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## House Keeping

If you have not yet signed up for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm raised fish program and Livestock Forage disaster program, you still have time. This is a USDA program that is available to us, because of the prolonged drought this summer. Not often are their programs for cattle producers, so take advantage of this.

You must certify your pasture acres, and provide some records that prove your cattle numbers. This is for any size herd. Make an appointment and start gathering your paperwork. The only catch is, you cannot have earned over \$900,000 last year. I guess if this doesn't apply to you, you probably don't take napkins from fast food joints for your pickup!

I was recently in a conversation about herd size. The average herd size in the United States for cattle is 25. As your herd gets bigger, management might change, but the principles I write about apply to you if you have 3 cows or 300 cows. There are management practices, researched based that will help your bottom line. Pregnancy checking, so that you don't feed an open cow all winter will save you money. Implanting steer calves, will put more weight on to take to the salebarn, as will using good genetics. Of course, using EPD's for sire selection will help getting live calves on the ground, to have something to sell.

Sheep and goats, their numbers are increasing. Companion grazing with cattle, is an effective low cost brush and weed control. We will be hosting the Northeast Kansas Sheep and Goat school at Valley Falls at the fairbuilding on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Our featured speaker will be Dr Alison Crane, KSU Sheep & Goat specialist. She will discuss the latest in research findings and common sense management. Then we will have Charlie Lee, KSU Wildlife Control Specialist discuss Predator control for sheep and goats.