

Register Now - 113th Annual Cattlemen's Day

Register now for the 113th Annual Cattlemen's Day happening on Friday, March 6 at the Bilbrey Family Event Center.

The schedule includes:

- 8 - 2:00 p.m. Tradeshow - Morning refreshments and beverages
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome
- 9:15 a.m. Using genetic tools to select the next generation of females -
Dr. Jamie Courier, University of Missouri: Beef Extension Specialist
- 10:00 a.m. Beef Cow Size and Heavier Carcass Weights: Implications for the Cow Herd and Feedlot Performance
Dr. Emma Briggs, K-State ASI Beef Systems Extension Specialist
Dr. Mindy King, K-State ASI Assistant Professor
- 10:45 a.m. K-State ASI Graduate Student Research Updates
- 11:00 a.m. Beef Industry Economic Outlook
Dr. Glynn Tonsor, K-State Agriculture Economics Professor
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch - *Smoked Brisket Compliments of U.S. Premium Beef*
- 1:00 p.m. Navigating Farm and Ranch Generational Transitions -
Dr. Shannon Ferrell, OSU Agriculture Economics Professor
- 1:45 p.m. KSU ASI Graduate Student Research Updates
- 2:00 p.m. Update on Emerging Parasitic Diseases: New World Screwworm and Asian Longhorned Tick
Dr. Justin Smith, KDA Animal Health Commissioner
Dr. Cassandra Olds, K-State Entomology Assistant Professor

Registration is \$25 per participant if registered by February 20, or \$35 if registered on/after February 21 or at the door. Registration is complimentary for K-State students. Morning refreshments and lunch are included with registration. More information about the schedule, registration, tradeshow and sponsorships is available at asi.ksu.edu/cattlemenstday. For questions, please contact Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

Register Now - 55th Annual Stockmen's Dinner

Register now for the 55th annual Stockmen's Dinner hosted on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan, KS. Tracy and Yvonne Brunner will be honored as the 2026 Stockman of the Year. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. with a social, a plated steak dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program honoring Tracy and Yvonne Brunner. Registration is \$50 per person and the deadline to register is February 19. To register, visit asi.ksu.edu/events/stockmensdinner. For questions, contact Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

49th Annual Legacy Sale

The 49th Legacy Sale will be Friday, March 6, 2026, at the Stanley Stout Center following this year's Cattlemen's Day. This year's offering will include Angus, Simmental and Hereford bulls, a group of bred cows and commercial heifers. For more information and to find the catalog visit asi.ksu.edu/legacysale

Department of Animal Sciences and Industry

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Upcoming Events

- February 19-21, 2026**
K-State College Rodeo
- March 1, 2026**
K-State Youth Meat Judging Contest
- March 5, 2026**
Stockmen's Dinner
- March 6, 2026**
Cattlemen's Day
- March 6, 2026**
Legacy Bull Sale
- March 7, 2026**
K-State Junior Beef Producer Day
- March 18-19 or 20-21, 2026**
Equine Reproductive Management Short Course
- March 20, 2026**
Foaling Seminar
- March 28, 2026**
K-State Sheep Producer Day
- April 11, 2026**
K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day
- April 13 and 16, 2026**
Livestock County Fair Management Clinics
- April 18, 2026**
Little American Royal
- April 18, 2026**
Judging Team Reunion
- May 27-29, 2026**
HACCP Course - Manhattan, KS

Upcoming Events

K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day Registration Deadline Approaching

The 2026 K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day will be hosted on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at the Bilbrey Family Event Center, which is north of campus in Manhattan. This one-day educational event is devoted to the selection and management of youth sheep projects. All ages and knowledge levels are invited! K-State faculty members, graduate students, undergraduate students, former exhibitors, and guest speakers will cover topics including selection, nutrition, reproduction, the health and wellness, facilities and equipment, clipping and grooming, and showmanship. An optional instructor-led YQCA session will be offered at the conclusion of the program. The K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Center will also provide an opportunity to tour their facility on the Friday evening before junior day, as well as following the program on Saturday. The cost for junior sheep producer day is \$20 per person, if registration is submitted by March 20, 2026. All attendees, including youth and adults, must register. Only those who register by the deadline will receive a t-shirt. Families may register online at <https://bit.ly/SheepJrProducer>. For more information, contact Lexie Hayes (adhayes@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264).

