

K-state extension plans January calving schools

With calving season just around the corner, K-State Research and Extension will hold free calving schools in five locations, with a focus on challenges ranchers face during this time.

Area offerings include 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, at The Gateway in Oberlin; 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7, at the fairgrounds in Phillipsburg; and 7 p.m. (Central Time) Wednesday, Jan. 8, at the Wallace County Fairgrounds in Sharon Springs.

Topics will include "Handling Calving Difficulties" featuring Robert Mortimer, recently retired associate professor of clinical sciences at Colorado State Univer-

sity's Veterinary College. He will address topics including signs of calving, differentiating between normal and abnormal calving and how to manage a difficult birth.

Larry Hollis, beef cattle veterinarian with K-State Research and Extension, will speak on scours prevention and colostrum management.

"Producers have a significant investment to get each cow to a full term pregnancy. Losing calves at or near birth is an economic loss, but it is often a personal loss, too, and can leave producers asking themselves 'what if' type questions on how they might have saved a particular calf," said San-

dy Johnson, extension livestock specialist at K-State's Northwest Research Extension Center in Colby. "Continued sharpening of our skills when it comes to saving calves is time well spent...."

Contacts for the schools are Byron Hale, bhale@ksu.edu or (785) 475-8121, in Oberlin; Rachael Boyle, rboyle@ksu.edu or (785) 425-6851 in Phillipsburg; and Marty Fear, cfear@ksu.edu or (785) 332-3171 in Sharon Springs.

Financial support for the program is being provided by Zoetis and sponsors at each site. Make reservations by next Friday.

Soybean expo set for January for farmers and their partners

Soybean farmers and their industry partners will gather Wednesday, Jan. 8, in Topeka for the Kansas Soybean Expo.

The Kansas Soybean Association organizes the annual event to coincide with the Topeka Farm Show, with financial support from the Kansas Soybean Commission. It will be at the Capital Plaza Hotel's Manor Conference Center at the Kansas ExpoCenter.

Registration and exhibits open at 8:30 a.m., with the program scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. A reception will follow from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.

The opening session will feature a "Soybean Update" moderated by Gary Kilgore, Kansas State University professor emeritus of agronomy. Presenters will be Dr. William Schapaugh, K-State professor of soybean breeding and genetics; Dr. David Mengel, professor of soil fertility and nutrient management; and Dr. Xiuzhi Susan Sun, distinguished professor of grain science and industry. Their topics will be soybean-variety research, use of different

fertility rates and nutrients for soybean production, and new uses for soybeans.

Next, representatives from the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health, U.S. Soybean Export Council and Cargill will discuss sustainability and international opportunities for U.S. soy.

During the morning break, members of the association's policy committee will be on hand to answer questions and take advice about the association's positions for 2014. The current resolutions are available at KansasSoybeans.org/policy.

Bruce Vincent from Libby, Mont., will present the keynote address, "With Vision, There Is Hope." As a Montana logger 20 years ago, activists targeted his business through legislation and vandalism. Vincent will tell the audience how important it is to prevent activist interference in farming by heightening their involvement in public policy and industry organizations.

Duane Toews, farm director for KFRM-AM Radio in Clay Center,

will be the master of ceremonies at the luncheon, where Gov. Sam Brownback is the invited speaker. The association and commission will present awards and recognitions, including the DuPont Young Leader Award, the Conservation Legacy Award, Kansas Soybean Yield and Quality Contests winners, and meritorious service awards.

Association President Terry Reschke, Hiawatha, then will preside over the annual meeting.

The afternoon session will focus on planning for the future when Darin Newsom, DTN senior analyst, will present "2014 Soybeans: Last Man Standing?"

The complete schedule and registration form are available at KansasSoybeans.org/expo or by calling the Kansas Soybean office at (877) 577-6923. All soybean farmers are welcome. The registration fees are \$15 for association members (\$20 with a spouse) and \$20 for other guests, with a \$5 discount for anyone who registers by Thursday.

Senior Progress Center

Wednesday the Senior Progress Center will be closed for new Year's. There will be no transportation.

Activities for the week: **Monday:** 10:30 a.m. Skip Bo. **Tuesday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 a.m. canasta. **Wednesday:** center closed. **Thursday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 a.m. pinochle. **Friday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 a.m. pool game.

Menus for the week: **Mon-**

day: cook's choice entrée, hash brown casserole, green beans, apricots. **Tuesday:** chili, cook's choice fruit, crackers, cinnamon roll. **Wednesday:** closed. **Thursday:** smothered steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, seasoned carrots, applesauce. **Friday:** tuna and noodles, peas, cottage cheese with pineapple, brownie.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch Monday

through Friday at the senior center. Home delivery is available, as is pick-up service.

Make reservations at (785) 460-2901 by noon the day before.

Red Barn

Activities for the week: **Sunday:** Teena Johnston's birthday. **Monday:** 2 p.m. Barnswallows. **Wednesday:** New Year's Day.

Economist will talk about depletion of Ogallala Aquifer

Necessity is the mother of invention, goes the saying, and that's how Kansas State University agricultural economist Bill Golden sees what is happening in western Kansas when it comes to how farmers are adapting to a diminishing Ogallala Aquifer.

His presentation on how crop profits are affected by water management policies is among several planned for the K-State Ag Profitability Conference Tuesday, Jan. 7, in Oakley.

The Ogallala, which has long been the source for irrigation in western Kansas and other states, is being depleted faster than it can be replenished. Government agencies and farmers are working to conserve what is left in order to keep the land productive for generations to come.

Golden, a natural resources economist with K-State Research and Extension, said a water regulation program called Intensive Groundwater-Use Control Areas implemented more than 30 years ago sparked changes on farms in west-central Kansas when producers lost 15 to 50 percent of their water.

"Farmers there have been very innovative," he said. "By adopting new technologies and being willing to try different crops, they've returned to their previous levels of profitability."

He believes that farmers will respond to a new management system, called Local Enhanced Man-

agement Areas, in much the same way. Unlike intensive-use areas, the management areas allow irrigators and other water users to establish their own groundwater conservation policies.

Golden said he is watching the first area, known as Sheridan 6, in Sheridan County. With support from the Kansas Water Office, the Kansas Farm Management Association will help participating landowners keep accurate records. Golden will analyze the profitability of the activities over five years.

The conference will feature presentations by K-State agricultural economists including:

- Grain Market Outlook and Strategies for 2014 - Dan O'Brien.
- How Crop Profits are Affected by LEMAs and Other Irrigation

Water Management Policies - Golden.

• Farmland Rental Rates for Irrigated, Dryland and Pasture - Mykel Taylor.

• Macroeconomic and Agricultural Outlook - Brian Briggeman.

• Beef Cattle Leases and Pasture Rental Arrangements - Marty Fear and Dan O'Brien.

• Northwest Kansas Farm Management Association Crop Enterprise Lease Breakevens and New Tax Law Issues - Kiel Roehl, Mark Wood and Clint Milliman.

Cost to attend is \$15 if paid by next Friday, or \$20 at the door, including lunch. For information on registration, contact Julie Niehage in the Golden Prairie District at (785) 671-3245 or julenie@ksu.edu.



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12	13 Huston Clifford	14 Birney Fields Bazaz	15	16 Curry	17 Frankum	18
19	20 Foot Clinic	21 Fisher	22 Volz Annest Korman	23 Freeman Keats Lee	24 Keats	25
26	27 Huston Holmes	28 Parks Fields	29	30 Reeves	31 Clifford Mid-America Diabetes	

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