



Newsletter from the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry
 218 Weber Hall - Kansas State University - Manhattan, KS 66506
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UPCOMING EVENTS...

January, 2014

News from KSU Animal Sciences

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We Need Your Help!

Please send questions, comments or ideas for future newsletter topics to lschrein@ksu.edu or call (785) 532-1267.



➤ **K-State Winter Ranch Management 'Town Hall' Seminar Series set for January-February 2014** - The format of the 2014 Winter Ranch Management Seminar Series is a face-to-face 'Town Hall' meeting where producers can ask their questions to local/district and state extension specialists. For a complete list of locations, visit www.KSUbeef.org. Check with host location for final details.

Please RSVP to your selected location contacts by close of business the **Friday before** the event. Contact your local host contact for registration/RSVP details. Meal is included in the registration fee. For more information, contact Bob Weaber (bweaber@ksu.edu; 785-532-1460).

➤ The **PorkBridge Grow-Finish Educational Series** is being offered for 2014. The PorkBridge program is a distance educational tool that assists people involved with grow-finish swine operations with relevant and timely information. It consists of six teleconference sessions conducted by industry experts. Content addresses daily decisions related to the grow-finish process including ventilation, handling, health regimens, feed management and more.

The PorkBridge Series cost of \$125 includes all sessions and supporting materials. No internet access is needed to participate in the scheduled sessions. For a complete schedule and registration form, visit www.KSUswine.org. For more information, contact Joel DeRouchey (785-532-2280; jderouch@ksu.edu).

➤ **Latest dairy research issues addressed at KSU Dairy Days.** KSU Dairy Days will be held on January 30 in Whiteside, KS and on January 31, 2014 at Seneca, KS. For time and details, please contact Mike Brouk (mbrouk@ksu.edu; 785-532-1207).

➤ **Tremendous group of speakers slated for the 2014 KSU Swine Profitability Conference** which will be held on February 4, 2014, in Forum Hall of the K-State Student Union. The schedule includes:

- 9:15 a.m. Coffee and Donuts
- 9:30 a.m. The Impact of the Chinese Purchase of Smithfield Foods on the U.S. Swine Industry
Dennis DiPietre, Economist, KnowledgeVentures, LLC
- 10:30 a.m. *Jack and Pat Anderson Lecture in Swine Health Management: The Strangest Secret – Why Only A Few Farms Become World Class - Larry Coleman, Vet Care, Broken Bow, NE*
- 11:15 a.m. What Have I Done to Make My Land-Based System Successful
- Craig Christensen, Ogden, IA
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. Lessons I've Learned About Marketing Pork to the Chefs of High End Restaurants of New York - *Craig Good, Olsburg, KS*
- 2:15 p.m. The Power of Animal Sourced Food in Enriching People's Lives
- Grady Bishop, Director of Elanco US Swine Operations
- 3:00 p.m. Adjourn

Registration fee of \$25 per participant is due by January 25, 2014. Brochures and registration information are available at www.KSUswine.org. For more information, contact Jim Nelssen (785-532-1251; jnelssen@ksu.edu).

