



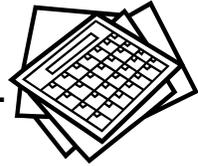
News from KSU Animal Sciences

December, 2005

WHAT'S NEW >>>>>>

- ↪ **Findings of recent swine research at K-State** has demonstrated that water-based medication can provide similar growth response to feed-based medication. Researchers provided pigs with Neomycin via the water or feed and found similar improvements in daily gain and feed intake. The significance of these findings is that feedmills could provide antibiotic-free feed and producers could administer the antibiotics through the water to achieve the same growth benefit as provided by feed-grade antibiotics. At the current time, feed-based medication is less expensive, but some producers and mills may choose the increased flexibility that water application provides. For more information contact: Mike Tokach, Extension Specialist, Swine (mtokach@ksu.edu; 785-532-2032)
- ↪ **It's winter feeding time for livestock producers.** Producers are reminded to follow best management practices to reduce environmental impact and prevent reductions in livestock performance. Guidelines and more information is available in KSU Extension Bulletin MF 2673 "How feeding Site Mud and Temperature Affect Animal Performance".
- ↪ Looking for the latest swine information?? – This is a great addition to the Animal Science website. Visit <http://www.asi.ksu.edu/swine>; click on the Swine Research and Extension Program and under Swine Review Papers you will find review papers, short newsletter items and more.
- ↪ **Better news related to accidental Micotil[®] injection in humans** -- As you are probably aware, accidental injection of Micotil[®] in humans has resulted in fatalities. Thus, the Micotil[®] product label contains what is known as a "black box" HUMAN WARNING about the risk of injection in humans. This warning also has a NOTE TO THE PHYSICIAN explaining some of the precautions that must be considered when treating accidentally-injected humans. Recently, FDA has allowed Elanco to add a new portion to their "black box" label. Elanco researchers have found that when Micotil is injected accidentally into humans, it acts as a potent calcium channel blocker. So, in addition to their current recommendation of putting ice on the injection site while rushing the person for medical attention, new information included in the "black box" will also indicate that intravenous (IV) calcium should be part of the treatment given by the physician. The Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center has all the info, and Elanco has sent info to all the emergency rooms around cattle country. RMPCC's phone number is 800-222-1222. For additional information contact: Larry C. Hollis, DVM, Extension Beef Veterinarian
- ↪ **Dr. Chris Reinhardt recently joined ASI as an Extension Feedlot Specialist.** Chris's responsibilities include communicating and sharing information with feed yard operators throughout Kansas. He also will conduct research on cattle performance as it relates to nutrition and management. You can reach him at 785-532-1672 or cdr3@ksu.edu.
- ↪ **Undergraduate enrollment in the Department of Animal Science continues to be strong.** For the Fall, 2005 semester there were 581 students enrolled in ASI with an additional 94 in Food Science. This comprises 37.5% of the total enrollment in the College of Agriculture. If you know of a future student who has an interest in our programs in ASI or Food Science, please contact Dr. Dave Nichols at dnichols@ksu.edu, 785-532-1239 or Mishelle Hay at mhay@ksu.edu, 785-532-1262.

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



BEEF -- Cow herd management

- Historically, cull cow prices are beginning to rise. Finish culling cows in order of priority:
 1. Those that fall within the "Four-O Rule" (Open, Old, Onry, Oddball).
 2. Those with physical/structure problems (feet and legs, eyes, teeth, etc.)
 3. Poor producers.
- Continue feeding or grazing programs started in early winter. Fully utilize grain sorghum and cornstalk fields, severe winter weather may begin to limit crop residue utilization, be prepared to move to other grazing and feeding systems.
- Supplement to achieve ideal body condition scores (BCS) at calving. Use this formula to compare the basis of cost per lb. of CP: $\text{Cost of supplement, \$ per hundredweight (cwt.)} \div (100 - 5 \% \text{ CP}) = \text{cost per lb. CP}$. Use this formula to compare energy sources on basis of cost per lb. of TDN: $\text{cost, \$ per ton} \div (2,000 - 5 \% \text{ DM} - 5 \% \text{ TDN in DM}) = \text{cost per lb. of TDN}$.
- Control lice, external parasites could increase feed costs.
- Provide an adequate water supply. Depending on body size and stage of production, cattle need 5-11 gallons of water per head per day, even in the coldest weather.
- Sort cows into management groups. Body condition score and age can be used as sorting criteria. If you must mix age groups, put thin and young cows together, and feed separately from the mature, properly conditions cows.
- Use information from forage testing to divide forage supplies into quality lots. Higher-quality feedstuffs should be utilized for replacement females, younger cows, and thin cows that may lack condition and that may be more nutritionally stressed.
- Consult your veterinarian regarding pre- and postpartum vaccination schedules.
- Continue mineral supplementation. Vitamin A should be supplemented if cows are not grazing green forage.
- Plan to attend local, state and regional educational and industry meetings.
- Develop replacement heifers properly. Weigh them now to calculate necessary average daily gain (ADG) to achieve target breeding weights. Target the heifers to weigh about 60 to 65% of their mature weight by the start of the breeding season. Thin, light weight heifers may need extra feed for 60 to 80 days to "flush" before breeding.
- Bull calves to be fed out and sold in the spring as yearlings should be well onto feed. Ultrasound measurements should be taken around one year of age and provided to the association.
- Provide some protection, such as a windbreak, during severe winter weather to reduce energy requirements. The lower critical temperature (LCT) is the temperature (at which a cow requires additional energy to simply maintain her current body weight and condition. The LCT for cattle varies with hair coat and body condition (Dry, heavy winter coat = 18 degrees, wet coat = 59 degrees). Increase the amount of dietary energy provided 1% for each degree (including wind chill) below the LCT.

SWINE

- Check winter ventilation rates
- Make sure fans and inlets are clean and fans are running properly

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