



River Valley District

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS

rivervalley.ksu.edu

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Extension District

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GENETIC TESTING—IS IT FOR YOU?

The two words, genetic testing, can be quite intimidating to some producers and can sound like a critically used decision-making tool for others. So many questions come along with genetic testing that sometimes a producer just doesn't know where to start. After spending some time in Cheyenne, Wyoming at the Range Beef Cow Symposium, it was clear that cattle producers have begun using this technology in their herds. Today, I am going to visit with you as a producer on what I learned at the Range Beef Cow Symposium on potential uses for genetic testing on your operation.

Many people spoke at the conference over the topic, but Troy Hadrick, managing partner in Hadrick Enterprises from Faulkton, South Dakota, had an interesting way of incorporating this new technology into his operation. Previously, he had the typical management style for an Angus based cow herd. The plan was to background their calves and sell at a local sale barn with the goal of producing the most pounds as possible at that point. However, Troy wasn't happy with competing in the market place on an equal playing field. He wanted to incorporate something into his management practice that would make his cattle more marketable and demand a premium.

As Troy was searching for options, he decided to start utilizing retained ownership with his cattle. With this switch in management practice, he has to rethink vaccination protocols, seek out a feedlot relationship, zone in on risk management, and decide on a grid that best fit his cattle. Mr. Hadrick also incorporated AI'ing into his whole herd instead of just his replacement heifers. This would allow him to produce more calves to best fit his new goals which were to tighten the calving season and create a more uniform set of cattle.

Troy finally had his first set of AI cattle on the ground and his first set of carcass data. He received carcass data back and 89% went Choice or better and 32% were CAB with no Primes. At this point, Mr. Hadrick knew that he had some genetic work that needed to be done. He did genetic testing on a new set of calves using another sire, and he was able to utilize those numbers moving forward in retaining ownership on those calves. These genetic tests showed one sire group 10 points above the other. Those steers that were sired by the bull that genetically tested 10 points above the other resulted in 23% Prime, 55% CAB, and 100% Choice or better. With grid premiums included, those higher genetic scoring steers brought back an extra \$60 per head compared to the lower genetic scoring steers.

There are obviously many more factors that went into Troy making the decisions that he did based off of genetic testing. There are also numerous different tests available with various prices depending on the traits that you would like to test for. It is important to understand that genetic testing is not for everyone. There is a lot of value in phenotypic traits for both breeding females and bull selection. This is something that cannot be forgotten as our cattle herds would struggle based off of longevity, fertility, and many other traits if this was not considered. With that said, the question is does genetic testing make sense for your cattle herd? This is the question that producers have to sit down and analyze. The process has to start with what are your operations goals? Are you a commercial operation? Are you a seed-stock operation? Are you looking to retain replacement heifers? Are you looking for a retained ownership program? You must consider commodity prices and consider the future when making these management decisions. While genetic testing has its place in the industry, does it have a place on your operation. If the answer is yes, then look into the possibilities of receiving premiums on your cattle based off of using genetic tools. If the answer is no, then there are many different tools available that can assist you with making the best management decisions for your operation. I would be happy to assist you with further questions regarding genetic testing at 785-325-2121 or kbrockus@ksu.edu

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Corrals, Calcium, Costs, & Cows: Management & Profit Strategies for 2018

February 6, 2018

5:30 PM

NCK Tech College
3033 U.S. HWY 24
Beloit, KS



Extension Specialists to Cover the Following:

- Improving Your Facilities and Implementing the Bud Box Processing System – Dr. Justin Waggoner
- Mineral Supplementation Strategies – Dr. Jaymelynn Farney
- Cost, Production, and Profit Benchmarking – Dr. Sandy Johnson
- Optimizing the Cow Herd Through Cow & Heifer Selection – Dr. Bob Weaver

Details

- Meal will be served beginning at 5:30 with the meeting beginning at 6:00 pm. Be sure to stick around for the Q&A session to follow.
- Cost to attend is \$5. Registration can be mailed to Post Rock Extension, 307 N. Commercial, Mankato, KS 66956
- Please RSVP to Post Rock Extension, Mankato office by Friday, February 2nd

Special Thanks

- Thanks to Guaranty State Bank of Beloit and American Ag Credit of Salina for sponsoring our meal!