- ↳ The 101st annual **KSU Cattlemen's Day** will be held on Friday, March 7, 2014. Mark your calendars and watch for more details. Program details and registration information will be coming soon to www.KSUbeef.org. For more information, contact Jim Drouillard (jdrouill@ksu.edu; 785-532-1204) or Dale Blasi (dblasi@ksu.edu; 785-532-5427).
- ↳ The **2014 KSU Sheep Producer Day** will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2014 at the KSU Sheep and Meat Goat Unit, Manhattan. A complete schedule and registration information will be coming soon. For more information, contact Brian Faris (brfaris@ksu.edu; 785-532-1255).
- ↳ **Kansas Junior Sheep Producer Day planned for March.** Kansas Junior Sheep Producer Day will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at Kansas State University's Weber Hall in Manhattan, KS. Presentations and demonstrations by a featured speaker(s), as well as K-State faculty will cover topics such as selection, facilities and general care, health and vaccinations, nutrition, and showmanship. This interactive workshop is designed for all ages and skill levels. All participants will receive a T-shirt, complimentary lunch, and educational materials. The program has not yet been finalized.
- Registration is \$15/person if received on or before March 7 and is \$20/person after March 7 and at the door. ALL individuals attending (including adults) must register. Please visit the program website, www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu for more information and registration. For more information, contact Kristine Clowers (clowers@ksu.edu) or Brian Faris (brfaris@ksu.edu; 785-532-1255).
- ↳ **Dates set for Livestock Fair Management Clinics.** Every other year, K-State Research and Extension and the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry hosts a Livestock Fair Management Clinic for county fair board members, Extension Agents, and other adult volunteers involved in local livestock fair management and leadership. This professional development opportunity consists of an activity filled day to increase awareness and how different county fairs operate and provide a forum for open communication for individuals with local livestock fairs across Kansas.
- There will be two different locations on two different days with the same general agenda. Tuesday, April 1, will be at the Shawnee County Farm Bureau Office: 3801 SW Wanamaker Road, Topeka, KS 66610. Wednesday, April 2 will be at the Great Bend Front Door: 1615 10th Street, Great Bend, KS 67530. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. The agenda includes:
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| 8:45 – 9:15 a.m. | Registration |
| 9:15 – 9:30 a.m. | Welcome |
| 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. | Balancing the Fair Board and Extension Agent Relationship
<i>Jim Mengarelli, Wildcat District, and Bronc Barrows, Golden Prairie District</i> |
| 10:15 – 10:30 a.m. | Break |
| 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. | Official Policies of the Extension Role at County Fairs
<i>Pam Van Horn, State 4-H Specialist; Dale Fjell and Chris Onsted, Area Directors</i> |
| 11:30 – 12:00 noon | Identification of 4-H Animals – Differences between County and State Shows |
| 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. | Lunch (provided) |
| 12:45 – 1:30 p.m. | Timing of Livestock Shows during the Fair
- Balancing Heat vs. Crowd Attendance
- How Long Animals are at the Fair |
| 1:30 – 2:15 p.m. | Premium Sale Structure and Marketing Options for Animals |
| 2:15 – 2:45 p.m. | On-Your-Mind Open Topic Discussion |
| 2:45 – 3:00 p.m. | Wrap-up and Adjourn |
- Registration is \$15/person and is due by March 14. Checks can be made payable to "KSU-ASI" and mailed to "Livestock Fair Management Clinic, Attn: Lois Schreiner, 218 Weber Hall, KSU, Manhattan, KS 66506." For a registration form and a detailed agenda, please visit the website, www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu. The form is located in a link on the calendar at the top of the page. If you have any questions please contact Kristine Clowers via email, clowers@ksu.edu; Joel DeRouchey at 785-532-2280; jderouch@ksu.edu; or Brian Faris at 785-532-1255; brfaris@ksu.edu).
- ↳ Plan to attend the **37th Midwest Processed/Cured Meat Workshop** on Friday, April 11, 2014 in Weber Hall at KSU. At the Meat Processing Workshop, learn techniques for improving product quality. Watch for more details coming soon. Contact Liz Boyle at lboyle@ksu.edu for more information.

- ↪ **Save the date for the 2014 KSU Sheep and Goat Conference.** The date for the KSU Sheep and Goat Conference will be May 2-4, 2014 at the KSU Sheep and Meat Goat Unit, Manhattan, KS. Watch for more details. For more information, contact Brian Faris (brfaris@ksu.edu; 785-532-1255).
- ↪ The **KSU Youth Horse Judging Camp – Beginners Section** will be held June 5, 2014 and the **KSU Youth Horse Judging Camp – Advanced Section** will be held June 3-4, 2014. Both camps will be held in Weber Arena on the KSU Campus. Registration for both camps must be paid by May 10, 2014. Camp will be limited to the first 30 participants. For more information, camp agenda and registration forms, visit the website www.asi.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=1141 or www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu. You can also contact Teresa Douthit, 785-532-1268, douthit@ksu.edu or Tasha Dove at tashakd@ksu.edu.
- ↪ **K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy Planned for June 11-14, 2014.** Kansas State University will host the sixth Annual K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy June 11-14 for young livestock industry leaders. This four-day event will focus on increasing young leaders' knowledge of Kansas' diverse livestock industry as well as building participant's leadership skills. Participants will be led by the Youth Livestock Program Coordinator, as well as three K-State students and will stay in K-State housing for the duration of the event.
- Twenty high school students will be selected to participate based upon educational, community, and agricultural involvement; as well as through an extensive essay application. Applications must be submitted via e-mail to clowers@ksu.edu by 11:59 pm on Saturday, March 15, 2014. No late applications will be accepted. More information, including application form, is available at www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu. For more information, contact Kristine Clowers (clowers@ksu.edu).

