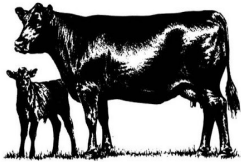


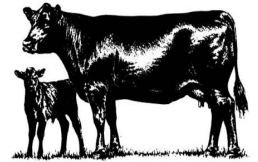
Flint Hills District

Agriculture & Community Development

APRIL 2021



Tally Time: Management Minder Outlines Your Production Year



By Sandy Johnson, extension beef specialist.

Technology has been developed that makes many things in our lives much easier. Some of you may remember when you were the “remote control” when your Dad was watching TV. Now, new homes have heating, alarm and lighting systems throughout that can be controlled remotely with a smart phone. Cattle producers use electronic IDs to automate many data collection activities. Computer applications seem to only be limited by our imagination.

Our beef extension educational efforts have often pointed out timely management topics. For example, now is the time to sample harvested forages and get an analysis of the quality. Some of those items would relate to time of year, while others would depend on the individual operation’s calving and breeding dates. So, while those suggestions are timely for most (we hope), they certainly do not fit everyone.

Taking advantage of available technology, producers now have a tool called the Management Minder. This application will help you add as many reminders for management topics to a yearly production calendar as you would like, all based on the specific times that you calve, go to grass and wean in your operation. Examples include starting nighttime feeding before calving starts to promote births during daylight hours, starting IGR mineral before fly populations are established or ordering vaccines and supplies for weaning, pregnancy checking or branding.

The Management Minder allows you to indicate when you calve, wean and go to grass and then

select management tasks to add to your specific calendar. For example, based on the expected start of calving in your operation, a reminder to start evening feeding defaults to two weeks prior to the due date and can be further adjusted as you like. The program creates an “ics” file which communicates dates and times to calendar programs such as Outlook, Google and Yahoo. The ics file is sent to your e-mail address and allows you to import the data into the appropriate calendar.

If you don’t want to let underappreciated dates such as the start of the third trimester of gestation creep up on you, utilize the Management Minder to get it on your calendar. The program saves your dates, and once set up you can roll them into the next year. It is a great tool to communicate management plans with your veterinarian or other members of your team.

You can find the Management Minder at: www.KSUBeef.org/ManagementMinder. If you have questions or suggestions for the Minder contact Sandy Johnson.



"I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds."

-E.M.

Tiffany

April Showers Bring May Weeds?

Goodbye winter snow and hello spring showers! As we anticipate the arrival of green grass to revive our yard appeal, we can also gamble the arrival of wild violet as it is one of the most difficult weeds to control in lawns.

According to Ward Upham, even combination products that contain 2,4-D, MCPP and Dicamba such as Trimec, Weed-Out and most formulations of Weed-B-Gon do not do a good job. Upham continues to say that products that contain triclopyr give a much better control, but more than one treatment will likely be needed. Some of the products that contain triclopyr on the homeowner side are: Turflon Ester and Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover and Oxalis. Note that there are several formulation of Weed-B-Gon but only Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover and Oxalis contain triclopyr.

According to Upham, both products that are listed above are labeled for tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass. Do not use the products that contain triclopyr on bermudagrass as severe



injury will occur. Upham states that Weed-B-Gon Chickweed Clover and Oxalis is labeled for buffalograss and zoysia (Turflon Ester is not) but lawns will likely show some temporary browning after application.

As recommended by Upham, spray only on calm days and when temperatures are below 90 degrees to avoid any damage to nearby plants.

If you have any questions about controlling weeds in your lawn, feel free to contact me at the office, or by email.

Best,

Shannon

(Agriculture/4-H Agent)

Stay connected with the Flint Hills District

-Facebook:

K-State Research and Extension-Flint-Hills District

-Website: www.flinthills.ksu.edu

-Mailing list: Call the office to be added (620)767-5136 or email Shannon at spspencer@ksu.edu



April Ag Fact

One bushel of corn makes 2.8 gallons of ethanol.



Preventing Potatoes from Sprouting in Storage

Home gardeners have had to rely on proper storage conditions (cool and moist) to prevent potatoes from sprouting. But sprouting will eventually occur even if the gardener does everything right. Research by Mary Jo Frazier, Nora Olsen and Gale Kleinkopf from the University of Idaho have found products that should help some gardeners.

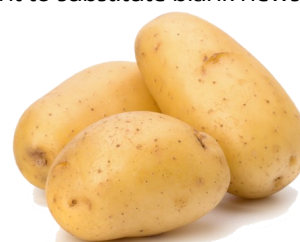
These researchers were looking for an organic method to control potato sprouts. They found essential oils from some herbs and spices to be effective sprout inhibitors. Specifically they found that spearmint oil, peppermint oil and clove oil suppressed sprouting by physically damaging rapidly dividing cells in the sprout. Each of these products is so safe that the FDA has approved them for addition to food.