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Prescribed Burn Workshop

Tuesday, February 20

**4-H Conference Center – Clay County Fair Grounds
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Come and join us for a “**Burn Workshop**” featuring K-State Research and Extension specialists along with other agencies with topics:

- Burning management
- Weather impacts
- Fire types and techniques
- Planning and conducting
- CRP rules
- Questions and answers

Cost for the workshop is \$10 which includes refreshments and notebook. Lunch provided thanks to sponsor:

**Clay County
Conservation District**



RSVP is requested by **Tuesday, February 13** by calling the Clay County FSA/NRCS Office @ 785-632-3550 Or email ben.hanson@ks.usda.gov. **10 registered participants needed to hold the meeting.**

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K-State Research and Extension Sheep Production Workshop



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OF WYOMING
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March 24th
10:00AM-3:00PM
Lunch Included!
\$10 Registration Fee

United Methodist Church
921 5th St.
Clay Center, KS 67432

RSVP to Washington Office
by March 14th for a meal
count at 785-325-2121

Speakers & Topics

Bridger Feuz will discuss sheep cost of production and economic tools

Barton Stam will speak on matching your range and pasture with ewe needs

Hudson Hill will entertain the topic of risk management tools used for sheep production

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WHAT EXACTLY IS A TEMPERATURE INVERSION?

With much of the dicamba drift that has occurred across the River Valley District as well as across the state of Kansas, the words “temperature inversions” have come up as a possible culprit in the disadvantage of vapor drift. So what exactly is a “temperature inversion?” To first understand what a temperature inversion is, one must look at what the normal conditions are: air that is near the surface is generally warmer and gradually decreases in temperature as you increase in altitude. When there are anomalies to this situation is when temperature inversions typically occur. Inversions are most notorious when there is cooler, higher density air underneath warm, less dense air. With this scenario, air mass mixing will be deterred and the probability of a temperature inversion occurring increases.

How do you identify if a temperature inversion is present in the field? The only real way to evaluate whether or not a temperature inversion has occurred or is occurring is to evaluate the temperature at two different heights to determine the change in temperature. More often than not, the best way to indicate that a temperature inversion has occurred is to look for indicators including: low lying fogs in valleys, low points, and over different ground cover along with frost or dew on the ground. Additionally speaking of ground, certain soil conditions promote temperature inversions: these include exposed soil, some that has recently been tilled, soil covered with heavy crop residue, closed crop canopy, and shelter belts and or windbreaks.

UPCOMING SORGHUM SCHOOL

It’s essentially the middle of winter, ground frozen and ironically the ongoing thought is of crop production for the upcoming year. We are very fortunate to have a great opportunity right here in the River Valley District. Kansas State Research and Extension is pairing up with the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission to bring you 2018 Sorghum Schools, at the FNB basement in Washington.

There will be three soybean schools and three sorghum schools throughout the state of Kansas and we are fortunate to have one in such a close proximity. RVD will be hosting the 2018 Sorghum School on Thursday, February 8, 2018 from 8:30am to 2:30pm in the FNB basement at 101 C Street, Washington. Lunch will be included courtesy of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission. Topics to be discussed include: weed control strategies, production practices, insect and disease management, nutrient fertility, and more pertaining to sorghum production. Be sure to give Tyler Husa a call at 785-243-8185 or email at thusa@ksu.edu to pre-register by January 31, 2018 or online at <http://bit.ly/KSSORGHUM-Schools>

NEW CERTIFICATION FOR DICAMBA APPLICATION

There have been many questions concerning the new dicamba/auxin specific guidelines to apply dicamba products on Xtend crops. To summarize one of K-State Research and Extension’s weed management specialist, “training is a mandated requirement on the labels, but the EPA left it up to each state to determine who would be providing the training and what qualified as training.” said Dallas Peterson, Moreover, he stated that he and specialist, Frannie Miller, have both submitted presentations to the KDA and are waiting for approval to use as an education tool.