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS		
Date	Event	Location
January 16, 2014	Winter Ranch Management "Town Hall" Meeting	St. Marys, KS
January 21, 2014	Winter Ranch Management "Town Hall" Meeting	Hepler, KS
January 22, 2014	Winter Ranch Management "Town Hall" Meeting	Eureka, KS
January 22, 2014	Winter Ranch Management "Town Hall" Meeting	Flint Hills District
January 23, 2014	Winter Ranch Management "Town Hall" Meeting	Downs, KS
January 28, 2014	Winter Ranch Management "Town Hall" Meeting	Ness City, KS
January 29, 2014	Winter Ranch Management "Town Hall" Meeting	Wichita, KS
January 30, 2014	Winter Ranch Management "Town Hall" Meeting	Greensburg, KS
February 4, 2014	KSU Swine Profitability Conference	Manhattan
February 12, 2014	Winter Ranch Management "Town Hall" Meeting	Concordia, KS
March 7, 2014	KSU Cattlemen's Day	Manhattan
March 8, 2014	KSU Sheep Producer Day	Manhattan
March 15, 2014	Application deadline for AS&I Leadership Academy	
March 29, 2014	Kansas Junior Sheep Producer Day	Manhattan
April 1, 2014	Livestock Fair Management Clinic	Topeka, KS
April 2, 2014	Livestock Fair Management Clinic	Great Bend, KS
April 11, 2014	37 th Midwest Meat Processing Workshop	Manhattan
May 2-4, 2014	KSU Sheep and Goat Conference	Manhattan
June 3-4, 2014	KSU Youth Horse Judging Camp – Advanced Section	Manhattan
June 5, 2014	KSU Youth Horse Judging Camp – Beginners Section	Manhattan
June 11-14, 2014	K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy	Manhattan

WHAT'S NEW.....

Management Minute "A Meaningful Gesture"

↪ **Management Minute** – Chris Reinhardt, Ph.D., Extension Feedlot Specialist **"A Meaningful Gesture"**

If you haven't already either (a) given out a year-end bonus or (b) decided that the year-end bonus is a frustrating complete waste of time, here's something for you to consider.

If you have an overwhelming compulsion to say some kind of heart-felt "Thank you" to your team this year, the three key points to remember are (1) that the intended "Thank you" is perceived by the person receiving the reward, (2) it is something extra and not simply an extension of normal compensation, and (3) there is no risk of the bonus, or lack thereof, becoming a dis-incentive later.

Many organizations have supplied bonuses in the form of a gift card to a local or online retailer. There is certainly value in supplying your employees an opportunity to purchase some useful item that they will enjoy, how likely is it that the item will emotionally be connected to the organization? Another drawback to this approach is the risk that the bonus will be viewed like cash, an extension of normal compensation, and nothing exceptional, not a special "Thank you" from management.

One alternative is a gift card to a nice local restaurant. This can be a very meaningful way that employees can enjoy quality time with family or friends, in a restaurant that might be too expensive to be a regular "hang-out", making the evening something special and somewhat of an event. The "special-ness" of the event increases the likelihood that the employee will connect the event to the appreciation expressed by you and the organization's leadership team.