Youth Meat Judging Contest to be Hosted on March 1st

We are excited to announce our spring youth meat judging contest will be hosted on March 1st! The contest date is earlier than last year due to meat lab construction. There will be a variety of classes with real product, 40 retail ID cuts, and multiple sets of questions. Youth of all ages are welcome, but everyone will judge in one division. The cost is \$15 per person and registration is available at <https://www.judgingcard.com/Registration/Info.aspx?ID=24341>. We hope to see everyone there for a fun and educational day of meat judging. For more information or questions, contact Erin Beyer (erbeyer@ksu.edu).

Foaling Seminar

Register now for the Foaling Seminar on March 20. This one-day seminar is designed for horse owners interested in learning more about the foaling process and the management of mares and foals. This seminar will combine engaging lecture-based instruction with select hands-on laboratory experiences to reinforce key concepts. Topics will focus on managing the mare during late gestation and early lactation, understanding and navigating the foaling process, recognizing signs of dystocia, and caring for the foal during the critical early post-partum period. This seminar is ideal for horse owners who are new to mare and foal management around the time of parturition, as well as those seeking a better understanding of the foaling process and best management practices. The event will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Stanley Stout Center and costs \$100 per person. For more information or to register visit https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research/equine/foaling_seminar.html or contact Joann Kouba (jkouba@ksu.edu or 785-532-1240).

K-State Sheep Producer Day - March 28

Register now for K-State Sheep Day to be hosted on Saturday, March 28 at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan, KS. The event is sponsored by the Kansas Sheep Council and the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. Early registration fees are \$15 per person if registered by March 13, and includes lunch. For more information or to register visit <https://bit.ly/SheepDay2026>. For questions contact Kelsey Bentley (kbentley@ksu.edu or 785-532-6537) or Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

Equine Reproductive Management Short Course

Register now for Equine Reproductive Management Short Course hosted on March 18-19 or 20-21. These two-day short courses provide horse owners with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the techniques and procedures routinely performed on a breeding operation to maximize the efficiency and success of their own breeding program. Emphasis will be placed on obtaining an understanding of basic reproductive function as well as learning management techniques through a combination of discussions and hands-on laboratory sessions involving both mares and stallions. This course is targeted towards the horse owner that is interested in starting a breeding program or the novice breeder who would like to improve or expand their existing program. These courses will take place at the KSU Horse Teaching and Research Unit and begin at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$600 per person and limited to the first 10 individuals to register. For more information or to register visit <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research/equine/equine-reproductive-short-course.html> or contact Joann Kouba (jkouba@ksu.edu or 785-532-1240).

Upcoming Events

SowBridge Educational Series for Swine Producers

If you work in or with breeding and gestation units, gilt development systems, or farrowing barns, the SowBridge program is for you. This program helps improve your understanding of important topics and increase productivity in your breeding herds and farrowing systems. Since 2007, the series has reached producers and industry professionals across the U.S. and around the world. Sessions are recorded and the audio is provided to subscribers as it becomes available.

SowBridge 2026-2027 runs from February 2026 through January 2027. Registrations are accepted anytime during the year. SowBridge is provided via 12 monthly electronic presentation sessions by swine industry experts. Session recordings ensure subscribers don't miss a thing.

The SowBridge Series' \$200 fee includes all 12 sessions and supporting materials. Additional subscriptions from the same operation are half that cost. The registration deadline is Jan. 15, 2026, to ensure participants will receive materials for the first session on Feb. 4. For a complete schedule and registration form, visit KSUswine.org. For more information, contact Joel DeRouchey (785-532-2280; jderouch@ksu.edu)

Livestock County Fair Management Clinic

The biennial Livestock County Fair Management Clinic will be hosted virtually April 13 and 16, 2026. This clinic is designed for county fair board members, Extension agents, and volunteers involved in local livestock fair management and leadership. The program consists of a forum of open communication for individuals working with livestock at their local fairs. Although some of the topics can be applied generally to the county fair, this program focuses on the livestock perspective. K-State faculty, staff, fair board members, and extension agents will facilitate discussion directly related to livestock activities at local fairs in Kansas. The program is geared towards the input and participation of county fair board members, superintendents, and extension agents, so fair board members and superintendents are highly encouraged to attend! The program has been divided over two evenings, scheduled for 7-9 p.m., with different topics being covered each night. It would be advantageous for counties to have several individuals attend to cover all the topics shared. The sessions will be recorded and available to registered attendees after the program. The program is free, but participants need to [register online](#) by April 6. For more information, contact Joel DeRouchey (jderouch@ksu.edu or 785 532-2280), Lexie Hayes (adhayes@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264), or Kelsey Nordyke (klnordyke@ksu.edu or 620-222-1311).

