

Fenceline

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We are not exactly avid sports fans. As we were discussing the outcome of the WSU and KU game, little Ellie Raye (age 22 months) chimed in, "I'm KU". We were shocked!! "Oh no honey, we're KSU, K-State Wildcats", I said. She quickly responds, "No I'm KU". The whole family got in on this, "Willie Wildcat, go K-State", "go purple" to which she adamantly insisted, "I'm KU". This went on for 15 minutes, before we finally got her to say "EMAW". Crisis averted, but then we wondered who had been teaching this child? The likely suspect was the daycare provider, who has been known to be of that persuasion. We checked it out the next day, and found that she wasn't saying "KU" but "Caillou" which is a child's TV show character, what a relief!!

Calving season is continuing, but the warmer weather is certainly a relief. As you prepare to work cattle this spring for grass, or branding time or whatever you call it. Remember to implant those nursing calves. You'll be putting on an extra 20 pounds! The only reason you would not implant a nursing calf is 1) you know you will be keeping it for a replacement heifer 2) it's a heifer calf under 45 days, and you might keep it as a replacement or 3) you are selling to a "natural" market and you are receiving a premium of \$5/cwt.

I recently learned from my MBA 2.0 program (Masters of Beef Advocacy) that if all implants and Ionophores were taken off the market, we would need an additional 1.5 million head of cattle to match the current levels. Implants and Ionophores help the cattle be more efficient.

I've heard the arguments of putting hormones in our food. A head of cabbage has about 10 times the amount of estrogen than a similar amount of beef.

Agricultural hormone use has been found safe by scientists all over the world. Residue levels of hormones in food have been demonstrated to be safe and well below any level that would have a known effect in humans, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

The Center for Veterinary Medicine has confirmed that 1 pound of farmed beef from cattle given a common hormone, estradiol, contains 15,000 times less estradiol than the estrogen produced daily by the average man and 9 million times less than that produced by a pregnant woman. "Sustainable global food security is attainable if we have open minds on technology and focus on high productivity and efficiency. We cannot feed tomorrow's world with yesterday's technology", Aalt Dijkhuizen, Wageningen University & Research Centre, The Netherlands.

Let's not go down the road that egg production has gone down. The 2013 Food Forward Analysis examined the global egg industry, finding a startling example of what happens when innovation is prohibited. More than a decade of disease, social pressures and increasing regulations on safe, proven practices have dropped global hen productivity nearly an egg per hen per year after decades of increases. On this current path, we'll need 12.6 billion birds (double what we have now) to meet egg demands in 2050.

Using innovations, not adding hens would save, 113 million tons of feed, 65 million acres of land and 74 billion gallons of water.

Throughout history, the world's biggest problems have been solved through innovation. It's celebrated in virtually every sector of our economy. Why is it questioned when it involved the production of our food? ENOUGH.