Livestock Sweepstakes

Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes is scheduled for August 23-24 in Manhattan. The 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes event includes the state 4-H livestock judging contest, meat judging contest, livestock skillathon, and livestock quiz bowl. The members who will represent Kansas at the national 4-H contests for each of these events will be selected during the livestock sweepstakes weekend. Registration information is available through local extension units. All entries must be made by the local county extension offices or extension districts using Cvent. The entry deadline is August 1. Contest details, including the rules, are available on the KSU Youth Livestock website, under 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes at https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/livestock_sweepstakes/. For more information, contact Lexie Hayes (adhayes@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264.)

Save The Date - Beef Stocker Field Day

Save the date for this year's 26th annual KSU Beef Stocker Field Day which will be hosted in Manhattan, KS on Thursday, September 25 at the KSU Beef Stocker Unit. The day will start at 10:00 a.m. with registration and coffee and will conclude with a good old-fashioned Prairie Oyster Fry and Call Hall ice cream.

The schedule is as follows:

10:00 a.m.	Registration/Coffee
10:30 a.m.	Introductions
10:45 a.m	Navigating the Unknowns for the Stocker Operator *Lance Zimmerman, Senior Beef Industry Analyst, RaboBank* *Glynn Tonsor, K-State Department of Agricultural Economics* Moderator: *Wes Ishmael, Hereford World Executive Editor*
Noon	BBQ Brisket Lunch – View Posters
1:00 p.m.	Fueling Performance from the Inside Out: Gut Integrity and Micronutrient Support *Sara Trojan, Technical Services, Kemin Industries*
2:00 p.m.	Making Treatment Choices for Reducing BRD and Death Loss *David Renter, K-State College of Veterinary Medicine*
2:45 p.m.	Break
3:00 p.m.	Theileria, the Anaplasmosis of Stocker Cattle *Gregg Hanzlicek, K-State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory*
4:00 p.m.	Managing Growth in the Dry Lot – the K-State Program Feeding Approach *Colton Weir, PhD student - K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry* Beef x Dairy Growing Strategies *Cole Ellis, Manager and MS Student, K-State Beef Stocker Unit*
5:00 p.m.	Cutting Bull's Lament 2025

Pre-registration is $25 per person and is due by September 11. After that date or onsite the cost is $35 per person. For complete details and registration, visit www.KSUBeef.org. For more information contact Dale Blasi (dblasi@ksu.edu or 785-532-5427) or Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

Upcoming Events

July 19, 2025
Grilling Academy

August 21, 2025
KLA/KSU Ranch Management Field Day
Larson Ranch - Wichita County

August 23-24, 2025
4-H Livestock Sweepstakes

August 28, 2025
KSU/KLA Ranch Management Field Day
Wells Ranch - Woodson County

September 24-26, 2025
HACCP Workshop - Olathe, KS

September 25, 2025
Beef Stocker Field Day

October 18, 2025
ASI Family & Friends Reunion

November 20, 2025
Swine Day

Department of Animal Sciences and Industry
Kansas State University
218 Weber Hall, 1424 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66506
785-532-6533 | asi@ksu.edu

Upcoming Events

Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and KJLS Show Entries

Entries for the **Kansas State Fair Grand Drive** (4-H/FFA youth livestock show) are currently open and will be due **July 15**. A complete nomination does not constitute entry; it only makes animals eligible. All exhibitors and animals must be entered directly through the state fair using ShoWorks. Only online entries will be accepted. Families who state nominated livestock will use the exhibitor name and password created for each child during nominations to login and submit their entries. Late entries will be accepted until July 25, with a late fee. No entries will be accepted after July 25. For more information and to enter, visit https://www.kansasstatefair.com/p/competitions/grand-drive1.

Entries for **KJLS** will be due by **August 15**, also using ShoWorks. They are separate shows, so families will need to login to each show independently when entering. All exhibitors must register online and pay the appropriate entry fees, using the link found on the KJLS website: www.kjls.net. Late entries will be accepted until August 31, but will cost double the original entry fee amount.

Families who plan to show in both state shows will need to enter through each link and pay the appropriate entry fees. So, after entering, they should have a receipt for their Kansas State Fair Grand Drive entries and one for their KJLS entries. Youth who are only showing registered breeding females will submit their YQCA verification at the time of entry.

