

Fenceline

By Jody G Holthaus

Meadowlark Extension District Agent

Livestock-Natural Resources

Wildfires

The wildfire in southwestern Kansas was devastating. While the estimates of livestock lost are still coming in. What is harder to estimate is the amount of wildlife gone. Without some rain, what will their summer pastures be like? Some are predicting some dust bowl type scenarios. I hope not. It is going to take some time to recover. Miles of fences were burned.

If you would like to donate to the relief fund, you can go online to the Kansas Livestock Association webpage, www.kla.org and click on the Wildfire relief fund. All of the money donated will be given to those in need.

The steer that Kelly Kirkham sold at the Holton Livestock Exchange, brought just over \$25,000. The generous hearts in Nemaha county and others are sending 20 semi truckloads of hay and fencing supplies. Kansas is a great place to live!

Effect of Suckling Calf Implant on Weaning Weight and Subsequent Feedlot Performance by Britt Hicks, Ph.D., PAS

Research over the last 50 years has clearly demonstrated the efficacy and cost effectiveness of growth-promoting implants in beef cattle. A 1997 review of research trials that evaluated the effectiveness of implanting nursing beef calves showed that implanting steer calves with zeranol (Ralgro, 23 trials reviewed) or estradiol-progesterone implants (13 trials reviewed) increased average daily gains by approximately 0.1 lb./day from the time of implant insertion to weaning.¹ Hence, implanting suckling calves typically increase weaning weights by approximately 15 to 25 pounds. Sometimes feed yards discourage administering growth implants to suckling calves based on the idea that calf implants reduce the response to feedlot implants. Does research support this argument?

Some recent research from South Dakota State University (SDSU) examines this issue.²

This SDSU research evaluated the efficacy and timing of suckling calf implants on weaning weight, post-weaning performance and subsequent carcass traits in steer calves. This study was repeated over two consecutive years using steer calves from a ranch located in western SD. Calves on this ranch were born in March and April of each year and were reared on native range prior to weaning.

Three implant treatments were evaluated using 194 calves in year 1 and 196 calves in year 2: 1) no implant, 2) calves implanted in May with Synovex C (Zoetis, Florham Park, NJ), or 3) calves implanted with Synovex C in August. In this study, the dams (cows) were classified as immature (<4 years of age) or mature (≥ 4 years of age). These dam age groups were managed separately on the ranch through the breeding season each year on native range (without creep feed). In late October of each year, the steers were weaned and immediately shipped 360 miles to the SDSU Ruminant Nutrition Center research feedlot where the steers were sorted into feedlot pens by suckling implant (8 or 9 steers/pen; 8 pens/treatment; 24 pens/year). The steers were treated the same during backgrounding and finishing phases with all steers being implanted with Synovex S shortly after arrival (5 to 6 days) followed by a re-implant at the beginning of the finishing phase (about 70 days) with either a Revalor S (Merck, Summit, NJ) or a Ralgro (Merck, Summit, NJ) implant. Steers that received a Ralgro implant at the beginning of the finishing phase were reimplanted with Revalor S about 130 days after the initial implant. The cattle were marketed when the majority of the cattle were estimated to average 0.4 inches of backfat (221 and 208 days on feed in years 1 and 2, respectively).

The effects of suckling implant treatment on weaning weights, and subsequent backgrounding and finishing performance are shown in Table 1. Both the May and August implant treatments increased weaning weight by an average of 22.5 lb. ($P < 0.05$) compared to non-implanted calves. The magnitude of this response interacted with the age of the cows. Steers nursing mature cows and implanted in May had the greatest increase in weaning weight

compared to non-implanted calves (40 lb.; $P < 0.05$). The weaning weight advantage for steers nursing mature cows and implanted in August was reduced to 17 lb. ($P < 0.05$). In contrast, the steers on immature cows benefited most from the August implant compared to non-implanted calves (25 lb., $P < 0.05$) and the May implant only increased weaning weight by 9 lb.

The suckling implant treatment had no effect on daily gains or feed efficiency (Feed/Gain) in the backgrounding or finishing phases. The steers receiving suckling implants were still heavier at the end of backgrounding phase (16.5 lb.; $P < 0.05$). In addition, implant treatment did not impact the carcass characteristics of the steers (data not shown). However, implanted calves tended to yield heavier carcasses (8.5 lb.; $P = 0.10$). These authors estimated that if all 22.5 lb. of weaning weight has been retained, the additional carcass weight would have been 12 lb. (assuming 55% dressing percent at weaning). Thus, about 70% of the weight advantage was maintained over the 200+ days of post-weaning growth through slaughter.

