



News from KSU Animal Sciences

September, 2006

WHAT'S NEW >>>>>>

↪ **Fall Feedlot Preparation Checklist** - Many calves are being early-weaned this year and are already headed to area feedlots or to stocker operations in areas of the country with good grass. These and traditionally-weaned cattle will be headed to the feedlots later this fall. As producers prepare to receive these cattle, now is the time to make preparations for their arrival and the winter months ahead. There are 3 primary areas to focus on so that the transition is as easy as possible on both the cattle and feedlot personnel -- cattle comfort, ensuring that cattle are properly fed, and employee satisfaction and retention.

Now:

- Make repairs to feed mill and feed delivery equipment
- Make repairs to receiving facility, processing facility, and treatment facility
- Make repairs to alleyways, fences, feed bunks, water lines, waterers, etc.

Early fall:

- Hire enough help and have them fully trained before you hit the "fall run"
- Get snow removal equipment in good working condition
- Contract with heavy equipment operators to help with snow removal that exceeds the capacity of existing feedlot equipment and/or employees
- Contact part-time workers that you can call upon to help during stretches of extremely bad weather
- Winterize waterers
- Purchase or contract to ensure adequate hay
- Purchase or contract to ensure adequate bedding material
- Discuss and update health management program with veterinarian
- Discuss anticipated product needs with animal health supplier
- Discuss storm feeding program plan with nutritionist
- Discuss "winter storm plan" assignments with all employees

As we get into heavy placements, we want to be sure to have adequate help available to receive, process, pull and treat cattle. We also want to make sure that we don't overload the system. If feedlots get behind on processing and treating cattle they should contact those sending cattle and ask them to delay gathering and shipping cattle until they can get caught up.

Be sure to share expectations with all employees before the fall run. During the coming months of high stress, long hours, and heavy workload, employees need reassurance that their work is important and appreciated. But also, they need to know that the hours and workload won't continue at the fall pace indefinitely.

This should result in better cattle performance and employees that don't suddenly find "a better job in town".

↪ This is just a brief listing of the **Animal Sciences and Industry Courses** offered through the KSU Division of Continuing Education:

ASI 102, Principles of Animal Science - FALL 2006 Reference #: 91714

ASI 318, Fundamentals of Nutrition - FALL 2006 Reference #: 91715

ASI 510, Animal Breeding Principles - FALL 2006 Reference #: 91718

ASI 521, Horse Science - FALL 2006 Reference #: 91719

ASI 535, Swine Science - FALL 2006 Reference #: 91720

FDSCI 302, Introduction to Food Science - FALL 2006 Reference #: 91730

FDSCI 305, Fundamentals of Food Processing - FALL 2006 Reference #: 91731

There are a total of 17 Animal Sciences and Industry courses offered as well as 18 courses in the Food Science Program. Visit www.dce.k-state.edu/ for more information on these courses and other opportunities.

↵ **More information on feeding gestating sows** -- Swine producers know that an estimate of body weight is a very important first step for accurate sow feeding. However, it is difficult to precisely estimate each sow's weight. K-State Swine Research and Extension has developed a method designed to make this process easier for producers. We have established that a "flank-to-flank" measurement can be used to estimate weight of sows. Based on weight, we can then more accurately determine an amount of feed to provide. The flank measurement is taken immediately in front of the back legs from the point of one flank over the back of the sow to the point of the other flank. We have developed a cloth tape divided into color coded sections. Each section on the tape corresponds to a weight group.

Once you know what weight group the sow is in, you can use the information available at the ASI website www.asi.k-state.edu/swine. Because body weight is important in determining the daily feed allotment for each sow, it is essential that a high percentage of sows are measured for estimated body weight. We are working to help make these important procedures easier for swine producers.



If you are interested in purchasing the K-State Sow Weight tape, they are available for \$5/tape, by contacting Lois at 785-532-1267; lschrein@ksu.edu. (Story provided by Sara Weller, Ag Communications)

↵ The **equestrian team open tryouts** were completed on Aug. 30. There were 37 who tried out for Western and 42 tried out for English. 16 Western and 17 English riders were successful in obtaining a spot on the team. In total there are 80 riders on the team (31 new and 49 returners). 50 are from Kansas, 4 from Illinois, 3 each from Iowa, Alaska, Nebraska, Texas, Missouri, and the rest from Maryland, Arizona, California, South Dakota, Idaho, Ohio, and Colorado. They come from 36 different majors, but 17 are ASI and 14 are pre-vet. The complete roster, schedule, and results will be posted on www.kstatesports.com.

↵ **New Horse Resource - eXtension** which is an educational partnership of more than 70 universities to provide objective, research-based information and educational opportunities recently announced an information web site "HorseQuest" is now available. HorseQuest provides internet visitors with reliable and up-to-date horse information through a knowledge base of commonly asked questions that have science-based, peer-reviewed answers. In addition, online lessons use self-paced learning objects to help users learn more about specialized areas of equine science. This site is available at <http://www.extension.org/horses>

↵ **Crop Residues** can provide a tremendous opportunity for reducing beef production costs. However, beef producers must be aware of the variable feeding value of crop residues and must exploit their use before the nutritional requirements of the spring-calving beef herd increases during the latter stages of pregnancy. The results of a statewide project conducted by the Kansas Forage Task Force are summarized in the publication: [Nutritional Evaluation of Kansas Crop Residues for Extending the Grazing Season](#). For more information, contact Dale Blasi (785-532-5427; dblasi@ksu.edu).

