



News from KSU Animal Sciences

May, 2006

WHAT'S NEW >>>>>>

- ↪ **Stable Fly Populations in Full Swing** - Based on the current degree of cattle bunching and tail switching, producers that tagged their pastured cattle with insecticide tags may believe they are witnessing a case of tag failure. However, the defensive behavior they are seeing is not in response to the attack by horn flies but to that of stable flies whose numbers have already reached high levels, aided by the cooler than normal temperatures (this is a fly that prefers cooler over hot weather). Stable flies on pastures originate from feeding sites of round hay bales where, in the spring, the mixture of wasted hay and manure develops into ideal stable fly larval habitats. Unfortunately, there is no insecticidal method available for controlling stable flies on the cattle or on these larval breeding grounds. If stable flies are making their presence felt on the cattle, the only control method that may offer some help now is spreading out the accumulated hay-manure mixture at hay feeding sites used on the same or on neighboring pastures this past winter (keep in mind flies do not respect fences). This hay-manure mixture should be spread out thinly to allow for rapid drying which should reduce or prevent fly breeding. Hay feeding next winter should follow recommendations that include: (a) avoiding oversupply, (b) not feeding poor quality hay, (c) frequently moving feeding sites, and even (d) unrolling bales on the ground. For more information, contact Alberto B. Broce (785-532-4745; abroce@oznet.ksu.edu)
- ↪ **Maintaining Hog Market Weights over the Summer Months** - For swine producers, we typically see the highest market prices during the summer months. But because of the hot weather, we also see the lowest average daily gain and lightest market weights. Therefore, to try to maintain optimal market weights during the most profitable (summer) months, look at options to increase energy (feed) intake. Adding 5% fat to diets can increase market weights by up to 10 lb. Adding Paylean® (Ractopamine HCl) in finishing diets the last 21 days before market will also increase market weights by approximately 6 lb. Other options to increase market weights during the summer include: keeping pigs cool via sprinklers and proper ventilation. Looking at increasing days on feed by faster barn turn-around time or marketing pigs over a shorter period of time (i.e., dumping a barn in only 2 to 3 weeks vs 4 or 5). Hopefully these nutrition and management steps will help producers maintain optimal market weights during the summer months. For more information, contact Bob Goodband (785-532-1228; goodband@ksu.edu).
- ↪ **Dealing with Drought** - The most recent drought map (<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/drought/drmon.gif>) shows conditions in northeast Kansas improving from abnormally dry to normal and the area of severe drought increasing in the western part of the state. A drought management plan that outlines a course of action for various circumstances is the single most important thing producers can do to deal with drought. It is much easier to systematically evaluate possible courses of action before managers feel the pressure and stress that drought often brings. What options exist for reducing grazing pressure? What other feed resources can be used and what do they cost? What non-traditional marketing opportunities could work? Certain practices such as early weaning that some producers were forced into a few years ago are now being incorporated on a routine basis. Materials on a variety of drought related topics can be found at www.oznet.ksu.edu/drought/. Links to other drought material on the web can be found on the "Other Contacts" link towards the bottom of this website page.

↵ **Managing Distillers Grains in Beef Cattle Diets** -- Ethanol production promises to increase throughout Kansas and the surrounding area for the foreseeable future. The byproducts of that production, primarily wet and dried distiller's grains (DG), will become available in increasing quantity. This increasing supply of distiller's grains could be priced competitively to conventional protein and energy sources, such as wheat midds, soybean meal, milo, and corn. This will force producers to make choices about the relative value of distiller's grains in their operations. If competitively priced, DG can be used as a protein and energy supplement for cows, heifers, growing cattle, or finishing cattle. However, there are certain factors that should be considered when feeding DG.