Kansas State University weed specialists have created a summary of label changes that apply to Xtendimax, Flexpan, and Engenia products:

1. Requires more specific record keeping of applications, including checking for the presence of sensitive crops in the area.
2. Applicators must complete dicamba or auxin-specific training prior to application.
3. Supplemental labeling will be incorporated into the regular labels, and application guidelines will be the same for all uses, including dicamba and non-dicamba tolerant crops.
4. All dicamba products will be classified as “restricted use” also known as “RUP”, allowing only certified applicators to purchase and apply or supervise the application of the products.
5. Do not spray when the wind is blowing in the direction of neighboring sensitive crops, including non-Xtend crops.
6. Maximum ground application speed of 15mph, with 5 mph recommended on field edges.
7. Reduced maximum wind speed for application from 15 mph to 10 mph and wind must not be blowing less than 3 mph (increased risk of temperature inversions).
8. Prohibits applications between sundown and sunrise.
9. Documentation of thorough cleaning of equipment must be completed before and after application (yes, this means more than just triple-rinse!)
10. If water source or tank mix components results in a pH of 5 or less, then use of an approved buffering agent is required.

Additionally, important, REMEMBER, Ammonium Sulfate (AMS) is not allowed in any of these products due to an increase in volatility of dicamba. Moreover, we, at the KSRE-River Valley District will keep you informed of any new information as we hear it. If you have any questions be sure to call me, Tyler Husa, at the Concordia office 785-243-8185 or email me at thusa@ksu.edu

APPROACHING TIME FOR PEACH LEAF CURL CONTROL

Have you ever noticed developing peach leaves that are puckered, swollen, distorted and a reddish-green color? If you have, then you have seen peach leaf curl. Peach leaf curl is a disease that affects the blossoms, fruit, and leaves of peach and nectarine trees. If this disease is left uncontrolled, it causes untimely leaf drop in the spring which can severely weaken the tree and cause less fruit production.

Fortunately, peach leaf curl is not difficult to control if a fungicide is applied early enough. However, by the time you see symptoms of peach leaf curl it's too late to treat for. Peach leaf curl appears in the spring with reddish areas on the leaves. These areas will then begin to thicken and swell causing the leaves to curl and be distorted. The infected leaves will turn yellow/brown and fall off the tree. Infected leaves are often replaced by a second set of leaves that should develop normally. The loss of the leaves in the spring will affect the growth of the tree and how much fruit is produced.

Peach leaf curl can be controlled by a single application of a fungicide in the spring. You can do an application in the fall after the leaves have dropped but spring application often works better. The hardest part of this disease is catching it before it's too late to spray. Fungicides are ineffective if applied after buds begin to swell, and reddish areas are developing on leaves. There are several fungicides labeled for control of this disease. Don't spray when temperatures are below 40° F or if temperature will fall below freezing before the spray dries. Usually we can wait until March to spray but an extended warm period in February will encourage early bud swelling which may require spraying in late February. When spraying your tree, you want to be sure to thoroughly cover the entire tree during application. If your peach trees need pruning, you should prune them before you spray as it will be easier to get better coverage.

If you notice your trees have peach leaf curl but it's too late to spray them in the spring, be sure to mark or remember which trees are showing the symptoms of the disease so you can spray them the following year. If the disease is left uncontrolled the tree will start to decline and will need to be removed before it spreads to other trees. There are peach and nectarine trees that are resistant to peach leaf curl, so if you are looking to plant them in your yard be sure to get one that is resistant to the peach leaf curl disease. If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu

Pesticide Safety for the Lawn & Garden

1. **Contact K-State Research and Extension to correctly identify the pest or disease.**
2. **Buy the correct product, read the entire label, and apply according to all label instructions.**
3. **Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)**
4. **Observe pre-harvest or pre-entry intervals on the label**
5. **Properly rinse and dispose of containers according to the label instructions.**

KEEP SMELLING THE ROSES

For everyone who receives vases of flowers on Valentine's Day, or anytime of the year, here are a couple of tips and tricks to help get the most out of your flowers. Follow these helpful guidelines to help extend the life of your flowers.