David G. Hallauer
District Extension Agent
Crops & Soils/Horticulture

Tree Planting Rules

It goes without saying that we can't expect every landscape planting to survive. Even so, putting time and effort in to things like a tree planting – only to see it fail! – is a little deflating! To help you avoid potential frustration, consider these best management tips as you prepare. The best way to frustrate yourself long term is to select the wrong tree! Disease pressure, insect problems and environmental challenges can eventually result in frustration because of the wrong tree in the wrong place. Some species produce very nice fruit – that are a nuisance if they are over a sidewalk! Consider mature size and shape, disease tendencies, and environmental adaptability of species to determine which is best for you. See <http://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/recommended-plants/index.html> or ask a local nurseryman for suggestions for trees adapted to your area.

Before planting, make sure the tree is well-watered and in a shady location. Only move by lifting the root ball or pot and not by the trunk. Remove all wires/labels/cords/etc.... tied to the plant that could cause girdling.

Make sure your hole is deep enough so that the tree sits slightly above nursery level. The root flare (point where trunk and roots meet) should be visible. If it isn't, remove enough soil or media so that it is. Be sure to plant the tree on solid ground, not on fill dirt. Hole width is very important! Make it three times the width of the root ball, loosening the soil outside the hole so it is five times the diameter of the root ball to allow the tree to spread its roots faster.

Do NOT leave containers on the root ball! Cut away plastic and peat pots. Roll burlap and wire baskets back into the hole, cutting as much of the excess away as possible (remove wire baskets without disturbing the root ball if you can!). If roots have been circling around in the container, cut them and spread out so they do not continue growing that way inside the hole, girdling roots later in the tree's life.

Backfill with the same soil you removed, avoiding amendments that may do more harm than good (if adding organic matter, mix thoroughly with the soil!!). Soil should be devoid of clumps or clods and put back in loose. Add water as you fill to ensure good root to soil contact and prevent air pockets. There is no need to fertilize at planting. Be careful to avoid situations that may create a 'bowl' effect to the planting hole that will hold water, drowning the tree.

Remove rubbing or damaged branches and leave the rest! Leaf buds release hormones that encourages root growth so cutting off limbs removes leaf buds and reduces root mass.

Water the tree thoroughly then once a week for the first season if moisture is lacking. Mulch the tree to a two to four inch depth (and two to three times the diameter of the root ball) to help with moisture conservation, as well as temperature moderation and weed competition.

Stake if necessary (i.e., large trees in windy locations), but staked trees tend to grow slower than those not staked. Movement helps the trunk to become strong. Staking should be designed to limit movement of the root ball rather than immobilize the trunk.

Cindy Williams
Meadowlark Extension District Agent
FACS

New Whole Grain Stamp

The Whole Grains Council has introduced another Whole Grain stamp to help shoppers search for whole grain foods. The 50% stamp will show up on foods in the first half of 2017. The stamp is available on over 11,000 products in 55 countries.

The three stamps include:

100% Stamp—The product contains all whole grains. The minimum requirement is 16 g (a full serving) of whole grain per serving.

50% Stamp—The product contains half or more whole grains in the grain ingredients. The minimum requirement is 8 g (a half serving) per serving.

Basic Stamp—The product contains at least 8 g of whole grains (a half serving) per serving and may contain some refined grains. Each stamp shows how many grams of whole grains ingredients are in a serving of that specific product.

Consider Lamb to Your Spring Meals

Sheep is the oldest domesticated meat species. Sheep have been raised by humans beginning about 9,000 years ago in the Middle East. In many countries, lamb (a young sheep) is the major source of protein. Many Americans think of lamb as a springtime food, but it can be enjoyed year round.

When shopping for lamb, look for meat that is fine textured and firm that has red coloring and white marbling (white flecks of fat within the meat muscle). The fat trim should be firm, white, and not too thick. The USDA quality grades are reliable guides. There are five basic major (primal) cuts into which the lamb carcass is separated: shoulder, rack, shank/breast, loin, and leg. It is recommended that packages of fresh lamb purchased in the supermarket be labeled with the primal cut as well as the product, such as “shoulder roast” or “loin chops.”

Nancy C. Nelson
Meadowlark Extension District
Family Life

Developmental Milestones — A Guide for Parents

How do you know if your child's development is on the right track? Although no two children grow at the same rate, experts agree there are "normal" signs of development. The Kansas State University Research & Extension *Developmental Milestones* fact sheets provide a checklist of important milestones in your child's development during the early years of life. They are a simple tool to use to become aware of and appreciate the dramatic changes that are occurring in your child.

- *Developmental Milestones: The First Year*
<http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/L834.pdf>
- *Developmental Milestones: The Second Year*
<http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/L835.pdf>
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- *Developmental Milestones: The Fifth Year*
<http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/L838.pdf>