



Winter 2025

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Rolling Prairie Extension Upcoming Events

January

1 Offices Closed for New Year's

February

4 Swine Profitability Conference

March

1 K-State Junior Swine Producer Day

6 Stockmen's Dinner

7 Cattlemen's Day

7 Legacy Bull Sale

22 K-State Junior Meat Goat Producer Day



2025 YQCA Scholarship Program

YQCA is excited to announce the 2025 Scholarship Program available to high school seniors and students enrolled in a 2-4 year university or certification program. In order to be considered for this scholarship, you must be a high school senior up to 21 year of age and In order to be considered for this scholarship, you must

- Be a high school senior or a high school graduate up to 21 years of age
- Have an active YQCA certification at the time of application (2025).
- Have had active YQCA certification the previous two years (2023, 2024).

As a high school senior, the essay question regarding your future plans to enter the agriculture industry or commitment to a university will be considered for eligibility. If you are selected, you must provide proof of enrollment to receive the award.

If you are a high school graduate, you must be currently enrolled in a 2-4 year university agriculture program or enrolled in a certification program to meet the scholarship requirements. If selected, scholarship funds will be sent directly to your school.

Applications open January 1, 2025 and close February 17, 2025.

To Apply: Download the PDF Application and send all required documents to programmanager@yqcaprogram.org and the application should include the sub-



Upcoming Kansas 4-H Events January-July

January 25	Kansas 4-H Dog Judges Training
February 16-17	4-H Citizenship in Action, Topeka
February 22-23	4-H Horse Panorama, Rock Springs
March TBA	State 4-H Horse Judging Contest at Equifest
April TBA	Kansas 4-H Photography Shutterbug Event
April 17	Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, Manhattan
April 19-24	National 4-H Conference, Washington, DC
May TBA	Kansas 4-H Photography Shutterbug Event
June TBA	Insect Spectacular
June 4-6	Discovery Days, Manhattan
June 13-15	State Geology Field Trips
June/July	4-H Camp, Rock Springs

Prepare For Winter Conditions, Travel

At a glance: K-State meteorologist Chip Redmond shares tips on preparing in advance for winter conditions -- whether you're on the road or at home.

MANHATTAN, Kan. – The calendar says the first day of winter is Dec. 21. Chip Redmond is not so sure you ought to get locked in on just that date.

“Winter conditions in Kansas can change rapidly,” said Redmond, a meteorologist and manager of the [Kansas Mesonet](#), a network of weather monitoring stations that has its headquarters at Kansas State University.

In Kansas, he said, “we can have a cold front come through that drops temperatures 50 degrees (Fahrenheit) in just a couple hours. Or, we can go from clear skies to heavy snow very quickly.”

While Kansans can't do anything about the weather, Redmond says they can prepare themselves to withstand brutal conditions – and keep themselves safe.

Cold temperatures

“The first thing that comes to my mind for winter weather safety is the cold, which brings different dangers – just as heat does in the summer,” Redmond said.

“Our bodies just aren't prepared to take cold for long periods of time. The cold can quickly have negative effects, especially when we factor in wind.”

Redmond urges people to dress in layers and wear a stocking cap and mittens anytime they must face outdoor cold. He said frostbite or hypothermia can happen very quickly.

“It can be less than even a few minutes, when you get cold and add wind,” Redmond said. “That's why we look at things like closing schools once temperatures drop below zero or negative-10 with the wind chill.

Those conditions produce a much higher risk, so we have to take more proactive steps and try to avoid outdoor activity as much as possible.”

Stocking caps help to keep heat from releasing through the head and “keeps the overall ambient temperature of your body warmer,” according to Redmond. Mittens are preferred over gloves because it maintains warmth by keeping the fingers closely together.

Travel safety

The State of Kansas regularly updates road conditions on the website, <https://kandrive.org>. Redmond encourages those planning travel to check the forecast along the path they will drive, including road conditions.



Redmond also suggests keeping an emergency kit in a car in case the vehicle gets stalled while traveling. In addition to warm clothing, he suggests such items as:

- Snow brush and ice scraper.
- Jumper cables or jumpstarter.
- Blankets.
- Cell phone charger.
- Snack foods.
- Water, or other liquid such as electrolyte drinks.
- Flashlight.
- Sand in a small container.
- Chains or other items to help in pulling a vehicle out of a ditch.

“Some people have tire chains; that may be a bit extravagant,” Redmond said. “If you need tire chains in Kansas, you probably shouldn't be out on the road to begin with. But sand is useful to help you get out of an area where you don't have much traction.”

A car's tires may need some extra air in the winter because they shrink when they get cold, Redmond said. “If you have underinflated tires,” he said, “you're not going to optimize the grip of that rubber, so you're going to slip and slide a lot more.”

Continued

Pesticide Applicator Certification Requirements to Undergo Changes

The process is underway to make some changes to pesticide applicator certification requirements; those changes will eventually impact those applying for or renewing private or commercial applicator certifications. However, that process is not complete, and the new rules and regulations are still in development. When they are in place and will impact applicators, the Kansas Department of Agriculture will work with K-State and other state agricultural organizations to clearly share the information that applicators will need to know.

