



Newsletter from the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry
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July, 2014

News from KSU Animal Sciences

In This Issue

- Upcoming Events
- Management Minute
- Feedlot Facts
- 2014 KSU Cattlemen's Day Article Featured
- 2013 KSU Swine Day Articles Featured
- Faculty Spotlight
- What Producers Should Be Thinking About...

We Need Your Help!

Please send questions, comments or ideas for future newsletter topics to lschrein@ksu.edu or call (785) 532-1267.



UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **2014 K-State Beef Conference Set for Six Locations from August 11-14 –** “Busting Myths That Affect Your Bottom Line” is the theme for the 2014 K-State Beef Conference which will feature six face-to-face meetings around the state of Kansas over the August 11-14, 2014 time frame. The goal of the meeting is for extension expertise to interface with profit minded cow-calf producers on a range of timely and economically impactful topics. State extension educators and collaborating district and county based extension experts will provide a fast paced program that will get to the heart of a number of common myths that are robbing profit from cow-calf producers’ bottom lines. Speakers will include state extension specialists Drs. Jaymelynn Farney, Dale Blasi, Charlie Lee, Sandy Johnson, Chris Reinhardt, Justin Waggoner, and Bob Weaber.

It is important for producers to not rest on the expected wide margin of profit due to today's high calf prices. Rather producers should be energized to seek out and capture profits left on the table. Registrations should be completed with the hosting county/district office. Registrations will vary depending on site location but will be kept to a minimum to encourage attendance. All sites will feature a meal which will be included in registration costs. To aid in the judicious use of funding resources, a minimum of 40 attendees at each site is requested. For more information see www.ksubeef.org and see information on ‘K-State Beef Conference.’ Dates and locations are indicated below:

- Aug. 11, 2014, 5 - 9 PM, Erie hosted by Southwind and Wildcat Extension Districts
- Aug. 12, 2014, 9 AM - 1 PM, El Dorado hosted by Butler, Cowley, Sedgwick Co. Ext. and Rolling Prairie, Flint Hills Ext. Districts
- Aug. 12, 2014, 5 - 9 PM, Pratt, hosted by Barber County Extension
- Aug. 13, 2014, 5 - 9 PM, Newton, hosted by Harvey, Marion, and McPherson County Extension
- Aug. 14, 2014, 9 AM - 1 PM, Oakley, Golden Prairie Extension District
- Aug. 14, 2014, 5 - 9 PM, Salina, Central Kansas, Post Rock, River Valley and Midway Extension Districts

Some of the myths that you might see busted will include: Trichomoniasis is a regulatory problem; Antibiotic restrictions won't affect me; Operation is too small for a planned breeding program; Record keeping has to be complicated; I don't need to body condition score my cows; Producers need 1,400 lb cows to make 1,400 lb fed steers; I can change a trait without affecting others; Heterosis isn't important in today's beef business; All info in a bull sale catalog is important... a bull's actual birth weight is a good selection tool; Anything with a uterus is a replacement; Ionophores (Rumensin or Bovatec) are too expensive to be practical in my operation; the only beef consumer worth focusing on is the one that goes to a white table cloth restaurant; I don't need to pay attention to wildlife/ endangered species on my property.

For more information, contact the host county/district extension office or Bob Weaber (bweaber@ksu.edu; 785-532-1460).

