

# Flint Hills District

## Agriculture & Community Development

FEBRUARY 2021



### Lawn Calendar for Cool-Season Grasses



The following suggestions are for cool-season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass or tall fescue. Zoysiagrass, bermudagrass, and buffalograss are warm-season grasses and require a different maintenance regime.

#### March

Spot treat broadleaf weeds if necessary. Treat on a day that is 50 degrees or warmer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness.

#### April

Apply crabgrass preventer when redbud trees are in full bloom, usually in April. The preventer needs to be watered in before it will start to work. One-quarter inch of water will be enough to water in any of the products mentioned in this calendar. Remember that a good, thick lawn is the best weed prevention and may be all that is needed.

#### May

Fertilize with a slow-release fertilizer if you water your lawn or if you normally receive enough rainfall that your turf doesn't go drought-dormant during the summer. If there are broadleaf weeds, spot treat with a spray or use a fertilizer that includes a weed killer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness of the weed killer, but the fertilizer needs to be watered in. If you are using a product that has both fertilizer and weed killer, wait 24 hours after application before watering in.

#### June through Mid-July

Apply second round of crabgrass preventer by June 15– unless you have used Dimension (dithiopyr) or Barricade (prodiamine) for the April application. These two products normally provide season-long control with a single application. Remember to water it in. If grubs have been a problem in the past, apply a product containing imidacloprid during the first half of July. This works to prevent grub damage. If rainfall does not occur within 24 hours, irrigate with 1/4" of water.

#### Late July through August

If you see grub damage, apply a grub killer that contains Dylox. Imidacloprid is effective against young grubs but may not be effective on late instar grubs. The grub killer containing Dylox must be watered in within 24 hours or effectiveness drops.

#### September

Fertilize around Labor Day. This is the most important fertilization of the year. Water in the fertilizer.

#### November

Fertilize. This fertilizer is taken up by the roots but it is not used until the following spring. Water in fertilizer. Spray for broadleaf weeds even if they are small. Broadleaf weeds are much easier to control in the fall than in the spring. Try to spray on a day that is at least 50 degrees. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours reduces effectiveness. Use label rates for all products!  
(Ward Upham)



*“When tillage  
begins, other  
arts follow.  
The farmers,  
therefore, are  
the founders  
of human  
civilization.”*

*-Daniel*

*Webster*

## February Ag Chat

Greetings and welcome to the month of February! For many farmers and ranchers, this is the month that they welcome some new guests to the property.

This time of year, livestock producers are out both morning and night checking their livestock to see if they have some new additions to their herd/flock. In this newsletter, we will be discussing ewe management.

According to an article by DVM Lowell D. Breeden, how the pregnant ewe is managed during the last six weeks of gestation will have a very definite effect on the birth weight, growth and survivability of the lamb. According to Dr. Breeden, this is a good time to examine your ewes and determine their overall condition. This is done by condition scoring. Condition scoring is done on a scale of 1 (very thin) to a 5 (overly fat). You are looking for a 2 to 3 scoring in a late pregnancy. When at all possible, Dr. Breeden suggests dividing the sheep into three groups and feed accordingly. Numbers 1 and 2 need extra grain to attempt to get them up to a 3 before lambing. Numbers 3 and 4 will need a small amount of additional feed. Number 5 ewes are difficult to handle because they are overly fat already. They should be put on a diet to reduce the amount of fat, which increases the chance of dystocia (difficult birth). On the other hand, they need some grain to aid in the prevention of pregnancy disease. Dr. Breeden states that additional exercise may help. Be sure to watch this group closely. If ketosis (pregnancy disease) starts to show up, then additional grain is necessary to prevent more cases.

Best,

*Shannon*

*(Agriculture/4-H Agent)*

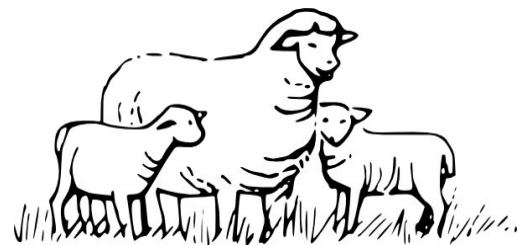
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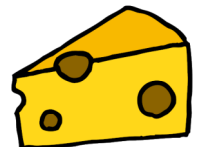
K-State Research and Extension-Flint-Hills District

**-Website:** [www.flinthills.ksu.edu](http://www.flinthills.ksu.edu)

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



**February Ag Fact**  
About one-third of the milk  
produced in the U.S. is used for  
making cheese.



## Cattle Chat: Recognizing Hoof Issues in Cattle

K-State experts share treatment options for common foot issues in beef herds.

Manhattan, KAN.— Anyone who has ever walked barefoot through the yard can attest to how painful it is when the foot accidentally gets cut on a rock or stick. In much the same way, cattle crossing the rocky terrain of the Flint Hills can experience hoof issues from time to time.

Recognizing common hoof ailments and treatment protocols was the topic of discussion on a recent Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute podcast.

