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Livestock and Natural Resources

Beef on Dairy?

It was good to hear from Dr Larry Corah at the KSU Dairy Day, yes dairy! He was there to talk about the newest trend of breeding dairy cattle to beef sires to get a more marketable product. It's amazing to see the results of crossing a Jersey cow with a Limousin or Limousin hybrid bull. You could never guess that those stocky, heavily muscled brownish back steers had any Jersey blood in them!

Most of the dairy cows being bred to beef sires will be matched to an Angus sire (70%), mostly for the black hide. Limousin is being used on the Jersey cows. The other breeds being tried are Charolais and SimAngus.

Today there are 9.1 million dairy cows and 31.7 million beef cows. Yet, dairy cattle provide 40-50% of the ground beef in our country. They are only 16-17% of all the fed cattle, and 30-50% of all the prime beef.

The problem with dairy beef has been that they are lighter muscled, with a different shaped rib eye, their feed efficiency is not as good as beef. They do have leaner carcasses and seem to grade well.

So Beef on Dairy will be a big change, 1.4 -1.8 million dairy cows will be bred to beef sires in the next 10-16 months. The demand for beef semen will be great and is estimated to be needing 4 million units in the next 3-5 years.

There are some roadblocks to encounter, getting all of the packers on board. How these BD cattle will fabricate will need to be determined. One of the problems with dairy beef is the amount of liver abscesses they have. Probably, because of the way they were raised as calves. When a processing line has to shut down for a ruptured liver, it can cost the plant \$4000-\$5000 a minute. Another concern is the length of the carcass and how it will fit in the processing plant.

Dairymen breeding beef on dairy should pick a bull with moderate frame score and muscle, muscle and more muscle.

This is a change for sure, with sexed semen the future is bright for this to really take off. It could lead to implanting beef embryos straight into the dairy cow.

As the demand for beef is greater in our world economy this is one way to meet the demand.

January 24, 2020

David G. Hallauer
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Crops & Soils/Horticulture

No news from David this week.

Cindy Williams
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Food, Nutrition, Health, and Safety

Planning Now for Gardens and Food Preservation

Winter is here, but many people are planning now for gardening. While you study garden catalogs or websites, don't forget to plan how you will preserve the produce this summer. Your edible garden can be preserved in many ways including canning, freezing, dehydrating, and pickling.

What freezer space do you have? Be sure to use up last year's stash to make room for the new batch. Clean the freezer to remove stray food and spills from broken packages. To freeze food, follow freezing (<https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/preservation/freezing.html>) guidelines for each food and use bags or plastic containers designated for freezing to maintain best food quality.

Do you like to can your produce? If so, get up to date on current recipes and guidelines. For best safety and quality, follow tested recipes (<https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/preservation/recipes.html>). Using older recipes and methods can lead to spoiled food, food waste, and foodborne illness.

Have you checked your equipment? Now is the time to get your dial gauge tested. Contact your local Extension office for testing. Testing can be done in all three of the Meadowlark Extension District Office---Oskaloosa, Holton or Seneca. There is no charge for this service. The canner brands we can test include National, Presto, Maid of Honor and Magic Seal. Inspect the canner for any wear and get parts replaced. Sources for replacement parts can be found at www.rrc.k-state.edu/preservation/canning.html (<https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/preservation/canning.html>).

Learn more about food preservation at www.rrc.k-state.edu/preservation/index.html (<https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/preservation/index.html>).

Feeding Our Future

Do you know a high school student interested in grain science education in college? Sign up now for a FREE, hands-on Feeding Your Future Discover Day (<https://www.morningagclips.com/feeding-your-future-discovery-day-at-ksu/>) to learn about different areas of grain science including baking, feed and milling science.

This event will be held Saturday, February 8, 2020 on the K-State Campus. Current students will lead you through the program with the help of faculty and staff. Explore labs, milling facilities, and compete in a judging competition.

Register now (https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0xCmUfoljenP) Contact Brenda Heptig for more information at bheptig@ksu.edu (mailto: bheptig@ksu.edu) or 785-532-4051.

Nancy Nelson
Meadowlark Extension District
Family Life

Social Security Launches New Campaign to Fight Scammers

The Social Security Administration and its Office of the Inspector General (OIG) continue to receive reports about fraudulent phone calls from people falsely claiming to be Social Security employees. The scammers mislead victims into making cash or gift card payments for help with purported identity theft, or to avoid arrest for bogus Social Security number problems.

If a suspicious caller states there is a problem with your Social Security number or account, hang up and never give the caller money or personal information. You can go online to www.oig.ssa.gov to report the scam call to Social Security.

Also be on the lookout for a new version of this scam. Fraudsters are now emailing fake documents in attempts to get people to comply with their demands. Victims have received emails with attached letters and reports that appear to be from Social Security or the OIG. The letters may use official letterhead and government jargon to convince victims they are legitimate; they may also contain misspellings and grammar mistakes.

Social Security employees do occasionally contact people--generally those who have ongoing business with the agency--by telephone for business purposes. However, Social Security employees will never threaten a person, or promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money. In those cases, the call is fraudulent, and people should just hang up.

Generally, the agency mainly calls people who have recently applied for a Social Security benefit, someone who is already receiving payments and requires an update to their record, or a person who has requested a phone call from the agency. If a person is not in one of these situations, they normally would not receive a call from the agency.

If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record, in most cases Social Security will mail a letter. If a person needs to submit payments to Social Security, the agency will send a letter with instructions and payment options. Never provide information or payment over the phone or Internet unless you are certain of who is receiving it.