

K-State team goes to weed competition

The Kansas State University Weeds Team successfully competed in the WeedOlympics, the first-ever national Weed Science student contest conducted at Knoxville, Tenn., in late July.

The K-State team placed second overall in the graduate division of the Western region. Participating graduate students included J.D. Riffel and Josh Putman. Jessica Zimmerman, an undergraduate student from Alta Vista, participated on the graduate team.

Riffel achieved the highest graduate individual score from the Western region.

The contest included graduate and undergraduate students from across the United States and

Canada. Events consisted of weed identification, sprayer calibration, identification of unknown herbicides, and field problem solving. The K-State team was coached by Anita Dille, weed ecologist, and Dallas Peterson, extension weed management specialist.

The WeedOlympics is a national weed science contest among student members of the North Central Weed Science Society, Northeastern Weed Science Society, Southern Weed Science Society, and the Western Society of Weed Science. This is the first time students from all regional societies competed in a national contest against one another.

Brewster class reunion

The Brewster class of 1981 gathered in Denver for their 30th high school class reunion on July 23. The former classmates enjoyed a VIP tour of Coors Brewery which included a private tasting followed by a concert at Red Rocks featuring the Steve Miller Band. Class member present were Joe Garcia (top left), Mike Dunlap, Paul Kear; and Dawn Musil Kiebel (bottom left), Marla Gilley Bassler, and Tanya Crabtree Szanto.



Heat stress precautions improve cattle well-being

Hot temperatures across Kansas have increased concern about how heat affects livestock and what livestock producers can do to alleviate the negative effects.

"Because animal welfare is their top priority, most livestock producers have protocols in place to address heat stress," said Kansas Department of Agriculture Animal Health Commissioner Dr. Bill Brown. "Through proper management, cattle producers can reduce the serious impacts heat stress has on cattle."

Life-threatening heat stress in cattle is usually not caused by elevated temperatures alone, but by a combination of high humidity and above-normal temperatures. These primary factors can be made worse by secondary factors, such as multiple consecutive days of high temperatures, lack of nighttime cooling, lack of cloud cover, lack of wind, lack of shade or grazing endophyte-infested tall fescue pastures.

Signs of heat-related distress in cattle during hot, humid weather include:

- going off feed,
- standing in ponds or with their heads over the water tank,
- standing on the highest point in the pen or pasture trying to catch a breeze,
- panting,
- salivating and
- open-mouth breathing.

Panting scores are perhaps the best visual method to estimate the severity of heat stress on cattle. Breathing rates from 80 to 120 breaths per minute indicates moderate stress. A range of 120 to 160 breaths per minute indicates danger. More than 160 breaths per minute indicates that there is an emergency.

If signs of moderate heat stress are seen, producers may have a short time to provide a mechanism for cooling the cattle before the situation becomes life-threatening.

"Ready access to abundant cold water is essential during periods of heat stress," Kansas State University Extension Beef Veterinarian Dr. Larry Hollis said. "If water availability is limited, extra water tanks should be brought in so that dominant cattle cannot keep timid cattle away from the water."

Dr. Hollis went on explain that access to shade is critical, especially for heavy feeder cattle or animals in an advanced stage of pregnancy. Cattle should have the ability to move away from structures such as solid fences or barns that reduce air flow. Weeds around the edges of pens should be cut down to prevent their restricting air flow and also to reduce roosting places for flies. Fly control should be used to keep cattle from bunching and further build up heat.

Sprinkler systems that provide large

drops of cold water that will wet the cattle's skin thoroughly can also be used, but will only increase the humidity problem if they do not wet the cattle's skin thoroughly. When sprinkled, cattle need to have adequate space to stand under the sprinklers as needed and then move away to a dry area where evaporation will help cool their bodies. Producers can request assistance from fire trucks from the local fire department if the situation becomes life threatening.

Livestock producers should postpone all gathering or handling procedures until after the critical heat period has passed. If cattle must be worked during hot weather, producers should gather them into large holding pens with excessive space and watering capacity per animal the evening before working. During hot summer days, ranchers should begin working cattle so that all handling is completed no later than mid-morning. It is important to avoid crowding by bringing only a few animals to the chute at one time. Cattle should be returned to open space, shade and water as soon as possible after working.

