



News from KSU Animal Sciences

April, 2006

WHAT'S NEW >>>>>>

↵ **Meat Goat Information** – We just completed very successful Meat Goat Educational Programs and Extension Agent updates at four Kansas locations the first week of April. The programs were very well attended, which attests to the interest in goats. Thanks for your attendance and especially Cade Rensink, Whitey Whitehill, Carl Garten/Ron Seyfert and Glenn Brunkow for hosting the events.

There have been a number of requests for education materials on Meat Goats. Following are four websites with a wealth of information or links to information on all phases of meat goat production.

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/mgo/livestock/meatgoats.htm>

http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/animal/meatgoat/ahgoats_index.html

<http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/index.htm>

<http://www.kmga.net/>

↵ **New Small Farm Fact Sheets** - The Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship Curriculum offers numerous online fact sheets for small farm management. The web site is http://www.lpes.org/Small_Farms.html. Fact sheets currently available include:

1. Small-Scale Farmers and the Environment: How to be a Good Steward
2. The ABCs of Pasture Grazing
3. Manure on Your Farm: Asset or Liability?
4. Protecting the Water on Your Small Farm
5. Managing Animal Deaths: Your Options
6. Got Barnyard Runoff?
7. A Horse Owner's Guide to Good Stewardship

You will be receiving an official brochure on *LPES Small Farms Fact Sheets* in your packet from Extension distribution. By July 1, there should be an additional seven fact sheets added to this web site to aid clients with small farms. Please utilize this valuable resource.

↵ **Update on 4-H Poultry Shows and Bird Auctions Concerning Avian Influenza** - *R. Scott Beyer*

By now everyone's heard of the Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak that has occurred around the world. Although no diagnosis of AI has been made yet in the U.S., if you closely examine migratory bird patterns around the world, you can see that in theory, AI could come to the United States shortly. At this time, there are no specific regulations or concerns about having 4-H poultry shows at county and state fairs. That could all change if AI is diagnosed. There is the possibility that 4-H county shows and the state fair could cancel poultry exhibits during the 2006 season if there is an outbreak of AI in or near Kansas. Production birds like the Market Broiler Competition could continue since they could be processed and not returned home, but this is not guaranteed as fact. There are no specific details announced yet so we will continue to monitor the situation carefully. All birds at the county fairs must participate with the usual NPIP testing as we have been doing many years before. Of course, this does not include a test for avian influenza. If you need help with poultry testing information or locating a poultry tester, please go to my website at <http://www.asi.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=1039>

↵ **Oxytocin Use in Swine** - Oxytocin is frequently used to decrease farrowing time and birth interval as an aid to prevent stillbirths. However, when used too early in the birth process, oxytocin use can increase the number of pigs stillborn. Oxytocin usage should be limited to older parity sows and sows after at least six pigs have been born. For more information please go to: asi.ksu.edu/swine under the Swine Extension and Research page.

↩ **DDGS Supplementation on Pasture** - The increasing availability of distillers grains, a feed grain byproduct which results from the process of converting feed grains into ethanol has many producers asking where this byproduct fits in a variety of cattle production environments. Three hundred forty-six steers weighing approximately 575 lbs were used to evaluate the supplementation of Dried Distillers Grains (DDG) to stocker calves grazing burned, early intensive Flint Hills pasture. The DDG originated from sorghum grain (Sorghum Bicolor (L.) Moench) and was pelleted to facilitate delivery and minimize wastage to the supplemented pastures. The grazing season started on May 1 and ended August 3, 2005.

The tentative results from this single grazing trial suggests that providing DDG at a supplementation level of .3% of BW results in approximately .2 lb/day increase in daily gain relative to non-supplemented cattle. Feeding at higher levels increases daily gain and may allow for higher stocking density rates to be achieved as a result of substituting grass consumption for higher intake of DDG. A partial budget analysis of DDG and delivery costs must be determined to ascertain whether this management strategy is financially feasible. For more information, contact Dale Blasi (dblasi@ksu.edu; 785-532-5427).

