

Beef Stocker Field Day

This year's 27th annual KSU Beef Stocker Field Day will be hosted in Manhattan, KS on Thursday, September 24 at the KSU Beef Stocker Unit. The day will start at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee and will conclude with a good old-fashioned Prairie Oyster Fry. The schedule is as follows:

- 9:30 a.m. Registration & Coffee
- 10:00 a.m. Introductions
- 10:15 a.m. Beef Cattle Outlook - *Dr. Glynn Tonsor, K-State Ag Econ*
- 11:00 a.m. Producer Panel: Does Theileria impact the health of newly arrived stocker cattle?
Dr. Cassandra Olds, K-State Entomology
Margaret Ann Smith, Southlex Cattle Co., Lexington, VA
Dr. Gregg Hanzlicek, K-State Diagnostic Laboratory
Dr. Don Coover, SEK Genetics, Galesburg, KS
 Moderator- *Wes Ishmael, Executive Editor, Hereford World*
- 12:15 p.m. Barbeque Brisket Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. The Alltech Method: Proven Strategies for Stocker Cattle Performance - *Dr. Vaughn Holder, Alltech*
- 2:00 p.m. Considerations for Using Corn Silage in Growing/Backgrounding Programs - *Dr. Galen Erickson, University of Nebraska*
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. Optimizing Mineral Nutrition of Calves - Pre- and Post-Weaning Strategies - *Dr. John Arthington, University of Florida*
- 4:00 p.m. Developing Tactics of When and Where to Pen Cattle - *Dr. John Groves, Livestock Veterinary Service, Eldon, MO*
- 5:00 p.m. Cutting Bull's Lament
 After the program be our guest for Prairie Oysters

Registration is available on site for \$40 per person. For complete details visit asi.k-state.edu/events/stockerfieldday/ For more information contact Dale Blasi (dblasi@ksu.edu or 785-532-5427) or Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267.)



HACCP Workshop Hosted in September

Implementing Your Company's HACCP Plan will be hosted September 23-25 2026, 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 closes on Friday, September 18. Registration is available online at <http://bit.ly/HACCPCourse>. For more information, contact Dr. Liz Boyle (lboyle@ksu.edu or 785-532-1247).

Bilingual Dairy Manager School (DMS)

K-State and Alta Genetics will be offering a bilingual Dairy Manager School (DMS) which will be hosted in Garden City, Kansas, on November 17, 18, and 19. This year's theme is "The Future of Dairy." Pre-registration is required and the cost starts at \$1300 without lodging, and the costs increases if you'd like lodging included.

During the DMS, the first two days consist of classroom-style sessions, followed by a farm visit on the morning of the third day. For the classroom portion, there will be two concurrent sessions, one in English and one in Spanish. There will be 7 speakers from Land-Grant Universities and the dairy industry who will discuss reproduction, genetics, calf care, transition cow management, and technology with participants.

For registration, please visit <https://share.hsforms.com/1BbiAWbJgT22fu9fHbBXvSwgam7b>. For questions, contact Victor Gomez-Leon (vgomezleon@ksu.edu or 785-532-2652)

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Upcoming Events

- September 23-25, 2026**
HACCP Workshop - Manhattan, KS
- September 24, 2026**
Beef Stocker Field Day
- September 28, 2026**
Dairy Calf Care Workshop 2
Seneca, KS
- September 29, 2026**
Dairy Calf Care Workshop 3
Hutchinson, KS
- November 17-19, 2026**
Dairy Manager School - Garden City, KS
- November 19, 2026**
Swine Day

Upcoming Events

Youth for Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) New Program Year

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national, multi-species youth livestock quality assurance program that launched in 2017. Youth may participate in the program online or through a face-to-face class with a certified instructor. This is a fee-based program, which is \$12/child for the online course or \$3 for a face-to-face session. Kansas has renewed its partnership with the program for 2026-2027, which allows extension agents and ag teachers to have the opportunity to complete the certification process and teach youth the curriculum through face-to-face sessions. The current program year is coming to a close on September 30 and the new curriculum will launch in early October. Agents who were certified last year will receive information on re-certifying as the new program year approaches. Any new or additional agents or ag teachers who would like to become certified need to contact Lexie Hayes to be added to the approved list for Kansas. Once agents complete the certification process, the YQCA staff will distribute the new materials, and their certification will be valid until September 1, 2027. It is an annual training for youth and approved instructors.

