

Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes - Aug 23-24

Livestock Sweepstakes will be hosted on the K-State campus August 23-24. The entry deadline has passed, but those who entered youth will be receiving additional details and reminders as the event approaches. The livestock judging contest, livestock skillathon, and quiz bowl qualifying exam will be on Saturday, with the meat judging contest, head-to-head quiz bowl rounds, and awards ceremony being on Sunday. Through these events, the youth who will represent Kansas at the national contests will be selected. We look forward to having Kansas 4-H youth on campus to kick off the school year! For more information, contact Lexie Hayes (adhayes@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264.)



Register Now - K-State Beef Stocker Field Day

Register now for this year's 26th annual KSU Beef Stocker Field Day which will be hosted in Manhattan, KS on Thursday, September 25 at the KSU Beef Stocker Unit. The day will start at 10:00 a.m. with registration and coffee and will conclude with a good old-fashioned Prairie Oyster Fry and Call Hall ice cream.

The schedule is as follows:

- 10:00 a.m. Registration/Coffee
- 10:30 a.m. Introductions
- 10:45 a.m. Navigating the Unknowns for the Stocker Operator
Lance Zimmerman, Senior Beef Industry Analyst, RaboBank
Glynn Tonsor, K-State Department of Agricultural Economics
 Moderator: *Wes Ishmael, Hereford World Executive Editor*
- Noon BBQ Brisket Lunch – View Posters
- 1:00 p.m. Fueling Performance from the Inside Out: Gut Integrity and Micronutrient Support
Sara Trojan, Technical Services, Kemin Industries
- 2:00 p.m. Making Treatment Choices for Reducing BRD and Death Loss
David Renter, K-State College of Veterinary Medicine
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 3:00 p.m. Theileria, the Anaplasmosis of Stocker Cattle
Gregg Hanzlicek, K-State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
- 4:00 p.m. Managing Growth in the Dry Lot – the K-State Program Feeding Approach
Colton Weir, PhD student - K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry
 Beef x Dairy Growing Strategies
Cole Ellis, Manager and MS Student, K-State Beef Stocker Unit
- 5:00 p.m. Cutting Bull's Lament 2025

Pre-registration is \$25 per person and is due by September 11. After that date or onsite the cost is \$35 per person. For complete details and registration, visit www.KSUBeef.org. For more information contact Dale Blasi (dblasi@ksu.edu or 785-532-5427) or Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

Department of Animal Sciences and Industry

Kansas State University
218 Weber Hall, 1424 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66506
785-532-6533 | asi@ksu.edu



K-STATE BEEF STOCKER FIELD DAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2025 | 10AM | K-STATE BEEF STOCKER UNIT



Upcoming Events

- August 21, 2025**
KLA/KSU Ranch Management Field Day
Larson Ranch - Wichita County
- August 23-24, 2025**
4-H Livestock Sweepstakes
- August 28, 2025**
KSU/KLA Ranch Management Field Day
Wells Ranch - Woodson County
- September 24-26, 2025**
HACCP Workshop - Olathe, KS
- September 25, 2025**
Beef Stocker Field Day
- October 18, 2025**
ASI Family & Friends Reunion
- November 20, 2025**
Swine Day

Upcoming Events

KJLS Entry Deadline Approaching



The deadline to enter the Kansas Junior Livestock Show is August 15. All entries must be made online, using the link on the KJLS website: <https://www.kjls.net/>. Rules, the schedule, and additional details are also posted on their website. Everyone is encouraged to double check the modified show schedule and rules prior to entry. Exhibitors are also encouraged to review those items prior to arrival to make the check-in process goes as smoothly as possible. Families who state nominated have to use the same account they did during the nomination process for nominated animals to be available for entry. It is important to remember that a complete nomination does not constitute show entry. Nomination only makes animals eligible to be entered and shown at KJLS. Exhibitors must submit an official entry, through the unique KJLS entry link posted on the KJLS website, as well as pay the appropriate fees to be able to participate. Exhibitors will enter showmanship during the entry process, as well as sign up for the LEAD Challenge if they are interested. Scholarship applications are also due August 15.

Agents and FFA advisors will receive instructions regarding approving entries for youth from their respective organizations after entries close. This will all be done online, similar to approving nominations and state fair entries. For information about entries or the show, please contact the KJLS staff directly.