The more "special" the experience, the more likely (1) the employee will perceive the "Thank you", and (2) there won't be an annual expectation for extra compensation, meaning that (3) there won't be hurt feelings if the bonus doesn't arrive next year.

For more information, contact Chris at 785-532-1672 or cdr3@ksu.edu.

↪ **Management Minute** – Chris Reinhardt, Ph.D., Extension Feedlot Specialist **"An Open Winter"**

Lack of precipitation during the winter is a double edged sword: moisture is essential for spring grass to come on strong and for water sources to fill; frozen moisture blowing sideways at 35 mph is hard on both man and beast. So although we openly breathe a sigh of relief for every winter day without a blizzard that same lack of snow fall means one more rain we'll need come spring.

But there is an additional potential hidden pitfall to lack of snow cover: Managerial Overconfidence. Just because we can see grass on the hillsides or crop aftermath in the fields where cows are grazing, doesn't mean we can let those cows entirely fend for themselves.

The first reality is that, although cows are designed to utilize low quality forages, such as dormant grass and crop residues, they can make much better use of it with appropriate supplementation. For example, a 1,300 lb cow can eat roughly 20 lb of low quality (<7% crude protein) forage without supplementation, and digest roughly 50% of it for a net intake of 10 lb of total digestible nutrients (TDN). If we supplement those same cows with 3 lb of soybean meal or 4.5 lb of distiller's grains daily, those same cows will consume 24 lb of forage and digest 55% of it for a net intake of 13.2 lb of TDN---that's a 32% increase! There's no free lunch in production agriculture, but the returns from protein supplementation on a low quality forage diet is as close as we can get.

Feedlot Facts "An Open Winter"

↪ **Feedlot Facts – “An Open Winter” (cont.)**

The second thing to realize is that just because we can see grass and not a snow bank doesn't mean that the cows aren't fighting off the winter cold. For 1,300 lb cows with a good, dry, winter hair coat, the thermoneutral zone is about 30-32°F. That's the wind chill temperature, not simply air temperature. For every 10° that the effective temperature (wind chill) drops below 32°, the cow's energy needs increase by 10%. So if the effective temperature drops from 30° to 10°, and feed isn't in excess, we'll need to supply an additional 5 lbs of hay. If temperature drops from 30° to 10° below zero, we need to supply an additional 10 lbs of hay.

Finally, know what your cows weigh. Genetics have changed dramatically in the past 20-30 years; cows are bigger and heavier. The average cow in the Angus Association weighs about 1,350 lbs. So unless the bulls siring your replacement heifers have had lower than average yearling weight EPDs, your mature cows probably weigh 1,300 lbs too. The downside of underestimating your cows' weight is that for every 100 lbs you underestimate cow weight, you'll underfeed the cows by about 1 lb of hay and 0.33 lbs of protein supplement. You'll save on feed costs in the short run, but cow body condition will slowly slip downward, and cows will be undernourished at calving time, resulting in reduced calf health, greater number of days required to breed back, and reduced breed back percentage. Make a point to weigh a handful of cows at some point when they're in good body condition. If they're thin, add 100 lbs per cow to the scale weight to reflect what the cow's target weight should be.

For more information, contact Chris at 785-532-1672 or cdr3@ksu.edu.

↪ **Prior Adaptation Improves Crude Glycerin Utilization by Cattle** - Ruminally cannulated Holstein steers (n = 4) fed finishing diets containing 0 or 15% crude glycerin were used as donors of ruminal contents for inoculation of *in vitro* cultures. Ruminal contents were removed from each animal, strained to remove large particles, mixed with artificial saliva, and placed into culture flasks containing finishing diets with 0 or 15% glycerin. *In vitro* dry matter disappearance (an estimator of digestion) and the production of fermentative gasses and volatile fatty acids were measured.

When glycerin was added to *in vitro* cultures containing ruminal inoculum from unadapted animals, digestion was mildly depressed, but digestibility increased slightly when glycerin was added to cultures containing ruminal inoculum from adapted animals.