- ↳ **Entry Deadlines Approaching** - Entries for the Kansas State Fair 4H/FFA Show (Beef, Sheep, Swine, Meat Goats) are due by July 15. Late entry forms will be accepted until July 25 with a late fee of \$10 per head. No entries will be accepted after July 25. For more information, visit www.kansasstatefair.com. All departments are strongly encouraged to enter and submit entries online at www.kansasstatefair.com.
 - Entries for the Kansas Junior Livestock Show must be postmarked by August 15, 2014. Late entries will be accepted through August 31, 2014, but all late entries will be subject to an entry fee double the stated entry fee amount. For more information, visit www.kjls.org.
 - Just a reminder – any correction to livestock nominations are due July 15 to Hilary Hawkins (785-532-1264; hbhawkins@ksu.edu).**
 - ↳ **Flint Hills Beef Fest planned for August** - Make plans now to attend the Flint Hills Beef Fest which will be held August 22-24, 2014. Founded in 1986, the Flint Hills Beef Fest is an annual celebration of the grass cattle industry for which the Flint Hills region of Kansas is known. Cattle Division Events include a Grass Futurity Contest, Live Stocker Cattle Show, Feedlot Contest and Carcass Competition. Events will take place on the Lyon County Fairground in Emporia, Kansas. For more details and a complete schedule of events, please visit <http://www.beeffest.com>.
 - ↳ **The Kansas Livestock Sweepstakes** has been scheduled for August 23-24, 2014. This all-around event will feature contests in Livestock Judging, Meats Judging, Livestock Skillathon, and Livestock Quiz Bowl. A special prize will be awarded to the county that does the best in all four contests. Rules and past winners can be found at www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu. Registration forms will need to be postmarked by Aug. 1. Complete information for 2014 will be available soon on the Youth Livestock Web page. For more information, contact Hilary Hawkins (hbhawkins@ksu.edu; 785-532-1264).
 - ↳ **The 2014 KSU Beef Stocker Field Day** will be held on Thursday, September 25 at the KSU Beef Stocker Unit in Manhattan. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the day will conclude with a good old-fashioned Prairie Oyster Fry. Watch for complete details coming soon to www.KSUbef.org. For more information, contact Dale Blasi (dblasi@ksu.edu; 785-532-5427).
 - ↳ **OSU to host national beef reproduction conference** - Cow-calf producers and large-animal veterinarians should plan now to attend the 2014 Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle Conference hosted by Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Oct. 8-9.
- The conference is an annual Beef Reproduction Task Force event that alternates from state to state. The task force is a multi-state extension activity in cooperation with the North Central Agricultural and Natural Resources Program Leaders Committee and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service. Key goals of the Beef Reproduction Task Force include promoting widespread adoption of reproductive technologies among cow-calf producers, educating producers in management considerations that will increase the likelihood of successful breeding of animals through artificial insemination and educating producers about marketing options to capture benefits that result from use of improved reproductive techniques.
- A schedule of events is available online at <http://www.beefextension.com/genetics>. The two-day conference will take place in the OSU Student Union, located on the university's Stillwater campus. Anyone seeking additional information about the Oct. 8-9 conference should contact Megan Rolf by email at mrolf@okstate.edu or Dan Stein by email at daniel.stein@okstate.edu.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
August 11, 2014	K-State Beef Conference	Erie, KS
August 12, 2014	K-State Beef Conference	El Dorado, KS
August 13, 2014	K-State Beef Conference	Newton, KS
August 14, 2014	K-State Beef Conference	Oakley, KS
August 14, 2014	K-State Beef Conference	Salina, KS
August 22-24, 2014	Flint Hills Beef Fest	Emporia, KS
August 23-24, 2014	Kansas Livestock Sweepstakes	Manhattan
September 25, 2014	KSU Beef Stocker Field Day	Manhattan
October 8-9, 2014	Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle	Stillwater, OK

WHAT'S NEW.....

Management Minute "Who's Your Mentor?"

Management Minute – Chris Reinhardt, Ph.D., Extension Feedlot Specialist “Who’s Your Mentor?”

We were all students once, and some of us still are students. Whether we’re 18 or 88, it doesn’t matter, we can still immerse ourselves in a topic and become smarter, better, and wiser. Psychologists all seem to agree that keeping our brain active is one key to staying mentally alert as we grow older. Many “seasoned citizens” take up word games, Sudoku, and brain teaser games as a daily exercise to keep their mind fit, just as they take up walking, swimming, or stretching classes to keep their body moving and limber.

Few managers would argue that they know all there is to know about their chosen profession, about leadership, about managing personnel, about managing money. And there is certainly no shortage of books, newsletters, seminars, and online short-courses in any of these topic areas to expand our knowledge base. And if you’re actively pursuing knowledge in these areas, kudos to you.

But there’s much less information on mentoring and mentorship. We understand the value of mentoring for young professionals and for new employees. We want the young industry people to get off on the right foot in their career, and we want our own new hires to get started in the organization knowing the internal systems.

One key to mentoring is that we don’t typically assign as mentor to our new hires the older worker who is a marginal worker or a known malcontent; instead, we try to marry up the new hire with the shining star of the organization, hoping to clone that success story.

