

Extension Connection

AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

By: Katelyn Barthol December 2016

Topics

- K-State animal science department launches KSUAntibiotics.org**
- Junior Swine, Meat Goat Days scheduled**
- Steps for Picking out a Christmas Tree**
- Compost Pile Maintenance**
- Poor Drainage in Garden Areas**
- Calender**
- Upcoming Events**

K-State animal science department launches KSUAntibiotics.org



MANHATTAN, Kan. - Antibiotics are critical tools for control of diseases in livestock. Antibiotic resistance threatens the use of antibiotics in livestock for two important

reasons. If resistance develops, the antibiotic may not be effective in treating the disease. Increased antibiotic resistance could lead to policies limiting access to antibiotics for use in livestock.

“KSUantibiotics.org was created as a launching point to find information about antibiotics,” said Mike Tokach, Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry distinguished professor. “The new site includes a section on antibiotic resistance, featuring new K-State fact sheets about how antibiotic resistance occurs and why livestock producers should care about antibiotic resistance.”

The website, www.KSUantibiotics.org, also includes links to sites that provide an overview of antibiotic resistance, mechanisms, the current knowledge about resistance in livestock production, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration action plans concerning resistance, and news feeds with the latest information

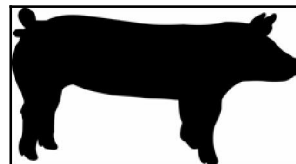
on the topic. The subpages contain information from major agencies such as the World Health Organization, producer groups like the National Pork Board, and research publications on the topics.

Besides information on resistance, the site includes links to the rules concerning the FDA’s Veterinary Feed Directives (VFD) for livestock producers and other antibiotic regulations. Links to videos created by the Beef Cattle Institute at K-State can be found under the VFD section. Another section leads the user to reviews on the main alternatives to antibiotics that have been tested. The last section provides links to information on management practices that can reduce the need for antibiotics.

“We encourage producers to visit this site to learn about antibiotic resistance and alternatives to antibiotics,” said Tokach, who is a swine specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

Development of the website was supported by a grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Junior Swine, Meat Goat Days scheduled



MANHATTAN, Kan. The Kansas State University Youth Livestock Program, K-State Research and Extension, and the K-State Department of

Animal Sciences and Industry will host two junior producer days in the spring of 2017. Junior Swine Producer Day will be Saturday, March 11 and Junior Meat Goat Producer Day will be Saturday, March 25.

Both events will be in Weber Arena on the Kansas State University campus in Manhattan. The junior day programs are a one-day educational opportunity for youth, parents, 4-H and FFA project leaders, agents, and other adults to increase their knowledge about livestock production and

management. All ages are welcome, but all attendees must register. These are biennial events, with swine and meat goat days hosted in odd years and beef and sheep in even years.

The cost for each junior day is \$15 per person for those who register by the early deadline, and \$20 per person for those who register after the deadline. Early registration for Junior Swine Producer Day is Feb. 22 and March 3 for Junior Meat Goat Producer Day. Registrations received after the early deadline cannot be guaranteed a t-shirt.

Registration is available two ways: 1) download the flyer at <http://bit.ly/ksujrproducerdays>, complete the bottom portion of the flyer and mail it with payment; or 2) complete the online registration at <http://bit.ly/ksuasiregister>.

More information is available at www.youthlivestock.ksu.edu or by contacting Lexie Hayes, youth livestock coordinator, at adhayes@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264.

Steps for Picking out a Christmas Tree

It's that time of the year to starting picking out your Christmas tree. Here are 7 steps you may want to think about before you go out and purchase your tree:

1) Measure the height of your ceiling:

- * You don't want your tree too tall or you won't be able to fit a star or angel on it. Don't forget to account for the height of your tree stand.

2) Choose a tree with a shape that appeals to you and fits where you need it:

- * There's many different shapes and sizes of Christmas trees. Retailers know this, so they will charge different prices for different trees. Make sure you know your price and desires before you buy.

3) Check for freshness:

- * When trees are cut and shipped, they undergo a lot of stress. Losing needles is normal but losing a lot of needle can be a sign of an old tree. For Frasier and Douglas firs, a better way to test freshness is to remove a firmly connected needle and bend in it half. The needle from a fresh tree should snap. A needle that does not snap indicates that the tree has been cut for some time. A another way to test freshness is by the weight of



the tree. Heavier trees can indicate that the tree wasn't cut that long ago.