Floral arrangements in a Vase:

1. Keep the vase filled or the floral foam soaked with warm water. Add fresh, warm water daily. If the water in the vase turns cloudy, replace the water immediately. If possible, recut stems by removing one to two inches with a sharp knife. When cutting the stems, cut them under water, as this will allow the stem to draw in water instead of air.
2. Keep flowers in a cool spot (65 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit), keep away from direct sunlight, heating or cooling vents, near radiators, and directly under ceiling fans.
3. If a rose begins to wilt in your arrangement, remove it and recut the stem under water.

Loose or Wrapped Stems:

1. If you can't get your flowers in a flower food solution right away, keep flowers in a cool place.
2. Fill a clean, deep vase with water and add the flower food obtained from your florist. Be sure to follow the mixing directions on the package.
3. Remove leaves that will be below the waterline. Leaves that are in the water will promote bacterial growth.
4. Recut stems under water with a sharp knife and place the flowers in the vase solution you've prepared.
5. If a rose wilts, remove it and recut the stem under water.

For those of you who receive planted tulip bulbs for Valentine's Day instead of roses, here is what you can do with them after they are finished blooming. Once the bulbs have stopped blooming, discontinue watering and allow the foliage to die back. Don't try and remove any foliage while it is still green, but once the foliage is dried and brown, remove it from the pot by gently tugging on the leaves until they break away from the bulb and come out of the ground. If the leaves don't pull away from the bulbs easily you haven't waited quite long enough for the foliage to die. Once you have removed all the leaves allow the soil in the pot to dry out. Gently brush off any excess dirt from the bulb. Do not wash the bulb, because this can add excess water to the bulb and cause it to rot. Store your bulbs in a cool dry place until the ground has warmed up in the spring. Plant your tulips in an area that gets afternoon to full sun exposure. Plant tulips 6 to 8 inches deep and make sure you plant them pointy side up, otherwise the bulb will be upside down, and might not grow next spring. Once you have planted the bulbs your job is done until next spring, then all you have to do is enjoy the spring color. If you have any questions feel free to stop by or contact me in the in the Washington office, 785-325-2121 or khatesohl@ksu.edu

CONSERVATION TREE ORDERS

The Kansas Forest Service (KFS) is now taking orders for spring delivery of conservation tree and shrub seedlings. The Kansas Forest Service's Conservation Tree Planting Program offers tree and shrub seedlings, as well as other items for use in conservation plantings. Plantings may function as wildlife habitat, windbreaks, wood lots, timber plantations, or Christmas tree farms, and riparian (streambank) plantings. The spring distribution offers both bare-root and container-grown seedlings for sale. Orders are accepted from **December 1** through **May 1**. Orders are shipped or picked up beginning in Mid-March - depending on the weather. Other items include marking flags, rabbit protective tubes, planting root protective slurry, tree tubes, weed barrier fabric squares, and weed barrier pins. Costs for bare-root trees are \$20 per 25 while container grown trees are \$50 per 25 trees. Stratified black walnut and pecans seeds are \$13 per 100 seeds.

Order forms are available at all K-State Research & Extension offices or can be completed on-line on the KFS website at: www.kansasforests.org/conservation_trees/

For more information call the KFS at 1-888-740-8733.

2017 RVED LEASE SURVEY SUMMARY

The River Valley Extension District has recently completed the lease survey and has compiled the information in the 2017 River Valley Extension District Lease Survey Summary.

The summary is written by River Valley District Agents John Forshee, Tyler Husa, and Katelyn Brockus as well as K-State Extension Ag Economist, Dr. Mykel Taylor. Topics include: Pasture Lease Summary, Crop Lease Summary, Labor Survey Summary, Trends in Leases and Values of Ag Land in Kansas, and an overview of lease resources available.