Save the Date - ASI Family & Friends Reunion



Save the date for this year's K-State ASI Family & Friends Reunion to be hosted Saturday, October 18 at the Stanley Stout Center. Plan now to join us as we recognize the Applied Swine Nutrition Team at K-State as the 2025 Don L. Good Impact Award Winner. Watch for more details at asi.ksu.edu/familyandfriends and on social media. For questions contact Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267).

HACCP Workshop Hosted in September

Implementing Your Company's HACCP Plan will be September 24-26 2025, in Olathe, Kansas. This workshop uses curriculum recognized by the International HACCP Alliance for meat and poultry processors. The registration fee is \$450 per person and is available online at <http://bit.ly/HACCPCourse>. For more information, contact Dr. Liz Boyle lboyle@ksu.edu or 785-532-1247.

2025 KLA/KSU Field Days

Dates have been set for the 2025 KLA/Kansas State University Ranch Management Field Days. Larson Ranch, owned by Brady and Kyla Larson, will host the first event August 21 in Wichita County. The August 28 field day will be held in Woodson County at Wells Ranch, owned by Terry Wells. Please mark your calendars for this year's events.

Each event will begin at 3:30 p.m. and include presentations on the history of the host ranch and tours of their cattle handling facilities. At Larson Ranch, we will be joined by Dale Woerner with Texas Tech University, who will share his research on yield grading technology, as well as Brian Vander Ley with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Michael Heaton with the USDA, who will discuss bovine congestive heart failure in feedlot cattle. At Wells Ranch, we will be joined by A.J. Tarpoff, DVM, with Kansas State University, who will share information on the Asian longhorned tick and the transmission of *Theileria orientalis*, as well as Wade Newland of Newland Ag Drones and a representative from the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition who will highlight resources available for controlling noxious weeds in grazing lands and provide a spray drone demonstration. Both events are free and will conclude with fellowship and a beef dinner. More information will be posted at <https://www.kla.org/events-meetings/klak-state-field-days> as it becomes available. Please join us for one or both of these exciting events—you do not have to be a KLA member to attend! See you in August!

What's New

Management Minute

“Questions the key to better conversations”

Justin Waggoner
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Garden City, KS

In today's fast-paced culture everyone is busy and all those distractions can make it difficult to connect with co-workers, clients and even family members. We have all had those conversations where we weren't really listening to the person speaking or where you got the distinct impression that you were not really being heard. So, what can you do to become a better listener and cultivate better conversations? One of the suggestions I recently came across regarding “active listening” and building connections is the use of open-ended, emotion-based questions. For example, when meeting new people, we often ask simple fact-based questions such as “When did you come to work for company X?” However, what if you posed the question “Why did come to work for company X?” The latter question likely leads to much deeper answer than the first and then follow-up with “What do you like most about your current position?” We have numerous opportunities to practice asking deeper questions throughout our day. It's common to ask our children “How was school today?” which typically results in a simple answer of “fine” or “good”. However, if the question becomes “What was the best thing about school today?” the standard one-word answer no longer applies and the conversation now has more depth. Cultivating better conversations isn't difficult but it does require increased awareness of the questions we ask and some practice.

Feedlot Facts

“Early Weaning...is it your management toolbox?”

Justin Waggoner
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Garden City, KS

Many discussions about early weaning focus on managing lightweight calves and the benefits to the cow and the ranch become lost in the discussion. Weaning calves 30-60 days earlier than normal (approximately 120-150 days of age) is an excellent management tool that reduces the nutrient requirements of the cow and reduces daily demand for forage resources. A 450 lb spring-born calf is capable of consuming approximately 7 lbs of forage per day. A dry 1400 lb cow can easily consume 28 lbs of dry forage per day (2% bodyweight). If we divide the 28 lbs of forage needed to maintain the cow by the 7 lbs spared in a pasture by removing the calf, we learn that for every 4 days that a calf is not grazing with the cow we get one grazing day for the cow. If we wean calves approximately 30-60 days early, we gain an additional 1-2 weeks of forage to support the cow. Additionally, research at Kansas State University (Bolte et al, 2007) documented that weaning calves at 100 to 145 days of age increased body condition scores of cows grazing native pastures from an average of 5.46 to 5.85 in 120 days. The change in cow body condition score ranged from 0.25 to 0.50 of a condition score on this study. These results are more impressive if we also consider that forage quality was likely declining and yet these cows were still able to increase body condition. The results of this study demonstrate that the optimum time improve body condition on cows is immediately following weaning as the nutrient requirements of pregnant cows are lowest during this time. Furthermore, what is the value of improving cow condition in the fall to the ranch in a tough year or increasing the breed up rates and subsequent retention of younger females in the herd? A lot! Especially when we consider the replacement cost of females at current prices. Thus, if you have not put early weaning in your management toolbox, give it some consideration.