Until that time, any information that comes out regarding the changes is premature and may not be accurate. We know that some people are eager to get an early start on sharing details, but until the regulations have been approved those details could change, so information shared too early could actually be misinformation.

At this time, the only pending change to the process is that new applicants for a private applicator certification will have three ways to obtain initial certification. The first is to take an in-person training course (new), the second is to take an online training course (new), and the third will be a written examination (current). KDA is working with the K-State Pesticide Safety Program to develop and implement these new opportunities. We anticipate that this new training course will be available through the K-State Pesticide Safety Program later in 2025.

Until the new rules and regulations are in place, and/or the training opportunities are implemented, private applicators will need to follow the existing requirements for initial certification and certification renewals.

When will other requirements be implemented? That is unknown at this time; likely it will be sometime in 2025, but it depends on a number of factors. When there is a finalized plan, KDA will communicate that to applicators and stakeholders as quickly as possible.

Prepare for winter conditions, travel cont'd.

Safety at home

It's been a few years since Kansas has been hit by a widespread ice storm, but Redmond says despite current indications for near to slightly-above-normal temperatures this winter, "there is potential for January or February cold snaps this season that could provide some potential for ice storms."

"Trees are probably the most likely to be damaged in an ice storm," he said. "Be aware of weakened trees and that you're going to lose branches. It takes about one-quarter inch of ice to see really big impacts."

Roads don't normally accumulate one-quarter inch of ice, "so it's not as big of a problem for travelers," Redmond said. "But anything that is standing and tall

– such as power lines and trees and gutters – are at risk of falling."

Redmond also urges homeowners to use caution when removing snow from driveways and sidewalks.

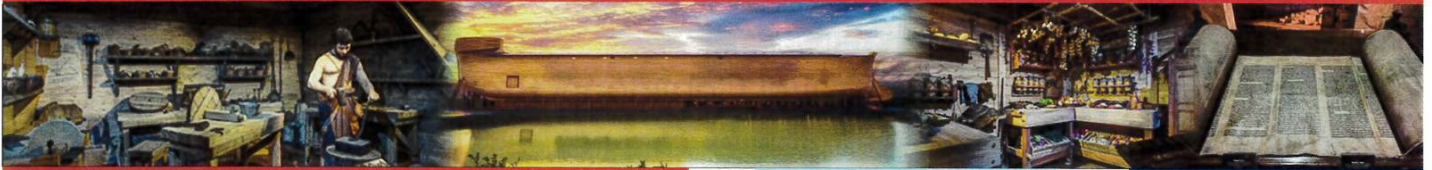
"It's very demanding physically," he said. "One of the leading causes of winter heart attacks is shoveling snow because of the stress of pushing that snow -- especially when it is heavy and wet, formed with temperatures near freezing or when it becomes packed."

For those who own a snow blower, Redmond recommends making sure it has been serviced before first use, "and don't wait until the last minute" to do so.

More information on Kansas weather conditions, including up-to-date forecasts, is available online from the [Kansas Mesonet](#).

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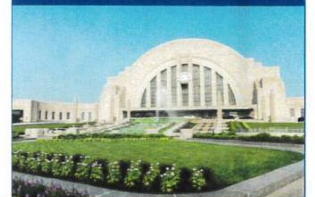
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Day 5: After a Continental Breakfast, you'll head to the CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER, a one-of-a-kind, multi-museum complex housed in Union Terminal, a historic Art Deco train station and National Historic Landmark. Your visit includes an admission to the Cincinnati History Museum, Museum of Natural History & Science, and an OMNIMAX Show. The Robert D. Lindner Family OMNIMAX® Theater takes you to places you can only imagine, as you immerse yourself in epic adventures in the five-story domed theater. Afterwards, you'll enjoy a BB RIVERBOAT'S SIGHTSEEING CRUISE on the Ohio River. BB Riverboat's large vessel has indoor and climate controlled seating, helping to ensure an enjoyable experience. This evening, enjoy Dinner before heading back to your hotel.

Day 6: Enjoy a Continental Breakfast before leaving for the Indiana War Memorial Museum in Indianapolis, IN. This evening, relax at your en route hotel.

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Registration Now Open - Cattlemen's Day



The 112th Cattlemen's Day will be hosted on Friday, March 7, 2025 at Kansas Farm Bureau in Manhattan, KS. Registration will be \$25 if registered by February 21, or \$35 if registered on/after February 22 or at the door. Space is limited, and registration will only remain open while seats are available. Morning refreshments and lunch are included with registration. A complete schedule will be posted to

54th Annual Stockmen's Dinner

The 54th annual Stockmen's Dinner is scheduled for March 6, 2025, at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan, KS. Plan now to join us as we honor Richard Porter as the 2025 Stockman of the Year. Registration is \$50 per person and the deadline to register is February 20. To register, visit asi.ksu.edu/stockmensdinner. For questions, contact Katie Smith (katiesmith@ksu.edu or 785-532-1267.)

