KSU Swine Day



This year's Swine Day will be hosted on November 19 at the K-State Alumni Center. The trade show, with more than 30 exhibitors, will begin at 8 a.m., followed by the program.

The schedule is as follows:

8:00 a.m. Technology Trade Show - *Morning refreshments and coffee are available at this time*
9:15 a.m. Welcome - *Dr. Teresa Douthit, Interim Department Head, K-State Animal Sciences and Industry*
9:30 a.m. K-State Ag Innovation - *Dr. Dan Moser, Eldon Gideon Dean of K-State's College of Agriculture*
9:45 a.m. K-State Applied Swine Nutrition Research Updates - *K-State Swine Faculty Research Highlights of Nutrition, Management, Feed Processing and Feed Safety*
11:30 a.m. Lunch with Trade Show
1:30 p.m. Latest Update on K-State Applied Swine Nutrition Research *(continued)*
2:30 p.m. Evaluating Technology: From Concept to On-Farm Implementation- *Schwartz Farm Inc.*
Dr. Annie Lerner, Director of Nutrition and Research
Sydney Rosenstengel, Production Technology Specialist
3:15 p.m. Question and Answer Session
3:30 p.m. Reception

On-site registration is available for $50 per participant. The complete schedule and online registration information can be found at asi.k-state.edu/events/swine-day/. For more information, contact Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

Save the Date - K-State Junior Producer Days

We are excited to announce the dates for the 2027 K-State Junior Producer Days! The Junior Swine Producer Day will be Saturday, March 6. Topics will range from selection to health, meat science and showmanship. The deadline to register is February 8. The cost is $25/person by the deadline, or $35 after. Only those registered by February 8 will receive a t-shirt. Junior Meat Goat Producer Day will be hosted Saturday, March 20. Topics will include selection to nutrition, health, daily management and showmanship. Registration will be due February 22. The cost is $25/person and t-shirts are only guaranteed for those who sign up by the deadline. Late registrations will be $35/person.

Youth of all ages, parents, leaders, extension agents, and ag teachers are invited to participate in these one-day, family educational experiences. K-State faculty members, graduate students, veterinarians, extension agents, guest speakers and former exhibitors will provide the sessions. Both events will be hosted at the Bilbrey Family Event Center. Everyone who attends must register. There will also be an opportunity to tour the K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Center on Saturday afternoon, following the program for junior meat goat producer day. Watch the KSU Youth Livestock Program website and Facebook page for registration details later this fall!

Grilling Academy: Brats to BBQ! - Dec 12

Register now for this year's K-State Grilling Academy: Brats to BBQ! This event will be hosted on Saturday, December 12 in Weber Hall and Western Star Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation. Attendees will have the chance to get hands-on experience making your own bratwurst, learn the art of BBQ and smoking, and put their skills to the test in a tri-tip vs. picanha cook-off! Throughout the event you can enjoy steak tastings, a bratwurst lunch, prizes, and sausage to take home. Come hungry and ready for some friendly competition! The cost to register is $75 per person, and will be filled on a first come first served basis. The deadline to register is December 7. For more information or to register, visit https://www.asi.k-state.edu/events/grillingacademy/grillingacademy.html or contact Erin Beyer (erbeyer@ksu.edu) or Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

Upcoming Events

November 17-19, 2026
Dairy Manager School - Garden City, KS

November 19, 2026
Swine Day

February 2, 2027
Swine Profitability Conference

March 4, 2027
Stockmen's Dinner

March 5, 2027
Cattlemen's Day
Legacy Bull Sale

March 6, 2027
K-State Junior Swine Producer Day

March 20, 2027
K-State Junior Meat Goat Producer 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

What's New

Management Minute

"Challenge Coins in the Workplace"

Justin Waggoner
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Garden City, KS

Recently, I was given a challenge coin from an organization. Later as I examined the coin more closely, I was impressed by amount of information regarding the organization represented on this simple token. We often discuss the importance of communicating our "why" within organizations and business, and building comradery among employees and internal teams. As an organization distilling the pillars of your organization and communicating your "why" and "what you do" and mission statement on the space available on 2 sides of 1.5-inch coin requires consideration and intentionality. In terms of building organizational and team culture, challenge coins especially if linked to special initiatives or projects represent a great way to recognize individuals on those teams. The U.S. military has reportedly used challenge coins for over a century (unsanctioned as use was not official) and some trace the history of challenge coins to the roman legions. The use of these simple and sometimes elaborately designed tokens has withstood the test of time in the military because they possess intrinsic value to those that possess them. There are numerous ways to build organization culture, and challenge coins may be another tool that managers and leaders may want to consider.