Producers should monitor radio, television and electronic media programs that regularly present weather and heat index information. When the heat index is high for people, it is also high for cattle. Additionally, researchers at the University of

Nebraska have developed a Temperature-Humidity Index that can help producers anticipate when heat stress will become a problem.

Producers should be on alert for heat stress problems when conditions reach an index score of 75. When the index reaches 79, the danger point has been reached. When the index reaches 84, emergency conditions exist.

If the heat index stays above 84 for three days in a row, death losses can start to occur, especially if there has been a slight breeze and the wind suddenly stops blowing or clouds that have been present suddenly dissipate.

Producers are encouraged to monitor the weather closely and use best management practices to minimize the effects of heat stress on cattle. Heat stress forecasts are available at www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=21351.

For information on detecting on managing heat stress, contact Dr. Larry Hollis at (785) 532-1246. For information on heat stress in swine visit www.pork.org/News/129/FeaturesArchive.aspx. For information on heat stress in poultry visit www.southernstates.com/articles/cl/poultrycare-heatstress.aspx.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

Thursday

12:38 a.m. – Caller reported loud music. Spoke with subject.

4:59 a.m. – Security check at Walmart.

5:21 a.m. – Unlocked building at Fike Park.

8:14 a.m. – Subject came to Law Enforcement Center in reference to scam reported Wednesday. Spoke with subject, information provided.

10:21 a.m. – Provided directions to Driver's License Examiner at 990 S. Range.

11:38 a.m. – Provided directions from K-25 and Willow to Taco Johns.

8:02 p.m. – Caller reported subject came onto his property earlier today. Spoke to reporting party; civil matter.

9:34 p.m. – Security check at Walmart.

11:08 p.m. – Secured building at Fike Park.

11:13 p.m. – Criminal damage to property report filed for damage to door at Fike Park.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Thursday

12:11 a.m. – Booked Gillis L. David.

8:27 a.m. – Caller requested welfare check of subject, concerned for safety. Spoke with subject, everything OK.

11:20 a.m. – Released Melissa Joy Swafford.

4:20 p.m. – Caller reported possible starving horse. All appeared OK, will contact owner.

5:09 p.m. – Caller from Logan County was threatened via phone. Report filed.

10:23 p.m. – Kathleen Jean Arendt arrested on warrant.

10:34 p.m. – Booked Arendt.

10:54 p.m. – Released Arendt.

Family seeks answers 34 years after Lawrence man's death

LAWRENCE (AP) – The family of a Lawrence man who died after being robbed and beaten in his home more than three decades ago is asking police to reopen the case in hopes of answering lingering questions about his death.

Robert Conlin, 66, was sleeping on a couch in his apartment on May 21, 1977, when someone broke in, beat him with a broom handle and left with a television and \$2. Conlin died at a hospital five days later. In October of that year, police said they had a suspect but no one was arrested and the case went cold.

"We just want answers," said Conlin's daughter, Katie Gillam, who was 23 years old when her father was attacked. "There's no closure."

An autopsy found that the beating contributed to Conlin's death but because he had several medical problems no

single cause of death was determined, the *Lawrence Journal-World* reported (<http://bit.ly/rdJBRm>).

Gillam, of Overland Park, said her father was in and out of consciousness during the five days after the beating but he was able to give police a description. She said her father said he was attacked by two black men, one tall and one shorter, contradicting police accounts that Conlin told police of only one attacker.

In October 1977, the Douglas County Attorney at the time, current Douglas County District Court Judge Michael Malone, said a suspect was identified and police had questioned him. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation turned over its part of the investigation to Lawrence police.

Lawrence police Sgt. Matt Sarna said last week that police were looking for the old case files after being contact-

ed by a family member. When that's done, "detectives will review the information thoroughly," Sarna said.

Even if someone is arrested, prosecutors would be hampered because there's a five-year statute of limitations on any crime other than murder that a suspect could be charged with, such as burglary and manslaughter – meaning prosecutors would need to prove murder.

At the time of the crime, Malone said the case was considered a murder.

"We're not considering filing less than felony murder charges because the facts of the situation show that was the crime committed," Malone said in a June 21, 1977, *Journal-World* article.

Gillam said since her father's death, the family has heard nothing about any efforts to solve the crime.

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