Virtual Crop Talk ................................................................. Crop Production page
Turning Bull Calves into Steers ............................................ Livestock page
Living Well With Others, Dining With Diabetes Online ......... Family & Consumer page
Livestock Projects—Preparing for Fair ................................. 4-H Youth Development page

The Fence Line Series

Join us for 1 Hour every Thursday in February
via Zoom starting at
7:00pm (Central)/6:00pm (Mountain)

Topics Include:

Feb. 4th: Cow Nutrition Programs for a Successful Breeding Season
Presented by: Dr. Dale Blasi

Feb. 11th: Managing Disease Around Calving
Presented by: Dr. AJ Tarpoff

Feb. 18th: Update on Estrous Synchronization Strategies and Options for Sexed Semen
Presented by: Dr. Sandy Johnson

Feb. 25th: Effective Pest Management - How the Creepies Affect the Crawlies

Please Register using this link https://tinyurl.com/fencelineseries

For more information please contact:

Heather Foxworthy, K-State Sunflower District Extension Agent
at hfoxwor@ksu.edu or (785) 332-3171

Aaron Hyland, K-State Rawlins County Extension Agent
at ahyland1@ksu.edu or (785) 626-3192

Emily Bennigsdorf, K-State Thomas County Extension Agent
at ebennigsdorf@ksu.edu or (785) 460-4582
Virtual Crop Talk

webinars focused on crop production in Northwest and North Central Kansas on Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 10:30-11:30am CST

Registration
www.sunflower.ksu.edu/agronomy
Scan the QR code with your phone camera

For more information
Jeanne Falk Jones
Multi-County Agronomist for
Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace Counties
(785) 462-6281
jfalkjones@ksu.edu

Tune in with zoom

Topics

Soil Fertility Questions from Growers for the 2021 Season
Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, K-State Soil Fertility Specialist
February 2: Northwest Focus
February 3: North Central Focus

Weed Management and that Pesky Palmer Amaranth (pigweed)
Sarah Lancaster, K-State Weed Scientist
Vipan Kumar, K-State Weed Scientist
February 9: Northwest Focus
February 10: North Central Focus

Corn Insect Resistance: Rootworm and Western Bean Cutworm
Julie Petersen, UNL Entomologist
February 16

Grain Sorghum Weed Control: Start Clean, Stay Clean
Sarah Lancaster, K-State Weed Scientist
February 23

Sorghum Insects: Aphids, Headworms and Chinch Bugs... Oh My!
J.P. Michaud, K-State Entomologist
February 24

Alfalfa Management and Weevil Update
Romulo Lollato - K-State Wheat & Forage Specialist
Anthony Zukoff, K-State Extension Entomology Associate
March 2

Dryland Corn Dynamics
Lucas Haag, K-State NW Regional Agronomist
March 9

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Emily Bennigsdorf two weeks prior to the start of the event. February 2nd, 2021 at 785-460-4562 or ebennigsdorf@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Turning Bull Calves into Steers

There are many different strategies when it comes to turning bull calves into steers. Some producers band at birth when they tag, others wait until branding to knife cut, or vice versa. While there is no right or wrong method, producers have figured out what works best for them in terms of equipment, labor, and time. However, there are some theories about when castration takes place and how that may be a benefit when it comes to calf growth. Regardless of the method used to turn bull calves into steers it should be done as soon as possible. The younger the calf at the time of castration the less stressful the process is. While castrating young is recommended, some producers think that leaving bull calves intact longer accelerates the growth rate due to the calves’ natural growth hormones. However, research has shown there is no difference in weight of calves castrated at birth and those left intact after weaning. Furthermore, castrating calves which are heavier than 400 pounds can significantly set those calves back in terms of growth and increase the likelihood that they will become sick.

Due to there being no benefit to leaving calves intact longer and increased risk for illness, castration should not wait. If a producer is strictly a cow-calf producer with no intentions to retain any bull calves to become sires, castration can easily be completed during tagging with various products. The most common method is the use of an elastrator bander or newer products such as a high-tension banding tool. This will ensure that the calf experiences as little stress as possible and the testicles are removed before they become too large. If banding cannot take place during tagging, it is still recommended that bull calves are castrated at branding time either using a bander or knife cutting.