The protein concentration of DG (~25-30%) makes it attractive as a protein supplement when priced competitively. In addition, because DG has a high energy content with very little starch, there is less risk of a rapid decrease in rumen pH such as is commonly observed following grain supplementation. However, due to the fat content of DG (~8-12%), feeding excessive levels of DG may cause reduced forage digestion. Another drawback of DG for range cattle is the physical form. DG does not pellet well by itself and if fed on the ground, the fine texture causes a fair amount of waste. Either the wet or dry form can be fed successfully in a bunk, but the wet product will spoil if stored in the open during warm weather. A rule of thumb is the product should be used up in 7 days during cool weather (<35° F) and 5 days during warm weather.

Finally, the high phosphorus content of DG relative to grain requires that when DG is fed to cattle in confinement, the phosphorus content of the manure will typically be elevated. This usually increases the land area needed to disperse the manure without accumulating excess phosphorus in the soil. However, if DG are fed to pasture cattle, particularly during times when forage quality is poor, the DG can act as an excellent source of supplemental phosphorus. For more information, contact Chris Reinhardt (785-532-1672; cdr3@ksu.edu)

↵ This year marks a huge milestone for the **Northeast Kansas Hunter Association** -the organization's 25th anniversary. The NKHA sanctions hunter and jumper shows held throughout northeast Kansas. The association also offers clinics and year-end award programs to help riders, trainers, and horse owners become more knowledgeable about the sport. Today, NKHA shows provide an excellent starting place for beginners, young and old, human or equine. At any NKHA show, an exhibitor will be able to enter a variety of classes. At hunter shows, equitation and hunters classes are offered at fence heights ranging from 18 inches to three feet. Variety can also be found at the jumper shows, as the divisions offered also vary greatly in fence height. Although the horse shows are competitive, exhibitors always seem to enjoy the horse show experience. For more information about the NKHA, visit the organization's web site at www.nkha.net or contact NKHA President Pam Evans at (785) 272-6110.

↵ The Department of Animal Sciences and Industry recently was awarded a **USDA National Animal Identification System grant**. The project entitled "Impact of Environmental Interferences and Performance Variation on RFID Transponder and Transceiver Reliability and Economic Assessment of RFID Technology Implementation in Animal Production Environments" was fully funded.

↵ **Proper Gilt Development** begins at weaning by selecting gilts that are structurally correct and with good underlines. Growth rate should be targeted to ensure gilts weigh at least 300 lb at 210 days of age. Good boar exposure with at least 15 minutes of nose to nose contact per day should begin at 140 to 150 days of age. This program should induce the first estrus around 180 days of age, allowing for gilts to be bred on their second estrus at 200 to 210 days of age. For more information please go to: asi.ksu.edu/swine under the Swine Extension and Research page.

UPCOMING EVENTS >>>>>>>>>

☞ Make plans now to attend the **2006 Beef Empire Days** which will be held May 30 to June 11, in Garden City. Some of the special events held during the Beef Empire Days include a Cattle Working Contest held on Tuesday, May 30 at the Finney County Fairgrounds. The Schering Plough Animal Health Live Show will be judged by Dr. Clint Rusk from Purdue and will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 1, at the Finney County Fairgrounds. The Sponsor's Reception will be held that evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Southwind Country Club. Dr. Duane Wulf, South Dakota State University, will judge the Carcass Show which will be held on Saturday, June 3, beginning at 9:00 p.m. at Tyson Fresh Meats Complex.

There are many more activities planned for Beef Empire Days. For full details and a schedule, please visit www.beefempiredays.com. For more information, contact Ron Hale (620-275-9164; rhale@ksu.edu).

☞ A three-day **HAACP Workshop** for meat, poultry and food processors will be held in Manhattan on June 13-15. For more information, contact Alicsa Mayer (toll free 877-205-8345; amayer@ksu.edu).

☞ The registration deadline for the upcoming **Kansas Swine Classic** is June 23, 2006. Make plans now to attend this two-day educational event and show which will be held June 30 – July 1, 2006 at Cico Park in Manhattan, KS. The Swine Classic includes an educational workshop on ultrasound technology, a showmanship contest and prospect and market hog show.

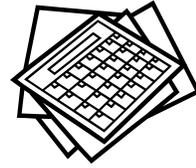
For more information, contact Joel DeRouchey (785-532-2280; jderouch@ksu.edu) or Jim Nelssen (785-532-1251; jnelssen@ksu.edu).