Continuing this year, county agents and ag teachers will login to the ShoWorks system and approve the entries for exhibitors from their county/chapter. The same process will be used as for nominations. The only difference is agents and ag teachers will need to navigate to the entry link for the Grand Drive and KJLS, respectively, and login to their Club account using the appropriate password. Entries need to be approved between now and July 26 for the Grand Drive and August 31 for KJLS.

For more information regarding entries, contact each show directly. Contact information is posted on their respective websites:
Kansas State Fair Grand Drive - https://www.kansasstatefair.com/p/competitions/grand-drive1
KJLS - https://www.kjls.net/

2025 KLA/KSU Field Days

Dates have been set for the 2025 KLA/Kansas State University Ranch Management Field Days. Larson Ranch, owned by Brady and Kyla Larson, will host the first event August 21 in Wichita County. The August 28 field day will be held in Woodson County at Wells Ranch, owned by Terry Wells. Please mark your calendars for this year's events.
Each event will begin at 3:30 p.m. and include presentations on the history of the host ranch and tours of their cattle handling facilities. At Larson Ranch, we will be joined by Dale Woerner with Texas Tech University, who will share his research on yield grading technology, as well as Brian Vander Ley with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Michael Heaton with the USDA, who will discuss bovine congestive heart failure in feedlot cattle. At Wells Ranch, we will be joined by A.J. Tarpoff, DVM, with Kansas State University, who will share information on the Asian longhorned tick and the transmission of Theileria orientalis, as well as Wade Newland of Newland Ag Drones and a representative from the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition who will highlight resources available for controlling noxious weeds in grazing lands and provide a spray drone demonstration. Both events are free and will conclude with fellowship and a beef dinner. More information will be posted at https://www.kla.org/events-meetings/klak-state-field-days as it becomes available. Please join us for one or both of these exciting events—you do not have to be a KLA member to attend! See you in August!

Save the Date - ASI Family & Friends Reunion

Save the date for this year's K-State ASI Family & Friends Reunion to be hosted Saturday, October 18 at the Stanley Stout Center. Plan now to join us as we recognize the Applied Swine Nutrition Team at K-State as the 2025 Don L. Good Impact Award Winner. Watch for more details at asi.ksu.edu/familyandfriends and on social media. For questions contact Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

HACCP Workshop Hosted in September

Implementing Your Company's HACCP Plan will be September 24-26 2025, in Olathe, Kansas. 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.

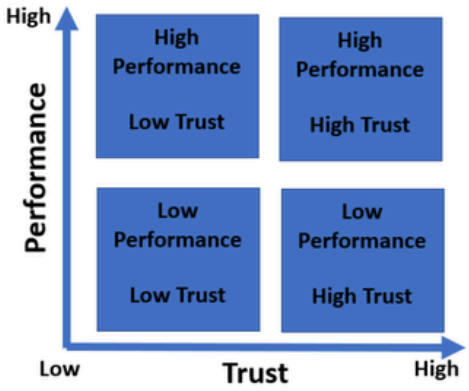
What's New

Management Minute

"Performance, Trust, Teams and Leaders"

Justin Waggoner
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Garden City, KS

Is performance more important than trust in a leader? Leaders are often selected based on their performance or skills within their field and not necessarily their trustworthiness. Trust is much more challenging to asses than skills or performance. However, trust and the ability to build trust within a team is essential for a leader. Does this person have my back? Will they support me even if I make a mistake? Leadership expert Simon Sinek plots performance and trust against each other on a relative scale from low to high. Leaders who are high performing but low trust are often described as toxic, and the ideally the best leaders would rank within the High Performance/High Trust category. Sinek also suggests that in many organizations leaders who are moderate/low on the performance scale but instill a high degree of trust will be more effective than those that rank higher on the performance scale. Performance and job-related skills are important in a leader, but so are the soft skills, emotional intelligence and trustworthiness. A short video of Sinek's perspective on the importance of trust may be accessed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTo9e3ILmms.



Feedlot Facts

"Focus on Feedlots: Cattle Performance in 2024"

Justin Waggoner
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Garden City, KS

The K-State Focus on Feedlots is a monthly publication that summarizes feedlot performance and closeout data from several cooperating commercial cattle feeding operations in Kansas. Each year, I summarize the data from the monthly reports, in an effort to document annual fed cattle performance and cost of gain. The tables below summarizes the average performance and closeout data reported for steers and heifers in 2024.