Several application methods were considered though most were only suitable for commercial storage facilities. The only practical method for homeowners was one the researchers labeled a "low-tech" wick method. This was accomplished by placing a small piece of blotter paper saturated with

spearmint or peppermint oil in a box with the potatoes. This method was not recommended for the clove oil. Though it was found that peppermint and spearmint oils were equally effective in suppressing sprouts, the peppermint oil was less likely to affect flavor of the potatoes. Reapplication at two-to three-week intervals will be needed for continued sprout suppression. Little to no residue was found on the potatoes from these products due to their high volatility. The first application should be done before sprouting occurs.

Blotting paper is much more difficult to find than it was in the past and so you may want to substitute blank newsprint. However, if blotting paper is desired, try herbarium supply houses. Blotting paper is used to press plant specimens.

(Ward Upham)



Beef Tenderness Research Identifies Factors Influencing Eating Quality

K-State meat scientists studied three beef cuts to see how fat content, connective tissue characteristics and muscle structure influence tenderness.

MANHATTAN, Kan. – There is nothing like biting into a nice juicy steak where the savory flavors burst in your mouth, but if that meat is tough to chew the experience may be a disappointment.

In the case of beef, all cuts are not created equal in terms of tenderness.

To learn more, Kansas State University meat scientists, with the support of beef checkoff funding, studied three cuts of beef looking at how fat content, muscle structure and aging influence tenderness.

"There is not a single biochemical trait (tenderness contribution factor) that can be used to predict tenderness for all beef cuts," said Michael Chao, K-State meat science researcher and assistant professor in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

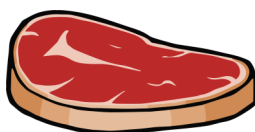
The study focused on three cuts– the striploin (also known as New York Strip), a tri-tip and heel.

"Tenderness is very much driven by the individual cut. For example, with the striploin overall tenderness is strongly influenced by lipid (fat) content, but heel overall tenderness is largely influenced by aging time," Chao said.

"With a better understanding of how each cut needs to be managed, the beef industry can pass along that information to consumers," said Chao.

For Example, cuts with extensive muscle fiber shortening may be stretched while beef that has a poor aging response should not be aged, said Chao. He added that some cuts with high connective tissue need to be prepared with a moist-heat cooking method.

"It is more important than ever to find marketers to assist the industry and consumers to determine the ideal tenderness management techniques to ensure a consistent eating quality of beef," Chao said.



Study: White-Tailed Deer Favor Crops High in Crude Protein

Outdoor enthusiasts get new clues on designing successful food plots.

MANHATTAN, Kan. – A study of plants preferred by white-tailed deer is providing important information to outdoor enthusiasts who design food plots to encourage hunting or viewing opportunities.

Charlie Lee, who recently retired as the wildlife specialist for K-State Research and Extension, said the study from Mississippi State University indicates that white-tailed deer avoid plants high in sulfur (which potentially can be toxic) and select plants highest in crude protein and digestibility at the time.

"I'm asked many times about the best food plot seed that is out there; what do deer prefer," Lee said. "This is the time of year that people are thinking about planting cool-season food plots."

New information from the Mississippi State study indicates that the crops high in crude protein include numerous types of clovers, as well as winter wheat, oats, rye grass and Australian winter peas—many of which are already being used in Kansas.

Lee noted that ladino clover or oats are two good choices for Kansas.

Some examples of less-desired crops include rape seed and turnip and other brassica plants, which are high in sulfur. Turnips start off high in crude protein, Lee said, but by the middle of the growing season, its protein value "drops way down." Other crops that deer avoid include chicory, a plant from the sunflower family.

"I always encourage people to use a mixture of crops in a food plot, not use just one variety or crop selection," Lee said. "For deer, it's important to have a diversity of crops so that they have options to pick the highest quality nutrients with the highest digestibility during all seasons that you expect them to be grazing."

The research findings draw from more than 13,000 photographs involving more than 18,000 deer over a five-month period for two consecutive years.

For more information on managing deer and food plots or other wildlife issues, contact your local K-State Research and Extension Office.





K-STATE

Research and Extension

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*Knowledge
for Life*



Upcoming Events

The following are area or Statewide Agriculture, and/or Community Development/4-H events.

For more information on these events please contact the Extension Office

April

2– Good Friday– Offices Closed

4– Happy Easter!

7-14– Horse Panorama (Virtual)

23– State 4-H Horse Judging– Hutchinson

25– YQCA Training at 1 PM– Council Grove

May

1– Market Beef State Nominations /

Horse Certificates Due

2– Morris Co. Small Animal Weigh-In 2-4 PM

8– Chase Co. Livestock Weigh-In– 9AM-Noon

14– Morris Co. 4-H Lock-In

15– Chase Co. Tagging Deadline

31– Memorial Day– Offices Closed

