

David Hallauer  
District Extension Agent, Crops & Soils

### **Soybean Seed Treatments – Sudden Death Syndrome (part 2...)**

In last week's column (available at: <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/crops-soils/index.html>) soybean Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) was the focus. While many other early season soybean diseases affecting are managed by multiple commonly used seed treatments available on the market, SDS treatments are a little more specialized.

According to *Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Seedling Diseases*, a publication of the Crop Protection Network, multiple products include Sudden Death Syndrome on the label. Unfortunately, many of the ones we might utilize for other diseases are rated poor for Sudden Death Syndrome – if they're labeled at all. In fact, only two active ingredients – fluopyram and pydiflumetofen – are rated as very good for SDS control. Fluopyram is the active ingredient in ILEVO. Pydiflumetofen is the active ingredient in Saltro.

In 2023, K-State Extension Plant Pathologist Dr. Rodrigo Onofre tested both products in side-by-side comparisons with other seed treatments comparing all to an untreated check. While *all* seed treatments provide *some* positive yield difference, ILEVO and Saltro showed the strongest response. Further evaluation confirmed positive reductions in SDS root rot as well, either with Saltro by itself or ILEVO plus Ceramax, a biological seed treatment being tested with hopes of reducing the variability sometimes associated with seed treatments against SDS.

Soybean Sudden Death Syndrome isn't a problem for every grower every year, tending to be a greater issue in well-managed soybean fields with a high yield potential, particularly when they have a history of SDS. In some cases, variety selection and planting management will keep SDS from being an issue, but if early planting or if planting conditions are favorable for SDS development, seed treatments could be an option to consider.

For more information on SDS management or K-State trials, contact me via any District Office or e-mail me at [dhallaue@ksu.edu](mailto:dhallaue@ksu.edu). Hard copies of *Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Seedling Diseases* are available upon request as well.

Ross Mosteller  
District Extension Agent, Livestock & Natural Resources

## Spring Lamb Management

What an exciting night it was as we wrapped up the 2024 NE KS Sheep and Goat School. That is the first time I recall a confirmed tornado and baseball sized hail in the area hurrying folks out the door. This annual event is a good reminder of the educational needs that small ruminant producers have and the somewhat apparent lack of widely applied research, outside of a few Universities. Spring is around the corner and with it, people think of chicks, bunnies and baby lambs. Let's take a look at lambs today.

Lamb management practices during the spring months will largely be directed by the planned marketing date. Winter born lambs are often managed to maximize growth in an effort to reach acceptable market weights during the spring. This situation is a place where creep feeding young lambs, while still nursing the ewe, can provide supplemental weight gain of value. This added weight gain has the most economical for lambs managed in an intensive, early weaning production system where lambs will be maintained in a dry-lot and targeted fed for quick gains until marketed.

Young lambs may be started on creep feed as early as 10 days of age, but most often won't be readily consumed until 2 to 3 weeks of age. For creep feeding to be economical, lambs must consume enough feed to increase performance. Lambs should eat a minimum of 0.5 pounds of creep feed per head per day from three weeks of age to weaning. Placing feeders in high-traffic areas, providing feeder space for the majority of lambs to feed at one time, and keeping the creep area clean, dry and bedded, all aid in lambs starting on creep diets.

The creep rations do not need to be complicated or expensive, however, they do need to be high quality and kept fresh and dry. Young lambs are very sensitive to what they eat, and will not consume stale or contaminated feed. The principle behind creep feeding is to stimulate lambs to eat and promote weight gain. Therefore, highly palatable feeds must be provided. These feeds should be replaced daily to keep fresh.

Early on, lambs prefer feeds that are finely ground and have a small particle size. Utilizing feedstuffs high in palatability such as soybean meal, ground corn, and alfalfa hay, is a must. A simple mixture of 80-85% ground or cracked corn and 15-20% soybean meal, with free choice high quality alfalfa hay is a very palatable early creep ration. Early in the creep feeding period, stimulating intake is a primary concern. These diets should be formulated to contain 20% crude protein.

As the lambs get to 4 to 6 weeks of age on up, coarser feeds become more palatable. As the lamb gets older, intakes and growth rates generally increase. As this happens, the proportion of lamb gain that is derived from dry feed vs. milk increases. Lambs may be gradually switched to a complete pelleted ration or a ration containing cracked corn and supplement, eventually changing to represent the diet that will be fed once weaned. At weaning, protein requirements of lambs drop to 15-16%.

Complete feeds and protein supplements often come with advantage of fortified, vitamins, and minerals which are important for lamb health and performance. Young growing lambs are at high risk for acquiring coccidiosis. Providing Coccidiostats approved for use in sheep such as Bovatec and Deccox, should be considered. Additionally, in terms of health, lambs should be vaccinated with Clostridium Perfringens C & D to prevent overeating disease prior to weaning at 6 to 8 weeks of age.

For lambs born later in the spring which will be developed on pasture throughout the spring and summer, creep feeding is generally not recommended. Creep feeding these lambs results in expensive early weight gain. Weight gain can be realized throughout the grazing season more inexpensively and economically. The primary considerations for lambs under a grazing management scenario include control of internal parasites and minimizing losses to predators.