Annual Closeout Summary: Steers

Year	Total Head	Final Weight	Days on Feed	Avg. Daily Gain	Feed/Gain (Dry Basis)	% Death Loss	Cost of Gain/Cwt
2024	291370	1461 (1414-1514)	194 (177-206)	3.43 (3.14-3.75)	6.43 (6.20-6.82)	2.25 (1.38-2.76)	$127.58 ($111.03-$143.26)

Annual Closeout Summary: Heifers

Year	Total Head	Final Weight	Days on Feed	Avg. Daily Gain	Feed/Gain (Dry Basis)	% Death Loss	Cost of Gain/Cwt
2024	209532	1311 (1273-1357)	185 (165-204)	3.09 (2.89-3.39)	6.84 (6.50-7.32)	2.40 (1.58-3.36)	$122.08 ($108.04-$136.78)

The monthly reports from the K-State Focus on Feedlots may be accessed at https://www.asi.k-state.edu/about/newsletters/focus-on-feedlots/ or if you wish to subscribe to the monthly email distribution list please email jwaggon@ksu.edu.

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

KSU Cow-Calf Checklist - July 2025

Management Considerations for September 2025

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

Cow Herd Management

- For spring-calving cowherds:
  - If not already done, make plans for weaning calves.
    - Test your forages and have feedstuffs on hand prior to weaning.
    - Check and clean waterers and prepare weaning/receiving pens.
  - Evaluate cow BCS at weaning.
    - Record scores with the BCS Record Book from KSRE!
    - Use BCS to guide the fall nutrition program.
    - Female requirements are lowest at weaning so weight and BCS can be added more easily in early fall rather than waiting until closer to calving.
  - Schedule pregnancy checking and fall health work if not already done.
    - How were pregnancy rates relative to last year?
    - Do we need to re-think our fall/winter nutrition program?
  - Evaluate the cost of gain relative to the value of gain when making feeding and marketing decisions for cull cows.
- For fall-calving cowherds:
  - The final 60 days prior to calving represents the last opportunity to add BCS economically.
  - Ensure mature cows are ≥ 5.0 and 2–4-year-old females are ≥ 6.0 at calving.
  - Review your calving health protocols as needed.
  - Have calving equipment cleaned and available to use as needed.
  - Plan to adjust your nutrition program to match needs of lactating cows.
  - Use the estrus synchronization planner (https://www.iowabeefcenter.org/estrussynch.html) to help plan fall synchronization protocols.
- Plan your mineral supplementation for this coming fall and winter.
  - Record date and amount offered and calculate herd consumption.
  - If consumption is 2X the target intake, then cost will be too!
  - If using fly control products, continue to use them until recommended times (based on date of first frost) for your area.
  - Risk of grass tetany is greatest for lactating cows.Consider magnesium levels in mineral supplements for cows grazing cool-season forages and winter annuals this fall.
- Schedule breeding soundness exams for bulls used for fall service.
  - Monitor BCS, particularly on young bulls.
  - If bulls are BCS ≤ 5.0 after summer breeding, consider supplementing to regain BCS going into fall.

Calf Management

- If you are creep feeding spring-born calves, continue to closely monitor intake and calf condition/fleshiness going into the fall until weaning.
- Schedule any pre-weaning vaccination or processing activities if not already done.
- Consider the economic value by implanting nursing fall-born calves and weaned spring-born calves.
- If not already done, schedule your breeding protocols for fall 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

- Employ multiple strategies, chemistries for late-season fly/insect control.
- Take inventory of and begin sampling harvested forages for fall feed needs.
  - Use the forage inventory calculator (https://www.agmanager.info/hay-inventory-calculator).
  - Balance forage inventories with fall/winter grazing acres.
- If planning to harvest corn or sorghum silage:
  - Prepare your pile/bunker site and equipment.
  - If using a custom harvester, communicate with them well in advance.
  - Closely monitor whole plant moisture levels.
  - Have silage tarps in place and ready to cover once harvest is complete.
- 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).
- With high feeder calf prices, consider price risk management tools.
- Visit with your local FSA and extension office if you plan to utilize CRP acres for emergency forage use or for information on other assistance programs.