Feedlot Facts

"Pen maintenance, now is the time"

Justin Waggoner
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Garden City, KS

Many areas of Kansas have recently experienced rainfall events. Although, rainfall is always welcome it does create challenges for cattle producers. There are very few issues, outside of health, that can impact cattle performance and decrease cattle comfort more than muddy pen conditions and even more so when combined with cold temperatures. The impact of mud on cattle performance is profound, 4-8 inches of mud reduces gain by approximately 14% and 12-24 inches of mud reduces gain by approximately 25%. Thus, for every 4 days cattle have to walk through hock-deep mud, add another day and 20 lbs of dry matter feed intake to reach finish and add 1 additional day for every 7 days of mud over their pasterns.

The key to managing mud in feedlot pens is preparation and pen maintenance. Especially coming into the Fall and Winter months, when more time is required to dry pens due to the reduced day length and cooler temperatures. Manure piles should not impede the ability of the pen to drain and should be relocated and stockpiled in other areas as soon as possible. Pen drainage areas should be routinely checked to make sure manure has not accumulated under fences and areas that may hold water (holes) should be repaired. Pen mounds should be repaired and should ideally be constructed in a manner where cattle can step off the mound onto the feeding apron.

Finally, if muddy conditions do occur, have a plan in place to remove portion of the mud or clear pathways to the water tank and feed apron. After several days of severely muddy pens, you can watch cattle follow the box scraper and lay down in the firm, dry area the scraper leaves behind.

For more information on feedlot design and several of the points mentioned above see "Planning and Designing Cattle Feedlots" publication #MF2316 https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/planning-and-designing-cattle-feedlots_MF2316.pdf

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

KSU Cow-Calf Checklist - November 2026

"Management Considerations for January 2027"

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

Cow Herd Management

- Body condition score both spring- and fall-calving cows.
  - Target BCS for spring calvers at calving: 5 for mature cows, 6 for young females
  - Adjust nutrition program prior to calving as needed for spring-calvers
  - Ensure fall-calvers maintain BCS through winter if still nursing calves
- Continue grazing crop residues and dormant pastures as they are available but be prepared to move cattle or provide supplemental feed as conditions dictate.
- Be ready to react to severe winter weather effects on cow nutrient requirements by providing additional feed.
- Review your nutrition program and test harvested forages for the following:
  - Moisture/dry matter
  - Crude protein
  - Energy (NE_m, NE_g, and/or TDN)
  - Fiber components (ADF, NDF)
  - Macro-minerals (calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, salt)
  - Nitrates when appropriate
  - Starch for silage crops
- Manage young and mature bulls during the offseason to ensure bulls are BCS ≥ 5.0 prior to the next season of use and have adequate winter protection.

Calf Management

- Consider your plans for weaning and marketing fall-born calves.
  - Watch the feeder calf market
  - Evaluate your feed resources and cost of gain
  - Talk to prospective buyers in advance of selling
- Review/update your health protocols as needed for newborn calves.
- Consider either supplementing fall-calving pairs or creep feeding fall-born calves to maintain calf performance on low-quality winter forages.
- Monitor replacement heifers to ensure they are adequately growing and developing, take check weights and adjust your plane of nutrition accordingly.

General Management

- Update herd records and use them to assess performance.
- Review your genetic selection strategy to ensure your goals are met.
- Develop and/or revise your risk management plans for the coming year.
- Discuss herd health protocols with your veterinarian.
- Take inventory of supplies and clean equipment prior to spring calving.
- Ensure plans are in place to provide bedding, wind protection, and snow removal.
- Make arrangements to ensure sufficient water is available in freezing conditions.
- Evaluate your short and long-term herd inventory goals with current conditions.
- Renew lease arrangements as necessary.
- Schedule an annual meeting with your lender, insurance agent, and extension professional.

