 211.00 9 blk hfr 968 @ 173.00 7 blk hfr 1042 @ 169.50 2 blk hfr 1035 @ 161.00 2 blk hfr 1150 @ 141.00
<b>STOCKER &amp; FEEDER STEERS</b> 3 blk/bwf str 555 @ 256.00 4 blk/red str 558 @ 256.00 15 blk/bwf str 617 @ 245.00 10 blk/bwf str 608 @ 242.00 22 blk/bwf str 658 @ 239.00 6 blk/bwf str 640 @ 236.00 3 blk/bwf str 607 @ 232.00 5 blk str 699 @ 230.00	<b>COWS &amp; HEIFERETTES</b> 1 blk hfr 835 @ 154.00 4 blk hfr 1104 @ 140.00 8 blk hfr 979 @ 139.00 3 blk hfr 1288 @ 138.00 1 blk hfr 1040 @ 122.00 1 blk hfr 1355 @ 120.00 1 blk hfr 1030 @ 116.00 1 red cow 1555 @ 112.00	1 bwf hfr 870 @ 111.00 1 blk cow 1745 @ 110.50 8 blk hfr 1209 @ 110.00 1 blk cow 1500 @ 105.00 1 blk cow 1550 @ 104.00 1 blk cow 1600 @ 103.50 1 blk cow 1550 @ 103.00 1 bwf cow 1430 @ 102.00 1 blk cow 1375 @ 100.00 2 blk cows 1460 @ 99.00 1 blk cow 1245 @ 97.00 2 blk cows 1540 @ 96.00 3 blk cows 1308 @ 95.00 1 wf cow 1260 @ 94.00 1 blk cow 1510 @ 93.00 3 blk cows 1545 @ 92.00 3 blk/red cows 1245 @ 91.00 6 blk/bwf cows 1241 @ 90.00 1 blk cow 1435 @ 89.50 1 red cow 1285 @ 89.00 1 blk cow 1530 @ 88.50 1 blk cow 1380 @ 88.00 1 bwf cow 1470 @ 87.00 3 blk/red cows 1163 @ 86.00 2 blk/bwf cows 1258 @ 85.00 1 blk cow 1330 @ 84.00	1 blk cow 1480 @ 84.00 1 bwf cow/cf @ 1150.00 1 blk cow/cf @ 1100.00 1 blk cow 1415 @ 80.00 2 blk/bwf cows 1250 @ 79.00 1 wf cow 1140 @ 78.00 1 blk cow 1385 @ 77.00 1 blk cow 1415 @ 76.00
<b>BULLS</b> 1 blk sim bull @ 2700.00 1 blk sim bull @ 2650.00 1 blk bull 1345 @ 122.00 1 blk bull 2210 @ 120.00 1 x-bred bull 1740 @ 117.00 1 blk bull 1625 @ 112.00 1 blk bull 2080 @ 112.00 1 blk bull 1605 @ 107.00 1 blk bull 1650 @ 107.00 1 blk bull 1770 @ 105.00 1 blk bull 2080 @ 101.00 1 blk bull 1130 @ 100.00 1 blk bull 2105 @ 97.00 1 blk bull 1650 @ 87.00			
<b>BRED COWS</b> 2 blk cows @ 1325.00 1 blk cow @ 1050.00			
<b>COW/CALF PAIRS</b> 3 blk/bwf cows/cvs @ 2250.00 1 blk cow/cf @ 2150.00 2 blk cows/cvs @ 2050.00 6 blk cows/cvs @ 2000.00 2 blk cows/cvs @ 1500.00			
<b>CONSIGNMENTS FOR TUESDAY, NOV. 28, 2023:</b> • 30 blk str & hfr 600-700# weaned, vacc. • 60 blk bwf str & hfr 450-550# vaccinated • 80 blk str & hfr 500-600# vaccinated • 62 blk str 875-900# • 60 blk char str 925-950# • 61 blk x-bred str 900-925# • 62 blk str, 850-900#			

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