News from KSU Animal Sciences
January, 2006

WHAT'S NEW >>>>>>>

↳ **Calving Management -** Calving time is the initial harvest time for the breeding and management program that has been developed in each cow/calf operation. The goal is obviously to get a live calf which can then be raised to weaning. A review of the calving process and recommended procedures may help producers get more live calves on the ground.

Prior to calving. Proper feeding management will help achieve 3 objectives: to get the cow to produce milk well; to get the cow to rebreed quickly; and to have a calf born during daylight hours. Research has shown that cows in a body condition score of 5.5-6.5 at calving will nurse well and breed back better than those with lesser body condition scores. Additional research has shown that the time of calving can be influenced by the time of feeding. Feeding late in the evening can result in roughly 80% of calves being born during daylight hours. This makes observation of calving easier and should provide for earlier intervention, if needed.

Observation. Once heifers/cows near their anticipated calving date, start bagging up, getting "sloppy" in the vulvar area, or start stringing mucous, observation should begin on a regular schedule. Since heifers are more prone to dystocia problems, they should be observed every 2 hours to allow for early intervention. Stage 1, preparation for calving, can take up to 8 hours. During this stage the heifer/cow will appear restless or uncomfortable and often separate themselves from the rest of the herd. Stage 2, delivery of the calf, starts when the calf is lined up in the birth canal and contractions begin. Observation during this period is critical. **Heifers** should complete delivery of a calf **within 1 hour** of the time they are first noticed going into labor. **Cows** should complete delivery **within 30 minutes** after labor begins. If delivery is not complete within the proper time frame, the heifer/cow should be examined to determine if assistance is needed. Stage 3, expulsion of the afterbirth, will normally occur within 12 hours after the calf is delivered.

Intervention: If proper calving ease and/or birth weight EPD bulls were utilized, calving will normally proceed without the need for intervention. However, especially in heifers, intervention may be necessary to complete the calving process. Knowing when to intervene is critical. Intervention is recommended when (1) the process is taking too long (longer than the times mentioned above), (2) when you see that the calf is in trouble (tongue or head swollen), (3) when you observe rectal bleeding from the heifer/cow, (4) when the heifer/cow quits trying to push the calf out after obviously beginning Stage 2, or (5) when you first detect that the calf is coming in an abnormal presentation (something other than nose and 2 front feet first – such as breech, leg back, head back, etc.).

When intervening: Know your limitations before you begin – don't get in over your head. Always use good sanitation -- tie the tail of the heifer/cow to the side, wash up the area around her vulva, use OB sleeve any time you work inside the vagina, etc. Let the heifer/cow help you – lay her down on her right side, and pull only when she pushes. Pull calf's lower leg first, then upper leg, then repeat sequence. Pull calf straight out, rather than pulling down toward the feet of the heifer/cow. Time yourself – if you do not have the calf out within 30 minutes, get professional help.

When calf is out: Do not hang calf upside down – instead place calf in sitting position to enhance its' ability to breathe. Calves may be stimulated to breath by tickling their nose with a straw or splashing their face with cold water. Squirt iodine up inside navel, not just on the outside of it. It is extremely important to allow the mother and calf to bond. Good signs of bonding are when the heifer/cow is vigorously licking the calf and coaxing it to stand and nurse. Observe pair until you see the calf nurse – if calf has not nursed within 2 hours, milk heifer/cow out and force feed calf to ensure that it gets adequate colostrum in a timely fashion.

Following these recommended steps should result in more live calves and more calves that are prepared to survive until weaning. For more information, contact Larry C. Hollis, DVM, Extension Beef Veterinarian (785-532-1246 or lhollis@ksu.edu).

↳ **The 2005 Swine Day Review** is now available. Check our website at asi.k-state.edu/swine.

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

- **Cattlemen's Day 2006 –**The 93rd annual Cattlemen's Day will be held Friday, March 3, 2006. All events for Cattlemen's Day will be held in Weber Hall this year including the commercial trade show and educational exhibits. The Trade show and educational exhibits will open at 8:00 a.m.

The morning program will begin with the welcome presented by Dr. Janice Swanson at 9:55 a.m. A "***Symposium on Animal Identification Systems***" moderated by Dr. Chris Reinhardt will begin at 10:05 a.m. This panel will include Dale Blasi, Ted Schroeder; Brad White; and Jim Marsden. This symposium will be presented in Room 123 of Weber Hall with a live video feed into Weber Arena.

There will be breakout sessions in the afternoon including *Synchronization Strategies*; *BVD and other Transitional Diseases; Impact of Cattle Management Strategies on Retail Yield and Carcass Value* ; *Agricultural and Food Biosecurity at K-State; From Texas Fever to the Biosecurity Research Institute; The Future of Cow-Calf Research; Future Technologies for Enhancing Cattle Growth; and a Beef Market Update*. This is also a great opportunity to view some of the KSU Animal Sciences and Industry Research and Teaching Units. The day will conclude with the annual Special "K" Bull and Heifer sale beginning at 3:00 p.m. This year the sale will be held at the Purebred Beef Unit.