Local Youth Livestock Opportunities

Any county that has a youth livestock educational opportunity open to kids outside of the county is invited to share that information with the Youth Livestock Program (adhayes@ksu.edu). This includes spring shows, showmanship clinics, skillathons, field days, other related events, etc. These opportunities will be included on the youth livestock website, under the events tab. Information on the site will be updated as approved 2026 opportunities are received directly from extension units. Events, activities, and shows must be submitted by local KSRE professionals to be included on the website.

Little American Royal

Save the date for the Little American Royal happening April 18 at the Bilbrey Family Events Center in Manhattan, KS. The Little American Royal is the premier on-campus livestock show. See students compete in showmanship contests with a variety of species raised at our very own animal science research and teaching units. Presented by K-State Block and Bridle, Collegiate Cattle Women's, and the Dairy Science Club, the event begins at 10:00 a.m., and all are welcome to attend. For more information or questions contact Ashley Hartman (arhartma@ksu.edu or 785-532-1272) or Rachael Stadel (rmkstadel@ksu.edu or 785-532-2996).

HACCP Workshop Hosted in May

Implementing Your Company's HACCP Plan will be May 27-29, in Manhattan, KS. This workshop uses curriculum recognized by the International HACCP Alliance for meat and poultry processors. The registration fee is \$450 per person and is available online at <http://bit.ly/HACCPCourse>. For more information, contact Dr. Liz Boyle (lboyle@ksu.edu or 785-532-1247).

K-State Judging Reunion - April 18

Save the date for this year's Judging Teams Reunion to be hosted on Saturday, April 18 at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan, KS. Teams that end in 6 will be recognized, along with our current teams attending K-State. If you'd like to sign up to receive future communication, you can fill out your information at the following link: <https://bit.ly/JudgingTeamContactInfo>.

More information about the judging reunion will be available soon at <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/events/judging-reunion/>. For questions contact Payton Dahmer (dahmerp@ksu.edu or 417-448-4934) or Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

What's New

Management Minute

“Tips to Improve Customer Service”

Justin Waggoner

KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

Garden City, KS

Customer service is essential to any business or organization, having staff members that leave customers or anyone that encounters your business with that “wow that was great” feeling directly influencing the bottom line. Customer service has become more important than ever as more consumers are purchasing goods without ever crossing the threshold of a traditional storefront. So how do we generate those feelings with someone on the phone or in a chat box? Let us start with the basics. What is customer service? Customer service is simply defined as the assistance provided by a company to those that purchase the goods or services it provides. Now on to the tough part, how do we as business or organization provide that assistance?

First, answer the phone. Potential customers want to talk to a person and don't want to leave a message. Second, don't make promises you can't keep. As the old saying goes “say what you are going to do and do what you said you were going to.” Third, listen. Simply listening to what a potential customer needs is important. Fourth, be helpful even if you don't make the sale. The service provided today has the potential to turn in to something much larger in the future. Fifth, train your staff to go the extra mile, by providing additional information about the product or other items commonly purchased with said goods. Lastly, empower your staff to offer something extra without asking permission, especially in those circumstances where the “customer is always right” (Susan Ward; www.thebalancesmb.com).