Joining K-State veterinarians Bob Larson and Brad White was their colleague Matt Miesner, DVM, clinical professor and head of livestock services for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

“As veterinarians we see a lot of cases with feet. It is hard for cattle producers to treat that on the ranch because of the labor and facilities needed to treat the problem,” Larson said.

Miesner said at the K-State veterinary clinic it is common to evaluate cases of foot rot and toe abscesses.

“Basic foot rot is an infection between the toes that will cause a symmetrical swelling of the foot, whereas a toe abscess may not show any swelling, or if it does swell it will be on one side or the other,” Miesner said.

To treat foot rot, Miesner said antibiotics are given and it typically clears up. However, that is not always the case with abscesses.

“With abscesses, there will be a sudden onset of severe lameness that may get better with antibiotics, but it wasn’t the antibiotics that cleared it. Rather, it was the pressure release from the draining of the abscess under the hoof,” Miesner said. He added that unless treated with a thorough hoof cleaning, it may not be healed.

“If it doesn’t get better with the first round of treatment, Larson

advised cattle producers to have the hoof evaluated by their veterinarian where the cattle can be lifted onto a turn table to take a closer look at the hoof.

Another less common foot ailment that appears in cattle is corkscrew claw, according to the veterinarians. This condition causes the animal’s toe to turn in such a way that the outer hoof wall can come in direct contact with the ground because the toes turn inward. White said the toe looks like a corkscrew; hence, the name.

The veterinarian debated about the heritability of this ailment.

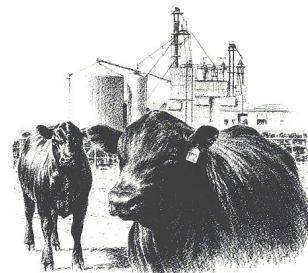
“There is no hard, objective data about the heritability, but once an animal expresses the condition, it will be chronic for that individual,” Miesner said.

Larson added: “If there is a genetic component, it isn’t a strong one or we would have found that out by now through research.”

For cattle producers who have cattle with this condition, the choice is to cull the animal or manage the condition. Miesner said some of his clients choose to manage it through regular hoof trimming of the affected animal.

No matter the ailment, Larson said, “Oftentimes one hoof problem can lead to other problems with the feet and legs, so it is important to consult with your veterinarian about the best way to manage it.

To hear more on this topic, listen to the full Cattle Chat Podcast online.



## Multiple Grafts on Apple Trees

Nurseries often sell apple trees that bear more than one variety of fruit. The secret is grafting. All apple trees are grafted, which is done by grafting the apple-producing variety (the scion) on a variety chosen for its dwarfing effects (the rootstock). A tree with more than one variety simply has more than one fruiting variety grafted onto a single rootstock. Grafting allows growers to have a single tree that could produce Jonathan, Red Delicious and Golden Delicious apples. These trees can be a unique attraction and a good conversation point in a fruit garden. If space is limited, a multiple grafted tree may allow growers to have a greater variety of fruit than with the individual varieties on separate trees. However, there are some possible drawbacks. Whoever prunes the trees may not recognize the individual grafts and may unknowingly prune off one of the varieties. Also, varieties may vary in vigor, and stronger varieties can crowd weaker ones. There also may be a difference in susceptibility to disease among varieties and among different kinds of fruit. Some may have resistance to a disease and not require protection, but others are susceptible and do require protection. If the susceptible fruits are protected, the more resistant ones will be sprayed unnecessarily. (Ward Upham)



### JOIN US TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021 FOR THE Winter Ranch Management Program

Topics Include:

- Bull Management Considerations
- Vaccine Management & Storage
- Cow and Replacement Heifer Nutrition Programs for a Successful Breeding Season
- Management Minder Tool
- Repairing Small Dystocias and When It's Best to Call Your Veterinarian

MORRIS CO. FAIR GROUNDS-COMMUNITY BUILDING

612 US-56 HWY, COUNCIL GROVE, KS 66846

DINNER (SPONSORED BY ROCKING KM VETERINARY SERVICE) WILL BEGIN AT 5:15 PM  
WITH THE PROGRAM STARTING AT 5:30 PM.

RSVP by February 9th to:  
Shannon Spencer  
Flint Hills Extension  
(620)-767-5136 or  
spencer@ksu.edu  
\*Please State if you Would  
Like a Meal

Note: Only 40 individuals may  
attend in person. COVID-19  
Protocols will be put in place for  
this program. If you would like to  
attend virtually, please contact the  
Flint Hills Extension office at:  
(620)-767-5136.

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension  
Flint Hills District

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# K-STATE

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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*

### **February**

10-12– Women Managing the Farm Conference  
(Virtual)

14– Happy Valentine’s Day!

15-20– Kansas Junior Swine Producer Week– Virtual

16– Winter Ranch Management– Council Grove

21– Morris County 4-H Project Day– Council Grove

### **March**

5– Cattlemen’s Day

6– District 4-H Club Days– Council Grove

9– Morris Co. Beef Weigh-In/Tagging

15-20– Kansas Junior Meat Goat Producer Week– Virtual

20– Regional 4-H Club Days

28– YQCA Training at 1:00- Council Grove

