



News from KSU Animal Sciences

August, 2006

WHAT'S NEW >>>>>>

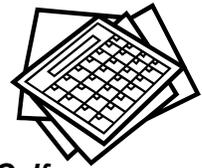
- ↪ **Website on Avian Influenza** - To provide current information about the status of avian influenza and the steps individuals and families can take now to begin preparing for a potential human influenza pandemic, whether at home or abroad, President Bush announced the creation of a single Website to serve as the official U.S. Government source of information. This Website, <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>, provides up-to-date information on developing news stories and tools and resources to help individuals and organizations plan and prepare for a influenza pandemic.
The Website is an accurate source of information for American citizens living abroad. The site also provides information to individuals traveling through infected regions around the world and offers suggestions for safeguarding personal health while traveling. Additionally, visitors to the site can sign up to receive periodic avian and pandemic influenza news updates.
- ↪ **Feeding strategies for group fed sows.** Many swine producers are looking at housing alternatives for gestating sows. One such option gaining in popularity is to group house sows in pens. However a problem with penning sows in groups is even feed distribution. The condition commonly known as "boss sow" syndrome occurs when dominant sows consume more feed at the expense of other sows in the group. To minimize this problem, many producers divide sows' daily feed allocation into 5 to 6 different meals spread out over the course of the day. Recent K-State research funded by the National Pork Board evaluated this practice of multiple feedings vs twice-a-day feeding. Very few important production and welfare differences were observed between the two feeding programs suggesting either will be fine to implement on farms. More detailed information on this and other research will be presented at the KSU Swine Industry Day, November 16th at the K-State Alumni Center.
- ↪ Conducting a **laboratory analysis of manure for nutrient content** is an essential component of applying manure at proper agronomic rates for crop management. Estimates of manure nutrient content are available from a number of published sources, but nutrient composition varies widely between farms due to differences in animal species and management, and manure storage and handling. The only method available for determining the actual manure nutrient content for a particular operation is laboratory analysis. However, in order to get a accurate analysis, the manure must be sampled properly. The following link provides information on proper sampling of manure for analysis - <http://www.animalwaste.okstate.edu/manuresamp.htm>
- ↪ **Fall Cow Working** - For those in Kansas who have sufficient grass to permit traditional fall weaning of spring born calves, weaning time is also a good time to prepare the cows for the winter ahead and apply some management tools that should provide an excellent financial return.
 1. Pregnancy check cows – This will obviously reduce winter feed costs associated with feeding open cows all winter. In addition, you might consider having your veterinarian "age" the pregnancies so that you can sell off any late-calving cows. This will allow you to tighten up your calving season, create a more uniform and marketable calf crop, and create a heavier calf crop next fall from the same number of cows overwintered this year.
 2. Deworm cows – Deworming accomplishes 2 things when it gets rid of worms: it helps the cow utilize feed more efficiently, and it increases appetite so the cows are more inclined to spread out and graze the pastures more completely. Cows with poor appetites tend to hang out around feeding sites, rather than working the pastures aggressively.
 3. Vaccinate cows – Once you have pregnancy checked and culled off those cows you do not want to overwinter, you can also vaccinate pregnant cows for some of the diseases that might cause mid- or late-term abortion problems (Lepto, Neospora, IBR, BVD, etc.). Check with your veterinarian to determine which diseases you should consider, based upon the disease and vaccination history of your herd. Because of short-term immunity produced by most Campylobacter (Vibrio) vaccine products, vaccination for this disease should be delayed until shortly before next breeding season. (Larry Hollis, D.V.M., M.Ag; 785-532-1246; lhollis@ksu.edu)

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

- ↵ **Youth Camp Announced:** Kansas Wildlife Federation and Kansas State University are hosting a Fishing and Hunting Skills Camp on Saturday, August 26 at the Fancy Creek Shooting Range near Randolph, 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 **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.
Pre-registration is \$20.00 by September 1 or \$30.00 at the door. 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)
- ↵ 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.
- ↵ The **Oklahoma Meat Goat Conference** will be held October 13-14, 2006 at Ada, Oklahoma. If you are looking for information to make your Meat Goat business sound and profitable, make plans to attend this conference. Extension educators and producers and welcome. Detailed information can be accessed at www.oklagoats.com. Advance registration is due by September 9, 2006. For more information, contact Dr. Dave Sparks, DVM, Oklahoma State University at 918-686-7800 or kim.dorr@okstate.edu.
- ↵ 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 more information, contact Jim Nelssen at 785-532-1251; jnelssen@ksu.edu.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS		
Date	Event	Location
August 18-20, 2006	Flint Hills Beef Fest	Emporia
August 22, 2006	KLA/KSU Ranch Management Field Day – S L Cattle	Mound City, Kansas
August 24, 2006	KLA/KSU Ranch Management Field Day – Triangle H Grain and Cattle	Garden City, Kansas
August 26, 2006	Fishing and Hunting Skills Camp	Randolph, Kansas
August 26, 2006	State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest	Weber Arena, Manhattan
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
November 16, 2006	KSU Swine Day	Manhattan
December 13-15, 2006	KSU Dairy Days	TBA