For more information, contact Justin Waggoner at jwaggon@ksu.edu

KSU Cow-Calf Checklist - August 2025

Management Considerations for October 2025

By Jason M. Warner, Ph.D., Extension Cow-Calf Specialist

Cow Herd Management

- For spring-calving cowherds:
 - If not already done, make plans for weaning calves.
 - Test your forages and have feedstuffs on hand prior to weaning.
 - Check and clean waterers and prepare weaning/receiving pens.
 - Evaluate cow BCS at weaning.
 - Record scores with the BCS Record Book from KSRE!
 - Use BCS to strategically supplement cows during fall, if needed.
 - Female requirements are lowest at weaning so weight and BCS can be added more easily in early fall rather than waiting until closer to calving.
 - Schedule pregnancy checking and fall health work if not already done.
 - How were pregnancy rates relative to last year?
 - Do we need to re-think our fall/winter nutrition program?
 - Evaluate the cost of gain relative to the value of gain when making feeding and marketing decisions for cull cows.
- For fall-calving cowherds:
 - If not already done, review your calving health protocols as needed.
 - Have calving equipment cleaned and available to use as needed.
 - Plan to adjust your nutrition program to match needs of lactating cows.
 - Use the estrus synchronization planner (<https://www.iowabeefcenter.org/estrussynch.html>) to help plan fall synchronization protocols.
- Plan your mineral supplementation for this coming fall and winter.
 - Record date and amount offered and calculate herd consumption.
 - If consumption is 2X the target intake, then cost will be too!
 - Risk of grass tetany is greatest for lactating cows. Consider magnesium levels in mineral supplements for cows grazing cool-season forages and winter annuals this fall.
- Schedule breeding soundness exams for bulls used for fall service.
 - Monitor BCS, particularly on young bulls.
 - If bulls are BCS ≤ 5.0 after summer breeding, consider supplementing to regain BCS going into fall.

Calf Management

- Schedule any pre-weaning vaccination or processing activities if not already done.
- Consider the economic value by implanting nursing fall-born calves and weaned spring-born calves.
- If not already done, schedule your breeding protocols for fall replacement heifers in advance of the breeding season.
 - If synchronizing with MGA, make sure intake is consistent at 0.5 mg of melengestrol acetate per hd per day for 14 days, and remove for 19 days prior to administering prostaglandin.

General Management

- Take inventory of and begin sampling harvested forages for fall feed needs.
 - Be aware of possible presence of molds and other anti-nutritional compounds in hay harvested at higher than typical moisture levels.
 - Test for nitrates and prussic acid when appropriate.
 - Use the forage inventory calculator (<https://www.agmanager.info/hay-inventory-calculator>).
 - Balance forage inventories with fall/winter grazing acres.
- If grazing crop residues following harvest, keep the following in mind:
 - The bottom 1/3 of the stalk is where nitrates accumulate.
 - Be aware of prussic acid in new regrowth of sorghum plants, and the time around frost is the greatest risk.
 - High amounts of down grain will require a change in management.
- Use the Management Minder tool on KSUBeef.org to plan key management activities for your cowherd for the rest of the year.
- With high feeder calf prices, consider price risk management tools for fall-calves.

What's New for Cattle Producers

Evaluating Ground Grain Sorghum as an Alternative to Dry-Rolled Corn in Finishing Cattle Diets- The aim of this study was to evaluate ground grain sorghum as an alternative to dry-rolled corn. Beef steers (n = 300; 764 lb initial body weight) in 30 feedlot pens (10 animals/pen; 15 replicates) were fed finishing diets containing ground sorghum or dry-rolled corn for 182 days. Diets were balanced to contain similar crude protein and starch and fed once daily. Average daily gain, dry matter intake, feed efficiency, carcass traits, and digestibility of diet components were determined.

