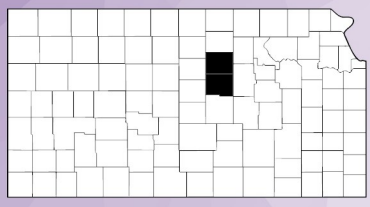


Agriculture

CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS

centralkansas.ksu.edu

March 2025

Upcoming Events

March

26-28 Farm Expo

April

16 Insect Management Program

Everyday Extension Podcast

Exciting news! We're thrilled to introduce *Everyday Extension*, our new podcast designed to bring you practical tips, expert insights, and the latest information in agriculture, health, and community wellness. Each episode features knowledgeable guests and real-world advice to help you navigate the challenges and opportunities in your daily life. Whether you're in the field, in the garden, or around the family table, you can tune in anytime to stay informed and inspired. Don't miss out—visit our website or scan the QR code to start listening today! Be sure to subscribe so you never miss an episode, and share it with friends, family, and fellow extension enthusiasts who could benefit from the valuable information we provide. We can't wait for you to join the conversation!

Bentley Joins K-State ASI Department as Assistant Professor of Sustainable Small Ruminant Production

Area of Specialization: Small Ruminant Immunology and Parasitology

We are beyond excited to have Dr. Kelsey Bentley as a valuable resource for CKD producers! Her extensive background in livestock and animal science makes her an incredible asset to our community. Originally from North Carolina, Kelsey grew up in a family deeply involved in youth livestock programs, which sparked her lifelong passion for the industry. She earned her B.A. degree in Animal Science from North Carolina State University, M.S. at West Virginia University to study the response of Katahdin lambs to CD&T vaccination, and Ph.D. in 2024, focusing on immune responses in Katahdin sheep.

Now serving as the Small Ruminant Extension Specialist, Kelsey's role is dedicated to supporting producers and advancing the sheep industry. Her responsibilities include extension, research, and teaching. We are grateful to have Kelsey as a resource for CKD producers, and we look forward to the knowledge and support she will bring to the industry. If you have any specific programming topics you would like Kelsey to speak on, please don't hesitate to reach out to Justine. We want to know how we can help you as a producer!

Make 2025 your year to finally beat flies!

Posted on February 27, 2025 by Sandy Johnson by Cassandra Olds, extension entomologist

With warming weather and cattle going out onto pasture soon, many of you may be considering your fly control options. Every year, stable and horn flies cause significant economic losses, but a good fly control program can minimize this impact. Although often grouped together, these are very different flies that need different control approaches. The first step in developing a good fly control program is knowing who you have. Horn flies are smaller flies, found predominantly on the back and belly of the animal while the larger stable fly is found on the legs, especially front pair. Horn flies feed 20-30 times a day and stay associated with their chosen animal 24/7, with females only leaving briefly to lay eggs. Stable flies in contrast only feed once or twice a day, remaining on the host for a short period of time (3-5 minutes). When not feeding, flies are resting in shaded areas such as building sides and vegetation. This short feeding time means that producers often underestimate their stable fly burdens. While both flies impact pastured cattle, horn flies are not a problem in confined settings like dairies and feedlots. This is because horn flies need fresh, undisturbed manure as a breeding site while stable flies can develop in any decaying plant matter such as hay bales, feed bunk spill over and decaying grass.

With either fly species, using non-insecticidal control methods are essential for slowing insecticide resistance. For horn flies, pasture burning in spring kills any flies overwintering which can significantly reduce fly populations emerging as weather warms. A healthy dung beetle population will also significantly reduce your fly numbers, for free! Dung beetles are very susceptible to macrocyclic lactones so avoid using injectable and pour on avermectins (abamectin, eprinomectin, ivermectin etc.). Because horn flies die within hours of being removed from cattle, walk through traps such as the Bruce's trap can be very effective if animals pass through it regularly (https://www.iowabeefcenter.org/bch/HornFlyTraps.pdf).

Round hay bales result in significant wastage, which when mixed into the manure contaminated mud around bales provides a prime breeding site for stable flies. Each round bale is able to produce 200,000 stable flies! Reducing hay waste and spreading/drying areas around finished bales is key to reducing stable fly numbers. In feedlots, minimizing feed spillage and waste is critical to remove breeding sites for stable and house flies. Parasitoid wasps are available from multiple sellers and should be released around fly breeding sites. These are very effective if released before fly populations emerge and released repeatedly though the fly season. Be careful using insecticides if using parasitoid wasps as they are very small and sensitive to these chemicals. Keeping vegetation surrounding pen areas short and exposed will remove sheltered resting areas, making life more difficult for the flies.

Chemical control options should be used as a supplement to the options above, and not the basis of your fly control program. For horn flies, insecticidal ear tags are an effective method of control

if correct rotation is used. Rotate the chemical class of your tag annually, in year 1 using pyrethroid-based products, year 2 use organophosphate-based products and year three use macrocyclic lactone tags. Repeating this 3-year cycle will reduce the selection pressure on the fly populations, slowing down the spread of resistance. Some tag options are given below with their chemical class (Table 1).