Another aspect of mentoring is this: Who assigns the mentor to the Boss? If you’re the boss, have you assigned yourself a mentor? Even if you’re 40, 50, or 60, could you not still benefit from the hard-earned wisdom---not knowledge, but true wisdom---of an even more seasoned manager in a similar position within the industry as yourself. “Peer-to-peer learning,” which can come in many settings delivery methods, can provide some elements of this “senior mentoring,” but not all.

True mentoring goes perhaps one step deeper than simply providing best management practices. Mentoring requires an investment on the part of both the mentor and the mentee. The word “investment” infers that there is some type of up-front cost. A mentor needs to invest in the relationship so that both parties can trust that the mentor is going to be vulnerable and reveal where some of that hard-earned wisdom came from: mistakes. The other half of the equation is that for the mentee to gain full value from the mentor’s investment, the mentee needs to also be vulnerable enough to share those areas of weakness, where the mentor can step in and provide truth.

None of us is too old to learn valuable lessons, and what better way for a savvy, successful business manager to learn some of the more subtle and less measurable lessons of business then by spending extended time, over a period of years, from someone we trust, and who’s actually been through this same rodeo.

For more information, contact Chris at 785-532-1672 or cdr3@ksu.edu.

Feedlot Facts “What Good is Roughage?”

Feedlot Facts – Chris Reinhardt, Ph.D., Extension Feedlot Specialist “What Good is Roughage?”

Normally, we consider the energy value of roughage in the finishing diet to be, at best, very low. The energy value is obviously very low compared to corn, but it does vary by quality. The problem is that forages have one energy value in ruminants when it is the primary ingredient, and another, much lower energy value when it is fed in a high-concentrate, grain-based diet, especially if that grain is extensively processed.

Certain bacteria are more effective at fermenting the cellulose in forages vs. other bacteria, and those bacteria digest forage to a greater extent when the rumen pH is above 6.0, such as is common in the rumen of forage-fed cattle, than in the rumen of feedlot cattle, in which the rumen pH is more acidic, and closer to 5.0. Forages are not included in the finishing diet to provide energy; they are included to provide risk management.



Feedlot Facts – “What Good is Roughage?” (cont.)

Aside from the intrinsic energy content of forage as a nutrient source, forages provide 2 factors that we consider during finishing feedlot diet formulation: energy dilution and scratch factor. By including some percentage of forage in place of grain, that percentage of the diet provides a limit to the total volume of grain available within a single meal which is available for rapid fermentation, limiting acid accumulation within the rumen. Simple math tells us that the greater the percentage of forage that is included in the finishing diet, the lower the ceiling will be on the amount of acid that is produced and accumulated within the rumen, reducing the risk of acidosis. Because forage has a much lower energy value than grain in the finishing diet, cattle feeders typically try to get away with as little in the diet as is necessary. In fact, increasing forage percentage in the finishing diet results in a greater amount of feed intake and total energy intake daily. Trial and error and experience typically lead each cattle feeder to a level of forage that is effective at maintaining a balance of consistent intake, performance, and feed efficiency.

Scratch factor is a less well-understood factor. If we use the percentage of liver abscesses as a measure of previous acidotic episodes, feeding more coarsely processed forages or more poorly digestible forages (cottonseed hulls, wheat straw vs. alfalfa hay or corn silage) in the finishing diet results in fewer liver abscesses than feeding more finely processed forages; therefore, the coarser forage provides a greater scratch factor and protection from severe acidosis.

So why then do we process the forage at all? Because excessively coarse forages, included at only 8-10% of the finishing diet allow cattle to sort the diet for whatever component, the forage or the grain, that they prefer, resulting in potential acidosis for those cattle which only got the grain, after the forage had been picked through and removed from the bunk first.

This is then where some of the science of feeding cattle becomes art: forages must be processed fine enough to prevent sorting within the bunk, but left sufficiently coarse to provide adequate scratch. If forages are excessively processed to ensure mix uniformity, then a greater percentage of forage should be included in the diet to avoid acidosis.