The Bottom Line: The energy value of ground sorghum grain was approximately 94% that of dry-rolled corn. Future efforts should focus on the development of superior sorghum hybrids and processing methods that enhance nutritional value of sorghum. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Cattlemen's Day Report at KSUBeef.org. *(This study conducted by Harleigh Johnson, Sarah A. Sexton-Bowser, Jaymelynn K. Farney, and James S. Drouillard).*

Determination of Consumer Purchase Thresholds for Discoloration of Beef Strip Steaks in Retail Display- The objectives of this study were to determine the consumer purchase threshold for discoloration of beef steaks in a simulated retail display and to determine the best objective measurement to predict consumer purchase intent. Steaks from 0% to 100% discoloration were evaluated by trained panelists and consumer panelists in a simulated retail display. Trained panelists scored percent discoloration, redness, and fat color, while consumer panelists were asked to rate the sample appearance and then asked if they would purchase the sample at full price and at a discounted rate. L* (lightness), a* (redness), b* (yellowness), and spectral data were collected and hue angle, chroma, and percent deoxymyoglobin, metmyoglobin, and oxymyoglobin were calculated.

Results: The a* values were a good objective predictor of purchase intent ($R^2 = 0.64$ full-priced and $R^2 = 0.56$ for discounted; $P < 0.05$). At full price, a* values of 25.3, 29.9, 34.4, and 37.6 corresponded to a 50%, 75%, 90%, and 95% likelihood to purchase, whereas if the product was discounted, a* values of 20.3, 25.8, 31.3, and 35.0 corresponded to those same thresholds. Trained sensory panel redness scores were also a good predictor of consumer purchase intent with $R^2 = 0.64$ full-priced and $R^2 = 0.59$ discounted ($P < 0.05$). At full price, trained redness scores of 68.0 and 86.3 corresponded to a 50% and 75% likelihood to purchase, whereas if the product was discounted, trained redness scores of 46.8, 68.8, and 90.8 corresponded to 50%, 75%, and 90% thresholds.

The Bottom Line: The a* value and trained panel redness score are good indicators of consumer purchase intent, showing that consumers highly value redness when choosing steaks. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Cattlemen's Day Report at KSUBeef.org. *(This study conducted by Stephanie L. Witberler, Lauren M. Frink, Mason J. Prester, Chesney A. Effling, Michael D. Chao, Morgan D. Zumbaugh, Jessie L. Vipham, Erin S. Beyer, and Travis G. O'Quinn).*

Influence of Degree of Doneness on the Alpha-Gal Content of Striploins and its Relationship with Red Meat Allergy-

Alpha-Gal Syndrome (AGS) is an acquired sensitivity to galactose-alpha-1, 3-galactose (α -Gal) after exposure to a bite from the Lone Star Tick (*Amblyomma americanum*). Affected individuals can experience a range of symptoms from mild itching to potentially fatal anaphylaxis after consuming products containing mammalian tissues that contain α -Gal. Little research has been done to examine the α -Gal content of different products; thus, the objective of this study was to establish the α -Gal content of striploin steaks cooked to varying degrees of doneness to evaluate if heat treatment reduces the α -Gal content of red meat. Ten beef striploins were collected from a Midwest beef processing plant and transported under refrigeration to the Kansas State University Meat Laboratory (n = 10). Striploins were cut into four steaks each and either left raw or cooked to medium rare (MR; 130°F), medium (MED; 140°F), or well done (WD; 160°F). Whole muscle proteins were extracted, and proteins were separated by gel electrophoresis, transferred to a polyvinylidene difluoride membrane, and tested by immunoblot against a primary anti- α -Gal antibody. Each gel contained a reference sample of α -Gal conjugated human serum albumin with known α -Gal content.

Results: Striploins that were cooked to WD had the greatest α -Gal concentration among all cooking treatments, followed by steaks cooked to MR and MED, while steaks that were left raw had the lowest α -Gal concentration ($P < 0.01$).