There has been some interest in determining how and if castration method affects calf performance. In a study by Brazle (1992), trials were conducted to compare the effects of castration age and method on post weaning gain and health. Results of that study suggest that castrating bulls during weaning or as yearlings has a negative impact on average daily gain compared to steers which had been castrated earlier in life. Brazle suggested that the difference in gain between the two groups was likely the result of increased stress experienced by the castrated bulls (1992). The castration regardless of method paired with the sensitivity of bulls to stress compared to steers is thought to be the cause of depressed gain. Furthermore, the study results suggest that bulls castrated as yearlings received more medications than those castrated earlier in life. However, Brazle (1992) did observe that surgically castrated calves that became sick on average showed signs of sickness 3 to 4 days after arrival, while those that were banded showed sickness 7 to 8 days after arrival. It was also cautioned that there is room for error while using the bander as bull calves that were improperly banded experienced significant decrease in gains and increased health problems (Brazle, 1992).

In a more recent study by Warnock and colleagues (2012), bull calves were castrated using various methods at weaning to determine the effect of method on feed intake, water intake, growth performance, residual feed intake, and inflammatory response. For purposes of comparison the study also included a group of steers castrated earlier in life, as well as a group of intact bulls. Results of that study suggest that the control group of steers castrated prior to weaning and intact bull calves performed better on feed compared to those which were castrated at weaning. Much like the Brazle study, castration method affected the timing of the inflammatory response, however overall there was no difference detected in terms of growth performance, daily feed intake, residual feed intake, or inflammatory response (Warnock et al., 2012).

In summary, producers should feel confident that castrating bull calves at weaning or after does not result in increased growth compared to early castrated steers suggested by research. To avoid depressed growth performance and an increased risk of sickness or death, producers should castrate as early as possible if there is no chance a calf will become a bull for breeding. In terms of castration method, there is not much evidence that castration method makes a difference in terms of overall sickness or growth performance. Therefore, producers should choose a method that fits their operation in terms of available equipment, labor, time, and their own skill.

For more information or resources for calving practices, please visit or call the Cheyenne County Extension Office at (785)332-3171.

References:

Please join us for the Fence Line Series!
There will be a ZOOM every Thursday evening in February where K-State specialists will speak for an hour about a topic that should be on your radar as a cattle producer. Any level of producer would benefit from the subject matter and will have the ability to ask questions specific to their operation. The Fence Line Series schedule is as follows:

February 4, 7:00 pm CT
Cow Nutrition Programs for a Successful Breeding Season; Dr. Dale Blasi

February 11, 7:00 pm CT
Managing Disease Around Calving; Dr. AJ Tarpooff

February 18, 7:00 pm CT
Update on Estrus Synchronization Strategies and Options for Sexed Semen; Dr. Sandy Johnson

February 25, 7:00 pm CT
Effective Pest Management—How the Creepies Affect the Crawlies; Dr. Cassandra Olds

To register please visit https://tinyurl.com/fencelineseries or scan the barcode below with your phone camera.

For more resources and event announcements, please follow us on Facebook at K-State Research and Extension Sunflower District.

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
‘Living Well Together’

K-State Research and Extension is offering weekly one-hour virtual Living Well Together program, designed to enhance Kansans’ time at home, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic when many are home more than usual.

These programs are good programs that I have given face-to-face, but with that not an option for me currently, I believe this is a great opportunity for you to watch them at home with no contact with others. I am hoping that soon we will be able to go back to the face-to-face programs, because I truly miss my face-to-face programming. Hang in there with us and enjoy these programs.

Upcoming Living Well Together programs include:

- Jan. 14, 5:45 p.m. M.T. – Cut the Clutter & Get Organized
- Jan. 21, 5:45 p.m. M.T. – Vaccinations: Checking the Facts Together
- Jan. 28, 5:45 p.m. M.T. – Who’s Taking Care of You?

The programs are free to all Kansans, but registration is required. Participants can choose to register for one or all – as many as they like. Once registered, a Zoom link will be sent to the registrant’s email address.

Previous sessions – Cooking Roadmap, Bonding Thru Board Games and Baking Together – were recorded and available to anyone who registers for any of the programs.

Upcoming topics will also cover the Mediterranean Eating Style; Checking Your Credit; Home Organization Tips; Family Mealtime Fun and more. Sessions are planned through at least late March.

If you would like more information or printed publications on these topics please call your local K-State Research and Extension local offices to see if they will print them for you or email me at mdaily@ksu.edu.

