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District Extension Agent  
Livestock and Natural Resources

### Sheep & Goat Update

In 2018, Kansas is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in Meat goat inventory and 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for the number of sheep. Adding in Bison, these livestock enterprises combine for a direct output of \$11.5 million and create 75 jobs in the state. Small ruminants require less space and grazing resources, making them easier to raise on small acreages.

Last year after our NE Kansas Sheep & Goat school, several people had asked for more information on Parasite prevention and control and vaccination information. Dr. Alison Crane, our KSU Sheep & Goat Specialist had us mail out her recommended vaccination protocol to meeting participants. Now we are going to have Dr Crane come out and present the latest research information regarding parasites and diseases.

That meeting will take place on November 12, 2019 at the NE Kansas Heritage Complex, 12200 214<sup>th</sup> Road in Holton. The meeting will begin at 7 pm. All interested persons, young and old are invited to attend.

Show me the money!! The Meadowlark Extension District will be hosting a Grant Writing Workshop for Agriculture enthusiasts. These grants will support a new project or program you are thinking about adding to your farm. You will learn sources of data, to help you write the grant, where to find grants just for agriculture, how to write a great grant proposal and what elements you should include.

This will be presented by Nancy Daniels, Community Vitality Specialist with Kansas State University. We will have Kerri Ebert with the SARE program on hand to answer your questions. The program is planned for December 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 am to 3:00p.m. There is a \$10 registration per person. We ask that you register with our office by December 9<sup>th</sup>. All Extension program are open to anyone interested in attending.

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

### ***Soil Testing Hay Fields & Pastures***

A few weeks ago, I outlined some soil testing procedures that you might want to consider if you are pulling soil samples this fall. If you want to check them out, you can find them Under Weekly News Articles on the Crops & Soils page of our Meadowlark Extension District at: <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/crops-soils/index.html>. This week, I want to focus on some of the reason why fall sampling might have some advantages for forage producers.

First, it gives us some time to plan applications. Soil sampling is recommended on an every three to four-year basis. After you've completed that sampling cycle a couple of times, you can start to fine tune your application rates even further. It allows us to better apply what we need to so that we can produce forage economically. Remember: for a good test, take at least 15-20 cores or subsamples from various locations in the stand and combine them for a composite sample. Samples should be pulled from a zero to six-inch depth.

Lime is one of the nutrients we need to be tracking, due to its importance in our forage crop system, particularly if legumes are involved. Optimum pH level is between six and seven, depending on the forage species. Brome/fescue can do well at lower pH's, but legumes typically prefer pH levels closer to seven (to maintain nodulation). If pH levels are plenty high, adding lime is only going to raise levels further, potentially reducing uptake of macro- and micronutrients. Whenever possible, apply lime as far in advance of the growing season as possible. For a more rapid response to lime, use fine-ground liming materials with a high effective calcium carbonate (ECC).

### ***Control Broadleaf Weeds in Lawns in Late October - Early November***

Last week's frost might have given us the impression that the growing season is coming to an end – but that's not quite the case for many of our troublesome broadleaf weeds in lawns.

In fact, late October to early November is the *most* effective time to control broadleaf weeds in lawns. Dandelions produce new plants in late September, and henbit and chickweed should have germinated in October. Right now, they are small and fairly easily controlled with herbicides that contain active ingredients (alone or in combination) like 2,4-D, MCPP and Dicamba. Even established dandelions are more easily controlled now than in the spring because they are actively moving materials from the top portion of the plant to the roots in the fall. Herbicides will translocate to the roots as well and will kill the plant from the roots up.

For best results, choose a day that is 50 degrees or higher, so that the herbicide is more readily moved from leaves to roots. Cold temperatures will slow this process but these products will still work at lower temperatures.

Another active ingredient, carfentrazone, is also now available in multiple products. It will provide a quicker response than the products mentioned above, especially as temperatures move below 50 degrees.

Cindy Williams  
District Extension Agent  
FACS

### New Scam Targeting Seniors

Everyone is vulnerable to scams in one way or another. Hopefully have heard about the newest and largest healthcare fraud schemes in U.S. history targeting Medicare beneficiaries. I am speaking of the genetic testing scheme where individuals were recently charged for collecting and selling patient information and corruptly prescribing these tests. So why seniors? Think about it...they often have more robust financial resources and grew up in a world where politeness and trust were more typical. Dr. Erin Yelland, specialist with Kansas State University, shares some simple steps to protect yourself.

\*Educate yourself. Being aware of common scams, how scammers target people, and what to do if you are being scammed is very important. You can update yourself on common scams at [FTC.gov/scams](https://www.ftc.gov/scams).

\*Know who you are dealing with at all times. Always ask questions to confirm someone's identity---especially if you aren't sure or if they are asking for money or other assets.

\*If you're not sure---don't answer or hang up. If you feel uncomfortable or confused, get yourself out of the situation as soon as possible. If you're on the phone---hang up. If you're on the internet---close the browser. If it is happening in person---excuse yourself and leave.

\*Keep your personal details secure. Never give away your personal information (address, social security number, insurance information, etc.) to someone you don't know. Always be sure to confirm who you are speaking to and why they need the information before you give it. If you're not sure, do not give them your information.

\*Be smart on the internet. Always be sure to use strong passwords (upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols) and do not use the same password for everything! Try to mix it up or use a password manager to keep it all secure. Also, be sure to use reputable security software to protect your computer and yourself.

\*Review your privacy settings. Periodically check your privacy settings to see what information people can get from you on the internet. Keep as much information as possible private. Do not share your address or other information publicly on social media, alumni directories, etc.

\*Trust your gut. Always trust your gut. If you feel uncomfortable or are unsure, get yourself out of the situation or ask for help from a trusted family member or friend.

Nancy C. Nelson  
Meadowlark Extension District  
Family Life

No article this week.