MANHATTAN, Kan. – Every year beef cattle producers have to make decisions about how to handle open cows that didn’t become pregnant. Most producers simply sell the animals after pregnancy check time. However, it’s possible that with a little more investment, they can provide more revenue to their operation, according to Kansas State University professor Chris Reinhardt. Cull females make up around 20 percent of ranch revenues, he said. Through proper marketing, it is possible to add value before selling the animals.

“There are two different types of cull females,” said Reinhardt, who is a beef specialist with K-State Research and Extension. The first is an older cow that has been a productive cow in the past, but for whatever reason, did not become pregnant this year. It’s possible she’s missing teeth so she cannot process the nutrients available and was thin at breeding time. On a price-per-pound basis, a thin cow will bring in less revenue than a heavier, fatter cow will, but there is an opportunity to add value to the thin cow.

“Given the amount of rain this year, the amount of grain available, the price of feed and possibly standing pasture on which you could supplement, producers have the opportunity to add pounds to thin cows. If a cow is old and thin there is an opportunity to add weight and actually increase her weight as well as the price per pound you receive by feeding her for a period of time.”

Producers, however, should be mindful of the law of diminishing returns. If a cow is thin there is probably a reason, such as poor teeth. If that’s the case, high quality silage, grain, protein supplements, hay and pasture can help add condition to the cow. While she may not gain weight as she did in the past, the use of high quality feeds can help. This typically takes six to eight weeks.

“Our goal is to put on weight, body condition, muscle, and fat, and get them to market,” Reinhardt said. “The length of time the cow is on feed will be driven by how thin she is and the cause of her loss of condition. If it is a matter of old or missing teeth and we can feed her grain, corn silage, or distiller’s grains, the goal is to move her body condition score to a five, in which she has full expression of muscle and a slight but not excessive cover of fat over the ribs, brisket, and round. Anything beyond a body condition score of five, where we begin to see overall smoothness and pockets of fat, and she rapidly becomes inefficient.”

Reinhardt referred to a body condition scoring method for beef cows, which describes an animal’s relative fatness on a nine-point scale. A body condition score of five (BCS 5) is average. A score of one would be extremely thin. Nine is extremely fat. The goal is to feed the cow to a BCS of five or five and a half, he said. This raises the cow to a different carcass value grade, which boosts what the buyer will pay per pound. Reinhardt encourages Kansas
producers to work with local K-State Research and Extension staff to develop a program for each female.

Feeding to sell as bred cattle

“If a producer has a fairly young cow that for whatever reason didn’t settle during the breeding season they could feed her to rebreed and sell,” Reinhardt said. “This is a unique year as we are going to have inexpensive grain and a lot of ranchers have abundant hay. Some cattle producers in the south still have really good grass. This presents an opportunity to turn her from an open female in the fall in a marketplace flooded with open females to a fall calving cow for next calving season. There are plenty of fall calving operations who are looking to bolster their numbers and bring in bred females as opposed to carrying over an open female throughout the season waiting for the next breeding season,” Reinhardt said. “There is an opportunity to add price per pound to her as a useful, reproductive female.”

As fertility tracks in a linear fashion, Reinhardt recommended producers improve the body condition score of open cows. He also recommended having a veterinarian ensure that such cows do not have health issues that could be preventing them from conceiving.

“Producers do not have to be nearly as aggressive in feeding these females if they are looking at an early winter or mid-winter breeding time,” Reinhardt said. “Good quality feedstuffs must be available to meet the nutrient requirements for that open female as she should put on a little weight.”

A New Home For The American Royal

The American Royal Association announced Tuesday afternoon it they has reached an agreement with the State of Kansas and Unified Government to relocate to Wyandotte County, Kansas.

“The American Royal currently hosts more than 50 events annually, attracting nearly 270,000 attendees and has an economic impact of more than $60 million annually,” said Angie Stanland, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Royal. “Last year we awarded $1.4 million in scholarships and support to our youth education programs. Our priorities in the due diligence process were to find a regional home that would allow us to fulfill our mission, accommodate our growing events and allow for future growth,” Stanland explained. “We have found the ideal location to do just that.”

The American Royal Association, which began as the National Hereford Show in 1899, has evolved into a comprehensive season of events and outreach including six equestrian shows, a livestock show, youth and PRCA rodeos, agricultural education programs and the world’s largest barbecue competition – the World Series of Barbecue®

The new complex will include arena space, exhibit space, high-quality barn/expo space, and a new agriculture education center and museum. The agricultural education center will provide a state-of-the-art learning experience, covering all facets of the food and agricultural industry. The goal is to provide a unique, interactive food and agricultural learning experience, both indoor and outdoor, to instill a higher level of trust and knowledge about modern food and agricultural practices.