Although a final decision will be confirmed by each respective show board later this fall, we do anticipate exhibitors will continue to be required to complete YQCA certification annually to participate in the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and the Kansas Junior Livestock Show.

Registration Now Open - KSU Swine Day



Register now for this year's Swine Day, to 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 a great program with updates on K-State Applied Swine Nutrition Research, and featuring a presentation from Dr. Annie Lerner, Director of Nutrition and Research at Schwartz Farms Inc. on "Evaluating Technology: From Concept to On-Farm Implementation." Pre-registration is \$30 per participant and due by November 10. On-site registration is \$50 per participant. There is no charge for K-State students if they are pre-registered. 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).

Dairy Calf Care Workshops

Kansas Dairy Commission and K-State will offer workshops this fall for dairy producers, technicians and veterinarians. These workshops will focus on colostrum management, feeding times and pain management. All workshops will include morning presentations, lunch and a farm tour in the afternoon. These workshops are free to attend and provide continued education that can be used for the FARM program. More information on dates and registering is listed below. For more information or questions, contact Victor Gomez-Leon (vgomezleon@ksu.edu or 785-532-2652).

Dates & Locations:

- Workshop 2: September 28
- Location: Meadowlark Extension District Office Complex, 1615 Branch St., Seneca, KS 66538
- Invited speaker: Dr. Gustavo Schuenemann, The Ohio State University.
- Farm to visit: Buessing Dairy Farm
- Pre-registrations: Ross Mosteller (rmostell@ksu.edu or 785-336-2184).
- Workshop 3: September 29
- Location: Amish Community Building, 5917 W. Mills Avenue, Hutchinson, KS 67501
- Invited speaker: Dr. Gustavo Schuenemann, The Ohio State University
- Farm to visit: Miller Dairy
- Pre-registration: Patrick Bergkamp (pbergkamp@ksu.edu or 620-662-2371).

What's New

Management Minute

“Building Successful Teams in the Workplace”

Justin Waggoner
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Garden City, KS

Most of us have had some experience with being part of a team or different groups of individuals. Some teams of individuals are highly successful and some are not. What makes some teams more successful than others? The tech giant “Google” has invested a great deal of time and resources into studying teams and reported their most successful teams have the following traits.

The most successful teams at “Google”

- Establish psychological safety within the team. The team creates an environment where all members of the team feel free to bring new ideas forward to the group.
- Are dependable. The team holds its members accountable, getting things done on time and up to the standards of the group.
- Have structure and clarity. The members of the team know their role in the team and have a clear vision of the team's structure and the expectations associated with their role on the team.
- Have a purpose. The team members believe that what they are doing matters.
- A wealth of information on building teams and characteristics of highly successful teams can be found with a simple internet search.

Feedlot Facts

“Feeding Management of Newly-Weaned Calves”

Justin Waggoner
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Garden City, KS

One of the greatest challenges that cattle producers often experience during weaning is getting newly weaned calves to consume feed in bunk. Unfortunately, successfully addressing this challenge is essential to success. “Cattle that don't eat don't perform”. Preparing calves, understanding how much dry feed calves will consume and developing a feeding strategy/plan is one of the best ways to ensure success in the weaning pen.