The Bottom Line: Our results are consistent with other studies, which indicated that cooking seems to concentrate α -Gal glycans to a higher degree than that of the raw striploins. Further research is needed to evaluate the efficacy of other interventions to improve the care and management of AGS patients. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Cattlemen's Day Report at KSUBeef.org. *(This study conducted by Sara R. Hene, Jack R. Kress, Jordan T. Looper, Erin S. Beyer, Travis G. O'Quinn, and Michael D. Chao).*

What's New for Swine Producers

The Effect of Increased Standardized Ileal Digestible Lysine through Increased Soybean Meal During Late Gestation on Lactating Sow Performance

A total of 87 sows (Line 241, DNA) and their offspring were used to evaluate the effect of increasing SID Lys through increasing soybean meal concentration in late-gestating sow diets on sow and litter lactation performance. Sows were blocked by parity and body weight (BW) on approximately d 90 of gestation and allotted to one of three treatments of increasing SID Lys (0.60, 0.80, or 1.00%) through increased soybean meal (14, 21, or 29% of the diet). Sows received approximately 4.5 lb/d of their treatment diet for an average SID Lys intake of 11.9, 15.8, or 19.9 g/d, respectively. Diets were fed from d 90 of gestation until farrowing. After farrowing, all sows were fed a common lactation diet containing 1.10% SID Lys. Litters were cross-fostered within sow treatment by 48 h after farrowing to equalize litter size. Parity was included in the statistical model as a fixed effect with sows being classified as either as primiparous (n = 35) or multiparous (n = 52). Weight gain from d 90 to d 110 of gestation increased as SID Lys increased (linear, $P < 0.001$). Change in urinary creatinine level from d 90 until d 110 of gestation tended to decrease as SID Lys level in the late gestation diet increased (linear, $P = 0.063$) indicating less muscle catabolism. Piglet ADG from d 2 to d 10 of lactation increased as SID Lys fed in gestation increased (linear, $P = 0.017$). There was a quadratic effect of late gestation sow diet on litter gain from d 2 until weaning (quadratic, $P = 0.044$). Litters from sows fed the 0.80% SID Lys diet tended to have numerically greater lactation litter gain. Sows fed the 0.80% SID Lys diet had numerically the highest (quadratic, $P = 0.025$) piglet mortality during the first two days of lactation. There was a parity \times gestation diet interaction for d 2-to-weaning pre-weaning mortality ($P = 0.049$) where pre-weaning mortality increased as SID Lys increased in primiparous sows but decreased as SID Lys increased in multiparous sows. In conclusion, increasing SID Lys through increased SBM linearly increased late-gestation sow BW gain and piglet ADG during the first portion of lactation. However, litters from sows fed 0.80% SID Lys in late gestation had the highest litter ADG during late lactation and overall. These results suggest that increasing SID Lys intake to 0.80% during late gestation may be beneficial in improving lactation performance. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUSwine.org. (This study conducted by Abigail K. Jenkins, Jason C. Woodworth, Jordan T. Gebhardt, Robert D. Goodband, Mike D. Tokach, and Joel M. DeRouchey).

Effects of PurePro Soy on Growth Performance and Fecal Dry Matter of Nursery Pigs A total of 360 barrows (DNA 200 \times 400; initially 12.3 ± 0.05 lb) were used in a 37-d study to determine the effects of a refined soy protein concentrate (PurePro Soy, Bunge; Chesterfield, MO) on nursery-pig growth performance and fecal dry matter (DM). Pens of pigs were randomly allotted to one of six dietary treatments in a generalized randomized block design with BW as a blocking factor. There were six replications for each treatment within pens of light pigs (initially 11.0 ± 0.02 lb) and six replications for each treatment within pens of heavy pigs (initially 13.7 ± 0.02 lb). There were five pigs per pen and 12 pens per treatment. Diets were corn-soybean meal-based with increasing PurePro Soy (0, 4.25, 8.5, 12.75, and 17%) replacing SBM in the diet. A sixth diet served as a positive control containing 8.5% enzymatically treated SBM (HP 300, Hamlet Protein; Findlay, OH) also replacing SBM in the diet. Treatment diets were fed in two phases from d 0 to 9 (phase 1) and d 9 to 23 (phase 2) followed by a common diet from d 23 to 37 (phase 3). On d 9 and 23, fecal samples were collected from the same three randomly selected pigs in each pen to determine fecal DM. There were no interactions of treatment and BW block, therefore interpretation is focused on the main effect of treatment. During the experimental period (d 0 to 23), ADG and F/G improved (quadratic, $P < 0.05$) as PurePro Soy increased with the greatest improvement in ADG and F/G when PurePro Soy increased from 0 to 8.5%. Pigs fed 8.5% PurePro Soy or 8.5% HP 300 had similar performance. Additionally, ADFI increased (linear, $P = 0.019$) as PurePro Soy increased. Overall (d 0 to 37), increasing PurePro Soy improved (quadratic, $P = 0.014$) ADG and tended to worsen (linear, $P = 0.087$) F/G and increase ADFI (quadratic, $P = 0.080$) with the greatest response at 8.5%. For fecal DM, increasing PurePro Soy increased (linear, $P = 0.035$) fecal DM on d 9, and pigs fed 8.5% PurePro Soy had greater ($P = 0.011$) fecal DM than those fed 8.5% HP 300. In summary, replacing SBM with 8.5% PurePro Soy improved nursery pig growth performance and fecal DM. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUSwine.org. (This study conducted by Jessica L. Smallfield, Mike D. Tokach, Jason C. Woodworth, Robert D. Goodband, Joel M. DeRouchey, Jordan T. Gebhardt, and Long Zou).