“I want Kansas City to be the world leader in agriculture technology and animal genetics,” said Kansas Governor Sam Brownback. “The American Royal will serve as a focal point in helping us continue to build a vibrant animal and agriculture corridor from Wyandotte County to Manhattan, home of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. This strong partnership between the state of Kansas, Unified Government and the American Royal solidifies the reputation Kansas enjoys as one of the world’s foremost producers and exporters of food and agricultural products.”

“Kansas is committed to providing opportunities to encourage additional growth and expansion of agriculture in the state and far beyond its borders” Governor Brownback continued. “A new home for the American Royal complex in Kansas enhances the overall agricultural focus in the state and elevates Kansas’ prominence in the U.S. agricultural industry.”

“I’m excited that the American Royal project, after several years of work, is beginning to come together in some very tangible ways,” said Mayor Mark Holland, Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas. “The new vision for the Royal that has emerged is a hub and showcase for agriculture and animal science. This new hub has the potential to be a gamechanger for the Animal Health Corridor and the Midwest.”

The addition of the American Royal in the region
will enhance the focus on agriculture that has been supported by the National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame (NAC) in nearby Bonner Springs. The NAC board expressed its support of the American Royal’s plans: “This is an exciting opportunity for the American Royal and National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame to work together to increase the public’s understanding and appreciation of the state’s leading industry.”

Agriculture is the largest industry, economic driver and employer in Kansas. It accounts for 43 percent of the state's economy and employs 12 percent of the state’s workforce. In 2014, Kansas exported more than $4.7 billion in agricultural products. Kansas is among the nation’s leaders in the production of wheat, sorghum, cattle and beef processing. Serving as the home for the American Royal will enhance the overall agricultural focus within Kansas and elevate the state’s prominence in the U.S. agricultural industry.

Control Broadleaf Weeds in Lawns in Late October - Early November

Late October to early November is the most effective time to control broadleaf weeds in lawns. Dandelions usually produce a flush of new plants in late September, and the winter annual weeds henbit and chickweed should have germinated in October. These young plants are small and easily controlled with herbicides such as 2,4-D or combination of products (Trimec, Weed-B-Gon, Weed-Out) that contain 2,4-D, MCPP and Dicamba. Even established dandelions are more easily controlled now than in the spring because they are actively moving materials from the top portion of the plant to the roots in the fall. Herbicides will translocate to the roots as well and will kill the plant from the roots up. Choose a day that is 50 degrees or higher. The better the weed is growing, the more weed killer will be moved from the leaves to the roots. Cold temperatures will slow or stop this process. Weed Free Zone (also sold under the name of Speed Zone) contains the three active ingredients mentioned above, plus carfentrazone. It will give a quicker response than the other products mentioned especially as temperatures approach 50 degrees.

Winter Care of Houseplants

During the short days of winter, houseplant growth slows, resulting in a need to change how we care for them. Although frequent watering may have been necessary during the long days of summer, the same amount now could cause problems. Excess water fills air spaces within the soil resulting in roots that receive less oxygen than they need. Water by touch, not by calendar. If the soil is dry an inch deep, it is time to water. Be sure to add enough so that some water flows out the bottom of the pot. This will help wash out excess salts that tend to accumulate within the potting soil. Fertilization also should be reduced. Normally, it is best to apply half the amount of fertilizer for flowering houseplants and one-fourth the amount for foliage houseplants. Too much fertilizer results in plants that become leggy and weak.

Location is another factor that should be considered this time of year. Since day length is so short, houseplants may be helped by being moved to areas of the room that receive more light, such as a south- or east-facing window. Avoid placing plants where drafts from doors or direct output from heating ducts may contact them. Relative humidity also tends to be low during the winter. If you do not have a humidifier, frequent misting of the plants or placing them on water-filled trays of pebbles can help raise the humidity.

Draining Hoses and Irrigation Lines

Hoses and shallow irrigation lines may be damaged over the winter if water is not drained. If there is a main shut-off valve for the system, close it and then run through the zones to make sure any pressure has a chance to bleed off. Lawn irrigation systems usually have shallow lines. Though some lines may be self-draining, check to be sure there are no manual drains. If manual drains are present, they should be opened. Be sure to map them so they can be closed next spring before the system is pressurized. If there are no manual drains the system should be blown out with an air compressor. Lawn irrigation companies often offer this service.