Feeding both cows and calves a small amount of the supplement or weaning ration prior to weaning, in the weaning pen or pasture can be used help acclimate calves to both the feeds and the environment. Additionally, feed intake of weaned calves is often low (1.0 to 1.5 % of bodyweight, dry basis) immediately following weaning. Calves also have relatively high nutrient requirements. Thus, the weaning diet must be nutrient dense to meet the nutrient requirements of the calves at the expected intakes previously mentioned. Unfortunately, the dry feeds calves are often most familiar with (typically grass hays) are not necessarily nutrient dense. At the K-State Agriculture Research Center, Hays, KS a feeding management protocol for weaning calves has been developed that works well for transitioning weaned calves to a total mixed ration. The protocol is summarized in the table below. Essentially, high-quality grass hay and the weaning ration are offered each at 0.5% of the calves' current bodyweight, dry basis, on the day of weaning. The weaning ration is placed in the bottom of the bunk and the hay is placed on top. The amount the weaning ration is steadily increased, while the amount of hay offered remains constant. In addition, on day 4 the hay is placed on the bottom of the bunk. Over a period of 7-10 days the dry intake of the calves is steadily increased and should reach approximately 2.2-2.5% of the calves bodyweight by 10-14 days following weaning.

Table 1. K-State ARC-Hays Weaning Feed Management Protocol*

Day	Weaning Diet	Hay	Feedstuff Order
1	0.5% Bodyweight	0.5% Bodyweight	Diet bottom/hay on top
2	0.7% Bodyweight	0.5% Bodyweight	Diet bottom/hay on top
3	0.9% Bodyweight	0.5% Bodyweight	Diet bottom/hay on top
4	1.1% Bodyweight	0.5% Bodyweight	Hay bottom/diet on top
5	1.3% Bodyweight	0.5% Bodyweight	Hay bottom/diet on top
6	1.5% Bodyweight	0.5% Bodyweight	Hay bottom/diet on top
7	1.8% Bodyweight		
8	---Increase diet by 0.25 to 0.50 lb per calf/day---		

*Remove any uneaten feedstuffs before feeding current days ration

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

KSU Cow-Calf Checklist - September 2026

“Management Considerations for November 2026”

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 (<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/Item.aspx?catId=562&pubId=19320>) from K-State Extension!
 - Use BCS to strategically supplement cows during fall, if needed.
 - 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:
 - If not already done, 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!
 - 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 and winter service.
 - Monitor BCS, particularly on young bulls.
 - If bulls are BCS $\leq$ 5.0, consider supplementing to regain BCS going into winter.

Calf Management

- 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

- Take inventory of and begin sampling harvested forages for fall feed needs.
 - Be aware of possible presence of molds and other anti-nutritional compounds in hay harvested at higher than typical moisture levels.
 - Test for nitrates and prussic acid when appropriate.
 - Use the forage inventory calculator (<https://www.agmanager.info/hay-inventory-calculator>) to balance forage inventories with fall/winter grazing acres.
- If grazing crop residues following harvest, keep the following in mind:
 - The bottom 1/3 of the stalk is where nitrates accumulate.
 - Be aware of prussic acid in new regrowth of sorghum plants, and the time around frost is the greatest risk.
 - High amounts of down grain will require a change in management.
- Use the Management Minder tool on KSUBeef.org (<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/beef/tools.html>) to plan key management activities for your cowherd for the rest of the year.
- With high feeder calf prices, consider price risk management tools.
- Begin preparing for cold weather (i.e. tank heaters, windbreaks, bedding).

