

Left ... no, right, no ...



TOMI MILLER/Colby Free Press
Showing off his dance moves, Clint Milliman broke it down at the 4-H fashion show. The 4-H agents agreed that if clubs met the challenge of having 95 percent of their members give project presentations they would dance to disco-inspired music after the fashion show Tuesday, At the Colby United Methodist church, the show gave 4-Hers a chance to model their clothing construction and buymanship projects.

Environmental impact of beef has dropped steadily for 30 years

When it comes to reducing the environmental impact of raising beef, the industry has come farther over the past 30 years than many people realize, according to a Washington State University scientist.

"The environmental impact of U.S. beef production has been reduced by improved productivity," said Judith Capper, assistant professor of dairy science at the university. She spoke at the American Meat Science Association's Reciprocal Meat Conference at Kansas State University June 19-22. "In 1977 it took five animals to produce the same amount of beef as four animals produced in 2007."

"The majority of beef production's environmental impact occurs on-farm," Capper said of the farm-to feedlot-to processing system.

She acknowledged that opportunities to further improve beef yield per animal may be limited. Through genetic, feeding and management improvements, the amount of beef an animal yielded in 2007 averaged 773 pounds, well above the 603-pound average in 1977. In addition, the average number of days for a beef animal to reach slaughter weight was 482 in 2007, down from 606 days in 1977.

Capper cited a recent study that showed that in comparing 2007 with 1977: 31 percent more beef was produced, the number of beef animals was down 30 percent, beef cattle consumed 19 percent less feed, beef cattle consumed 14 percent less water, beef cattle production used 34 percent less land, beef cattle produced 20 percent less manure, beef cattle produced 20 percent less methane, beef cattle produced 11 percent less nitrous oxide and beef cattle production's carbon footprint was 18 percent less.

Overall, in 2007, the industry had 18 percent less impact on the environment than in 1977 – and produced more beef, Capper said.

She used the example of two vehicles – one of which is more fuel efficient than the other. However, by revealing that the less fuel efficient vehicle is a bus that can transport many more people per gallon of fuel than a small car that can transport two, it makes a person view challenges differently, she said.

"It's essential to assess impact per unit of output rather than per unit of the production process," she said.

When assessing which is better for the planet

– grass-fed, natural or conventional (feedlot-finished), Capper said she does not advocate for any particular group. However, removing technology from beef production considerably increases animal numbers and increases resource use and greenhouse gas emissions.

"If all U.S. beef was grass-fed, it would increase land use by 53.1 million hectares, which is about 75 percent of the land area of Texas," Capper said. "It would increase water use by 1.733 billion liters, which is equal to annual usage by 46.3 million U.S. households, and it would increase greenhouse gas emissions enough to equal annual emissions from 26.6 million U.S. cars."

Capper said that incorrect data are sometimes used in newspaper and magazine articles which can lead to a bias in consumers' food choices. She cited an example where studies that appeared in a major U.S. magazine referred to beef production but the data came from other countries where practices are not as efficient as in the United States. For example, in Brazil only 62 percent of beef cows produce a live calf, and cows are typically four years old at first calving.

Risk and profit conference in August

Kansas State University's Department of Agricultural Economics will hold its annual Risk and Profit Conference and Trade Show Thursday and Friday, Aug. 18-19, at the K-State Alumni Center in Manhattan.

This year's conference will feature two keynote addresses. Fred Seamon, associate director of commodity research and product development with the CME

Group will present "Hedging in 2011: What's Changed and What Remains the Same" at the Thursday luncheon. Kent and Rebecca Ott, longtime agricultural producers from south central Kansas will provide "A Conversation with a Kansas Producer" just after the Friday breakfast.

At the CME Group, Seamon is responsible for conducting research on the structure and per-

formance of commodity markets, which is used to monitor the performance of and maintain the viability of CME Group commodity futures and options contract markets. He also is responsible for investigating the feasibility of new commodity futures contracts and writing trading rules for new commodity futures.

Kent and Rebecca Ott have been partners in farming for over 30 years with Kent's parents, Charles and Patricia Ott. They grow wheat, soybeans, corn and grain sorghum. Kent has served on the local co-op and Farm Service agency boards, and has served as a local school board member and state representative.

