



Agriculture

CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS

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February 2024

Upcoming Events

February

19 Minneapolis
Office Closed

111th Cattlemen's Day March 1, 2024

Schedule

8 a.m. Trade Show and Educational Exhibits

10 a.m. Welcome – Weber 123

– K-State Strategy for the Future, Richard Linton, K-State president

– ASI Embraces Past, Looks to the Future, Mike Day, K-State ASI department head

– Beef Industry Economic Outlook, Glynn Tonsor, K-State agriculture economics professor

Noon Lunch – Weber Arena

1:30 p.m. K-State ASI Beef Research Update, ASI Beef Team

2:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions

– Beef Cuts that Add Value, Michael Chao, K-State ASI associate professor

– Reproduction Update, Sandy Johnson, K-State ASI extension beef Specialist, and Nicholas Dias, K-State ASI assistant professor

– Wildlife & Ranching, Drew Ricketts, K-State extension wildlife management and control specialist

3 p.m. Repeat of 2:30 p.m. sessions

Registration: <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/events/cattlemens-day>



SALINE COUNTY FARM BUREAU[®] The Voice of Agriculture[®]

The Saline County Farm Bureau wants to recognize farmers and ranchers this spring, and invites them to come out to a few special events. On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the Saline County Farm Bureau in collaboration with the Southeast of Saline FFA Alumni Association will be paying the gate fee to the Southeast of Saline home basketball game, with varsity girls starting at 6 p.m. On Tuesday, Feb. 20, the Saline County Farm Bureau will pay the gate fee for an Ell-Saline home basketball game, with varsity girls starting at 6 p.m. In March, the Saline County Farm Bureau will celebrate National Ag Day on Wednesday, March 20, and provide donuts during the 2024 Mid America Farm Expo, starting at 9 a.m. in the 4-H Building on the Saline County Expo Center grounds. – submitted by, Leslie Manning, Saline County Farm Bureau County Coordinator

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Management Considerations for March 2024

COW HERD MANAGEMENT

- Start post-calving nutrition programs for spring-calving females.
 - Begin lactation rations once first calving cycle is complete.
 - Make sure thin ($BCS \leq 4.0$) females are on an increasing plane of nutrition going into breeding.
- Pregnancy check and wean fall-calving cows if not already done.
- Evaluate your mineral program for the coming spring and summer seasons.
 - What was your average consumption last year? Do you need to make changes this year to achieve targeted consumption?
- Consider magnesium supplementation levels, particularly for lactating cows grazing wheat, rye, or triticale in the spring.
- If synchronizing females for breeding, schedule your protocols now well in advance of the breeding season and mark your calendars.
 - Inventory your A.I. supplies and check your semen tanks.
- Evaluate herd bulls for BCS and adjust as needed prior to breeding.
 - Bulls need to be in a $BCS \geq 5.0$ prior to the next season of use.
 - Schedule breeding soundness examinations with your veterinarian.

CALF MANAGEMENT

- Market your fall-born calves if not already done.
 - Schedule your spring calf working activities and visit with your veterinarian to discuss your calf health protocols.
- Monitor growth and pubertal development of replacement heifers.
- Heifers should be having active estrous cycles prior to breeding.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

- Make sure you complete your spring calving records!
 - Don't forget late-calving females as you focus on other spring projects.
- Rethink your turn-out dates if pastures were stressed from drought last year.
 - Plan/adjust your feeding dates accordingly.
- Take inventory of any feed/forage that will be left over from winter.
- Cover piles or close bags if silage is left over and won't be fed until fall.
 - Clean up any soiled bedding or unused/wasted feed to reduce the breeding and development of stable flies as the weather warms up.
- Finish pasture management projects started last year:
 - Repair or replace fences as needed.
 - Burn if conditions allow, cut and pile trees, particularly Cedar trees!
 - Clean and repair tanks and equipment as needed so watering sources are working properly when cattle are turned out to pasture.
- If making bull selection decisions:
 - Review your herd performance relative to your marketing and genetic goals.
 - Study EPDs impacting your marketing and genetic goals and do your homework well before sale day.

Safe Tractor & Machinery Operation Training

This program is a collaboration with K-State Research and Extension Districts: Post Rock, Midway, Cottonwood, CKD, and River Valley.

The National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP) is designed for 14- and 15-year-olds seeking employment in production agriculture.

Core content areas include:

- Safety basics
- Agricultural hazards
- Tractors
- Connecting and using implements
- Materials handling

Students are certified after successfully passing a 50-question test at the training and doing both an operating skills test and a driving test administered by the employer.

2024 Course Dates & Locations

April 20th – Beloit, KS
Carrico Implement

May 4th – Great Bend, KS
KanEquip

May 23rd – Salina, KS
Great Plains Manufacturing

SIGN UP: Visit <https://bit.ly/2024-tractor-safety>, scan QR code, or call an agent listed below!

MANUAL COST: \$15 – Pick up at your local Extension Office

BRING: Your course manual and enrollment form. Pay and pick up your course manual at your local Extension Office. Please pick up your manual PRIOR to the course.

Contacts:

Beloit, KS - Blaire Todd: blairet@ksu.edu or 785-738-3597
Kaitlyn Hildebrand: khildebrand@ksu.edu or 785-243-8185

Great Bend, KS - Craig Dinkel: cadinkel@ksu.edu or 785-472-4442
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Salina, KS – Jay Wisbey: jwisbey@ksu.edu or 785-309-5850
Justine Henderson: jwh04@ksu.edu or 785-392-2147

Scan to register!



K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact Justine Henderson two weeks prior to the start of the event at (785-392-2147). Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

Central Kansas Extension District
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Address Service Requested

The enclosed material is for your information. If we can be of further assistance, feel free to call or drop by the Extension Office.

Sincerely,



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