Feedlot Facts

“Cowherd Mineral Supplement Selection: Phosphorous”

Justin Waggoner

KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

Garden City, KS

Late winter means that many companies will begin offering early booking or pre-order discounts on mineral supplements for the upcoming grazing season. It can be challenging to select a mineral program, as there are many different products, companies and mineral formulations available. When evaluating mineral supplements, the phosphorous concentration may be used as guide to determine if the mineral fits the production stage of the herd and forage base. Phosphorous is one of the most common mineral deficiencies in grazing systems and one of the primary reasons we provide mineral supplements to grazing beef cattle. The table below illustrates the amount of phosphorous required in a mineral supplement for cattle at various production stages consuming forages with different phosphorous concentrations. Forage phosphorous concentrations vary and are typically greatest during the spring and lowest in the winter. In Kansas, phosphorous content of native range in the spring is typically between 0.15 and 0.20%. Thus, the maintenance requirements of lactating cow (20 lbs milk/d) could be met by a mineral with at least 8% phosphorous (average of 6 and 10 in the table).

| | Total diet P, % | | | |
|--------------------|---|------|------|------|
| | 0.05 | 0.10 | 0.15 | 0.20 |
| Maintenance | -----% P needed in mineral supplement----- | | | |
| 1000 lb BW | 8 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 1200 lb BW | 10 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 1400 lb BW | 12 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| Gestation | | | | |
| Last 1/3 | 16 | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| Lactation | | | | |
| 20 lb milk/d | 16 | 16 | 10 | 6 |
| 30 lb milk/d | 16 | 16 | 16 | 6 |

Intake assumption: 2% bodyweight during maintenance and gestation. Intake increases with milk production

Wright, 2003

For more information, contact Justin Waggoner at jwaggon@ksu.edu

KSU Cow-Calf Checklist - February 2026

Management Considerations for April 2026

By Jason M. Warner, Ph.D., Extension Cow-Calf Specialist

Cow Herd Management

- Evaluate BCS and adjust nutrition for spring-calving females going into breeding.
 - Ensure thin (BCS \leq 4.0) females are on an increasing plane of nutrition.
 - BCS 5.0+ females should be maintaining weight and condition.
 - Record cow BCS and use it as a guide for future management.
 - Start lactation rations/supplementation by end of first calving cycle.
- Pregnancy check fall calving cows and make culling decisions.
 - How were pregnancy rates relative to last year?
 - Do we need to re-think our fall/winter nutrition program?
- Plan your mineral supplementation for this coming spring and summer.
 - Make effort to measure intake regularly and adjust it as needed.
 - If using fly control products, start them at recommended area times.
 - Properly store bagged mineral and avoid damaging bags and pallets.
- Risk of grass tetany is greatest for lactating cows and older cows. Consider magnesium levels in mineral supplements, particularly for cows grazing the following:
 - wheat, rye, triticale, oats, bromegrass, and other cool-season forages
- Use the estrus synchronization planner to help plan synchronization protocols.
 - <https://www.iowabeefcenter.org/estrussynch.html>
- Schedule breeding soundness examinations on bulls well prior to turnout.
- oAllow plenty of time to re-test or find a replacement bull if needed.

Calf Management

- Review health protocols for spring-born calves and schedule processing activities.
- If not already completed, wean and market fall-born calves.
- Consider the economic return by implanting nursing calves and grass cattle.
- If not already done, schedule your breeding protocols for replacement heifers in advance of the breeding season.
 - If synchronizing with MGA, make sure intake is consistent at 0.5 mg of melengestrol acetate per hd per day for 14 days, and remove for 19 days prior to administering prostaglandin.

General Management

- Use the Management Minder tool on KSUBeef.org to plan key management activities for your cowherd for the rest of the year.
 - <https://cowweb.exnet.iastate.edu/CowWeb/faces/Index.jsp>
- Adjust turn-out dates as needed for drought stressed pastures.
- Consider your storage method for any leftover hay and feed and look for opportunities to minimize shrink during extended storage.
- Good sanitation around winter feeding and bedding areas helps reduce stable fly populations.
- Take a balanced, multi-tool approach to fly/insect control.
- Wrap up any last minute pasture management projects before spring turn-out:
 - Finish repairing fences.
 - Conduct burns, work to control trees and brush.
 - Ensure sufficient water is available when cattle are turned out. .