The summary paper is available at any River Valley District office or online at <http://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/>

The survey is conducted by the River Valley District and is sponsored by Kansas Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services

The current Agricultural Economy has resulted in producers and agricultural lenders finding themselves facing difficult financial situations and decisions. The Kansas Agricultural Mediation Service offers confidential assistance for Kansas farmers, ranchers, and their lenders as they explore options and generate solutions in difficult financial times. Services offered through KAMS include:

- ⇒ Agricultural Credit Mediation
- ⇒ USDA Adverse Decisions Mediations
- ⇒ Agricultural Financial Counseling
- ⇒ Legal Assistance

For more information contact KAMS at 1-800-321-FARM or www.ksre.k-state.edu/kams

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Dollar General Literacy Programs

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation supports nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and libraries that offer literacy programs in communities served by Dollar General in 44 states. The Foundation provides support through the following grant programs: Adult Literacy Grants support nonprofit organizations that provide direct services to adults in need of literacy assistance. Family Literacy Grants support family literacy service providers that combine parent and youth literacy instruction. Summer Reading Grants help nonprofit organizations and libraries with the implementation or expansion of summer reading programs for students who are new readers, below grade level readers, or readers with learning disabilities. Online applications for the three programs described above must be submitted by February 22, 2018. In addition, Youth Literacy Grants support schools, public libraries, and nonprofit organizations that work to help students who are below grade level or experiencing difficulty reading. The application deadline for this program is May 17, 2018. Visit the Foundation's website to access guidelines for each grant program: http://www2.dollargeneral.com/dgliteracy/Pages/grant_programs.aspx

Hansen Foundation Grants

For those 26 counties in NC and NW Kansas that are in the Hansen Foundation area a couple of grant opportunities exist.

Local Community Foundation Grants—The Hansen Foundation has provided funds to local community foundations to be awarded for smaller projects. Republic and Cloud County both have local community Foundations and so qualifying organizations can apply to these local community foundations for grants awarded in \$5,000 increments. See their websites for details and all their grant opportunities.

Republic Co.: <http://republiccountycf.org/>

Cloud Co.: <http://communityfoundationforcloudcounty.org/>

Hansen Foundation Grants—For larger projects, qualifying organizations may apply directly to the Hansen Foundation. The goal of these grants is to improve the quality of life in our small rural communities in the area. The grant information and applications may be found at the Hansen Foundation website: https://danehansenfoundation.org/?page_id=975

Kansas Crossroads RC&D

The Kansas Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. offers mini-grants in the \$100 to \$500 range to help communities and organizations get projects started. The group also offers \$500 grants for park improvements. Contact John Forshee or visit the council website at: www.kansascrossroads.com

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PERMIT NO. 3****Address Service Requested****RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT****“2018 UP-COMING MEETINGS & EVENTS”**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
Feb. 6	9:15am-3pm	2018 Swine Profitability Conference	KSU-Stanley Stout Center-2200 Denison Ave.
Feb. 6	5:30pm	Winter Ranch Management	Beloit-NCK Tech College-3033 US Hwy 24
Feb. 8	8:30am-2:30pm	Sorghum School	Washington-FNB Basement-101 C Street
Feb.11-March 8	3:30-8:30pm	Women In Ag	Concordia-CTI meeting room
Feb. 20	9:30am-2:30pm	Prescribed Burn Workshop	Clay County Fairgrounds- 4-H Conference Center
Mar. 2	8am	Cattlemen’s Day 2018	KSU- Weber Arena
Mar. 14	10am	Healthy Cooking Styles	Washington- Extension Office meeting room
Mar. 14	2pm	Healthy Cooking Styles	Clay Center-Extension Office meeting room
Mar. 15	10am	Healthy Cooking Styles	Concordia-Courthouse meeting room
Mar. 15	2pm	Healthy Cooking Styles	Belleville-Extension Office meeting room
Mar. 17	8:45-3:30pm	KS Junior Sheep Producer Day	KSU-Weber Hall –1424 Claflin Road
Mar.18-May 12		Walk Kansas	Statewide Program
Mar. 24	8:45-4pm	KS Junior Beef Producer Day	KSU- Weber Hall-1424 Claflin Road
Mar. 24	10am-3pm	Sheep Production Workshop	Clay Center-United Methodist Church-921 5th St.