Dining with Diabetes--Online

The Dining with Diabetes Online course is provided by Kansas State University Research and Extension educators and trained Dining with Diabetes course instructors and is designed for adults with type 2 diabetes, prediabetes, and their family members, caregivers, and support persons.

This course helps individuals learn strategies to manage their diabetes through menu planning, carbohydrate counting, portion control, and label reading. This course is not intended to provide individual prescriptions for diabetic meal planning and it is not intended to replace diabetes education furnished by qualified health care professionals.

**Nutrition and physical activity** are keys to managing your type 2 diabetes, but where do you start? This course can help!

**THE COURSE INCLUDES**
- A professional extension educator and Dining with Diabetes Instructor
- Educational videos
- Meal planning and healthy snack tips and ideas
- Healthy recipes
- Cooking demonstration videos
- Interactive discussion questions

**Registration Start Day:** February 1, 2021
**Registration End Day:** March 1, 2021
**Program Start Day:**
- Module 1: March 8, 2021
- Module 2: March 15
- Module 3: March 22
- Module 4: March 29
- Module 5: July 5

Kansas DWD Online Course Program Fee will be $25.00/person. The Sunflower Extension District Dining with Diabetes Online (DWDO) Course fee is $25.00. Due to a reduction of the cost locally, fee has temporarily been **reduced to $20.00.**
Livestock Projects – Preparing for Fair

Spring weigh-in for livestock projects is a sign that fair is right around the corner. This milestone should mark an increase in many aspects of a 4-H project including more careful management and diligent handling of animals. When considering management of their project, 4-H members should take into account the market weight goal, the county fair date, and the expected average daily gain (ADG) of the selected species. Livestock not making weight, being too light or heavy could prevent a child from exhibiting their project. This stresses the importance of better understanding the growth of the specific species that will be shown and how to manage them to a desired weight.

It is important that 4-H’ers take note of the fair weight requirements which would eliminate them from showing if not met. Understanding the minimum and maximum weights of specific species at the fair, one can project the animal’s weight at fair time using average daily gain values for that specific animal to avoid disqualification. Making these calculations one can better understand if the animal will meet the requirements to show at the fair. Furthermore, visualizing the ideal weight and condition of your animal based on its structure will aid in producing a market ready animal by fair time. For example, a smaller structured hog should not be pushed to reach the maximum fair weight as it would be over conditioned and ready to market too soon. Having access to a scale between spring weigh-in and fair could be very helpful to prepare a livestock project for exhibition. Monitoring the animal’s rate of gain will allow one to recalculate the projected fair weight and maintain the feeding program or make adjustments as needed.

Once a weight from the spring weigh-in is available and a goal for the animal’s fair weight is set, one can use this information to further plan and manage the project as its prepared for the county fair. For example, if the average daily gain of a hog is 1.6 pounds per day one can estimate how much the hog will weigh at the fair by calculating the number of days between the spring weigh-in and fair weigh-in, multiplying the number of days by 1.6 pounds and then adding that value to the spring weigh-in weight. This however is just an estimation and weight, growth, and condition should be monitored regularly. Feed should be adjusted as the animal grows. As an animal gains weight it requires more feed to maintain that weight and then continue gaining if needed. Having a good understanding of this will more likely keep the animal on track so it will reach the goal weight.

It is also important to remember that the purpose of a market animal project is to produce a quality meat product and therefore the process should be cost-effective. Managing an animal in a fashion that uses financial resources excessively does not support the goal of 4-H. The underlying goal of 4-H livestock projects is to further understand the management and process of producing a food source and should be done in a way that is economical and humane.

While feeding and caring for an animal should be supervised by an adult, parents should also have realistic expectations of the child’s ability to show an animal. The child is expected to be able to exhibit the animal with little to no help. Therefore parents should find a project that is compatible with the child’s interest, confidence, and strength. Safety is key; the 4H’er should be able to handle and show the animal with little to no danger to others. Working with their project consistently will result in a more predictable show experience. Creating a bond with their livestock and understanding the behavior of the animal(s) will help the 4-H’er successfully finish their livestock project by exhibiting it at the fair. Caring for and handling livestock projects is a great opportunity for 4-H’ers to learn new skills and strengthen existing ones. To continue learning, parents should encourage youth to take on more responsibility every year with their livestock to gain animal care knowledge.