What's New for Swine Producers

Effect of a Novel Dietary Antioxidant on Growth Performance and Antioxidant Status of Nursery Pigs- To evaluate the effect of dietary S-ascisic acid (S-ABA) supplementation on the growth performance and antioxidant status of pigs, 320 nursery pigs (DNA 241 × 600; initially 12.0 ± 1.13 lb) were weaned at approximately 18 d of age and assigned to pens in a generalized randomized block design with gender and weight category as blocking factors. Pigs were fed a common phase 1 diet from weaning to d 7. On d 8 post-weaning, pen of pigs (14.2 ± 1.25 lb) within gender × weight blocks were randomly allotted to one of four dietary treatments. Treatments included a conventional nursery diet (Control) and three diets that used the Control formulation with increasing S-ABA (0.5, 1.0 and 5.0 ppm). Treatments were provided during phases 2 (d 0 to 14) and 3 (d 14 to 35). Growth performance was measured weekly. Additionally, 32 pigs on d 0 and two pigs per pen on d 14 and 35 were bled to assess the erythrocytes' total glutathione (GSH+GSSG), reduced glutathione (GSH), oxidized to reduced glutathione ratio (GSSG:GSH), serum total antioxidant capacity (TAC), superoxide dismutase (SOD), and thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS). At the termination of the trial, two pigs in each pen were euthanized and duodenal, jejunal and ileal mucosa were collected to measure GSH+GSSG, GSH and GSSG:GSH. No interactive effect on growth performance between S-ABA and gender was observed throughout the study. Additionally, increasing S-ABA did not influence growth performance. There was also no interaction between S-ABA and collection day on antioxidant parameters.

Erythrocyte GSH+GSSG tended to increase with higher S-ABA in the diet (linear, $P = 0.056$) on d 14, while GSH showed a similar trend at d 14 (linear, $P = 0.096$) and d 35 (quadratic, $P = 0.100$). The d 35 GSSG:GSH ratio decreased with increasing S-ABA in the diet (quadratic, $P = 0.022$). Serum TAC, SOD and TBARS were not influenced by S-ABA in the diet. Similarly, dietary S-ABA had no effect on GSH+GSSG, GSH and GSSG:GSH in the intestinal mucosa. In conclusion, supplementation of S-ABA in the diet improved the antioxidant status of nursery pigs by reducing the erythrocyte GSSG:GSH ratio without negative effects on growth performance. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUSwine.org. *(This study conducted by Ron Aldwin S. Navales, Jamil Faccin, Mike D. Tokach, Izuru Shinzato, Joel M. DeRouchey, Katelyn N. Gaffield, Jordan T. Gebhardt, Robert D. Goodband, Theresa Rathbun, Jason C. Woodworth, and others).*

Effects of Copper Feeding Strategy on Growth Performance of Nursery Pigs - A total of 2,204 pigs (PIC 337 × 1050, initially 11.76 ± 0.19 lb) were used in a 38-d study to determine the effect of copper (Cu) feeding strategy on the growth performance of nursery pigs. Pigs were weaned at approximately 20 d of age and randomly allotted to pens with 29 pigs per pen. Pens of pigs were blocked by initial BW and allotted to one of four treatments in a randomized complete block design with 19 pens per treatment across two rooms. Treatment diets were formulated in three phases and fed based on feed budgets of 4 lb/pig and 12 lb/pig for phases 1 and 2, respectively, and phase 3 was fed for the remainder of the trial. Four Cu feeding strategies consisting of increased levels of Cu in the different nursery phases were evaluated. Feeding strategy 1 served as the control with no pharmacological levels of Cu, strategy 2 included pharmacological Cu levels in only phase 3, strategy 3 consisted of pharmacological Cu in phases 2 and 3, and strategy 4 included pharmacological Cu in all three phases. Within each experimental phase, there were two diets provided, either a base level of Cu (17 mg/kg) or pharmacological levels (167 mg/kg) of Cu. The base level of Cu was provided from CuSO in the vitamin/trace mineral premix. In diets that fed Cu above the base level, 150 mg/kg Cu from tribasic copper chloride (SAM Nutrition, Bloomington, MN) was added in addition to the base level. Diets followed common industry practice of Zn supplementation using ZnO in phases 1 and 2 to provide Zn inclusion above basal nutritional levels (approximately 3,000 mg/kg Zn in phase 1, approximately 2,000 mg/kg Zn in phase 2, and 110 mg/kg Zn in phase 3 for all treatments). Pigs were weighed and feed disappearance was measured to determine ADG, ADFI, and feed efficiency. From d 0 to 10 (phase 1), there was no evidence of difference ($P > 0.10$) in performance between pigs fed the base level of Cu and pigs fed a diet containing 167 mg/kg added Cu. From d 10 to 24 (phase 2), pigs fed added Cu had a greater ADG ($P = 0.012$) and ADFI ($P = 0.021$) compared to pigs fed the base level of Cu, with no evidence of a difference for F/G. Pigs fed added Cu for phases 1 and 2 had a greater ADG than pigs fed the control with no pharmacological levels of Cu ($P = 0.047$), with pigs fed pharmacological Cu levels in only phase 3, and pigs fed pharmacological Cu in phases 2 and 3 being intermediate. From d 24 to 38 (phase 3), there were no differences in performance between pigs fed the base level Cu and those fed diets with added Cu. However, pigs fed pharmacological Cu in phases 2 and 3 had numerically greater ADG compared with the other feeding strategies. There were no differences between feeding strategies in overall growth performance (d 0 to 38) or removals and mortality. These data suggest that when pharmacological levels of Zn are used, nursery growth performance can be improved by the addition of pharmacological levels of Cu in the phase 2 diet; however, the improvement did not have an effect on the overall ADG, ADFI, feed efficiency, removals or mortality. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUSwine.org. *(This study conducted by Samantha A. Swanson, Jordan T. Gebhardt, Jason C. Woodworth, Mike D. Tokach, Joel M. DeRouchey, Robert D. Goodband, Katelyn N. Gaffield, Matt Einarson).*