What's New for Cattle Producers

Individual Sweet Bran Components in High-Forage Rations Fed to Holstein Steers Contribute to Changes in Nutrient Digestibility- The ruminal and total tract digestibility of high-forage diets containing individual components of Sweet Bran (corn germ meal, corn bran, and corn steep liquor) fed to Holstein steers were evaluated. Sweet Bran (Cargill Corn Milling, Blair, NE) is a wet corn gluten feed product that consists of a proprietary blend of corn bran, corn germ meal, and corn steep liquor. This study was conducted to evaluate the effect of the individual components of Sweet Bran on digestion. Twelve cannulated Holstein steers were housed at the Kansas State University Feed Intake Facility with continuous access diets presented in automated feed bunks and were divided into four groups with different diets: 1) Control (no Sweet Bran components); and diets containing 2) corn germ meal (germ); 3) corn bran (bran); or 4) corn steep liquor (steep). The study had four periods, each lasting 23 days. The first 18 days were for diet adaptation, and ruminal, duodenal, and fecal samples were collected from days 19 to 23.

The Bottom Line: Corn steep liquor contributed to greater digestibility percentages, while corn germ meal and corn bran treatments were similar with respect to digestibility of most nutrients. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Cattlemen's Day Report at KSUBeef.org. *(This study conducted by Ludmila de Souza Monteiro and James S. Drouillard).*

The Effects of Aging Time on the Eating Quality of Biceps Femoris Steaks-This study evaluated the sensory, instrumental color, and tenderness characteristics of biceps femoris steaks aged from 14 to 70 days. Beef sirloin top butt sub-primal cuts (n = 80) were collected from a commercial processing facility and aged at 35.6°F and 39.2°F throughout the duration of their aging periods. After aging, the biceps femoris and gluteus medius muscles were separated, and 1-in thick steaks were fabricated, packaged, frozen at -4°F, and stored for subsequent analysis. The steaks underwent instrumental evaluations for raw and cooked color traits, tenderness, and consumer sensory preferences.

Results: There were no differences ($P > 0.05$) in the percentage of samples rated acceptable for flavor, juiciness, tenderness, or overall. Moreover, there were no differences ($P > 0.05$) in flavor, juiciness, tenderness, or overall liking among the different aging periods. Furthermore, no differences ($P > 0.05$) were observed in the percentage of cook loss, Warner Bratzler Shear Force, or cooked color readings among aging treatments. However, raw steaks aged 14 and 28 days had higher ($P < 0.05$) a* (redness) and b* (yellowness) values than steaks aged 42, 49, or 70 days.

The Bottom Line: Despite minor differences in raw color, the aging period had minimal impact on overall eating quality, indicating that within the studied range, the aging process has only a minimal effect on the quality traits of biceps femoris steaks. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Cattlemen's Day Report at KSUBeef.org. *This study conducted by Mason J. Prester, Lauren M. Frink, Stephanie L. Witberler, Jerrad F. Legako, Dale R. Woerner, Rhonda K. Miller, Chris R. Kerth, Mahesh N. Nair, Jessica M. Lancaster, and Travis G. O'Quinn).*

The Effects of Aging Period and Freezing Sequence on Consumer Palatability Ratings, Tenderness, and Color Stability of Longissimus Dorsi, Semitendinosus, and Biceps Femoris Steaks- The objective of this study was to examine the effect of freezing and aging sequence on palatability, overall tenderness, and objective color readings of three different beef muscles and two aging periods. The longissimus dorsi (LD), semitendinosus (ST), and biceps femoris (BF) were fabricated into 1-in steaks and assigned to one of the following treatment combinations: age (21 days) then freeze, freeze then age (21 days), age (28 days) then freeze, or freeze then age (28 days). Consumers evaluated samples for flavor, juiciness, tenderness, overall liking, and acceptability for each sensory trait. Samples designated for Warner-Bratzler shear force (WBSF) were allowed 20 minutes to bloom for raw color evaluation and then cooked for analysis.

Results: The freezing treatment or aging period did not impact ($P > 0.05$) consumer sensory rating of tenderness, flavor, or overall liking. The consumers rated the LD as the juiciest ($P < 0.05$) compared to the ST and BF. As expected, the LD resulted in the highest ($P < 0.05$) tenderness rating for the consumer. The LD had the lowest ($P < 0.05$) WBSF values, indicating it was the most tender. Within flavor, the consumers rated the LD as the most flavorful ($P < 0.05$) followed by the ST, and then the BF. For raw and cooked color, the L* (lightness) values differed ($P < 0.05$) between all main effects, including freezing treatments (Age Freeze > Freeze Age), aging periods (21 days > 28 days), and muscle (ST > LD > BF). These results showed freezing and then aging or aging and then freezing does not affect palatability or shear force values. This indicates that reversing the freezing order is not an effective way to improve the tenderness of historically tough muscles.