An alternative method has been proposed to simply increasing the amount of processed forage included in the finishing diet: pulse feeding forage. Coarsely ground or long-stemmed hay can be fed in the bunk, apart from the normal mixed finishing diet, on a once or twice weekly basis, at a rate of 2-3 lbs per head per week. This can accomplish 2 goals: (1) increase the amount of fiber mat within the rumen resulting in (2) a greater amount of scratch within the rumen to stimulate rumination and salivation, resulting in greater intake of the diet and greater energy intake throughout the finishing period.

For more information contact Chris at cdr3@ksu.edu.

The Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, Kansas State University seeks applicants for our **Equine Manager – Horse Teaching and Research Unit position**. This is a full-time, 12-month, term position. A Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science or related field is required. View complete position announcement at: www.asi.ksu.edu/about/job-announcements.html. Review of applications begins July 25, 2014 and continues until the position is filled.

Variation in Timed Artificial Insemination Pregnancy Rates in Specific Groups of Suckled Beef Cows

- This research examined if groups of cows selected by progesterone status, parity, body condition score, or days postpartum would vary in pregnancy rates compared with unselected cows when subjected to the CO-Synch + controlled internal drug release + (CIDR) timed artificial insemination (TAI) procedure. A total of 1,277 primiparous and 5,676 multiparous cows were included in this analysis. Ten days before all cows were submitted to a CO-Synch + CIDR TAI procedure, body condition scores were assigned. The procedure was initiated with 100 µg gonadotropin-releasing hormone and insertion of a CIDR insert followed in either 5 or 7 days with CIDR insert removal and intramuscular administration of 25 mg prostaglandin F2α. A second gonadotropin-releasing hormone treatment was administered, and insemination was performed from 56 to 72 hours after CIDR insert removal.

Cows that had at least two calves, had a body condition score greater than 5, and were more than 73 days since calving had a greater TAI pregnancy rate than any other group of cows. Primiparous cows with poorer body condition scores and fewer days postpartum had fewer pregnancies per AI than their counterparts that calved earlier (39.5 vs. 52%, respectively).

Bottom Line.... Grouping cows according to age, body condition score, and days since calving can result in greater TAI pregnancy rates. Targeted protocols applied to specified cow groups may reduce the cost per timed AI pregnancy. View the complete research report at www.asi.ksu.edu/cattlemenstday. For more information, contact Jeff Stevenson (785-532-1243; jss@ksu.edu) or Sandy Johnson (785-462-6281; sandyj@ksu.edu).

Docility and Heifer Pregnancy Estimates in Angus Heifers - Data for this study included approximately 148,139 records, with 10,137 sires and 92,471 dams represented. We formed 25,736 contemporary groups from weaning, yearling, and breeding contemporary groups. Heifer pregnancy was a threshold model with animal and contemporary groups as random effects and age at first breeding as a covariate. Docility was a linear animal model, with animal and contemporary groups as random effects. The objective was to obtain heritability estimates for docility and heifer pregnancy in Angus heifers. The heritability of heifer pregnancy was estimated as 0.16 ± 0.02 . These findings are similar to those by other researchers who found heifer pregnancy heritabilities between 0.14 and 0.21. The heritability of docility was estimated to be 0.22 ± 0.03 , which is lower than those reported by the North American Limousin Foundation (0.40) and the American Angus Association (0.37).

Bottom Line....Moderate heritability estimates of heifer pregnancy and docility indicate that although progress may be slow, genetic improvement through selection can be made on these traits. View the complete research report at www.asi.ksu.edu/cattlemeniday. For more information, contact Bob Weaber (785-532-1460; bweaber@ksu.edu).

Effects of Dietary Byproduct Feeding Withdrawal Prior to Market on Finishing Pig Growth Performance, Carcass Characteristics, Carcass Fat Quality, Intestinal Weights, and Economics

A total of 288 pigs (PIC 327 × 1050; initially 84.7 lb) were used in an 88-d study to determine the timing of high-fiber ingredient removal from the diet prior to marketing to optimize growth performance, carcass characteristics (primarily yield), carcass fatty acid composition, and economics. Two diet types, a corn-soybean meal control diet with low NDF (9.3%) and a high-fiber, high-NDF (19%) diet that contained 30% dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS) and 19% wheat middlings (middles) were used throughout the study. Pens of pigs were randomly allotted to 1 of 6 dietary feeding strategies with 8 pigs per pen (4 barrows and 4 gilts) and 6 replications per treatment. The 6 feeding strategies consisted of the corn-soy control diet or high-fiber diet fed for the duration of the study, or the high-fiber diet fed until 20, 15, 10, or 5 d prior to slaughter after which the pigs were switched to the corn-soybean meal control diet.