↩ **Updated Goals for National Animal Identification System** - The NAIS goals have been more clearly stated in an April 2006 report released by USDA. The goal is to have 25% of all premises registered by January 2007, 70% by January 2008, and 100% by January 2009. The goal is to have 40% of animals individually- or group-identified by January 2008, and 100% of "new" animals identified by January 2009. The goal is to have 60% of all animals less than 1 year of age to have complete movement data reported by January 2009. According to USDA Director, Mike Johanns, if these NAIS goals are not met voluntarily, USDA will push to have the NAIS become mandatory in 2009 following the appropriate rulemaking process and public comment period.

↩ **Dump the Duds: Check Bull Fertility** - Fertility of the herd bull is crucial to the success of a cow/calf operation since a problem with one bull impacts a large number of cows, yet only 17% of operations nationwide semen test bulls prior to breeding (NAHMS 1997). It has been estimated that roughly 20% of bulls have some problem that can affect their reproductive success. Combine a multi-sire pasture and an infertile dominant bull and the results could be very disappointing. The risk of experiencing problems with bull fertility can be minimized through the use of a breeding soundness exam. The exam includes an evaluation of the bull's physical ability to successfully mate. The both internal and external portions of the reproductive tract are palpated or examined for abnormalities or injuries. A measurement of scrotal circumference is included as an indicator of the production of high quality sperm. A semen sample is also evaluated for sperm motility and morphology. Bulls still need to be observed during the breeding season but a breeding soundness exam prior to turn out will greatly reduce risks associated with infertile bulls. For more information on determining fertility of bulls see <http://muextension.missouri.edu/xplor/agguides/ansci/q02011.htm>

↩ **Environmental Compliance for Pork Producers** - For decades, KDHE has required pork producers to control enough land to sustainably utilize the nutrients generated by the operation. Today nearly 900 pork producers have complied with the KDHE state-mandated requirements for the size of their operation. This includes: 125 producers with NPDES permits, 648 producers with state permits and 126 producers with state certifications. Pork producers with over 1,000 Animal Units are now required to submit a Nutrient Utilization Plan showing the fields where plant food will be applied. Manure is applied only after soil tests, manure analysis and cropping practices are approved by the state. Over 115 Kansas farms have had a voluntarily assessment through the pork industry's On-Farm Environmental Assistance Program. For more information on pork production and the environment, contact the Kansas Pork Association at kspork.org

UPCOMING EVENTS >>>>>>>>>>

Plans are underway for the **2006 KSU Youth Horse Judging Camps**. The registration deadline for all three camps is May 1. No entries will be accepted after this date.

The *Beginning Section Camp* will be held Friday, June 2, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. This camp is designed for youth that have had very little experience judging horses and would like to learn more about note taking and oral reasons. Emphasis will be placed on the placings of classes commonly seen in Kansas judging contests. The camp registration fee is \$30 per student. Camp will be limited to the first 30 participants.

The *Intermediate Section Camp* will be held June 5-6, 2006. The camp will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, June 5 and conclude at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6. This camp is designed for youth that have had some experience judging horses and would like to learn more about note taking and oral seasons. Emphasis will be placed on the placings and reasons of classes commonly seen in Kansas judging contests. The registration fee is \$125 per student which includes housing in the KSU dorms. Camp will be limited to the first 35 participants.

The *Advanced Section Camp* will be held June 11-13, 2006. The camp will begin with registration at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 11 and conclude with the award presentation on Tuesday, June 13. This camp is limited to those youth who have completed the intermediate camp and are at least a freshman in high school. Emphasis will be placed on oral reasons and the placings of classes. Registration fee is \$150 per student which includes housing in the KSU dorms. Camp will be limited to the first 25 participants.

For more information on the camps, visit the Animal Sciences and Industry website at www.asi.k-state.edu or contact Julie Voge at 785-532-1264; jvoge@ksu.edu.