The Bottom Line: The results indicate reversing the typical age and freezing order does not improve tenderness and therefore is not a valid way to improve palatability of historically tough muscles. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Cattlemen's Day Report at KSUBeef.org. *(This study conducted by Taylor M. Dieball, Greta E. Huber, Samuel F. Stickley, Kiersten M. Gundersen, Kasey R. Maddock Carlin, Morgan D. Zumbaugh, Michael D. Chao, Jessie L. Vipham, Travis G. O'Quinn, and Erin S. Beyer).*

What's New for Swine Producers

Effects of Flavolac Top Dress on Sow Body Weight and Litter Performance- A total of 271 mixed-parity sows (PIC 1050) were used to evaluate the effect of feeding Flavolac in lactation diets on sow farrowing performance and litter growth performance during summer conditions. Flavolac (Agroceres Multimix; Rio Claro, Sao Paulo, Brazil) is a commercial product containing several compounds, including AAs, antioxidants, botanicals, direct fed-microbials, and vitamin-like compounds that have been shown to improve litter weaning weight or preweaning mortality in previous research. The experiment was conducted at a commercial sow farm located in northwest Texas. A total of four rooms (288 stalls; 144 stalls per treatment) were used. At approximately d 112 to 114 of gestation, sows were moved to the farrowing house and randomly allotted to one of two treatments based on parity and caliper score. Treatments consisted of a control (no Flavolac) or the control with an added Flavolac top-dress (80 g/d in a single feeding). Sows were weighed before entering the farrowing house and at weaning. Sows were provided approximately 4 lb per day of a common lactation diet without Flavolac pre-farrowing. After farrowing, sows were provided ad libitum access to lactation feed. The weaning age averaged approximately 21.3 d. There was no evidence of difference ($P > 0.10$) in sow at entry, weaning, or overall BW change. There was no evidence of differences ($P > 0.10$) for sow entry caliper, weaning caliper score, caliper score change, or average daily lactation feed disappearance. In addition, there was no evidence of difference ($P > 0.10$) in total litter, or piglet birth BW. However, administration of Flavolac tended ($P < 0.10$) to increase litter weaning weight, total litter weight gain, and litter average daily gain. Moreover, inclusion of Flavolac led to a tendency ($P = 0.091$) for a reduction in pre-weaning mortality and therefore an improvement in percentage of pigs weaned. In summary, the inclusion of Flavolac during the lactation period resulted in a tendency for reduced pre-weaning mortality and tended to improve total litter weight gain, and thus weight at weaning. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUSwine.org. *(This study conducted by Rafe Q. Royall, Karley R. Stephens, Mike D. Tokach, Jason C. Woodworth, Joel M. DeRouchey, Jordan T. Gebhardt, Robert D. Goodband, Analia M. Ribeiro da Silva, and Kyle F. Coble).*

Evaluating the Effects of Increasing Sodium Diformate on Nursery Pig Growth Performance and Fecal Dry Matter- A total of 360 weanling barrows (DNA 200 × 400, DNA; initially 13.1 ± 0.12 lb) were used in a 38-d growth trial to evaluate the effects of dietary sodium diformate on nursery pig growth performance and fecal dry matter. At weaning, pigs were randomly assigned to pens with five pigs per pen and 12 pens per treatment. There were six dietary treatments formulated to provided none, 0.40, 0.60, 0.80, 1.00, and 1.20% sodium diformate (Formi NDF, ADDCON, Nordic AS, Porsgrunn, Norway) added at the expense of corn. Experimental diets were fed in three phases: phase 1 from weaning to d 9, phase 2 from d 9 to 24, and phase 3 from d 24 to 38. From d 0 to 24 (phases 1 and 2), increasing sodium diformate improved (linear, $P = 0.001$) F/G. However, sodium diformate did not affect ($P > 0.10$) ADG or ADFI. From d 24 to 38 (phase 3) and overall (d 0 to 38), there was no evidence of differences ($P > 0.10$) in any of the growth performance criteria. There was no evidence for differences ($P > 0.10$) in fecal DM on d 9. However, fecal DM decreased (linear, $P < 0.05$) as sodium diformate increased on d 24 with pigs fed 0.40% sodium diformate having the highest percentage fecal DM. Additionally, there was evidence for a main effect of day ($P < 0.001$) with fecal DM being lower on d 24 compared to d 9. In conclusion, these data suggest increasing sodium diformate has the potential to improve feed efficiency in the early nursery period but did not affect performance in the late nursery. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUSwine.org. *(This study conducted by Katelyn N. Gaffield, Gracie J. Becker, Jessica L. Smallfield, Joel M. DeRouchey, Mike D. Tokach, Jason C. Woodworth, Robert D. Goodband, Troy Lohrmann, Christian Lückstädt, and Jordan T. Gebhardt).*

