



News from KSU Animal Sciences

June, 2006

WHAT'S NEW >>>>>>

- ↪ **Think about Summer Infertility for 2007 Now!** - Many pork producers are aware of decreased sow farrowing rate during the months of June, July, August, and September. This is typically referred to as summer or seasonal infertility. There is little known as to its exact causes, but very likely low lactation feed intake during the summer months results in increased sow weight loss and thus lower fertility. This is why we emphasize producers doing everything possible to maximize sow feed intake in lactation. However, what many producers do to attempt to keep hitting breeding targets during the summer is to have "extra" gilts on hand to compensate for decreased farrowing rates. Unfortunately we forget to plan ahead and often end up pulling terminal market gilts and adding them to our breeding herd. If we want extra gilts for breeding in June of 2007, we need to back up approximately 11 months: approximately 4 months of gestation and 7 months from weaning to breeding. Therefore July and August 2006 breedings will farrow potential replacement gilts in November, and these gilts will be ready to breed at 7 months in June 2007. The bottom line is that *this* summer and fall we need to be keeping back extra gilts for *next* summer's breeding to help keep the farrowing house full!
- ↪ **Education Provided at Kansas County Fairs on National Animal Identification System** - Students from Kansas State University will be traveling to county fairs in Kansas this summer providing public education about the National Animal Identification System and offering the opportunity for premise registration on behalf of the Kansas Animal Health Department. Livestock producers are encouraged to visit the Kansas Animal Health Department booth at their respective county fairs this summer to learn more about the National Animal Identification System, register their premise, and ask any questions they may have. For more information, contact Karol Fike, 785-532-1104; karol@ksu.edu.
- ↪ **Time to plan for weaning** - With breeding season nearing completion or completed in most parts of the state, now is the time to plan ahead to the next major item on the cattlemen's calendar – weaning. Decisions need to be made about how and when you will wean, and the events that may surround weaning. If dry conditions persist, you may need to consider early weaning. If feed resources become scarce, declining pasture conditions coupled with the calf weight/price slide may make early weaning financially attractive. Regardless of the age of the calf at weaning, one weaning method that is gaining popularity is called fence line weaning. It appears to have many health and performance advantages, but requires that you have calf-proof tight fences between the pasture where the calves will be left and the pasture where you will move the cows. Preconditioning is another way to improve the health and desirability of your calves. Discuss with your veterinarian the vaccination program and timing of administration that fits your herd and will help produce the most desirable calf. If you hope to capture the added value that preconditioning typically brings, you need to determine how to best market your calves so that you capture this value. Preconditioned calves may be contracted directly to the feedlot, sold on video auction, sold at a special preconditioned calf sale, or sold through a local auction market. If the latter is your preferred method, be sure to inform the auction market at least 2 weeks before your intended sale date so that market personnel know when to expect your cattle and exactly how they will be preconditioned. Market personnel should then pass this information along to prospective buyers or order buyers, to help ensure that they are there to bid on your calves on the day of the sale. (Larry Hollis, D.V.M., M.Ag)
- ↪ **Pullorum and Avian Influenza Testing Information for Agents and Poultry Superintendents:** Dr. Paul Grosdidier of the Kansas Animal Health Department would like to screen poultry at some of this summer's fairs and poultry shows for the presence of avian influenza (AI). As you know, avian influenza has not been found in North America, but we must remain vigilant in surveying the health of birds in the state so that if a break does occur, we may react swiftly. The AI testing would be done by state or federal field staff at no charge to the individuals. If your county is having difficulties getting Pullorum testing done, they could conduct the Pullorum test at the same time. The AI test is simple and fast and will not injure the birds. If any agents are interested in participating, please contact Dr. Grosdidier at the Kansas Animal Health Dept. at 785-296-2326.