Overall (d 0 to 88), ADG was not affected by diet type or withdrawal strategy. Pigs fed the high-fiber diet continuously tended to have increased ADFI compared with pigs fed the control diet. This led to an increase in F/G for pigs fed the high-fiber diet for the entire study compared to pigs fed the control diet. The caloric efficiency of live weight gain of pigs fed the high-fiber diet continuously was worse compared with pigs fed the control diet throughout. Withdrawing the high-fiber diet and switching to the control diet did not influence growth performance.

For carcass characteristics, percentage yield and backfat were reduced, whereas loin depth and jowl iodine value (IV) increased in pigs fed the high-fiber diet continuously compared with those fed the corn-soybean meal control diet. As days of withdrawal from the high-fiber diet increased, percentage yield improved, whereas jowl IV decreased and backfat increased. These data suggest that 15- to 20-d of removal from high-fiber diets prior to slaughter was optimal in terms of percentage carcass yield. The full pluck from pigs fed the high-fiber diet continuously tended to weigh more than from those fed the control diet. In addition, pigs continuously fed the high-fiber diet had heavier whole intestines, specifically full large intestines, than pigs fed the control. For pigs fed the high-fiber diet then switched to the corn-soy control, whole intestine weight tended to decrease and full large intestine weight decreased as withdrawal time increased.

Bottom Line...Pigs fed the high-fiber diet had increased F/G, poorer caloric efficiency, and lower carcass yield compared with pigs fed the corn-soy control. Withdrawing pigs from the high-fiber diet and switching them to a corn-soy control diet did restore carcass yield when done for the last 15 to 20 d prior to harvest. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Swine Day Report at www.KSUswine.org. (*This study conducted by K.F. Coble, J.M. DeRouchey, M.D. Tokach, R.D. Goodband, S.S. Dritz, T.A. Houser, B.L. Goehring, and M.J. Azain*)

Effects of Hydrolyzed Vegetable Protein or Hydrolyzed Vegetable and Meat Protein Blend on Nursery Pig Performance from 15 to 40 lb

A total of 280 pigs (PIC 327 × 1050, initially 16.7 lb BW) were used in a 28-d trial to evaluate the effects of hydrolyzed vegetable protein or a blend of hydrolyzed vegetable and meat protein for nursery pigs. Three days after weaning, pigs were allotted to 1 of 4 dietary treatments in a completely randomized design, balancing for initial BW and gender. There were 10 pens per treatment with 7 pigs per pen. The 4 treatment diets were: (1) no added specialty protein source (negative control); (2) 6% select menhaden fish meal; (3) 5% hydrolyzed vegetable protein (Hydr SF 52, International Ingredient Corporation, St. Louis, MO), or (4) 6.5% hydrolyzed vegetable and meat protein blend (HDSF Protein; International Ingredient Corporation). Diets were fed in 2 phases, with Phase 1 from d 0 to 17 (treatment diets) and Phase 2 from d 17 to 28 (common diet). From d 0 to 17, pigs fed the negative control diet had improved F/G compared with pigs fed diets with Hydr SF 52 or HDSF Protein. No differences in ADG and ADFI were detected among treatments. From d 17 to 28 (common period), no difference was observed in growth performance between pigs previously fed any of the treatment diets. Overall (d 0 to 28), no differences were observed in ADG, ADFI, or F/G among pigs fed any of the treatment diets.

