

Jody G. Holthaus
District Extension Agent
Livestock and Natural Resources

Does History Repeat?

Way back in the beginning of my career, there was a tough time for agriculture. I remember having a series of meetings to help people get operating loans so they could keep farming, back then passing on the farm was joked to be “child abuse”. Then we went through the early teens, when farmland shot up in price and it seemed everyone wanted to come back to the farm. Now, we find ourselves in rougher times, but being the eternal optimists, we know good times will return. These are all factors to consider when you decide the future of your farm.

For some families, it’s pretty obvious where the farm is headed, with a grown child already helping with the day to day management of the farm or ranch. For others, the next generation may not show any interest in the farm at all. What to do, what to do?

On February 13th, at the NE Kansas Heritage meeting room, 12200 214th Road in Holton Kansas, we hope to give you an idea of what your possibilities are for passing down the farm. This meeting will start at 1:30 pm, we are proud to co-sponsor this meeting with the Jackson County Farm Bureau.

The first speaker is Mark Peterson of Stanton Iowa. He has a very unique story of how he became a farmer, and how he kept another families’ farm going. Now, he’s transitioning that farm to his heirs.

Our second speaker is Roger McEowan, from Washburn school of law, former KSU Ag Law Specialist, former Ag Lawyer for Iowa State University. Roger will share his thoughts on how to structure your farm or ranch to pass it on, avoiding all the red tape that can come with it.

This program is free and anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Another couple of programs coming up:

NE Kansas Sheep & Goat school on January 28th at the Fairbuilding in Valley Falls, Charlie Lee KSU Wildlife Damage control specialist and Dr Allison Crane, KSU Sheep & Goat Specialist will be the presenters. Starting time 7:00 pm.

KSU Dairy Day will be February 7th at the Nemaha County Community Building. There’s a smorgasbord of topics this year, from robotic milking, dairy-beef crosses for profitability to herbal medicine for cows.

The day begins at 9:45 am and will conclude by 3 pm. Lunch is provided.

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

QuickBooks for Ag – and You?

Say the word ‘recordkeeping’ and you’ll get a lot of different responses – many of them less than joyous. Why? Recordkeeping isn’t always enjoyable. Rather than being involved in business management decisions, you spend your time entering numbers that you might have to work to make sense of so you can determine when you’re all done that maybe you didn’t make a profit after all. Real...happy...stuff...

It has to be done though, right? So...if your New Year’s resolution was to keep better financial records, maybe we can help you out, using a fairly common financial recordkeeping program – QuickBooks Pro.

The Meadowlark Extension District, with generous sponsorship by the Bank of McLouth and in cooperation with Taylor Insurance Services, LLC, will be hosting a QuickBooks for Ag training on Tuesday, February 5th at the Colonial Acres Event Center in Oskaloosa. Registration will start at 10:00 a.m. with the training at 10:30. A sponsored lunch will be provided and we’ll wrap up around 3:00 p.m.

QuickBooks Pro is a flexible financial record-keeping system. Participants will learn how to use the program for their farm, ranch, and even for family expenses. The training will be ideal for people new to QuickBooks or those wanting to increase their knowledge of the program as well as a great opportunity to learn if QuickBooks is a good fit for you via hands-on learning and a take-home manual.

Participants will receive a printed manual with examples to work through, allowing them to create a sample farm company file, add bank accounts/loans, enter checks/deposits, work with bills (accounts payable), and create/manage invoices. Upon completion, participants should be equipped to use QuickBooks for their farm and ranch bookkeeping.

Not involved in production agriculture? Small businesses can use the same example to make the training apply to your business as well.

The cost to attend is \$10 (payable at the door) to cover printing of the training manual required for the course. *Registration will be limited* due to the hands on nature of the course. Please contact the Oskaloosa Office of the Meadowlark Extension District by February 1st to RSVP or for further details, or e-mail me at dhallaue@ksu.edu .

Cindy Williams
Meadowlark Extension District
Food, Nutrition, Health and Safety

Are You Still Contagious?

With it being the height of cold and flu seasons, there is always the question of whether or not you are exposing others to your germs. According to the University of California, Berkeley Wellness Letter, as a general rule, adults with a cold will be able to infect others one day before symptoms appear, and up to five days or so after becoming sick. Infants and children are able to transmit these viral infections for seven days or longer. Children are also more likely to catch and transmit colds.

Cold viruses are abundant in nasal secretions. These are mainly transmitted via hands. When you blow your nose, touch your face, or wipe your eyes, the virus transfers to your hands, and then to whatever or whomever you touch. To avoid spreading or catching a cold, the number one precaution is to wash your hands often and well. Hand sanitizers are a good option when you aren't near a sink.

Coughing and sneezing can also spread germs. If you don't have a tissue, instead of sneezing or coughing into your hand, do it into your sleeve or crook of your arm to avoid contaminating your hands.

If you think you're getting sick, limit your contacts. When you are around someone who is sick, stay at least six feet away. Cold viruses can't travel much farther than that through the air. Try not to share eating utensils, phones or towels. Wipe down things that are touched, like door knobs, computer key boards, and remote controls with an antibacterial wipe.

Using common sense can help keep you healthy throughout the year.

Clean Hands Can Save Lives

Frequent handwashing is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick and spreading illness. Handwashing requires only soap and water-(as hot as you can stand) or an alcohol based hand sanitizer—a cleanser that doesn't require water.

As you touch people, surfaces, and objects throughout the day, you accumulate germs on your hands. In turn, you can infect yourself with these germs by touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Although it's impossible to keep your hands germ free, washing your hands frequently can help limit the transfer of bacteria, viruses, and other microbes

Nancy C. Nelson
Meadowlark Extension District
Family Life

Clean and Happy New Year!

The American Cleaning Institute® shares these small household cleaning resolutions that will help keep your family clean and happy all year.

Pick a day and time once a week to clean door knobs, faucets, and handles throughout your house. Think sinks, toilets, doors, and cabinets! A disinfectant wipe should make it go quickly!

Set aside time for everyone in the house to find some items to donate. You'll actually have fewer things to clean, and you'll feel better for doing it.

Create stylish cleaning storage! Cleaning products don't have to reside in an old bucket. Find a cool caddy or bring the family together to personalize one. Pick up some cute gloves and colorful accessories, and you'll love bringing them out to clean.

Just dust. Work your way around your home removing the dust under and behind furniture, on carpets, and, everywhere in-between.

If you don't have a lot of time to spend on cleaning, be sure to prioritize these key areas:

Bathroom: Disinfecting toilet bowls, sinks, tubs and showers.

Kitchen: Cleaning cutting boards, countertops and dishes.

Laundry: Washing sheets, towels and bathmats weekly.

Floors: Vacuuming carpets and mopping floors, reducing asthma and allergy triggers.