What's New for Swine Producers

The Effect of Litter Size Relative to Functional Teat Count on Lactating Sow and Litter Performance- A total of 1,005 mixed-parity sows (Line 1050, PIC) and their litters were used to evaluate the effect of litter size relative to functional teat count on lactating sow and litter performance. Sows were blocked by parity category (P1, P2-P4, and P5+) and functional teat count determined at the time of farrowing and then allotted to one of four treatments. There were 251 or 252 sows per treatment. Treatments consisted of one fewer piglet than functional teats (-1), the same number of pigs as functional teats (0), one more pig than functional teats (+1), or two more pigs than functional teats (+2). Cross-fostering occurred within 24 h of farrowing. Pigs were individually weighed after cross-fostering and the afternoon before weaning. All pigs born weighing less than 2 lb were cross-fostered onto sows that were not included in this study. Sow body weight (BW), caliper score, and backfat measurements were collected at the time of entry (approximately d 112 of gestation) and weaning. Parity category, treatment, and their interaction, as well as teat category (≤ 13 , 14-15, and ≥ 16 teats) were included in the model as fixed effects. Any fall-behind piglets, agreed upon by research and farm staff, were recorded and removed from the sow, and no replacement piglet was added to that litter. As litter size relative to functional teat count increased, sows lost more weight and caliper units (linear, $P \leq 0.005$). However, the sow culling rate due to failure to conceive decreased (linear, $P = 0.038$). Litter size and litter weight increased (linear, $P < 0.001$) as litter size relative to functional teat count increased at both d 2 and weaning. However, litter ADG was greatest for -1 and +2 sows compared to 0 and +1 sows (quadratic, $P = 0.045$). Mean piglet BW at weaning (linear, $P < 0.001$) and piglet ADG decreased (quadratic, $P = 0.042$) as litter size relative to functional teat count increased. On-test (d 2 to wean) removals and mortality increased (linear, $P < 0.001$) as litter size relative to functional teat count increased. Wean-to-estrus interval was longer for sows with the same number of pigs as functional teats ($P < 0.05$) compared to +2 sows with -1 and +1 sows intermediate. Even though piglet removals and mortality were greater as the number of pigs relative to teat count increased, pigs weaned per sow per year (PSY) increased as litter size relative to functional teat count increased (linear, $P < 0.001$). In conclusion, the optimal litter size relative to teat count is dependent on criteria selected. To achieve the lowest piglet mortality and sow BW loss, and highest piglet weaning weight, sows should have one less pig than functional teats after cross-fostering. However, for the highest number of pigs weaned per litter and PSY, sows should have two more pigs than functional teats after cross-fostering. More information is available on this experiment and others at KSUSwine.org. (This study conducted by Abigail K. Jenkins, Sierra M. Collier, Joel M. DeRouchey, Mike D. Tokach, Jason C. Woodworth, Katelyn N. Gaffield, Jordan T. Gebhardt, Robert D. Goodband, Kyle F. Coble, and Paul Corns).