Bottom Line...Because performance did not differ from pigs fed the negative control diet, definitive conclusions regarding these specialty protein sources cannot be made. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Swine Day Report at www.KSUswine.org. (*This study conducted by M.A.D. Goncalves, J.M. DeRouchey, S.S. Dritz, M.D. Tokach, R.D. Goodband, and J.C. Woodworth*)

AS&I Faculty Spotlight



Travis O'Quinn (travisoquinn@ksu.edu; 785-532-3469) Assistant Professor/Meat Science

Dr. Travis O'Quinn was born in 1985 in League City, TX. Through his youth, Dr. O'Quinn was actively involved in 4-H and FFA, participating on numerous judging teams including meats, livestock, and land. He graduated with his B.S. (2008) and M.S. (2010) degrees from Texas Tech University and earned a Ph.D. in Meat Science from Colorado State University (2012). Upon graduation, he returned to Texas Tech to conduct a post-doctoral research project working to develop a palatability-based beef grading system for the largest beef producer in New Zealand. Travis joined the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University in July of 2014 with a 60% extension and 40% research appointment.

Dr. O'Quinn's research interests center on beef palatability and the factors affecting the traits of tenderness, juiciness, and flavor. He has conducted research involving more than 13,000 beef consumers from across the country. He has worked extensively to evaluate the factors effecting beef flavor and to identify the production and management practices that can modify the flavor profile of beef. He has recently completed a study developing a technique to quantify and predict beef juiciness. Travis's extension program will work to provide science-based knowledge to consumers, packers, and producers throughout the state of Kansas through numerous educational programs and formats.

In his free time, Travis enjoys spending time with his wife, Megan. The two are avid sports fans, keeping up with all things college football and NFL.



Lindsey Hulbert (lhubert@ksu.edu; 785-532-0938) Assistant Professor/Animal Behavior

Dr. Lindsey Hulbert began her career in Animal Science research 11 years ago through an undergraduate research opportunity at Texas Tech University, where she received all three degrees covering topics in animal welfare using toolsets in animal behavior, immunology, health and production. She achieved her PhD in 2010 then did her post-doctoral work at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Hulbert joined the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University in January 2013. Dr. Hulbert's laboratory has several on-going projects involving feeding, housing, and management strategies that influence animal behavior, immunity, health and productivity. A major project she is working on is feeding and oral behaviors in young stock. Excessive non-nutritive oral behaviors (NNOB) in adult farm animals are often categorized as "stereotypies" and it is assumed these behaviors are caused by excessive stressors. However, it is not known how the neonatal care influences the development of NNOBs later in life. Early-life

NNOB in pigs and cattle may be important for immunological and neurological development. The Hulbert lab research will identify 1) the NNOB variation and variables causing NNOB within pigs and calves, 2) how the perinatal environment influences early-life and adult expression of NNOB, and how these behaviors are related to neurological and immunological development.



Brian Faris (brfaris@ksu.edu; 785-532-1255) Assistant Professor/Sheep and Meat Goat Extension Specialist

Dr. Brian Faris was born in 1975 and grew up raising registered and commercial Rambouillet sheep and Angora goats on the Edwards Plateau in Sonora, Texas. He showed market lambs for 12 years and was extremely active in numerous other 4-H projects throughout his career. He graduated with his B.S. in Animal Science from Texas A&M University in 1997. He received his M.S. in Animal Science from Angelo State University in 2001, and earned his Ph.D. in Animal Science (Repro) from New Mexico State University in 2004. Prior to coming to Kansas, Brian served as the Extension 4-H Youth Livestock Specialist at North Carolina State University. Dr. Faris now serves K-State as the Sheep & Meat Goat Specialist with a 70% Extension and 30% Teaching appointment.

Brian's extension appointment will involve conducting educational programs for purebred and commercial sheep and meat goat producers throughout Kansas. He will also work closely with county extension agents to bring the latest research information and production practices to the counties so it may be relayed to the producers.

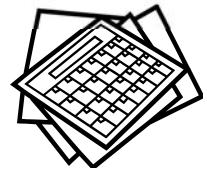
Dr. Faris teaches ASI 385 (Fall) Wool Grading and Evaluation and ASI 524 (Fall) Sheep Science. Additional teaching responsibilities will include overseeing the Sheep & Meat Goat Teaching and Research Unit along with coaching the Intercollegiate Wool Judging Team.

Brian enjoys spending time with his wife, Reyna, and their three children, Raylee, Craddock, and Preslee. He also enjoys hunting, playing sports, and judging sheep and goat shows. The Faris family lives on a small farm near Fostoria, KS, where they raise meat goats and sheep.