Table 1: Insecticide ear tags options for a three-year rotation strategy.

Organophosphate (Group 1B)	Pyrethroid (Group 3A)	Macrocycli (Group 6)
Corathon	CyLence Ultra	XP820
Dominator	GuardStar Plus	TRIZAP
Max40	PYthon II	
Optimizer	Python II MagnuM	
Patriot	Saber Extra	

For effective tagging, tag both ears and place the tag directly into the ear. For the tag to be effective, it must come into direct contact with the animal's skin, which is greatly reduced when daisy chained. Do not tag young calves. Mature bulls with thick necks may not benefit from tagging unless the tag can touch the skin. Although the box may label products as effective for 4-5 months, field trials have shown that **tags only remain effective for 90-100 days**. **If possible, wait till fly populations are noticeable before tagging animals to get control over peak fly activity period**. After 90 days, remove the tag to reduce the risk of insecticide resistance developing.

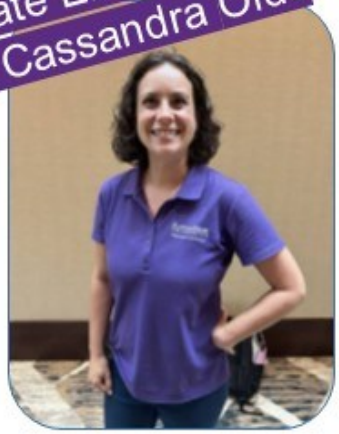
Pour-ons of the same chemical class as the ear tag may be used to increase coverage, however, be aware that a macrocyclic lactone pour-on will impact dung beetle populations. Make sure animals are dosed accurately according to weight and ensure head to tail coverage. Due to their low contact time with the host and preference for the legs, topical insecticidal treatments are generally not useful against stable flies. Spraying the legs may provide some relief although it should be used sparingly as most sprays are pyrethroid based, not allowing for effective annual rotation. Baits and premise sprays can be useful in controlling both house and stable flies, look for areas where flies are found resting such as building walls, fence posts and inside sheds and shelters. Feed through Insect Growth Regulators (**IGRs**) can be used to control horn fly burdens if cattle consume the correct amount, which can be difficult under free choice conditions. Under dosing will result in resistance developing over time, reducing product efficacy. Although labeled for stable fly control also, when manure containing the IGR is diluted in the mud and hay, it is no longer effective. Often marketed as dung beetle safe, evaluations of these claims in most species have not been carried out and their true impact remains unknown. Insecticide resistance to IGRs can and does happen, to slow this, rotate annually between methoprene based (Group 7A) and diflubenzuron based products (group 15).

The Veterinary Entomology website (https://www.veterinaryentomology.org/vetpestx) provides a searchable database which can help you select the right products. You can select from type of animal, insect and application method. The Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (**IRAC**) codes are given for each product in addition to trade names. For on animal use, select the best product to allow an annual rotation between pyrethroid (Group 3A), organophosphate (Group 1B) and macrocyclic lactone (Group 6) groups.

Note: All references to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by K-State Research & Extension is implied.

Livestock Insect Management Program

Guest Speaker:
K-State Entomologist
Dr. Cassandra Olds



Program Topics:

- ✓ Research on effects of spring burns on tick and horn fly control
- ✓ Identifying problem flies in livestock & how to manage them
- ✓ Understanding and slowing insecticide resistance in flies
- ✓ Creating an integrated pest management plan

Wednesday, April 16th
6:30 PM

Minneapolis Courthouse Basement
307 N Concord St.
Minneapolis, KS 67467

Coffee & Snacks Provided!

Scan the code or RSVP to Justine Johns at jwh04@ksu.edu or 785-392-2147!

Please let us know you are coming & register by April 14th!

Safe Tractor & Machinery Operation Training

This program is a collaboration with K-State Research and Extension Districts: Post Rock, Midway, Cottonwood, CKD, and River Valley.

The National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP) is designed for 14- and 15-year-olds seeking employment in production agriculture.

Core content areas include:

- Safety basics, Agricultural hazards, Tractors, Connecting and using implements, Materials handling, and more.

Students are certified after successfully passing a 50-question test at the training and doing both an operating skills test and a driving test administered by the employer.

2025 Course Dates, Locations, & Contact Info

April 5th – Ellsworth, KS
Carrico Implement
Craig Dinkel: cadinkel@ksu.edu or 785-472-4442

April 26th – Beloit, KS
Carrico Implement
Blaire Todd: blairet@ksu.edu or 785-738-3597

May 10th – Washington, KS
Bruna Implement Company
Luke Byers: lsbyers@ksu.edu or 785-632-5335

May 22rd – Solomon, KS
KanEquip, Inc.
Justine Johns: jwh04@ksu.edu or 785-392-2147

Scan to register!

SIGN UP: Visit https://bit.ly/tractorsafety2025, scan QR code, or call an agent listed below!