Effects of Zinc Source on Growth Performance and Carcass Characteristics of Finishing Pigs A total of 3,159 pigs (PIC 337 \times 1050; initially 48.2 ± 1.70 lb) were used to determine the effect of Zn source on growth performance, carcass characteristics, and within-pen BW and HCW variation. Pigs were housed in mixed-gender pens with 27 pigs per pen and 39 pens per treatment across three barns. Individual pig weights were taken at allotment, first marketing, and final marketing to calculate within-pen body weight variation. Experimental treatments consisted of diets containing 100 ppm of Zn from: 1) Zn hydroxychloride; 2) ZnSO_4 , or 3) ZnO. Data were divided into three phases, encompassing three time periods, phase 1 from approximately 50 to 120 lb, phase 2 from 120 to 200 lb, and phase 3 from 200 to 300 lb. During period 1, pigs fed diets with ZnO had improved ($P < 0.05$) ADG and F/G compared to those fed the diet containing Zn hydroxychloride. In period 2, Zn source had no effect on ADG, ADFI, or F/G ($P > 0.10$). During period 3, pigs fed diets containing Zn hydroxychloride had improved ($P < 0.05$) ADG and F/G compared to those fed the diet containing ZnO. Overall, there were no differences ($P > 0.10$) observed for growth performance or carcass characteristics. Furthermore, Zn source did not affect BW or HCW variation. In conclusion, pigs fed the three Zn sources had similar overall growth performance, carcass characteristics, and weight variation. More information is available on this study and others like it at KSUSwine.org. (This study conducted by Maxwell L. Corso, Jason C. Woodworth, Mike D. Tokach, Jordan T. Gebhardt, Robert D. Goodband, Joel M. DeRouchey, and Chris van de Ligt).

ASI Faculty Highlight



Travis O'Quinn (travisquinn@ksu.edu or 785-532-3469)

Professor - Fresh Meat Quality and Palatability

Dr. Travis O'Quinn was born in League City, TX. Through his youth, Dr. O'Quinn was actively involved in 4-H and FFA, participating on numerous judging teams including meats, livestock, and land. He graduated with his B.S. (2008) and M.S. (2010) degrees from Texas Tech University and earned a Ph.D. in Meat Science from Colorado State University (2012). Upon graduation, he returned to Texas Tech to conduct a post-doctoral research project working to develop a palatability-based beef grading system for the largest beef producer in New Zealand. Travis joined the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University in July of 2014 with a 60% extension and 40% research appointment.

Dr. O'Quinn's research interests center on beef palatability and the factors affecting the traits of tenderness, juiciness and flavor. He has conducted research involving more than 13,000 beef consumers from across the country. He has worked extensively to evaluate the factors affecting beef flavor and to identify the production and management practices that can modify the flavor profile of beef. He has also worked to develop a

technique to quantify and predict beef juiciness. He oversees the state 4-H and FFA meat judging programs and works to help increase student involvement in the meat industry through the growth of these programs.

Travis enjoys training and mentoring students, both undergraduate and graduate. He currently serves as the faculty advisor and coach of the K-State Meat Judging Team, as well as the K-State Meat Animal Evaluation Team. He is also the faculty advisor to the Meat Science Academic Quiz Bowl team.

In his free time, Travis enjoys spending time with his wife, Megan and their son, Ethan. The two live in Wamego, KS, and are avid sports fans, keeping up with all things college football, MLB and NFL.