The **Kansas Swine Classic** will be held June 30 – July 1, 2006 at Cico Park in Manhattan, KS. This two day event, includes educational workshops, showmanship contest and prospect and market hog show. It is open to all Kansas youths ages 7 through 18 as of January 1, 2006. The registration deadline is June 23, 2006.

This year's educational workshop will include a demonstration on the use of ultrasound technology to show participants how this process is conducted. A demonstration of an actual pig carcass and identifying where the different cuts of meat come from will also be held.

For more information, contact Joel DeRouchey (785-532-2280; jderouch@ksu.edu) or Jim Nelssen (785-532-1251; jnelssen@ksu.edu).

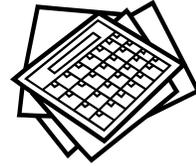
Plans are being made for the **KSU Electronic Beef ID Crash Course**. Live-animal demos, hands-on use of animal ID equipment, a review of available technologies, and costing a system will be included in a pair of "Electronic Beef ID Crash Course" programs planned this summer.

Both program will be held at the KSU Stocker Unit facility outside Manhattan. The first session will be held June 21-22 and is aimed at operators of feed yards, sale barns and stocker-grower operations. The second session, set for July 19-20 is aimed specifically at cow-calf producers and veterinarians. For more information, contact Lois (lschrein@ksu.edu; 785-532-1267).

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
June 2, 2006	KSU Horse Judging Camp – Beginning Section	Manhattan
June 5-6, 2006	KSU Horse Judging Camp – Intermediate Section	Manhattan
June 11-13, 2006	KSU Horse Judging Camp – Advanced Section	Manhattan
June 12-14; 19-21; 23-25; and 27-29, 2006	Livestock Judging Camp	Manhattan
June 13-15, 2006	HACCP Workshop	Manhattan
June 21 -22, 2006	Electronic Beef ID Crash Course	Manhattan
June 30-July 1, 2006	Kansas Swine Classic	Cico Park, Manhattan
July 19-20, 2006	Electronic Beef ID Crash Course	Manhattan
August 26, 2006	State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest	Weber Arena, Manhattan

WHAT PRODUCERS SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT IN JUNE.....



BEEF -- Cowherd Tips by *Twig Marston*

June is a month to let Mother Nature take her course. Native grasses are usually at peak production; therefore, little supplementation is needed, with the exception of some minerals.

Cow-herd nutrition

- Provide plenty of clean, fresh water.
- Provide free-choice minerals to correct any mineral deficiencies or imbalances.
- Monitor grazing conditions and rotate pastures if possible and practical.
- Consider creep-feeding if it's cost-effective.

Herd health

- Monitor and treat pinkeye cases.
- Provide fly control. Consider all options; price and efficiency will dictate the best options to use.
- Monitor and treat for foot rot.
- To reduce heat stress, avoid handling and transporting cattle during the hottest times of the day.

Forage and pasture management

- Check and maintain summer water supplies.
- Place mineral feeders strategically to enhance grazing distribution.
- Check water gaps after possible washouts.
- Harvest hay in a timely manner; think quality and quantity.

Reproductive management

- If using AI, do not expect all females to conceive. A common practice is to breed once or twice with AI, then turn out cleanup bulls for the balance of a 65-day breeding season. A 42-day AI season with estrus synchronization at the front end gives most females three chances to conceive by AI.
- Watch bulls for libido, mounting and breeding function.
- Record breeding dates to determine calving dates.
- By imposing reproductive pressure (45-day breeding season) on yearling heifers, no late-calving 2-year-olds will result. This will increase lifetime productivity and profits.

Genetic management

- Monitor herd performance. Then identify candidates to cull because of poor performance.

General management

- Check equipment (sprayers, dust bags, oilers, haying equipment, etc.), and repair or replace as needed. Have spare parts on hand because downtime can make a big difference in hay quality.

We need your input! If you have any suggestions or comments on ***News from KSU Animal Sciences***, please let us know by e-mail to lschrein@ksu.edu, or phone 785-532-1267.