The Bottom Line: This study supports our contention that there is an adaptive response to glycerin utilization by ruminal microorganisms. View the complete research report at www.asi.ksu.edu/cattlemensday. For more information contact Jim Drouillard (785-532-1204; jdrouill@ksu.edu) or Chris Reinhardt (785-532-1672; cdr3@k-state.edu).

↪ **Evaluation of the Effects of Added Vitamin D₃ in Maternal Diets on Sow and Pig Performance** - A total of 84 sows (PIC 1050) and their litters were used to determine the effects of supplementing high levels of dietary maternal vitamin D₃ on sow and pig performance, serum 25(OH) D₃, milk vitamin D₃, neonatal bone mineralization, and neonatal tissue vitamin D₃. After breeding, sows were randomly assigned to 1 of 3 dietary vitamin D₃ treatments (680, 1,360, or 2,720 IU/lb of complete diets). Sows were bled on d 0 and 100 of gestation, and at farrowing and weaning (d 21). Pig BW was recorded at birth and weaning, and serum was collected from 2 pigs/litter at birth, on d 10, and at weaning. A total of 54 piglets (18/treatment) were euthanized at birth and necropsied to sample bones and tissues. Sow and suckling pig performance and neonatal bone ash and bone density did not differ among maternal vitamin D₃ treatments, but sow serum 25(OH)D₃ and milk vitamin D₃ increased with increasing maternal vitamin D₃ supplementation. Piglet serum 25(OH)D₃ increased with increased maternal vitamin D₃. Neonatal kidney vitamin D₃ tended to decrease with increasing maternal vitamin D₃, but liver vitamin D₃ tended to increase with increasing maternal vitamin D₃; however, physiological concentrations of vitamin D within these tissues were low regardless of statistical tendencies.

At weaning, a subsample of 180 pigs (PIC 327 × 1050) were used in a 3 × 2 split plot design for 35 d to determine the effects of maternal vitamin D₃ and 2 levels of dietary vitamin D₃ (816 or 8,160 IU/lb) from d 0 to 10 postweaning on piglet growth and serum 25(OH)D₃. Overall (d 0 to 35), nursery ADG and F/G were not affected by either source of vitamin D₃, but ADFI tended to decrease with increasing maternal vitamin D₃ because pigs from sows fed 1,360 IU of vitamin D₃/lb had lower ADFI compared with pigs from sows fed 680 or 2,720 IU vitamin D₃/lb. Nursery pig serum 25(OH)D₃ increased with increasing maternal vitamin D₃ on d 0 (weaning), and maternal × diet interactions were observed on

d 10 and 21 because pigs from sows fed 680 IU vitamin D₃/ lb had greater increases in serum 25(OH)D₃ when fed 8,160 IU vitamin D₃/lb compared with pigs from sows fed 1,360 IU vitamin D₃/lb.

The Bottom Line...Sow and pig serum 25(OH)D₃ and milk vitamin D₃ can be increased by increasing maternal vitamin D₃, and nursery pig serum 25(OH)D₃ can be increased by increasing dietary vitamin D₃; however, sow and pig performance and neonatal bone mineralization was not influenced by increasing vitamin D₃ dietary levels. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Swine Day Report at www.KSUswine.org. (This study conducted by J.R. Flohr, M.D. Tokach, S.S. Dritz, J.M. DeRouchey, J.L. Nelssen, and J.R. Bergstrom)

↳ **Evaluation of Diet Complexity and Benzoic Acid on Growth Performance of Nursery Pigs** - A total of 280 weanling pigs (PIC 327 × 1050, initially 15.4 lb, 3 d postweaning) were used in a 28-d trial to evaluate the effects of benzoic acid and diet complexity on growth performance. Treatments were arranged as a 2 × 2 factorial with 2 diet complexities and 2 benzoic acid levels (0 vs. 0.5%) fed for the first 14 d. Diet complexity treatments were either a simple diet that did not contain any lactose, zinc oxide, or specialty protein sources or a complex diet that contained 10% dried whey, 1.25% select menhaden fish meal, 1.25% spray-dried blood cells, and 0.25% zinc oxide. From d 14 to 28, pigs were fed a common diet with and without 0.5% benzoic acid, with pigs continuing to receive benzoic acid if they received it from d 0 to 14.