What's New for Swine Producers

Determining the Dose-Response Effects of a Modified Corn Protein Product in Nursery Pig Diets- This experiment was conducted to determine the dose-response effects of a modified corn protein product (MCP; Cargill Starches, Sweeteners, & Texturizers, Blair, Nebraska) on growth performance, fecal dry matter, removals and mortalities, and apparent total tract digestibility (ATTD) of energy in nursery pigs. A total of 320 weanling pigs (DNA 600 × 241; initially 12.5 lb) were used in a 42-d growth study. Pigs were weaned at approximately 18 d of age, randomly allotted to pens in light (10.8 lb) or heavy (14.5 lb) weight blocks, and then pens were allotted to one of four dietary treatments in a completely randomized block design. There were five pigs per pen and 16 pens per treatment across two barns. Dietary treatments consisted of 0, 7.5, 10.0, and 12.5% MCP in phase 1 and 0, 2.5, 5.0, and 7.0 % MCP in phase 2. Modified corn protein replaced enzymatically treated soybean meal, conventional soybean meal and feed-grade amino acids in the control diet. Treatment diets were balanced for amino acids and minerals, but not energy, and fed in two dietary phases from d 0 to 10 and d 10 to 24, respectively, followed by a common phase 3 corn-SBM-based diet that did not contain MCP and was fed for the remainder of the trial. The percentage of pigs that lost weight on d 3 increased (linear, $P = 0.045$) as MCP increased. From d 0 to 10, ADG and d 10 BW decreased (quadratic, $P < 0.05$) and F/G worsened (linear, $P = 0.002$) as MCP increased, with the largest difference occurring when MCP increased from 10.0 to 12.5% of the diet. From d 10 to 24, ADG (quadratic, $P = 0.086$) and ADFI (quadratic, $P = 0.023$) increased then decreased as MCP increased, with the best performance observed at 2.5% MCP. Day 24 BW tended to decrease (linear, $P = 0.064$) as MCP increased. From d 24 to 42 when all pigs were fed a common diet, no differences in performance were observed. Overall, there were no ADG or ADFI effects observed, but pigs fed increasing MCP had poorer (linear, $P = 0.042$) F/G. Fecal DM was not affected by dietary treatment on d 10, but increased then decreased on d 20 (quadratic, $P = 0.016$) as MCP increased, with the greatest DM observed in pigs fed 5% MCP. In summary, increasing MCP in early nursery diets reduced ADG and worsened F/G. However, in phase 2, when added MCP was reduced, ADG and ADFI, as well as fecal DM, increased then decreased with increasing MCP. For the overall study, increasing MCP had no effects on ADG or ADFI, but worsened F/G, which might reflect the lower dietary ME and NE as MCP increased. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUSwine.org. (This study conducted by Paula Giacomini, Jason C. Woodworth, Katelyn N. Gaffield, Mike D. Tokach, Joel M. DeRouchey, Jordan T. Gebhardt, Robert D. Goodband, Keith Mertz and John F. Patience).