After the Thursday evening dinner, K-State agricultural economists Dan O'Brien and Glynn Tonsor will present this year's grain and livestock outlooks.

Conference participants also may attend eight of 21 breakout sessions. All conference presentations will be included on a compact disc included as part of registration.

Breakout session topics include everything from crop insurance volatility to machinery costs, including forecasting custom rates

to international benchmarking of beef production. Presentations also will include land prices, bio-fuels contracting, using spreadsheets to manage expenses and the basics of futures and options.

The conference will feature a trade show with displays by agribusinesses and commodity groups.

New this year is the opportunity to register for just one day of the conference, said Rich Llewellyn, one of the conference coordinators. Registration for both days is \$210 for the first registration and \$190 for each additional registration from the same organization, if paid by Friday, Aug. 12. One-day registration if paid by Aug. 12 is \$120 for the first registration and \$110 for additional registrations from the same organization.

After Aug. 12, the fee is \$230 for both days and \$140 for one day.

Complete information about the conference, including breakout session topics and presenters and online registration, is available at www.agmanager.info/events/risk_profit/2011 or by contacting Rich Llewellyn at (785) 532-1504 or rwl@ksu.edu.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE Tuesday

- 1:16 a.m. – Security check at Aquatic Park
- 2:53 a.m. – Service rendered/attempt to locate: caller reported subject not contacting her. Unable to locate. Reporting party called back; subject called and was OK.
- 6:39 a.m. – Unlocked building at Fike Park.
- 9:32 a.m. – Caller reported someone receiving harassing text messages. Criminal threat report filed.
- 12:35 p.m. – Driving while suspended report filed on traffic stop.
- 1:10 p.m. – Theft, criminal damage to property: caller reported items taken off vehicle.
- 2:39 p.m. – Funeral blocks.
- 2:44 p.m. – Provided directions for motorist at Range and College.
- 4:09 p.m. – Caller reported semi blocking Country Club and Fourth. Not found.
- 5:40 p.m. – Narcotics violation report filed.
- 9:12 p.m. – Caller reported three children waiting for parents over fifteen at the Colby Aquatic Pool.
- 9:13 p.m. – Caller reported suspicious person in parking lot. Made contact everything OK.
- 10:51 p.m. – Locked Fike Park bathroom.

11:15 p.m. – Caller reported an erratic driver on Seventh St. by Fike Park. Vehicle located.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Saturday

- 4:44 a.m. – Caller reported vehicle broken down at U.S. 24 and County Rd. 36. Not found.
- 6:37 a.m. – Caller reported U-Haul overturned on I-70 at mile 60 eastbound. Report filed.
- 8:16 a.m. – Accident at the landfill.
- 1:05 p.m. – Owner reported semi driver stuck truck between two buildings. Got semi out, no damage note.
- 1:28 p.m. – Subject talked to deputy about dispute with former landlord. Civil matter, civil standby to be scheduled.

Sunday

- 7:05 a.m. – Subject came to station reported ex-husband threatening her. Report filed.
- 1:21 p.m. – Booked Joseph Bernard Castellana.
- 4:27 p.m. – Took prisoners to Atwood.

Monday

- 8:59 a.m. – Helped Highway Patrol on drug traffic stop.
- 9:37 a.m. – Caller reported someone had

transplanted marijuana into his garden. Spoke to reporting party. Information provided, no report.

- 9:40 a.m. – Booked David Lawrence Diab.
- 10:40 a.m. – Call to 911 reported cement truck overturned in the 1200 block of K-25. Assisted Highway Patrol, ambulance and fire department on call.
- 6:15 p.m. – Caller requested deputy during board meeting.

Tuesday

- 8:41 a.m. – Joseph B. Castellana arrested on warrant.
- 8:54 a.m. – Civil forfeiture report filed.
- 11:10 a.m. – John Kuder arrested on warrant.
- 11:55 a.m. – Booked Kuder.
- 2:02 p.m. – Nicholas Henry arrested on warrant.
- 2:26 p.m. – Booked Henry.
- 2:42 p.m. – Funeral escort from Methodist Church to Brewster.
- 6:46 p.m. – Released Kuder.
- 7:41 p.m. – Caller reported suspicious vehicle parked in from of residence.
- 9:10 p.m. – Jason Maez arrested on warrant.

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