No growth performance interactions were detected between diet complexity and benzoic acid. From d 0 to 14, when different diet complexities were fed, pigs fed simple diets had decreased ADG and ADFI and poorer F/G compared with pigs fed complex diets. From d 14 to 28, pigs previously fed simple diets showed compensatory growth and tended to have increased ADG and improved F/G compared with pigs previously fed the complex diets. Overall (d 0 to 28), pigs fed simple diets during Phase 1 had decreased ADG and ADFI from d 0 to 28 compared with pigs fed complex diets. For the main effect of benzoic acid, no differences were observed in ADG, ADFI, or F/G.

The Bottom Line...As expected, early nursery pig growth performance was reduced when pigs were fed simple diets. Benzoic acid had no impact on pig growth performance regardless of diet complexity. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Swine Day Report at www.KSUswine.org. (This study conducted by J.E. Nemechek, M.D. Tokach, S.S. Dritz, R.D. Goodband, J.M. DeRouchey, and J.R. Bergstrom)

↳ **Evaluating the Effects of an Algae-Modified Montmorillonite Clay in Diets Contaminated with Deoxynivalenol on Nursery Pig Growth Performance** - A total of 280 nursery pigs (PIC 327 × 1050, initially 21.9 lb and 35 d of age) were used in a 21-d growth trial to evaluate the effects of an algae-modified montmorillonite clay (MMi) on nursery pig performance when fed diets contaminated with deoxynivalenol (DON). Pigs were allotted to pens by weight, and pens were randomly assigned to 1 of 5 dietary treatments arranged in a 2 × 2 + 1 factorial with 7 pigs per pen and 8 pens per treatment. All experimental diets were pelleted. Mycotoxin analyses were conducted on the main ingredients at NDSU3 and LDA labs4, and these results were used in diet formulation. Naturally contaminated wheat (10.7 ppm DON) was used to produce diets with approximately 5 ppm DON. The 5 treatments consisted of 2 positive control diets that did not contain DON contamination with or without 0 or 0.50% MMi and 3 negative control diets that were contaminated with 5 ppm of DON and contained 0, 0.25%, or 0.50% MMi. No DON × MMi interactions were observed for the entire study. Overall (d 0 to 21), ADG, ADFI, and d 21 BW decreased in pigs fed DON-contaminated diets regardless of MMi addition. Feed efficiency was poorer for pigs fed diets with DON due, primarily to poor feed efficiency in the initial period (d 0 to 7). Pigs fed diets contaminated with DON had greater BW variation (CV) within pen on d 21. Although the addition of 0.5% MMi to diets restored ADFI from d 14 to 21, no other treatment differences were observed for MMi inclusion.

The Bottom Line...This study suggests that including MMi will not offset reductions in nursery pig performance caused by high DON levels (> 5 ppm) when diets are fed in pellet form. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Swine Day Report at www.KSUswine.org. (This study conducted by J.A. Erceg, H.L. Frobose, M.D. Tokach, J.M. DeRouchey, S.S. Dritz, R.D. Goodband, and J.L. Nelssen)

↳ The Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, Kansas State University seeks applicants for a **Research Technician at the Kansas Artificial Breeding Service Unit**. This is a full-time, 12-month, term position. A Bachelor of Science degree is required. View complete position announcement at: www.asi.ksu.edu/about/job-announcements.html. Review of applications begins February 14, 2014, and continues until a suitable candidate is identified.

AS&I Faculty Spotlight



KC Olson (kcolson@k-state.edu; 785-532-1254)
Professor/Range Beef Cattle Nutrition and Management

KC is a professor of range beef cattle nutrition and management. He is actively involved in the undergraduate and graduate teaching mission at KSU and takes great pride in the privilege of helping to train the next generation of Great Plains ranchers and farmers. KC's research program is designed to address questions that directly affect beef industry profitability. Specific areas of research include: nutritional management of cattle grazing native range; management of invasive range plants; effects of calthood nutritional management on carcass quality and value; and factors influencing grazing behavior.