Drain hoses by stretching them out and coiling them for storage. Water will drain as you pull the hose toward you for coiling. Store in a protected place. UV light can make hoses brittle over time. (Ward Upham, KSRE Rapid Response Specialist)
Calender

November:
11th: Office Closed - Veteran’s Day
17th: Cover Crop Road Show
24 - 25th: Office Closed - Thanksgiving
30th: Commodity Futures Workshop @ Larned

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

Upcoming Events

Cover Crop Road Show
Thursday, November 17, 2016

Agenda
8:30-9:00 am Registration/WELCOME

Tour Begins
9:00am -
Step #1 Cover Crop in a Cow-Calf System
- Brit Haynes - 2208 N Riley 156, Junction, KS
  ■ Brit Haynes - Q & A about growing cover crops
  ■ Dale Yonkim - Cover Crop Choices

10:30am -
Step #2 Cover Crop in a Stocker System
- Dennis Budford Farm - 22528 SE 3 Rd, Junction, KS
  ■ Dennis Budford - Q & A about growing cover crops
  ■ Nick Vaisey - Monitoring the Benefits of Cover Crops

12:00pm -
Step #3 Grazing Cover Crop
- 122 Raven Rd & Warrior Road, Redfield, KS
  ■ Loren Felker - Q & A about grazing cover crops
  ■ Dewnya Penney - Multiple Seasons for Using Cover Crop

Lunch at the Blue Bersecord (1007 Main, Ford, KS)
- Discussion Session

Register by Nov. 11 at www.southwest.ksstate.edu or Click Here to Register
or contact Norma Custer by email custer@ksu.edu or call (620)754-9164

For further information, contact:
DeWayne Craighead, Hodgeman Co. Extension
Andrea Banks, Ford Co. Extension
1-800-354-7367, jimkitch@k-state.edu
678-275-6771, dbanks@k-state.edu

Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service.
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
K-State Research and Extension 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 or a dietary restriction, please contact Andrea Banks at 620-275-6771.

Commodity Futures Workshop
Options, Basis, Margin, Contract, Hedge, and more...

Wednesday, November 30th, 11am-4pm
Larned, J.A. Haas Building

RSVP is required by November 23rd
A meal at the headquarters will not be guaranteed without an RSVP
Contact Pawnee County Extension at (620) 285-6901, or your local office, to reserve your seat!

Darrell Holaday
• President of Advanced Market Concepts, since 1996
• Partner with Country Futures, provide risk management brokerage services
• Masters Degree in Agricultural Economics from K-State

K-State Research & Extension is a equal opportunity provider and employer. VRDE 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, or a dietary restriction, please contact Shannon Fisher at 620-285-6901 or shfisher@ksu.edu.
Upcoming Events continue:

K-State Crop Pest Management School
December 7, 2016
Wm. Carpenter 4-H Building
Scott City, KS

Speakers:
Dr. A.J. Foster, K-State SW Area Agronomist
Dr. Doug Jardine, K-State Crop Pathologist
Dr. Dallas Peterson, K-State Weed Scientist
Dr. Sarah Zukoff, K-State Entomologist

Credits Available:
Commercial Applications: 1 Core Hour & 7 for 1A Certified Crop Advisors: 8 Pest Management Credits (Credits Applied For)

Cost: $30 per person
Lunch will be provided
Register by Friday, December 2
Online Registration: www.scott.k-state.edu & click on Scott Co Ext. Office: (620) 872-2920 or
Greeley Co Ext. Office: (620) 786-4254 or
Wichita Co Ext. Office: (620) 272-3470 or

Schedule & Program Description
8:00 Registration
8:15 Herbicide Update - Peterson
8:30 Basal Weed Management - Peterson
8:45 Value of Foliar Fungicide on Wheat - Foster
9:00 Wheat Insects - Zukoff
9:45 Questions
10:00 Adjourn

K-State Research and Extension
Wichita County Extension - 605-272-3674
Greeley County Extension - 620-272-3907
Hamilton County Extension - 620-864-0284
Kansas State University
K-State Research and Extension
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

2017
RAM II (Advanced Risk-Assessed Marketing) Workshop
December 13, 2016
Wichita County Community Building
502 East 9th St.
LEOTI, KS

2017 RAM II (Risk-Assessed Marketing) Workshop
December 13, 2016
LEOTI, KS

Schedule
8:00 Registration (coffee and rolls)
8:30 Introduction, rules, and qualifying
9:00 Selecting crops and analyzing spreadsheets
9:45 Break
10:00 Selecting quality
10:45 Break
11:30 VARC 2017 Market
12:00 Break
1:00 Selecting crops
2:00 Break
3:00 Visit to the Demonstration Field
3:30 Wrap-up

Registration is free, but must RSVP to one of the following by:
December 8, 2016
Wichita County Extension
620-272-3674
Greeley County Extension
620-864-0284
Hamilton County Extension
620-864-0284
Kearny County Extension
620-351-6551
Finsen County Extension
620-272-0270
Registration limited to 35.