UPCOMING EVENTS >>>>>>>>>

↵ **Market Broiler Competition at the State Fair -** Somehow the edits for the Market Broiler Competition at the State Fair for the 2006 Fair Book were omitted. I was under the impression that these corrections had been made and that the new fair book would include an order form, but it did not. It is IMPORTANT to note that the chick order form MUST be mailed by **June 27**, or it can be faxed AFTER that date to 785-532-5681. Faxed orders must be paid for in the week following the deadline.

One significant change in the requirements for the show is that BOTH 4H and FFA members will be allowed to enter the competition. Also, if a competitor is in two competitions at once during the fair, they may provide proof and be allowed a substitute bird handler during the judging portion.

The online version of the state fair book has also been updated at: <http://www.kansas4-h.org>. You may also access the Animal Sciences web page for an updated version at: <http://www.asi.ksu.edu/Desktop/Default.aspx?tabid=1040>. For more information, contact Scott Beyer at 785-532-1201; sbeyer@ksu.edu.

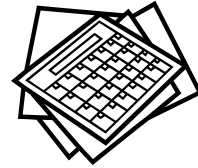
↵ Make plans now to attend the **Flint Hills Beef Fest** which will be held August 18-20, 2006. Cattle Division Events include a Grass Futurity Contest, Stocker Cattle Show, Best of Grass and Show, Feedlot Contest and Carcass Show. Events will take place on the Lyon County Fairground in Emporia, Kansas. Other Beef Fest Activities include Cattle Contests, and Arena Events such as Ranch Rodeo, Team Roping, Ranch Horse Competition and more. For more details and a complete schedule of events, please visit <http://www.beeffest.com>.

↵ Mark your calendars now to attend the **KSU Stocker Field Day** on Thursday, September 28. The field day will be held at the KSU Beef Stocker Unit and will include information on the National Animal Identification System. Watch for more details.

↵ The **2006 KSU Swine Day** will be held at the Alumni Center on the KSU campus on Thursday, November 16th. This year's program will include a research update from K-State swine faculty as well as invited speakers covering the recent emergence of Porcine Circovirus Associated Disease (PMWS) and what producers can do to control and minimize the effects of this devastating disease on their swine farm. Watch for more details on Swine Day to be coming. For more information, contact Jim Nelssen at 785-532-1251; jnelssen@ksu.edu.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS		
Date	Event	Location
June 26, 2006	Chisholm Trail Horse Judging Contest	Hillsboro Co Fairgrounds
June 27, 2006	State 4-H Horse Judging Contest	Kansas Coliseum, Wichita
June 30-July 1, 2006	Kansas Swine Classic	Cico Park, Manhattan
August 18-20, 2006	Flint Hills Beef Fest	Emporia
August 26, 2006	State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest	Weber Arena, Manhattan
September 28, 2006	KSU Stocker Field Day	Manhattan
November 16, 2006	KSU Swine Day	Manhattan

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



BEEF -- Cowherd Tips by *Twig Marston*

August is when forages are maturing, weaning time is approaching, and weather dictates several key management decisions.

Breeding Season

- Look for unsound cows that need to be culled from the herd.
- Identify cull prospects. Cull cows that are not conceiving after three or four services by a fertile bull.
- Limit the breeding season. Remove bulls after 60 days with cows, 45 days with heifers.

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

Cowherd Nutrition

- Provide ample amounts of clean, fresh drinking water.
- Consider 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 creep feeding:
 - ◆ Limiting intake will usually increase feed efficiency.
 - ◆ 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.
- Pre-purchase 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 (consult your local veterinarian).
- ◆ Control face flies.
- ◆ Clip pastures with tall, coarse grasses that may irritate eyes.
- ◆ Provide ample shade.

Therapy:

- ◆ Administer an intramuscular injection of long-acting oxytetracycline 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.

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 earlier than normal weaning if:
 - ◆ Drought conditions develop and persist.
 - ◆ Range conditions limit milk production.
 - ◆ Cows are losing body condition.
 - ◆ Facilities and management is available to handle light-weight 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.*

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.