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



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

Cowherd Management

- Pregnancy Check.
- Cull cows because of:
 - ◆ Open.
 - ◆ Late vs. Early calving.
 - ◆ Soundness - udder, feet/legs, eyes, teeth, disposition.
 - ◆ Productivity - Most Probable Producing Ability (from herd performance records).
 - ◆ Disposition
- 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 October you may want 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
(heifers may need more supplement than older cows)
 - ◆ Supplement nutrients that are most deficient.
 - ◆ Compare supplements on a cost per pound of nutrient basis.
 - ◆ KSU research has reported early winter supplementation is not necessary if grazing forage supplies are adequate. Third trimester cows have had the ability to achieve their target calving weights with supplementation.
- Check individual identification of cows. Replace lost tags or redo brands.
- Utilize crop residues. Grazing crop aftermath can reduce daily cow costs by 50¢ or more.
 - ◆ Strip graze or rotate fields to improve grazing efficiency.
 - ◆ Average body condition cows can be grazed at 1 to 2 acres/cow for 30 days assuming normal weather.
- Consider feeding cull cows to increase value, body weight, and utilize cheap feedstuffs. Seasonal price trends have allowed producers to take advantage of maximum profit opportunities with cull cow feeding programs. Healthy cows can gain extremely well on well balanced diets.

Calf Management

- Wean calves:
 - ◆ Reduce stress. Provide a clean, dust-free, comfortable environment.
 - ◆ Provide balanced nutritional program to promote weight gain and health.
 - ◆ Observe feed and water intake. Healthy, problem free calves have large appetites.
 - ◆ Observe calves frequently, early detection of sickness reduces medical costs and lost performance.
 - ◆ Vaccinate calves and control internal/external parasites through veterinary consultation (ideally done prior to weaning).
 - ◆ Vaccinate all replacement heifer candidates for brucellosis if within 4-10 months of age.
 - ◆ Use implants and feed additives to improve efficient animal performance.

Calf Management (continued)

- ☑ Weigh all calves individually. Allows for correct sorting, herd culling, growing programs, replacement heifer selection, and marketing plans.
- ☑ Participate in Whole Herd Rewards, Performance Plus, and(or) other ranch record/performance systems.
- ☑ Finalize plans to merchandise calves or to background through yearling or finishing programs.
 - ◆ Consider feedstuff availability.
 - ◆ Limit feeding high concentrate diets maybe a profitable feeding program.
- ☑ Select replacement heifers which are:
 - ◆ Born early in the calving season. This should increase the number of yearling heifers bred during the early days of the subsequent breeding season.
 - ◆ Daughters of above average producing cows. Performance traits are moderately heritable trait.
 - ◆ Of the proper frame size to compliment desired mature size and weight.
 - ◆ Structurally correct. Avoid breeding udder, feet and leg problems into the herd.
- ☑ Vaccinate replacement heifers with first round of viral vaccines.
- ☑ Plan replacement heifer nutrition program so that heifers will be at their “target weight” (65% of their mature weight) by the start of the breeding season.

Forage/Pasture Management

- ☑ Observe pasture weed problems to aid in planning control methods needed next spring.
- ☑ Monitor grazing conditions and rotate pastures if possible and(or) practical.
- ☑ 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.

General Management

- ☑ Avoid unnecessary stress - Handle cows and calves to reduce shrink, sustain good health, and minimize sickness.
- ☑ Forage analyze for nitrate and nutrient content. Use these to develop winter feeding programs.
- ☑ Repair, replace and improve facilities.
- ☑ Plan your marketing program, including private treaty, consignment sales, test stations, production sales, etc.
- ☑ A penny saved is a penny earned - price byproducts, grains and other feedstuffs on a per nutrient basis.

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.