Effects of ValoproWin and Formulation Strategy on Nursery Pig Performance and Fecal Dry Matter- A total of 335 pigs (initially 12.3 ± 1.91 lb) were used to evaluate the effect of ValoproWin (VLPW) level and formulation strategy on nursery growth performance and fecal dry matter (DM). ValoproWin is a fiber ingredient that contains a purified source of coarse indigestible fiber, oat hulls, and yeast autolysate. At weaning, pigs were randomly assigned within two body weight (BW) blocks to one of the five dietary treatments in a generalized randomized block design. There were four or five pigs per pen and 14 replicate pens per treatment. Experimental diets were fed for 23 d, and then pigs were fed a common diet for 22 d. Dietary treatments were arranged in a $2 \times 2 + 1$ factorial design, with the main effects of added VLPW (2.5 or 5%) and formulation strategy (diluted or adjusted). An additional control treatment, which contained no VLPW, was included for comparison. In the diluted diets, VLPW was added at the expense of the complete diet without further adjustments to the formulation, resulting in nutrient dilution proportional to the VLPW inclusion. In contrast, adjusted diets were reformulated to maintain a similar nutrient composition to the control diet, regardless of VLPW addition. No significant interactions between VLPW inclusion or formulation strategy were observed for any of the performance criteria or periods. For the experimental period (d 0 to 23), pigs fed the diluted diets tended ($P = 0.091$) to have greater ADFI than those fed the adjusted diets. No differences were observed in ADG between formulation strategies. Consequently, pigs fed the adjusted diets tended ($P = 0.084$) to have improved F/G compared with those fed diluted diets. No significant main effects of VLPW level were observed for ADG and ADFI; however, pigs fed diets containing 5% of VLPW tended ($P = 0.056$) to have worse F/G compared with those fed diets containing 2.5% of VLPW. Also, increasing VLPW from 0 to 5% tended ($P = 0.051$) to linearly worsen F/G in the diluted diets but not in the adjusted diets. For the overall period (d 0 to 45), no main effects of the formulation strategy were observed for any of the performance parameters. However, pigs fed diets with 5% of VLPW during the experimental period tended ($P = 0.059$) to have poorer F/G compared with those fed diets with 2.5% VLPW. No significant effect of formulation strategy was observed for fecal DM. However, fecal DM linearly increased ($P < 0.001$) on d 10 as VLPW inclusion increased, independent of formulation strategy. At d 24, fecal DM tended to linearly increase ($P = 0.098$) as VLPW inclusion increased in the adjusted formulation strategy. In conclusion, the effect of added VLPW was independent of the formulation strategy. Increasing dietary VLPW improved fecal DM, particularly on d 10; however, F/G tended to worsen as VLPW level increased during both experimental and overall periods. During the experimental period, pigs fed the diluted diets had greater ADFI and poorer F/G than those fed the adjusted diets, although these differences were not maintained overall. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUSwine.org. (This study conducted by Julian Arroyave, Mike D. Tokach, Jason C. Woodworth, Joel M. DeRouchey, Robert D. Goodband, Katelyn N. Gaffield, Jordan T. Gebhardt, Pau Salgado-López, David Guillou and Noémie Lemoine).

What's New for Cattle Producers

Interactive Effects of Body Weight and Body Condition Score on Enteric Methane Emissions in Grazing Beef

Cows- The objective was to evaluate how body weight and body condition score, both independently and interactively, influence enteric methane production and emission efficiency in beef cows during spring grazing.

Study Description: This retrospective analysis used data from a supplementation trial with mature, spring-calving beef cows grazing native pasture. Cows were weighed and scored monthly. Methane emissions were measured using GreenFeed systems (AHCS; C-Lock Inc., Rapid City, SD), and supplement intake was recorded with automated feeders. Cows were grouped by changes in body condition score over time.

The Bottom Line: Cows with moderate weight and stable body condition emitted less methane per unit of supplement intake, supporting both environmental and production efficiency goals. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUBeef.org. *(This study conducted by Carlee M. Salisbury, Jason M. Warner and Logan Thompson).*

Field Validation of a Mob Composite Sampling Protocol to Estimate Herd Parasitism in Cattle- The objective was to evaluate the efficacy of a mob composite sampling (MOB) approach against the existing industry standard fecal sampling protocol of individual samples (IDV) to determine herd fecal egg counts of nematodes in beef cattle.

Study Description: Samples (n = 1,060) from fresh pen floor fecal pats were collected at random from cattle (calf-fed and yearling) in commercial feedlots (n = 12) and sale barns (n = 1). Sample sets of 20 fecal pat samples were collected by pen (n = 53), ranging from 64 to 225 animals. The MOB samples (n = 106) were further processed to yield two composite samples, each representing 10 of the original pen samples. The IDV and MOB samples were analyzed by microscope for nematode eggs/3 g.

The Bottom Line: Results indicate a mob sampling approach using two composite samples each representing 10 fecal pats, can determine parasite loads with 91.7% confidence in received cattle relative to industry standard field fecal sampling techniques. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUBeef.org. *(This study conducted by Ashlee Gibbons, Grant I. Crawford, James Slighthorn and Haley E. Larson).*

Trained Panel Evaluation of Upper 2/3 Prime Beef Strip Loin Steaks- The objective of this study was to evaluate trained sensory panel perceptions of beef strip loin steaks representing four marbling categories: Super Prime (moderately abundant and abundant), Low Prime, Top Choice (modest and moderate), and Low Choice (small).