Laura Phillips  
District Extension Agent, Horticulture

### **Garden Talk: Transplants or Seeds?**

When you read the back of a seed packet, sometimes the directions will say to sow seeds directly into the soil. Other times it says you can start them indoors and transplant later. But why does it matter which option you choose?

The main reason is to extend the growing season. If warm season crops like tomatoes and peppers cannot germinate in colder weather, they will not start sprouting and growing until May. But if you start them inside where it is warm, they can get a head start on growing, hopefully lending to more produce.

While it might seem like a good idea to start everything inside, some plants simply do not thrive when transplanted. These plants tend to have delicate root systems that cannot survive disturbances. Beans and peas are common victims of this transplant shock. Another issue is that root vegetables can lose their fibrous taproot during transplanting, and while the plant may survive, the main harvest is lost.

Other plants germinate so quickly that there is not always a need to start them inside. For example, lettuce can germinate in the warm temperatures of late spring and early summer within a few days. Conversely, if you are planting in the early spring, you may want to use transplants, as lettuce can take up to two weeks to germinate in colder temperatures.

As we enter spring, take a moment to research and determine which of your plants can be started inside, and which will do better directly sown into the soil to maximize your garden's productivity this year.

Teresa Hatfield  
District Extension Agent, Family and Community Wellness

## **Artificial Intelligence Use in Scams**

With technology changing rapidly, keeping up with all the new advancements is often challenging. While technology has been used to improve our lives in many ways, other bad actors use it to commit crimes. The growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) in phishing and imposter scams is an increasing concern.

Scammers are now using this technology to create more realistic scams that are harder to detect than in the past. This means you must be more alert and savvy to spot potential scams. In the past, one way to identify a scam was to look for bad grammar and misspelled. Fraudsters unfamiliar with English can now use AI to create more realistic, grammatically correct scams that look more like they came from a familiar source.

A phishing scam is another way scammers use AI to target consumers. Phishing is a scam that can occur by email or by phone. The scammers pretend to be someone or an organization you are familiar with. They attempt to trick you into providing personal information, which they can then use to open accounts or gain access to your accounts. AI allows scammers to create realistic-looking or sounding resources to convince you to give up your personal information. Emails may look like they came directly from your bank or your doctors.

If contacted by email, check the sender's email address and domain. Scammers sometimes use email addresses that look very similar to legitimate ones. They may substitute a letter or number, thinking you won't notice the slight difference. Be wary if the email arrives unsolicited or unexpected. The email may entice you to open it by saying you signed up for a service or product you know you didn't purchase. Do not click on links; this could compromise your personal information or infect your computer with a virus or malware.

Scammers can also use AI to analyze vast amounts of personal data across the internet, including voice analysis, to reproduce realistic-sounding audio and video. Through voice cloning technology, they have convinced people they are talking to a friend, family member, or their financial institution. They can then try to convince you to wire money or provide Social Security numbers or other important personal information. Because of the sophistication of AI-generated scams, you will need to be on alert for suspicious interactions.

Look for these common signs which may indicate a potential scam. The scammer may claim they are from someone familiar to you, but they just don't sound right. They may be asking for or demanding something you know they would never demand or ask for. The audio might sound distorted, or you may notice extended pauses. If the caller becomes threatening, hang up and call the police. You might also think about enabling code words for family and friends, so be sure to pick a word that is not easily guessed.

Because of the spread of AI-generated materials and products, scammers will continue to utilize this technology. By being aware of potential harm, you can better protect yourself and your family.

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

### **Walk Kansas, 2024, March 31 – May 25**

The signs of springs are all around us—warmer weather, thunderstorms, spring flowers, budding trees and yes, Walk Kansas. The popular Walk Kansas program returns on March 31 and runs through May 25. Physical activity can be a big player in disease prevention but it also a big player in managing disease and helping with mental health.

This year Walk Kansas will highlight how physical activity and healthy eating can prevent or help people manage eight common challenges including mental health, heart disease, osteoporosis, Alzheimer’s disease and brain health, obesity, arthritis, diabetes and cancer.

Participants are encouraged to form teams of six, with one serving as a captain. Team members record their own activity—walking, bicycling or other activity—online weekly. Participants do not have to walk together.

Walk Kansas offers a solo where you can sign up individually rather than as a part of a team, if you choose.

Though teams and individuals don’t actually walk across the state, the goal is to walk in their own neighborhoods or communities an equivalent distance to walking across Kansas. You will choose this challenge at the onset. Something we will be encouraging more this year is checking out the walking trails in your own county. This can be found by clicking on your county and checking into the walking trails. You might be surprised at how many there are in your county!!!

The goal is to encourage each participant to walk at least 30 minutes per day for 5 times per week. The fee to participate is \$10 per person. A Walk Kansas t-shirt and other apparel is available for an additional cost and can be ordered online.

More information is available at the Meadowlark Extension District website ([www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/walk-kansas](http://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/walk-kansas)), the Walk Kansas website ([www.walkkansas.org](http://www.walkkansas.org)) or one of the local Meadowlark Extension District Offices located in Oskaloosa, Holton or Seneca. If you need additional information, I can be contacted at 785-863-2212. Dust off those shoes and get ready to do something good for you this spring!!!