Effect of Grinding and Pelleting Sorghum Grain Varieties with a Hammermill on Subsequent Particle Size, Flowability, and Pelleting Durability Index- Two experiments were conducted to determine the processing characteristics of yellow corn and three varieties of sorghum grain: red non-waxy, red waxy, and white waxy. Experiment 1 was conducted with consistent hammermill parameters to determine the impact of each respective grain source on subsequent particle size (d_{gw}), standard deviation (S_{gw}), and angle of repose (AoR). The four grain sources ground within the first experiment were then formulated into diets to be manufactured into pelleted feed. All pelleting parameters were held consistent throughout the duration of the experiment to determine the effects of different grain sources on the pelleting process and subsequent pellet durability index (PDI). Results within exp. 1 determined the four grain sources to have different d_{gw} values. To account for the confounding factor of particle size, exp. 2 was conducted with the same experimental design, however, aimed to achieve a consistent target d_{gw} within each of the four grain types. Data were analyzed as a randomized block design using the GLIMMIX procedure in SAS v9.4. When grinding with consistent hammermill parameters, d_{gw} was greater ($P = 0.001$) in both waxy varieties of sorghum when compared to red non-waxy sorghum and yellow corn. Yellow corn had a greater ($P < 0.001$) S_{gw} when compared to that of the sorghum grain varieties. Waxy sorghum grain had improved ($P < 0.001$) AoR in comparison to the other grain sources. When grinding to a consistent particle size, the sorghum varieties had improved AoR values ($P < 0.001$) when compared to yellow corn. Finally, both red and white waxy sorghum-based diets had improved PDI ($P < 0.05$) within both experiment 1 and 2 when compared to red non-waxy and yellow corn-based diets. In conclusion, waxy sorghum grain had significant impacts in feed processing characteristics such as a greater d_{gw} and an improved PDI when compared to yellow corn, thus representing possible improvements for feed processing quality when using these respective varieties of sorghum grain. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUSwine.org. *(This study conducted by Walter G. Friesen, Haley K. Ottot, Charles R. Stark, and Chad B. Paulk).*

ASI Faculty Highlight

Teresa Douthit (douthit@ksu.edu or 785-532-1268)
Interim Department Head / Professor

A native of St. Francis, KS, Teresa Douthit was raised on a family farm that produced a variety of crops and registered horned Hereford cattle. While in St. Francis, Dr. Douthit showed horses, was active in 4H and FFA, and was a member of several state champion judging teams.

Dr. Douthit then judged livestock at Butler County Community College and later at KSU. She was also on the K-State Horse Judging Team that won the All-American Quarter Horse Congress in 1998. She graduated summa cum laude from KSU with a degree in animal science in 1999. She then completed an MS under Dr. Randel Raub in equine nutrition. While working on her MS, Teresa was an assistant coach for the KSU horse judging team and helped form the very first KSU equestrian team.

Teresa went to Colorado State University in 2001 for a PhD in reproductive physiology. There she coached the horse judging team to two national championships at Arabian Nationals. She worked under Drs. Gordon Niswender and Jason Bruemmer in studying luteal function in mares and ewes.

In 2004, Dr. Douthit returned to K-State to accept a joint appointment with animal science (40%) and the equestrian team (60%). After serving as head coach to the KSU varsity equestrian team and coaching the team to a Reserve National Championship (along with producing several national champion riders), Dr. Douthit changed gears and became a full-time faculty member in the ASI department. In November 2006, she became an Assistant Professor in Equine Nutrition here at K-State. Since then, she has taught a variety of equine and nutrition courses and developed a research program focused on hindgut function in the horse. She has advised undergraduate and graduate students and has served on a number of university, college, and departmental committees. In 2024-2025 she was the Faculty Senate President at K-State. On July 6, 2025, she began serving as the interim department head for Animal Sciences & Industry.