☞ The next exciting event on the **Northeast Kansas Hunter Association's** schedule is hosting Lori Cramer for a clinic in late June. Cramer is currently the head coach of the Miami University Equestrian Team in Oxford, Ohio. She was also a featured clinician at the 2005 EquiFest in Wichita and is a prominent horsewoman in the equine industry. Cramer will be coming to the Topeka Expocentre in Topeka, Kansas from June 26th to June 28th. Cramer's clinic should be very educational as she is planning on conducting a few different types of educational sessions. Instead of just having riding sessions, Cramer's clinic will also include an open-to-the-public, free of charge lecture detailing what a competitor needs to know about preparing for, walking, and riding a jumper course. This session will cover a variety of jumper related information and will be held in the evening on June 26th. Over the next two days, Cramer will conduct multiple mounted clinics. The clinics will be a great way to get more practice over fences and to tune up rider skills. For more information about Lori Cramer's clinic or about NKHA, visit the organization's web site at www.nkha.net or contact Kathy Childs at (785) 862-6506

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
May 30–June 11, 2006	Beef Empire Days	Garden City
June 2, 2006	KSU Horse Judging Camp – Beginning Section	Manhattan
June 5-6, 2006	KSU Horse Judging Camp – Intermediate Section	Manhattan
June 11-13, 2006	KSU Horse Judging Camp – Advanced Section	Manhattan
June 12-14; 19-21; 23-25; and 27-29, 2006	Livestock Judging Camp	Manhattan
June 13-15, 2006	HACCP Workshop	Manhattan
June 21 -22, 2006	Electronic Beef ID Crash Course	Manhattan
June 30-July 1, 2006	Kansas Swine Classic	Cico Park, Manhattan
July 19-20, 2006	Electronic Beef ID Crash Course	Manhattan
August 26, 2006	State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest	Weber Arena, Manhattan

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



BEEF -- Cowherd Tips by *Twig Marston*

Cowherd Nutrition

- Provide plenty of clean, fresh water.
- Provide free-choice mineral to correct any mineral deficiencies or imbalances.
- Monitor grazing conditions and rotate pastures if possible and/or practical.
- If ammoniated wheat straw is planned for winter needs, follow this rules:
 - ✓ Best time is immediately after harvest, prior to weather deterioration.
 - ✓ Ammoniation process is temperature sensitive, fastest during hot days.
 - ✓ Apply 3% Anhydrous Ammonia (60 pounds/ton of straw).
 - ✓ Do ***not*** ammoniate wheat hay or any other intermediate or high quality forage; production of imidazole can cause cattle hyperactivity and death.
 - ✓ Will double crude protein content, enhances intake, and be cost effective.
- Consider early weaning if drought conditions develop and persist.
- Consider creep feeding only if cost effective.

Herd Health

- Monitor and treat Pink Eye cases.
- Provide fly control. Consider all options, price and efficiency will dictate the best option(s) to use.
- Monitor and treat foot rot cases.
- Avoid handling and transporting cattle during the hottest part of the day-reduce heat stress.
- Vaccinate replacement heifers for Brucellosis if within proper age range (4 - 10 months).
- Continue anaplasmosis control program (consult local veterinarian).

Forage/Pasture Management

- Check and maintain summer water supplies.
- Place mineral feeders strategically to enhance grazing distribution.
- Check water gaps after possible washouts.
- Harvest hays in a timely manner, think quality and quantity.
- Harvest sudan and sudan hybrids for hay in the boot stage (normally three to four feet in height). It is a good idea to run a routine nitrate test on a field before harvesting hay.
- Plan hay storage placement wisely. Putting hay conveniently near feeding sites reduces labor, time demands, and equipment repair cost.

General Management

- Good fences and good brands make good neighbors.
- Check equipment (sprayers, dust bags, oilers, haying equipment) and repair or replace as needed. Have spare parts on hand, down time can make a big difference in hay quality.

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.