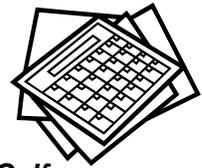
↵ **Fall grass problems may mimic spring problems.** Because of the drought conditions earlier in the spring and summer, and the fact that many areas have only recently had significant rainfall, plant growth between now and the first killing frost may create disease conditions typically seen in the spring. Such diseases include grass tetany (hypomagnesemia) and atypical interstitial pneumonia. Producers should not overlook these diseases just because "it is the wrong time of year for that disease to occur". Larry Hollis, D.V.M. (785-532-1246; lhollis@ksu.edu)

UPCOMING EVENTS >>>>>>>>>

- ☞ The **KSU Stocker Field Day** will be held on Thursday, September 28 at the KSU Beef Stocker Unit. Come visit the KSU Beef Stocker Unit and see the latest animal identification technology. We'll offer practical information and management tips to help you optimize your stocker operation and achieve greater flexibility in the evolving beef industry.
 For a copy of the brochure, visit www.asi.k-state.edu under the Upcoming Events section or contact Lois at 785-532-1267; lschrein@ksu.edu.
- ☞ The **Eastern Kansas Ag Extension Agent Update** will be held on October 10th in Emporia. This update is focused on Animal Science related issues. Watch for the agenda and more details to come. For more information, contact Joel DeRouchey (785-532-2280; jderouch@ksu.edu)
- ☞ Please mark Thursday, October 12th for the **Western Kansas Animal Science Update**. The morning will include hands on ration formulation, bring a laptop and NAIS and other topics in the afternoon. Watch for the agenda and more details to come. For more information, contact Sandy Johnson (785-462-6281; sandyj@ksu.edu)
- ☞ A 3-day **HACCP Workshop** for meat and food processors will be held in Kansas City, October 11-13. For more information, please contact Alicsa Mayer at amayer@ksu.edu or Liz Boyle at lboyle@ksu.edu.
- ☞ **Youth Camp Announced:** Kansas Wildlife Federation and Kansas State University are hosting a Fishing and Hunting Skills Camp on October 14 at Michael Murphy's Sporting Clays in Augusta, Kansas. This camp is open to youth 12-18 and will teach skills in wingshooting, rifle marksmanship, and fishing. For further information contact Charles Lee at 532-5734.
- ☞ The **2006 KSU Swine Day** will be held at the Alumni Center on the KSU campus on Thursday, November 16th. Speakers for Swine Day will include Dr. Lisa Tokach and Dr. Steve Henry, veterinarians from the Abilene Animal Hospital. Topics will include: *"Porcine Circovirus Associated Disease (PMWS): What Is It and Why Is It So Devastating?"* and *"How to Deal with PCV If You Have It and How To Avoid It If You Don't."* The day will conclude with the Pork Tail-Gate Party which will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Kansas Pork Association. Pre-registration is \$15 per participant by November 10 or \$25 at the door. For a copy of the day's program, visit our website at www.asi.k-state.edu/swine. For more information, contact Jim Nelssen at 785-532-1251; jnelssen@ksu.edu.
- ☞ Dates for the **2006 KSU Dairy Days** have been scheduled as follows: December 13 in Reno County; December 14 in Nemaha County and December 15 in Franklin County. For more information, contact John Smith (785-532-1203; jfsmith@ksu.edu).

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS		
Date	Event	Location
September 28, 2006	KSU Stocker Field Day	Manhattan
October 10, 2006	Eastern Kansas Ag Extension Agent Update	Emporia, KS
October 11-13, 2006	HACCP Workshop	Kansas City
October 12, 2006	Western Kansas Animal Science Update	Dighton
October 14, 2006	Fishing and Hunting Skills Camp	Augusta
November 16, 2006	KSU Swine Day	Manhattan
December 13, 2006	KSU Dairy Days	Reno County
December 14, 2006	KSU Dairy Days	Nemaha County
December 15, 2006	KSU Dairy Days	Franklin County

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



BEEF -- Cowherd Tips by *Twig Marston, K-State Beef Extension Specialist, Cow/Calf*

November (spring calving cows)

Cowherd Management

- Pregnancy Check (if not already completed)
- If candidates for culling were not selected in September or October, it should be completed now.
- Consider feeding cull cows to increase body weight, value, and utilize cheap feedstuffs. Value of gain is equal to the difference between the ending value and beginning values divided by the gain. Compare this to cost of gain figures. When cost of gain is less than value of gain, profit will be realized.
- Body Condition Score
 - Provide thin cows (body condition score 3's and 4's) extra feed now. Take advantage of weather, stage of pregnancy, lower nutrient requirements, and quality feedstuffs.
- In late fall and early winter, start feeding supplement to mature cows using these guidelines:
 - Dry grass 1½ - 2 lb supplement/day of a 40% CP supplement
 - Dry grass 3 - 4 lb supplement/day of a 20% supplement
 - Dry grass 10 lb good nonlegume hay, no supplement needed
 - Compare supplements on a cost per pound of nutrient basis.
- Utilize crop residues.
 - Average body condition cows can be grazed at 1 to 2 acres/cow for 30 days assuming normal weather. Available forage is directly related to the grain production levels.
 - Limiting nutrients are usually protein, phosphorus, and vitamin A.
 - Strip graze or rotate fields to improve grazing efficiency.
- Discontinue feeding tetracycline if used for anaplasmosis control

Calf Management

- Participate in National Level Breed Association Performance Programs CHAPS, and(or) other ranch record systems.
- Finalize plans to merchandise calves or to background through yearling or finishing programs

Forage/Pasture Management

- Plan winter nutritional program through pasture and forage management

General Management

- Document cost of production by participating in Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) programs.
- Review management decisions, lower your costs on a per unit of production concept.
- Plan your marketing program, including private treaty, consignment sales, test stations, production sales, etc

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.