4) Make a fresh cut in the trunk of at least 1".

- * Try to mount and straighten the tree before you get it home.

5) Water the tree as soon as possible after the fresh cut:

- * If you don't get the trunk into water after cutting it, the trunk will scab over, preventing the tree from being able to absorb water.

6) Give the tree as much water as it needs:

- * Ensure that there is always water in the basin.

7) Keep the tree out of harsh sunlight and warm drafts from vents:

- * This will discolor your tree and shorten its lifespan.

Compost Pile Maintenance

Compost piles should be turned about once per month even during the winter months. This will ensure the composting process continues and that all materials are equally composted. A compost pile is "turned" when uncomposted material is moved from the sides and tops of the pile to the center where it provides "fuel" for the microorganisms that break it down. Water may need to be added if the material you move to the center is dry. Check the moisture content by squeezing a fistful in your hand. It should feel moist but no excess water should drip out.

Compress the material in the pile as best you can as excess air can slow the composting process. (Ward Upham, KSRE Rapid Response Specialist)

Poor Drainage in Garden Areas

Winter is often a good time to fix areas in the garden where water sits and does not drain properly. Such areas often harm plant roots due to poor oxygen levels in the soil. Consider adding good topsoil so water doesn't sit. Be sure to till or spade the area to mix the new topsoil and the underlying existing soil. Plant roots do not like to cross distinct barriers caused by one type of soil sitting on top of another. Internal drainage can be improved by adding organic matter such as peat moss, rotted hay, cotton burrs, rotted silage or compost. This can be done by adding a 2- to 4- inch layer of organic matter to the surface of the soil and tilling or spading in as deeply as possible. (Ward Upham, KSRE Rapid Response Specialist)

Calendar

December:

- 7th: Crop Pest School @ Scott City
- 8th: Finney County Extensions' Annual Meeting
- 13th: RAM Workshop @ Leoti
- 23rd-Jan 2nd: Office Closed - Christmas Holiday

January:

- 5th: **Calving Management School** @ Finney County Fairgrounds 4-H Building @ 5:30 p.m.
- 18th: **Harnessing the Power of Excel Workshop** @ Finney County Fairgrounds Grand Stand Meeting Room from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 27th: **Grain Marketing Workshop**

Upcoming Events

January 5, 2017

Calving Management School

Thursday, January 5, 2017

5:30 p.m.
Finney County Fairgrounds
4-H Building
Garden City, KS

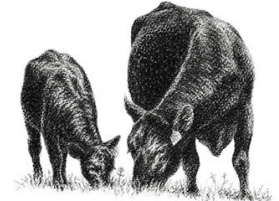


Topics to be discussed:

- Normal calving process
- When to intervene
- How to manage a difficult birth
- Developing a system for lifetime health & performance of the calf



*Please RSVP to the Finney County Extension Office by Jan. 3, 2017 to accommodate for the meal.
(620) 272-3670*



Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Katelyn Barthol, 620-272-3670.
Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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January 18, 2017

Registration
2017 K-State
"Harnessing the Power of Excel"
Workshop
January 18, 2017
Garden City, Kansas

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Cost: \$20.00

Must be paid in advance when registering.

Registration deadline:
January 13, 2017

To Register:
Katelyn Barthol

Finney County Extension
501 S. 9th St.
Garden City, KS 67846
Phone: 620-272-3670
Fax: 620-272-3676
Email: kbarth25@ksu.edu

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- 9:30 a.m. Registration
 - 10:00 a.m. Intro To Excel
 - 10:15 a.m. Work on Exercises
 - a) Machinery Costs
 - b) Crop Budgets
 - c) Loan Payments
 - d) Weaning Weights
 - 12:00 p.m. Lunch
 - 12:45 p.m. Intro to AgManager.info and Excel Decision Tools
 - 1:30 p.m. Work on Exercises
 - a) Balance Sheet
 - b) Income Statement
 - c) Cash Flow Sheet
 - 3:00 p.m. Adjourn
- Computers provided, but best to bring your



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Kansas State University

Harnessing the Power of Excel



Using Excel for:

- Estimating Machinery Costs
- Budgeting and Enterprise Analysis
- Calculating Principal and Interest Payments
- Analysis of Livestock Economics
- Macros, Graphing, What-If Analysis
- Financial Statements

As well as:

- Tips and Tricks for Using Excel
- Other Decision Tools on AgManager.info

Kansas State University
Department of Agricultural Economics