Registration for KSU Cattlemen's Day will be $15 per person in advance or $25 per person at the door. Morning refreshments and lunch are included with registration. For more information visit www.asi.ksu.edu/cattlemensday or call 785-532-1267.

- **KSU Sheep Day and Youth Sheep Day** will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2006 at Weber Hall on the K-State campus. Watch for more details. For more information, contact Cliff Spaeth at 785-532-1255; cspaeth@oznet.ksu.edu or Julie Voge at 785-532-1264; jvoge@ksu.edu.

- **The 2nd Annual Sheep Breeders Showcase** will coincide with the Youth Sheep Day 2006. This is a great place for youth to meet the breeders and producers from the state. Many first time sheep owners are unaware of all the great breeders and people that are possibly right under their noses! E-mail or call Julie Voge (jvoge@ksu.edu; 785-532-1264) for complete information.

- **The 2006 KSU Horse Judging Workshop and Horse Show Judges Seminar** will be held on Saturday, March 4th in Manhattan. More information will be sent via email. For any questions, please contact Julie Voge at 785-532-1264, jvoge@ksu.edu.

- New at Equifest this year will be the **KSU Knowledge Challenge**. This Challenge is a new educational opportunity for youth and adult Equifest goers! We challenge you to go through each station designed to test your knowledge of horses and the horse industry. Ten stations will quiz each participant on conformation, equipment, feedstuffs, training, coat colors, plus many more topics! Prizes will be awarded to the top five finishers in the youth category and the top five finishers in the adult category. Questions can be directed to Julie Voge at Kansas State University at jvoge@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264. The KSU Knowledge Challenge will run from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday, Feb 25th, 2006 at the Kansas Coliseum in Wichita, Kansas.

- **Kansas Livestock Facility Composting Conference** – This conference will provide the latest information for livestock facilities on the how-to of composting both manure and dead animals. The conference will be held February 14, 2006, at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History in Hays and February 16, 2006, at the Travel Lodge in Emporia. Speakers for the conference will include Dr. Steve Moeller, Ohio State University; Dr. Bill Eberle and Dr. Pat Murphy from Kansas State University. For more information visit www.kdheks.gov/waste.

- **Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Development Course** - The next CNMP Development Course has been scheduled to take place in Kansas City on February 13 - 15, 2006 at The Fairmont Hotel. It targets private sector technical service providers who are interested in developing CNMPs for USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Nutrient Management Plans required by EPA regulations specific to livestock and poultry producers. Registration for the course is now open.

  Information about the course, lodging and registration is available on-line at the following website: http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/cnmp/home.html. If you have additional questions about the training, please contact Lara Moody with Iowa State University (lmoody@iastate.edu or 515-294-7355) or Joel DeRouchey at Kansas State University (jderouch@ksu.edu or 785-532-2280).

- **31st Midwest Processed and Cured Meats Workshop** will be held February 4-5, 2006 in Manhattan. This is a great opportunity to see, hear and ask questions as state award winning meat processors demonstrate the manufacture of their products. For more information, contact Liz Boyle at 785-532-1247, lboyle@ksu.edu.

- **Sources of Fertile Eggs for Hatch Projects and Concerns with Avian Influenza -** Teachers have expressed some concern about continuing school chick hatch projects in class due to the news about avian influenza (AI). At this time, there is no concern for alarm since wild or domesticated birds or waterfowl have not tested positive for any form of AI in North America. Teachers should continue to use the hatch projects to teach handling and hygiene techniques like they have in the past as a preventative measure for bacteria and viruses that are normally present.

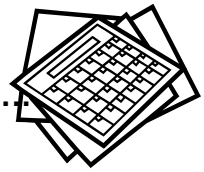
  If teachers are interested in obtaining sources of hatching eggs for their class projects, they should consider a commercial source. Commercial hatcheries will not work directly with teachers on a small scale, so we've been coordinating a group who orders hatching eggs each spring through KSU Poultry Extension. The eggs are from commercial sources whose breeder flocks undergo strict testing and surveillance for any disease. They are also monitored for high fertility rates, which can increase the hatch rate. Unfortunately, these eggs cannot be mailed but must be picked up from the KSU Poultry Research Farm. Sedgwick County Extension orders several dozen and may volunteer to bring the eggs to a drop point at their facilities if you contact them and make arrangements. The eggs will available at the KSU farm on March 28 and must be ordered in advance. The price usually runs from 2-$3 per dozen. Contact Scott Beyer, Extension Poultry Specialist, if you would like to coordinate hatching eggs for that date.