Maci Mueller (muellermaci@ksu.edu or 785-532-1251)

Assistant Professor - Animal Genomics & Biotechnology

Dr. Maci Mueller is an assistant professor of Animal Breeding and Genetics in the Animal Sciences and Industry Department. Mueller is originally from Princeton, Nebraska, where she was actively involved in her family's first-generation seedstock operation, Lienetics Angus Ranch. This experience was instrumental in developing her career goal of becoming an animal geneticist.

She earned her B.S. in animal science with a political science minor from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and then her M.S. and Ph.D. in animal biology from the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). During her graduate career, Mueller was recognized for her academic achievements, research accomplishments, and outreach efforts. She was honored with the prestigious American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) Agri-King Outstanding Animal Science Graduate Student Award in 2022 and received the W.D. Farr – National Cattlemen's Foundation Scholarship in 2021.

Mueller's appointment is 70% teaching and 30% research. She will be teaching Genetics (ASI 500) and her research will focus on the application of genetic-based

biotechnology, such as gene editing, to improve livestock production. Gene editing is a molecular tool that allows livestock breeders to precisely add, delete, or replace letters in the genetic code to influence a specific trait of interest in as little as one generation. Her goal is to enhance animal health and welfare while improving production efficiency, by leveraging the potential of genetic-based biotechnologies. Additionally, Mueller is passionate about effective science communication and is driven to provide research and education to expand the availability and application of genetic-based biotechnologies in livestock production systems.

Maci, her husband, Kale, and their son, Titus, live in Manhattan.

Jobs Available - Now Hiring

Animal Health Instructor (Job #519925)- This is a full time instructor position focused on Animal Health. This non-tenure track teaching faculty role is dedicated to delivering high-quality instruction to both on-campus and distance students. The successful candidate will contribute to the department's undergraduate mission through effective teaching, academic advising, recruitment, retention, and mentorship initiatives. The primary focus of the successful candidate's teaching program will be on the health of livestock, companion animals, and/or horses, but may include contributions in other areas, depending upon departmental needs and areas of expertise. The individual in this role will collaborate with current and future faculty members within ASI and the College of Agriculture. Interdisciplinary collaborations across K-State are also encouraged. The instructor will play a key role in supporting student needs and future career goals by shaping and enhancing a progressive curriculum that aligns with current production practices and future needs of the animal health industry. For more information or to apply visit <https://careers.k-state.edu/jobs/animal-health-instructor-manhattan-kansas-united-states>.

Companion Animal Management Instructor (Job #519923)- This is a full time instructor position specializing in Companion Animal Management. This non-tenure track teaching faculty role is dedicated to delivering high-quality instruction to both on-campus and distance students. The successful candidate will contribute to the department's undergraduate mission through effective teaching, recruitment, retention, and mentorship initiatives. The primary teaching focus will be on companion animals and their management but may include contributions in other areas depending upon departmental needs and areas of expertise. The individual in this role will collaborate with current and future faculty members within ASI and the Grain Science & Industry's pet food program. Other collaborations within and external to the College of Agriculture at K-State are encouraged. The instructor will play a key role in shaping and enhancing a progressive curriculum aligned with industry needs and student career goals. For more information or to apply visit <https://careers.k-state.edu/jobs/companion-animal-management-instructor-manhattan-kansas-united-states>.

Animal Technician II (Job #519737)- This is a full time University Support Staff position. Work schedules will depend on the needs determined by the DTRC manager and availability of the incumbent. This position will be responsible for equipment operation, equipment maintenance, and facility maintenance, and in a smaller portion, general animal care and milking. For more information or to apply, visit <https://careers.k-state.edu/jobs/animal-technician-ii-hays-kansas-united-states-e0fc7b2d-dce4-4b27-a213-3ca51a9b7b3c>.

Rodeo Coach (Job #520281)- This is a part time, unclassified term position (for .75 FTE). This position is instrumental in the success of the KSU Rodeo Team. The KSU Rodeo Team strives to promote and educate students and the general public on the history, heritage, and tradition of rodeo. We facilitate opportunities for students to participate in rodeo by providing professionally coached practices in a safe environment for our dedicated cowboys and cowgirls. For more information or to apply visit <https://careers.k-state.edu/jobs/rodeo-coach-manhattan-kansas-united-states>.

*We need your input! If you have any suggestions or comments on
News from KSU Animal Sciences,
please let us know by email to katiesmith@ksu.edu*