Study Description: Beef strip loins (n = 15/grade) representing four marbling categories were collected from a commercial packing facility, fabricated into approximately 1-in. steaks, and aged 28 days before analysis. Steaks were cooked to one of three degrees of doneness ([DOD]; Rare = 140°F, Medium = 160°F, and Well-done = 170°F) and used for trained panels, Warner-Bratzler shear force (WBSF), slice shear force, pressed juice percentage, and cook loss. Trained panelists (n = 8) rated samples on initial and sustained juiciness, myofibrillar tenderness, connective tissue amount, overall tenderness, and beef flavor intensity.

The Bottom Line: Super Prime steaks consistently rated higher than the other grades in trained sensory evaluations, indicating that marketing them as a premium tier could boost value and ensure a more consistent, high-quality eating experience. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUBeef.org. *(This study conducted by Katelynn E. Wallace, Chesney A. Effling, Lauren M. Frink, Mason J. Prester, Stephanie L. Witberler, Greta E. Huber, Samuel F. Stickley, Erin S. Beyer, Morgan D. Zumbaugh, Jessie L. Vipham and Travis G. O'Quinn).*

ASI Faculty Highlight



Bailey Harsh (bharsh2@ksu.edu)
Assistant Professor - Meat Science

Dr. Bailey Harsh grew up in central Ohio on a registered Angus and row crop farm, active in 4-H and the National Junior Angus Association. She earned her B.S. in Animal Sciences from Ohio State University, where she competed on both meats and livestock judging teams. Harsh completed her graduate training in meat science at Oklahoma State University (M.S.) and the University of Illinois (Ph.D.) Following graduate school, she spent six years on faculty at the University of Illinois. In 2026, Harsh joined Kansas State University, where she holds a 60% teaching and 40% research appointment.

Dr. Harsh's research is highly collaborative and industry-focused, with an emphasis on developing practical, science-based solutions that address current challenges in commercial meat production systems. Her research interests include meat color stability and shelf life, variations in carcass characteristics, consumer perception and fresh pork demand, and strategies to enhance functionality and consistency in further-processed products.

Teaching and student mentorship are also central to Dr. Harsh's role at K-State. She uses applied examples, hands-on activities, and industry context to help students understand how muscle biology, animal management, and processing decisions influence meat composition, safety, quality, and consumer acceptance. Her courses include online Meat Science (ASI 350), Animal Harvest and Processing (ASI 361), and Advanced Meat Science (ASI 930).

Outside of work, Bailey and her fiancé, Dimitri, enjoy hiking, traveling internationally, and spending time with their blue heeler, Comet.



Rebecca McDermott (rmcdermott@ksu.edu)
Assistant Professor / Extension Feedlot Specialist

Rebecca grew up on her family's swine operation in central Missouri, where she was actively involved in 4-H and FFA. She earned her bachelor's degree in Animal Science from the University of Missouri, where she developed a passion for the beef industry.

She went on to earn her master's and Ph.D. in Animal Science, specializing in Ruminant Nutrition, from the University of Nebraska. Her graduate research focused on the utilization of byproducts with various corn processing methods, accelerated adaptation programs for finishing cattle, and the quantification and partitioning of greenhouse gas fluxes in grazing systems. During graduate school, Rebecca had the unique opportunity to serve as the feedlot research coordinator, where she was involved in the planning, implementation, and data collection for 42 research projects, as well as the training and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students.

Rebecca joined Kansas State University as an Assistant Professor and Feedlot Extension Specialist in 2026, with a 70% extension, 20% teaching, and 10% research appointment. She is dedicated to serving producers, industry partners, extension agents, and students in the feedlot industry in Kansas and beyond. Her research program focuses on improving the efficiency of feedlot cattle through nutritional and management strategies.

Outside of her work at Kansas State University, Rebecca enjoys spending time with her husband, Michael, and their twins, Emory and Emmett.

*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*