
I look forward to assisting with your livestock production and forage crop needs in this Winter.

*K-State Research and Extension is committed to making its services, activities, and programs accessible to all participants. If you have a special requirement due to a physical, vision or hearing disability, please contact Christopher Petty at 620-223-3720.

Upcoming Events

Please check this and upcoming editions of the newsletter for more information about coming events. Tentatively scheduled meetings and activities include:

- Farmer's Market Workshop          Feb 01
- Tamegrass Stocker Field Day       Feb 20
- Winter Ranch Management           Feb 27
- KSU Cattlemen's Day               March 06
- Beef Quality Assurance            March 24

Stocker Cattle Field Day
As we get into the colder months of mid-winter, extra care and concern must be given to our livestock to keep them in good condition. How do cows handle cold winter temperatures?

Cold stress definitely increases a cow's energy requirement and can pull down her body condition. A good start is to evaluate body condition score of your cows now, and if cows are not in average condition at a 5 to 5.5 body condition score, then extra care and feed is in order. Your local extension agricultural agent can assist you determining the body condition score of your cattle if needed.

What is the lowest temperature that a healthy cow can generally tolerate?

The threshold at which cattle have to start using energy to maintain their body temperature is
called lower critical temperature (LCT). Cows in good condition which have a heavy winter hair coat that is dry, do not need to use extra energy to maintain body temperature until the wind chill index is below 19°F.

What about cows in less than ideal conditions? A thin cow with a body condition score of 4 and a dry winter coat has a lower critical temperature of about 27°F versus the 19°F of a cow in better condition.

How about rainy or wet snowy weather? How does that affect a cow’s lower critical temperature? A wet hair coat is a completely different ball game. A wet coat increases the lower critical temperature of a cow in good condition to 53°F. Anytime a cow’s coat is wet they will be using more energy to maintain body temperature. So, in winters with more precipitation, especially freezing rain, we often see much greater decreases in body condition score, and we need to be prepared to offer our cattle extra nutrition!

Does wind play into the equation? Absolutely. Providing wind protection in the winter can be huge for reducing supplementation needs due to cold wind chills. If cows have protection from wind, the actual air temperature, rather than the wind chill factor can be used to determine energy needs.

So, now that we know how winter weather effects cattle, what can a farmer or rancher or do to help mitigate these effects? For extended cold or wet periods, consider feeding more of the same ration, if cattle have the capacity can eat more of the typical ration. If not, then providing an energy supplement like ground corn (no more than 2 or three pounds per day, consistently) or distillers grains (the biproduct of ethanol production) is a good idea. Another option, if possible, is to change to feeding a
higher quality hay source, if available. (And we are really talking about hay that was put up dry, free from weeds, and baled early in the season before it went to seed)

What's the advantage of feeding a higher quality hay?
Free choice really high-quality work down to temperatures of -15°F for cows in good body condition with dry hair or 19°F with good body condition and wet hair.

How do you know what the quality of your hay really is?
Only by forage testing can you determine actual nutritional value, see your extension office for more information about forage testing.

Any other tips or strategies to get cows successfully through a cold winter?
The best thing you can do is make sure your cows are in ideal body condition before going into a winter season, and then feed accordingly through the winter to keep them in good condition. But this time of year, if you find your cows are losing condition, a practical management strategy may be to consider putting thin cows in a group with any first calf heifers as both have higher energy requirements in the winter, which can allow for strategic supplementation of extra feed.

And for more information.....
Contact Southwind District Extension Agent Christopher Petty at 620-223-3720 or cgp@ksu.edu

Farmers' Market Workshops
Farmers’ Markets
2020 Regional Workshops: Lola

Farmers’ markets are growing across the state and continue to be an important source of fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy and other agricultural products from small towns to large metropolitan areas. In 2019, 57 farmers markets were registered with the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Central Registration of Farmers’ Markets.

### Lola Regional Workshop

**Saturday, February 1 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

**Who:** Current and prospective farmers’ market vendors

**What:** The Lola regional workshop will cover the following topics:
- Making a profit as a market vendor
- Extending your marketing season
- Specialty crops and produce safety
- Double Up Food Bucks Program
- Accepting EBT at Farmers’ Markets
- Growing in the winter, organic pest control methods, making the most of small acreage, grower innovations
- Marketing tips
- Kansas Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program
- Certified Farmer Training
- Tour of Parker’s Greenhouse

**Where:**
Allin Community College
1801 N. Cottonwood
Lola, KS 66749

**Registration:**
Register online at [FromtheLandofKansas.com/FMWorkshop](http://FromtheLandofKansas.com/FMWorkshop) or fill out the paper registration form and return to the address listed on the form.

Registration is $20 per participant, which includes lunch. Lunch cannot be guaranteed for those registering after January 24.

For more information, contact Robin Blume at robin.blumes@ks.gov or (785) 564-6756.

*Vendors can also bring their sales scale to get tested and certified for FREE by the Kansas Department of Agriculture.*

To support Kansas farmers’ markets, we are pleased to offer the following additional workshops:
- Wichita, February 8; Olathe, February 21; Hays, February 22; Beloit, February 28; Leoti, February 29.

For more information, please visit [FromtheLandofKansas.com/FMWorkshop](http://FromtheLandofKansas.com/FMWorkshop)

### 2020 Winter Ranch Management
The 107th Annual K-State Cattlemen's Day will be held on Friday, March 6 at Weber Hall. Visit www.KSUBeeef.org for on-line registration and more information.

The trade show will open at 8:00 a.m. with the program set to begin at 10:00 a.m. We have a great program lined up for you including a presentation from Lorna Marshall, Select Sires vice president of beef programs, on "Genetic and Reproductive Trends in the Global Beef Industry." Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University, will present "Opportunities for the
Beef Industry in Dynamic Global Meat Markets."
The afternoon will include several breakout sessions and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. Mark the date on your calendar and plan on attending this outstanding event.

The annual Legacy Sale will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 6, at the Stanley Stout Center. To learn more about this year's offering and to request a sale catalog, visit www.asi.ksu.edu/legacysale.