MANUAL COST: $15 – Pick up at your local Extension Office

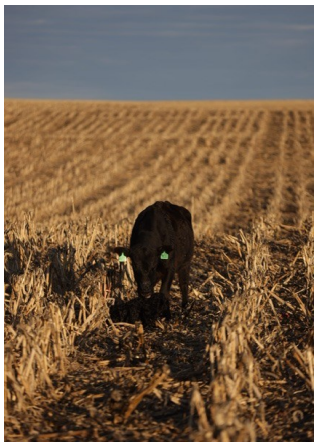
BRING: Your course manual and enrollment form. Pay and pick up your course manual at your local Extension Office. Please pick up your manual at least 5 days PRIOR to the course.

K-STATE Research and Extension

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact **Justine Johns** two weeks prior to the start of the event at **(785-392-2147)**. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

By Jason M. Warner, Ph.D., Extension Cow-Calf Specialist

Cow Herd Management



- Evaluate BCS and adjust nutrition for spring-calving females going into breeding.
- Ensure thin (BCS ≤ 4.0) females are on an increasing plane of nutrition.
- BCS 5.0+ females should be maintaining weight and condition.
- Record cow BCS and use it as a guide for future management.
- Start lactation rations/supplementation by end of first calving cycle.

Pregnancy check fall calving cows and make culling decisions.

- How were pregnancy rates relative to last year?
- Do we need to re-think our fall/winter nutrition program?

Plan your mineral supplementation for this coming spring and summer.

- Make effort to measure intake regularly and adjust it as needed.
- If using fly control products, start them at recommended area times.
- Properly store bagged mineral and avoid damaging bags and pallets.

Risk of grass tetany is greatest for lactating cows and older cows. Consider magnesium levels in mineral supplements, particularly for cows grazing the following:

- wheat, rye, triticale, oats, bromegrass, and other cool-season forage

Schedule breeding soundness examinations on bulls well prior to turnout.

- Allow plenty of time to re-test or find a replacement bull if needed

Calf Management

Review health protocols for spring-born calves and schedule processing activities. If not already completed, wean and market fall-born calves. Consider the economic return by implanting nursing calves and grass cattle. If not already done, schedule your breeding protocols for replacement heifers in advance of the breeding season.

- If synchronizing with MGA, make sure intake is consistent at 0.5 mg of melengestrol acetate per hd per day for 14 days, and remove for 19 days prior to administering prostaglandin.

General Management

Use the Management Minder tool on KSUBeef.org to plan key management activities for your cow herd for the rest of the year. Adjust turn-out dates as needed for drought stressed pastures. Consider your storage method for any leftover hay and feed and look for opportunities to minimize shrink during extended storage. Good sanitation around winter feeding and bedding areas helps reduce stable fly populations. Take a balanced, multi-tool approach to fly/insect control.

Wrap up any last minute pasture management projects before spring turn-out:

- Finish repairing fences.
- Conduct burns, work to control trees and brush
- Ensure sufficient water is available when cattle are turned out.

MARCH 26-28, 2025

Over 200 Exhibits and Industry Leader Speakers

60th Annual MID AMERICA FARM EXPO

Wednesday, March 26th -Tony's Pizza Events Center, 2nd Floor

9:30AM Kansas Forage & Grassland Council Talks

Lucinda Stuenkel
Northeast Kansas Regenerative Farmer

Dr. Jennifer Ifft
KSU Ag Economist

Doug Spencer
NRCS State Grazing Specialist

Dave Kehler
KSU Farm Analyst

Wednesday, March 26th - 4-H Building

1:30PM Central Kansas Irrigation Panel

Dr. Jonathan Aguilar
KSU Extension Irrigation Specialist

Mark Billinger
KDA Assistant Water Commissioner

Ryan Flickner
KFB Senior Director of Public Policy & Central Kansas Farmer

Thursday, March 27th

Roger McEowen
Washburn University Professor of Agricultural Law and Taxation

10:30AM
Hot Topics in Agricultural Law, Tony's Pizza Events Center, 2nd Floor

1:30PM
Farm Succession Planning, 4-H Building

Friday, March 28th

Wendee Grady
Attorney

10AM
Women in Ag Session -Agricultural Lands & the New Energy Boom
Tony's Pizza Events Center, 2nd Floor

VENDOR DEMONSTRATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

TONY'S PIZZA EVENTS CENTER
2nd FLOOR
VARIOUS TIMES THROUGHOUT THE EXPO

Free Admission-Free Parking

TONY'S PIZZA EVENTS CENTER AND THE SALINE COUNTY EXPO CENTER IN SALINA, KANSAS

K-STATE Research and Extension | Central Kansas District

Central Kansas Extension District
Minneapolis Office
307 N. Concord, Suite 190
Minneapolis, KS 67467-2129

Address Service Requested

The enclosed material is for your information. If we can be of further assistance, feel free to call or drop by the Extension Office.

Sincerely,

Jay Wisbey
District Extension Agent
Crop Production
jwisbey@ksu.edu

Justine Johns
District Extension Agent
Livestock Production
jwh04@ksu.edu

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