She and her family reside on a ranch south of Junction City. Her husband feeds some cattle and together they raise performance horses.

Billy Brown (brownb@k-state.edu or 785-532-7974)
Assistant Professor - Dairy Cattle Nutrition

Billy grew up on his family's beef and hay operations during their time in Louisiana, Texas, and Kansas. In particular, it was an experience of milking dairy cows at a local dairy during the summer months that piqued his interest in the dairy industry. This lead him to pursue dairy-related activities in youth organizations to continue to fuel his interest. Billy studied animal science with a dairy emphasis at Kansas State University, before completing a Master's degree in dairy cattle nutrition at Michigan State University. He took a 5-year break from academia to promote Kansas agriculture while working at the Kansas Department of Agriculture. In particular, he worked to expand the state's burgeoning dairy industry, led beef genetics trade missions to Latin America, and aided general agribusiness in establishing and growing within Kansas. Next, Billy completed a doctoral program in dairy cattle nutrition at KSU, followed by postdoctoral training at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During all of his training, Billy broadly studied mechanisms of feed intake regulation, feeding behavior, and feed intake prediction modeling in lactating cows, in addition to applied studies in feed and forage quality, calf developmental programming, and dairy cattle nutrition.

Joining the faculty at KSU in 2022, Billy has a 60% teaching, 40% research appointment. He will be responsible for teaching introductory dairy and general nutrition courses. His research program will focus on dairy cattle nutritional physiology, with a particular interest in elucidating mechanisms contributing to variation in nutrient utilization and feed intake regulation in lactating dairy cows and development programming in calves. Billy and his wife, Jordan, live in Wamego.

Jobs Available - Now Hiring

Animal Technician I (Job # 519838)- This is a full time university support staff, term position. This position provides essential workload and responsibilities for the KSU Swine Unit associated with animal care, and well-being. The K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI) serves students, livestock producers and the animal and food industries through teaching, research and education. For more information or to apply, visit https://careers.k-state.edu/jobs/animal-technician-i-manhattan-kansas-united-states-e10d3751-1b5e-4a1a-bac8-06d0b173f174

Animal Health Instructor (Job #519925)- This is a full time instructor position focused on Animal Health. This non-tenure track teaching faculty role is dedicated to delivering high-quality instruction to both on-campus and distance students. The successful candidate will contribute to the department's undergraduate mission through effective teaching, academic advising, recruitment, retention, and mentorship initiatives. The primary focus of the successful candidate's teaching program will be on the health of livestock, companion animals, and/or horses, but may include contributions in other areas, depending upon departmental needs and areas of expertise. The individual in this role will collaborate with current and future faculty members within ASI and the College of Agriculture. Interdisciplinary collaborations across K-State are also encouraged. The instructor will play a key role in supporting student needs and future career goals by shaping and enhancing a progressive curriculum that aligns with current production practices and future needs of the animal health industry. For more information or to apply visit https://careers.k-state.edu/jobs/animal-health-instructor-manhattan-kansas-united-states.

Companion Animal Management Instructor (Job #519923)- This is a full time instructor postion specializing in Companion Animal Management. This non-tenure track teaching faculty role is dedicated to delivering high-quality instruction to both on-campus and distance students. The successful candidate will contribute to the department's undergraduate mission through effective teaching, recruitment, retention, and mentorship initiatives. The primary teaching focus will be on companion animals and their management but may include contributions in other areas depending upon departmental needs and areas of expertise. The individual in this role will collaborate with current and future faculty members within ASI and the Grain Science & Industry's pet food program. Other collaborations within and external to the College of Agriculture at K-State are encouraged. The instructor will play a key role in shaping and enhancing a progressive curriculum aligned with industry needs and student career goals. For more information or to apply visit https://careers.k-state.edu/jobs/companion-animal-management-instructor-manhattan-kansas-united-states.

Animal Technician II (Job #519737)- This is a full time University Support Staff position. Work schedules will depend on the needs determined by the DTRC manager and availability of the incumbent. This position will be responsible for equipment operation, equipment maintenance, and facility maintenance, and in a smaller portion, general animal care and milking. For more information or to apply, visit https://careers.k-state.edu/jobs/animal-technician-ii-hays-kansas-united-states-e0fc7b2d-dce4-4b27-a213-3ca51a9b7b3c.

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