What Producers Should Be Thinking About.....

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

BEEF -- *Tips by Dale Blasi, Extension Beef Specialist*



September is when forages are maturing rapidly, weaning time can be appropriate, and weather dictates several key management decisions.

Breeding Season

Out of concern for trichomoniasis, an economically devastating reproductive disease, do not introduce untested bulls to your herd. Remove bulls after 60 days with cows, 45 days with heifers (Never run bulls for more than a 90-day breeding season).

Cowherd Nutrition

- Provide ample amounts of clean, fresh drinking water.
- Consider limited-intake creep feeding if:
 - ◆ Drought conditions develop and persist.
 - ◆ Range conditions limit milk production.
 - ◆ Creep feed/grain prices are relatively low.
 - ◆ Value of gain allows for economic benefits.
- Tips for successful limited-intake creep feeding:
 - ◆ Limit duration to last 30 to 75 days before weaning.
 - ◆ Limit intake to less than 2 pounds/head/day.
 - ◆ Use an ionophore or other feed additive to maximize efficiency.
 - ◆ Protein level should be equal to or greater than 16%.
 - ◆ High salt levels may help limit intake, but can be tough on feeders.
- Prepurchase bulk rate winter supplementation needs prior to seasonal price increases.

Herd Health

- If pinkeye is likely to be a problem, consider the following preventive and therapeutic measures.

Preventive:

- ◆ Make sure the herd is receiving adequate vitamins and trace mineral in their diet.
- ◆ Consider using a medicated trace mineral package.
- ◆ Consider vaccination for pinkeye and IBR.
- ◆ Control face flies.
- ◆ Clip pastures with tall, coarse grasses that may irritate eyes.
- ◆ Provide ample shade.

Therapy:

- ◆ Administer a long-acting antibiotic subcutaneously when symptoms are first noticed.
- ◆ Shut out irritating sunlight by patching eyes, shade, etc.
- ◆ Control flies.
- ◆ Consult your veterinarian.
- Consider revaccinating for the respiratory diseases any animals that will be taken to livestock shows.
- Vaccinate suckling calves for IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, and possibly pasteurella at least 3 weeks prior to weaning.
- Revaccinate all calves for blackleg.
- Vaccinate replacement heifers for brucellosis (4 to 10 months of age).
- Monitor and treat footrot.

Forage/Pasture Management

- Enhance grazing distribution with mineral mixture placement away from water sources.
- Observe pasture weed problems to aid in planning control methods needed next spring.
- Monitor grazing conditions and rotate pastures if possible and(or) practical.
- If pastures will run out in late summer, get ready to provide emergency feeds. Start supplemental feeding before pastures are gone to extend grazing.
- Harvest and store forages properly. Minimize waste by reducing spoilage.
- Sample harvested forages and have them analyzed for nitrate and nutrient composition.
- Plan winter nutritional program through pasture and forage management.
- For stocker cattle and replacement heifers, supplement maturing grasses with an acceptable degradable intake protein/ionophore (feed additive) type supplement.

Reproductive Management

- Remove bulls to consolidate calving season.
- Pregnancy check and age pregnancies 60 days after the end of the breeding season. Consider culling cows that are short-bred.

These methods contribute to a more uniform calf crop, make winter nutritional management easier, and increase the success rate of next year's breeding season.

General Management

- Avoid unnecessary heat stress - Don't handle and(or) truck cattle during the heat of the day.
- Repair, replace and improve facilities needed for fall processing.
- Order supplies, vaccines, tags, and other products needed at weaning time.
- Consider early weaning if:
 - ◆ Drought conditions develop and persist.
 - ◆ Range conditions limit milk production.
 - ◆ Cows are losing body condition.
 - ◆ Calf and cull cow prices indicate maximum profit.
 - ◆ Facilities and management is available to handle lightweight calves.
 - ✓ *First calf heifers have the most to gain.*
 - ✓ *Resist the temptation to feed the cows without weaning; feeding early-weaned calves is more efficient.*
- Look for unsound cows that need to be culled from the herd.
- Prepare to have your calf crop weighed and analyzed through your state, regional, or breed performance-testing program.
- Plan your marketing program, including private treaty, consignment sales, test stations, production sales, etc.