- The **2006 Kansas Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest** will be held Saturday, April 1 at Flint Oak Ranch in Fall River, Kansas. The contest is about teaching young people about wildlife, the needs of wildlife, and their habitat and is open to youth ages 7 - 18. There are two age groups in the competition. Youth can enter as an individual or as a member of a team of 3 - 4 individuals. An e-mail with further details and the registration form will be sent this week. For more information please contact Charles Lee, Extension Specialist, Wildlife, at 785-532-5734.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
February 4-5, 2006	Midwest Processed and Cured Meats Workshop	Manhattan
February 7, 2006	KSU Swine Profitability Conference	Manhattan
February 13-15, 2006	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Development Course	Kansas City
February 14 & 16, 2006	Kansas Livestock Facility Composting Conference	Hays and Emporia
February 25, 2006	Equifest	Wichita
March 3, 2006	KSU Cattlemen's Day	Manhattan
March 4, 2006	KSU Horse Judging Workshop and Horse Show Judges Seminar	Manhattan
March 11, 2006	KSU Sheep Day/Youth Sheep Day	Manhattan
March 16-17, 2006	High Plains Dairy Conference	Albuquerque, NM
April 1, 2006	Kansas Wildlife Habitat Contest	Fall River
June 13-15, 2006	HACCP Workshop	Manhattan

WHAT PRODUCERS SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT IN FEBRUARY……



SWINE -

☑ Check Diet Particle Size – the target is 700 microns with an acceptable range of 650 to 750 microns and if outside that, evaluate maintenance needs of your roller mill or hammer mill to get within the acceptable range.

BEEF -- Cow herd management

☑ Monitor body condition score. Once calving begins, body condition is tough to maintain and even more difficult to gain. Review nutritional management, diet ingredients and formulation. Balancing energy and protein will often maximize efficiency.

☑ Separate the cowherd into management groups. Examples would be: gestating, lactating, young, old, moderate to heavy condition, and poor condition groups. Group feeding allows producers to better utilize available feed resources, improve herd health, and produce a more consistent product.

☑ Minimize cold stress. Windbreaks greatly reduce maintenance energy demands. Hypothermia is a major cause of neonatal calf loss.

☑ If appropriate, vaccinate the cowherd for calf scours and other diseases. Consult your veterinarian. Three factors that improve herd health are: high immunity, low stress, and excellent sanitation practices.

☑ Consider using the Sandhill Calving System developed by University of Nebraska. This system has been proven to essentially eliminate scours.

☑ Check calving heifers and cows regularly. Adhere to a herd-monitoring program. Give timely assistance when needed, call for help before problems have progressed beyond control.

☑ Evening and night feeding calving cows will increase the percentage of calves born in daylight hours.

☑ Udder and teat scores should be recorded within 24 hours of calving.

☑ Birth dates, birth weights and calving ease scores should be recorded.

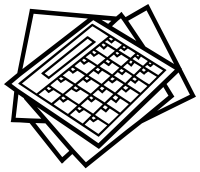
☑ Source and age verification will be necessary for some marketing plans. Make sure you are in compliance.

☑ Control lice. Hair coat condition is important for insulation value. Sale cattle, bulls and females, which will be offered this coming spring, need healthy-looking hair to demand top dollars.

☑ Collect and report weights, ultrasound and linear data on last year's calf crop if their age is appropriate. The future of beef production is in data collection and genetic information development.

☑ Attend beef industry educational and policy events. Be informed and proactive within the industry you work in.

WHAT PRODUCERS SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT IN MARCH…….



BEEF -- Cow herd management

☑ Manage calving pens and pastures to minimize human, cow and calf stress. Stay organized.

☑ An observation schedule should be implemented for calving first-calf heifers and cows. First-calf heifers should be checked every 2 to 3 hours.

☑ Sanitation is key to reduce and/or eliminate calf scours. An excellent calving pasture management plan by Dr. David Smith from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, can be found at http://beef.unl.edu/beefreports/symp-2003-19-XVIII.pdf.

☑ Make sure every calf consumes adequate colostrum during the first 4-12 hours after birth.

☑ Keep accurate calving records, including cow identification (ID), calf ID, birth date, calving difficulty score and birth weight. Other traits to consider recording are teat and udder scores, calf vigor score, and other pertinent information. This information along with Angus sire information is vital for enrolling cattle into the AngusSource^{SM} program.

☑ Calving books are essential sources of information; make sure you have a backup copy.

☑ Body condition score (BCS) cows. Thin and young cows will need extra energy to maintain yearly calving interval.

☑ If cow diets are going to be shifted from low- (poor quality forage or dormant grass) to high-quality forage (lush green grass) programs, begin a grass tetany prevention program at least 3 weeks prior to the forage switch.

☑ When making genetic selections, use the most recent National Cattle Evaluation (NCE) and herd records judiciously.

☑ If new bulls are purchased, now is the time to start preparing them for their first breeding season. Bulls need to be properly vaccinated and conditioned to be athletic. Moderate body condition with abundant exercise is ideal.

☑ After calving and before breeding, vaccinate cows as recommended by your veterinarian.

☑ Plan to attend beef production meetings.

2006 IRM Redbooks – We have a few extra redbooks left in the office. If you would like to order some, please e-mail or call Lois at lschrein@ksu.edu; 785-532-1267.

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.