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Jenny McDaniel
Rolling Prairie
Extension Agent

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Agriculture Lease Law

It is estimated that more than 50 percent of Kansas farmland and pastureland is rented. In some areas of the state, this figure is higher. Many producers cannot maintain a viable business

without operating through lease arrangements. Leases are growing in prominence and will play an increasingly important role in production agriculture as fewer and fewer producers manage and operate our state's agricultural resources. Some leases are simple oral arrangements, while others are complex, lengthy written documents. An oral agreement may be legally enforceable, but it is much more desirable to spell out the agreement's details in writing.

By definition, a lease is a contract for the exclusive use of land for a specific period. There are at least two parties to any lease: 1) the landowner who owns the land, also known as the lessor; and 2) the tenant who farms or operates the land, also known as the lessee. Certain rights and obligations binding both parties arise from the relationship. When land is leased, the lease is equivalent to a sale of the premises for the length of the lease. The tenant essentially becomes the owner for a time and has the responsibilities of one who is in possession of the land.

Parties to a lease are presumed to know of laws existing at the time the lease is entered. Provisions of statutes, ordinances, and regulations are read into and become a part of the contract by implication as though they were expressly written into the contract, except where the parties have shown a contrary intention. For example, if a written lease says the lease will terminate December 31 and Kansas law states oral leases on farm and pastureland will terminate March 1, the lease will terminate December 31 under the written agreement.

A written lease does not have to be a detailed contract. A memorandum or note concerning the lease may be sufficient if the party against whom it will be enforced signs it. A written lease is a contract and should be approached with the same careful and thorough consideration given when entering into any binding contractual agreement. Though an oral lease is unenforceable if it cannot be performed within one year, a written lease may cover any period of time. Thus, any beginning and ending dates may be used in the lease.

For all leases, except written leases signed by the parties that provide otherwise, Kansas law provides that notice to terminate farm and pastureland leases must be given as follows:

1. in writing
2. at least 30 days prior to March 1 (remember there is only 28 days in February this year)
3. must fix March 1 as the termination date of the tenancy.

Any notice to terminate which does not comply with the above requirements is inadequate and the tenancy will continue. The law previously applied to "farm" leases which includes cropland and pastureland.

A lease is a contract for the exclusive possession of land for a definite period, and the landowner cannot use the land for his own purposes while it is leased. For example, the landowner cannot hunt on the leased ground without the permission of the tenant unless the landowner retained these rights in a written lease. A landowner, however, may enter the premises to: 1) make reasonable inspection; 2) make repairs and/or installations; 3) show the premises to prospective buyers; 4) collect rent; and 5) deliver a notice to terminate the tenancy.

The Extension Office has sample lease forms and other information about ag leases.

Remove Net Wrap and Twine

Is twine or net wrap good feed? Obviously not, but it can cause health problems if animals eat too much of it. Feeding hay is work. To lighten the work load feeding hay, we often take short cuts and leave some twine or net wrap on the bales. Whether we want them to or not, animals will eat some of that twine.

There is a high potential for twine to accumulate in the rumen of cattle and cause obstruction. Recent research at North Dakota State University has confirmed this risk and provided further information on what happens to twine when cattle eat it. In a series of experiments, the North Dakota State research first showed that neither plastic net wrap nor biodegradable twine gets digested by rumen microbes. The old fashioned sisal twine, however, does get digested, although quite a bit more slowly than hay.

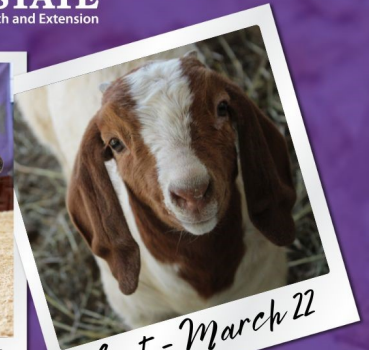
In another study, net wrap was included in the ration fed to steers for an extended period of time. Then, 14 days before the steers were harvested the net wrap was removed from the feed to learn if the net wrap eaten earlier might get cleared out of the rumen and digestive system. Turns out it was still in the rumen even after 14 days. So what should you do? First, remember that it doesn't appear to be a health concern very often. Cows obviously are more at risk than feedlot animals. So, it might be wise to remove as much twine, especially plastic twine, as can be removed easily from bales before feeding. Twine in ground hay may be less of a problem since more of it is likely to pass completely through the animal.

Think about how shortcuts and work reducing actions you take this winter might affect your animals. Then act accordingly.

Save the Date! 2025 K-State Junior Producer Days



Swine - March 1



Goat - March 22



<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/ks-jr-producer/>

Publications Available at Extension Offices

Several new items are available to producers that may be of help to them starting the new year.

- ◇ 2025 Chemical Weed Control Guide
- ◇ 2025 IRM Redbooks
- ◇ Farmers Tax Guide - For Help in Preparing 2024 Tax Returns
- ◇ Farm Account Books
- ◇

Stop by either office and get your copy.





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