ASI Faculty Highlight



Payton Dahmer (dahmerp@ksu.edu or 417-448-4934)
Instructor & Livestock Judging Coach

Dr. Payton Dahmer grew up on a small farm in Nevada, Missouri, where his family raised and exhibited all species of livestock across the country. He earned his associate degree from Butler Community College in 2017, where he was a member of the nationally recognized Livestock Judging Team that won multiple national contests and was named Team of the Year. He then transferred to Kansas State University to complete his B.S. in Animal Sciences and Industry, competing on the 2018 Reserve National Champion Livestock Judging Team and the 2018 National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Team. He was recognized as a member of both the 2017 All-American Junior College Team and the 2018 All-American Senior College Team and received the prestigious F.W. Bell Award.

Following his undergraduate education, Dahmer earned both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University. During graduate school, he served as assistant coach for the K-State Livestock Judging Team, helped lead the program to the 2019 Reserve National Championship and the 2020 National Championship, managed the K-State Sheep and Meat Goat Center, and gained teaching and research experience across multiple livestock species.

Today, Dahmer serves as an Instructor of Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University, where he coaches the nationally recognized Livestock Judging Team and co-coaches the Meat Animal Evaluation Team. Under his leadership, the Livestock Judging Team captured the 2024 National Championship and the 2025 Reserve National Championship while producing six Academic All-Americans—the most of any institution during that span. He also helped coach the Meat Animal Evaluation Team to National Championships in 2024 and 2026, along with a Reserve National Championship in 2025. In addition to coaching, Dahmer serves as faculty supervisor of the K-State Sheep and Meat Goat Center.

Dahmer teaches undergraduate and graduate courses including Domestic Animal Nutrition (ASI 202), Principles of Livestock Selection (ASI 390), Form and Function in Livestock (ASI 470), Online Sheep and Meat Goat Science (ASI 524ZA), Lambing (ASI 404), Undergraduate Research (ASI 560), and Advanced Meat Animal Evaluation (ASI 662). He also serves as an academic advisor and faculty mentor to undergraduate students while advising graduate students conducting research across multiple livestock species.

His teaching philosophy emphasizes experiential learning, student mentorship, and preparing graduates for successful careers in the livestock industry. He enjoys judging youth livestock shows and working with exhibitors, producers, and breeders across the country.



Tim Carson (tcarson@ksu.edu or 785-532-1191)
Instructor

Tim Carson was born in Bartlesville, Oklahoma in 1976. He grew up in rural Coffeyville on his parent's small farm. He graduated from Caney Valley High School in 1994. He attended Coffeyville Community College on a journalism scholarship and served as the Sports Editor of the CCC Collegian before moving on and earning his B.S. in Agriculture with a major in Animal Sciences and Industry from Kansas State University in 1999. In 2019, Tim completed his Masters in Academic Advising from Kansas State University.

Tim worked at Sprint in Kansas City after graduation before coming back to Manhattan and joining the ASI department as a Computer Information Specialist in August of 1999. Tim started teaching ASI 490 (now ASI 290), Microcomputer Applications, in August, 2002 and is also responsible for maintenance of the computers and wireless system at the farm units North of campus.

Tim and his wife Melissa have three children, Brett, Cade, and Callie.

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