Please visit the Cheyenne County Extension Office or call (785)332-3171 with questions, resources, or for more information regarding livestock projects.
Citizenship In Action

What: Would you like to have more influence in laws and rules that affect your life? Then you’ll want to go to Kansas 4-H Citizenship in Action! This two day event is sponsored by the State 4-H Youth Leadership Council. The purpose of the event is for Kansas youth to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in their local communities. The legislative visit will not only familiarize youth with the capitol building, but will also show them how they can affect the legislative process.

When: February 14-15, 2021
Where: Virtual
Who: Youth 13-18 years old by January 1 of the current year
Registration Deadline: February 1, 2021

County Club Day will be VIRTUAL!
Entries will be due February 8
Virtual entries need uploaded by March 8
Watch your mail for entry information
New this year, 4-H Promotion Poster Contest
Due to Covid guidelines there will not be group contests.

Scholarships

NEW PROCESS FOR 2021!

Applications for ALL 2021 Kansas 4-H Scholarships will be collected online. The deadline to complete applications and submit recommendation letters or references is March 1, 2021. These can be found at- www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-library/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html
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Important Dates

- February 1 ......................... 4-H Council via Zoom
- February 1 ......................... Citizenship in Action Virtually / Registration closes
- February 2 ......................... Cloverbuds/ Tentatively Scheduled
- February 3 ......................... Foods via Zoom
- February 8 ......................... 4-H Days & Talent Night Reg. Due
- February 14 ....................... Valentines Day
- February 14 ....................... Ruleton Eager Beavers via Zoom
- February 14 ....................... Prairie Dale via Zoom
- February 14 -15 ................. Citizenship in Action Virtually
- February 15 ....................... Presidents Day/ Extension closed
- February 15 ....................... Country Clovers via Zoom
- February 16 ....................... Cloverbuds/ Tentively Scheduled
- February 21 ....................... Sunflower via Zoom

Save the Date!
4-H County Camp
June 9-12, 2021

A Note from Karen
Due to Karen’s Illness, she will be out of the office temporarily for a few months. She is working remotely from home and will still answer any questions you might have.
Karen’s email address: karennelson@ksu.edu

My 4-H Project
4-H Days & Talent Night will be Virtual!
Project Talks/ Demonstrations
Talent
Creative Table
Educational Posters

- Registration Forms Due: February 8, 2021.
- Flip Grid Presentations Due: no later than March 8, 2021. (We will notify you with the link to the Flip Grid).
Due to COVID Guidelines group contests are not allowed.

4-H Scholarships
Applications for ALL 2021 Kansas 4-H Scholarships will be collected online. The deadline to complete applications and submit recommendation letters or references is March 1, 2021. These can be found at: www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-library/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html

4-H GROWS HERE

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<td>1.</td>
<td>4-H Council 7:00 PM Via Zoom</td>
<td>Citizenship in Action Registration Due</td>
<td>2. Cloverbuds Assembly Room Tentatively 4:00 - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>3. Foods Via Zoom 3:30 - 5:00 PM</td>
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<td>Ruleton Eager Beavers 3:00 PM via Zoom</td>
<td>Prairie Dale 5:00 PM via Zoom</td>
<td>Country Clovers 7:00 PM via Zoom Presidents Day Extension Office Closed</td>
<td>Cloverbuds Assembly Room Tentatively 4:00 - 5:00 PM</td>
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**Large animal weigh in will be Feb. 7 from 2:00 –4:00 p.m. @ Smoky River Ranch**

**Recordkeeping**

Congratulations to Blakely Aldridge on her KAP being selected to advance onto NW Area Judging!!

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**Rock Springs 4-H Camp**

Save the dates for this years 4-H Camp
June 9-12, 2021
Join us for fun-filled 4 day learning experience!
More information to come later.

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**Virtual County Club Days**

Club Days is going virtual this year. Due to Covid-19 and K-State guidelines this will be held virtual this year and there will be no group contests.

Entries Due—February 8 to your local office
Videos Due– March 8

Watch for mailings or emails with more information.
NEW THIS YEAR— Poster Contests, Creative Tables
# February 2021

## Wallace County

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- **February 7, 2021**: Large Animal Weigh-In from 2:00 to 4:00 pm
- **February 8, 2021**: 4-H Council Mtg
- **February 14, 2021**: Valentine’s Day
- **February 15, 2021**: Office Closed

### Citizenship in Action

- **February 21, 2021**: [Citizenship in Action]