KC holds advanced degrees from Kansas State University and North Dakota State University. Prior to coming to KSU, he was on the faculty at the University of Missouri - Columbia. KC is active in the American Society of Animal Science, the Society for Range Management, the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists, and the American College of Animal Nutrition.

KC, his wife Karli, and sons Charles and Theodore live on a beautiful ranch in North Lyon County. In his off-time, KC enjoys spending time with his family, being active in his church, and coaching youth sports.



Ron Pope (rvpope@k-state.edu; 785-532-5404)
Instructor/Beef Cattle Production and Management

Ron Pope is from Oklahoma and Texas. He teaches three sections of ASI 105, Animal Sciences & Industry laboratory, during the fall semester and two sections in the spring semester. He advises 45 undergraduate students. He is also responsible for conducting tours of the department for outside visitors. This includes school field trips, prospective students, and interested groups.

Ron and his wife Nita have four children (all K-State alums), three grandsons, Blake, Rhett, and Chisum, and two granddaughters, Vanessa and Kate. Their children are Russell ASI, BS 1999 and his wife Misty EDEL, BS 1999; Marie EDEL, BS 2002 and her husband Jeff Jones ASI, BS 1999; Bill ASI, BS 2005 and his wife Heather AS, BS 2005, DVM 2010 from Colorado State University; and Ronny ASI, BS 2006 and his wife Kelsey AGECE, BS 2008, MS 2009.



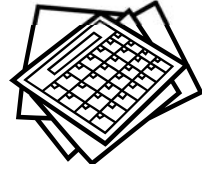
Tim Carson (tcarson@k-state.edu; 785-532-1191)
Instructor/Computer Information Specialist

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.

Tim worked for 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, Microcomputer Application, 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. Tim enjoys tinkering with satellite equipment, doing woodworking, playing softball and watching his beloved Kansas City Royals.

What Producers Should Be Thinking About.....



WHAT PRODUCERS SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT IN MARCH.....

BEEF -- *Tips by Dale Blasi, Extension Beef Specialist*

- Manage calving pens and pastures to minimize human, cow and calf stress. Stay organized.
- An observation schedule should be implemented for calving first-calf heifers and cows. First-calf heifers should be checked every 2 to 3 hours.
- Sanitation is key to reducing and/or eliminating calf scours. An excellent calving pasture management plan by Dr. David Smith from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, can be found at <http://beef.unl.edu/beefreports/symp-2003-19-XVIII.pdf>.
- Make sure every calf consumes adequate colostrum during the first 4-12 hours after birth.
- Keep accurate calving records, including cow identification (ID), calf ID, birth date, calving difficulty score and birth weight. Other traits to consider recording are teat and udder scores, calf vigor score, and other pertinent information. This information along with Angus sire information is vital for enrolling cattle into the AngusSourceSM program.
- Calving books are essential sources of information; make sure you have a backup copy.
- Body condition score (BCS) cows. Thin and young cows will need extra energy to maintain yearly calving interval.
- If cow diets are going to be shifted from low- (poor quality forage or dormant grass) to high-quality forage (lush green grass) programs, begin a grass tetany prevention program at least 3 weeks prior to the forage switch.
- Given the high price of mineral supplements, conduct a needs assessment of your cowherd. Moreover, closely monitor daily intake to insure that it is consistent with label directions.
- When making genetic selections, use the most recent National Cattle Evaluation (NCE) and herd records judiciously.
- If new bulls are purchased, now is the time to start preparing them for their first breeding season. Bulls need to be properly vaccinated and conditioned to be athletic. Moderate body condition with abundant exercise is ideal.
- After calving and before breeding, vaccinate cows as recommended by your veterinarian.
- Plan to attend beef production meetings.

*We need your input! If you have any suggestions or comments on **News from KSU Animal Sciences**, please let us know by e-mail to lschrein@ksu.edu, or phone 785-532-1267.*