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Livestock and Natural Resources

There's a lot going on in the Animal Science realm. First of all the Northeast Kansas Sheep and Goat meeting will be Monday February 27th, at 7 pm at the Klinefelter Barn in Hiawatha. There will be discussion with Dr GF Kennedy DVM with Pipestone Veterinary Clinic. He will be talking about Coccidia, Parasites and Mineral deficiency. Then our very own, Matt Young, Brown County Ag Agent will go over sheep and goat budgets.

Please RSVP to Brown county Extension at 785-742-7871 by February 24th.

Make plans to attend KSU Cattlemen's Day, Friday March 3rd. All events will be held at the Weber Hall on the KSU campus. After hearing from Dr Ken Odde, ASI Department Head and KSU President Richard Myers, Dr Barry Flinchbaugh KSU Professor Emeritus, will present "Ag Policy in the Trump Administration". Dr Glynn Tonsor, Robin Reid and Dustin Pendell, KSU Ag Economics will discuss Beef Cattle Economics. There are some really good breakout sessions for a complete schedule visit <http://www.asi.k-state.edu/events/cattlemens-day/index.html>. At the end of the day, the 40th annual Legacy Bull and Female sale will take place at the Stanley Stout Center. To view the catalog visit, www.asi.k-state.edu/bullsale.

On March 4, the KSU Sheep Producer Day will be held at the Sheep and Goat Center, 2117 Denison Avenue. There is a multitude of talks, by Industry professionals.

Then the Junior Producer days are lined up, Jr Swine Producer day will be March 11th. Visit the program website at www.youthlivestock.ksu.edu for registration and schedule.

Junior Meat Goat Producer day will be March 25th in Weber Hall. Information is at the youth livestock page.

"Body Condition Scoring: It's About More than the Score" by Justin Waggoner, Beef Systems Specialist

Body condition scoring is one of the most valuable management tools at the disposal of the cattle manager. This one number gives us a direct indication of an individual cow's previous plane of nutrition and future reproductive capability. Although the individual body condition scores are important, we don't necessarily manage individual cows, we manage groups of cows. Thus it is important for us to look beyond the individual scores and look at the distribution of body condition scores within the herd. If we have a herd (Herd 1) with an average body condition score of 5 that is essentially characterized by the classic bell curve, with a few thin cows (3.5's), the bulk of cows in the middle (4's and 5's) and few over-conditioned cows (7's) everything is

good. Alternatively we could have a herd (Herd 2) with an average body condition score of 5 that is essentially the result of a few thin cows (3's) and some over conditioned cows (6's and 7's). Body conditioning scoring also has more value when it is done on the same group of cows at multiple times during the production year. If Herd 2 was scored at calving and had been previously scored at weaning and had an essentially normal distribution (similar to Herd 1). We need to ask ourselves what happened. Did we change anything? Although these examples are somewhat extreme they illustrate that we have to look beyond the individual body condition scores of cows at one point during the production year to get the most of body condition scoring.