Evaluation of Trypsin Inhibitor Unit Level with or without the Addition of Protease and an In-feed Acidifier on Nursery Pig Growth Performance, Fecal Dry Matter, and Nutrient Digestibility- A total of 360 barrows (DNA 200 \times 400; initially 12.9 ± 0.59 lb) were used in a 40-d growth trial to evaluate the effects of increasing trypsin inhibitor with or without the addition of protease and benzoic acid on nursery pig growth performance, fecal dry matter, and nutrient digestibility. Pigs were weaned at approximately 21 d of age and randomly allotted to pens. Pens of pigs were blocked by initial BW and allotted to one of eight treatments in a randomized complete block design with five pigs per pen and nine pens per treatment across two barns. The eight treatments were arranged in a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ factorial design with main effects of trypsin inhibitor (1.4 or 2.8 TIU/mg of complete feed), protease (none or 50 mg/kg ProAct 360), and benzoic acid (none or 0.5% VovoVitall). Soy flour (80 TIU/mg) was added at the expense of soybean meal (7 TIU/mg) to create the 1.4 or 2.8 TIU/mg of complete feed levels. Diet formulation was based on analyzed nutrient values of the soy flour and soybean meal, assuming digestibility coefficients for soy flour equivalent to those of soybean meal. Experimental diets were fed in three phases: phase 1 from d 0 to 10, phase 2 from d 10 to 24, and phase 3 from d 24 to 40. Feces were collected from three pigs per pen on d 10 and 40 to determine fecal DM, and d 40 fecal samples were used to determine apparent total tract digestibility (ATTD) of DM and CP. The main effect of TIU negatively impacted ($P \leq 0.014$) growth performance in all phases, while the main effect of acidifier tended ($P \leq 0.089$) to improve ADG and F/G in phase 3. No significant main effects of protease in the phases were observed. Overall, from d 0 to 40, there was a three-way interaction observed ($P = 0.024$) where in low TIU diets, pigs fed diets with either acidifier or protease had numerically lower ADG compared to the low TIU control and the low TIU diet with both acidifier and protease. However, in high TIU diets, pigs fed either acidifier or protease had greater ADG compared to the high TIU control diet without any additive and the high TIU diet with both acidifier and protease. A similar TIU \times protease \times acidifier interaction was marginally significant for ADFI ($P = 0.054$). Pigs fed diets with 2.8 TIU/mg of complete feed had increased d 10 fecal DM; however, there were no differences on d 40. For the ATTD of DM and CP, there was an interaction ($P = 0.028$) between TIU and acid, where pigs fed the acidifier had improved ATTD compared to pigs fed no acid in a diet containing 1.4 TIU/mg of complete feed; however, pigs fed 2.8 TIU/mg of complete feed had similar ATTD regardless of acid inclusion. For overall main effects, increased TIU worsened ($P < 0.05$) ADG, ADFI, and F/G; protease tended to worsen ($P = 0.067$) F/G; and acidifier had no effects on growth performance. This study suggests that increased dietary TIU negatively affects nursery pig performance, but the inclusion of either a protease or benzoic acid may help mitigate a portion of the effect of high TIU, even as low as 2.8 TIU/mg of complete feed. More information is available on this experiment and others at KSUSwine.org. (This study conducted by Sierra M. Collier, Skyler D. Ward, Katelyn N. Gaffield, Robert D. Goodband, Mike D. Tokach, Jason C. Woodworth, Joel M. DeRouchey, Hari B. Krishnan, and Jordan T. Gebhardt).

ASI Faculty Highlight



Jason Warner (jasonwarner@ksu.edu or 785-532-1460) Assistant Professor / Extension Cow-Calf Specialist

Jason M. Warner grew up assisting with his family's farming and cow-calf operations in Nebraska. He was active in 4-H and FFA programs as a youth and attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln earning bachelor of science degrees in Animal Science and Grazing Livestock Systems. While at UNL, Jason was a member of the livestock judging and meat animal evaluation teams. Having a strong interest in conducting cow-calf systems research, Jason continued training at UNL and subsequently earned both master's and doctorate degrees in Animal Science. Following completion of his doctorate degree, Jason served beef cattle producers throughout different segments of the cattle industry as part of a private consulting company that focused on providing nutrition and management service to clients.

Jason joined the faculty in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University in 2022 as an Assistant Professor and Extension Cow-Calf Specialist. His objective is to help support the mission of the land-grant system by serving people through extension and research as part of the K-State beef extension team. Jason's specific focus is to help provide leadership for state extension beef programming efforts, disseminate information to the industry, collaborate with allied industry personnel and stakeholders, conduct applied cow-calf systems research, and serve as a point of resource for area specialists and county extension agents. Jason enjoys spending time with and taking care of his family. He and his wife, Danielle, have two boys — Beau and Woodrow.



Jessie Vipham (jessiev@ksu.edu) Associate Professor

Jessie was raised on a registered Angus ranch in Northeastern Nevada. Growing up in a rural part of the country, Jessie was highly active in 4-H and FFA and held several offices at the local, county, and state level for both organizations. Jessie graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. in Agricultural Business in 2009. She received her M.S. (2011; Meat Science) and PhD (2015; Animal Science) from Texas Tech University. Jessie is an Assistant Professor in Food Safety and Food Security. Her research focuses on improving the global understanding of food safety and foodborne disease and their impact on public health, particularly for vulnerable populations. Jessie's research seeks to provide adoptable and applicable solutions for reducing foodborne pathogen contamination in various food value-chains around the world. Jessie has been involved in food safety and food security research in the United States, Central America, South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia.

Jessie is a country girl at heart and enjoys spending time on her family's ranch as much as possible. She maintains her own small herd of registered Angus mother cows there as well. She also enjoys traveling both international and domestic, cooking, and spending time with her adorable dogs, Newt and Dietz.

*We need your input! If you have any suggestions or comments on
News from KSU Animal Sciences,
please let us know by email to katie.smith@ksu.edu*