

Midwest Messenger LIVESTOCK

ROUNDUP



Looking back...

Mr. and Mrs. Gabral Johnson, Albion, Neb. Taken late 1890s. (Photo courtesy Phyllis Rasmussen, Newman Grove, Neb.)

Alternative Livestock

Unique pig sets Nebraska farm apart

By Kerry Hoffschneider
Midwest Messenger

MILFORD, Neb. — One Nebraska couple is dabbling in raising a rare, and versatile, livestock.

Matt and Emely Hendl, Milford, Neb., began their adventure into farming and ranching after Matt returned from service in the United States Navy. The Hendls, along with their daughter Annika, christened their new operation in honor of Matt's military service, naming it Anchor Meadow Farm, and then set to work on building their dream farm.

"It all began with chickens," Matt said. "We started with 21 chickens of various breeds and got them as chicks and raised them in the basement at first. I then cleared out an area and used the cedars I chopped down to make the chicken fences. We sold the extra eggs at the Submarine Learning Center and to neighbors."

Once they had mastered chickens, the Hendl family decided bees would be their next farming adventure after being inspired by other beekeepers at a Mother Earth Fair in North Carolina.

"I began reading everything I could about bees and researched online," Matt said. "Then I ordered two nucleus hives from Maine."

Then, while exploring options to add pigs to the mix, they discovered kunekune, a small breed of domestic pig from New Zealand.

Kunekune pigs are smaller in size, between 220 and 320 pounds, Emely explained, adding that it can take two or three years for kunekune to reach maturity. The Maori — the indigenous people of New Zealand — named the pigs kunekune for their stature: kunekune means "fat and round" in their native language.

Please turn to UNIQUE on Page 20

Learning from dairy genetics

Gene editing may be next big move for U.S. beef industry

By Jager Robinson
Tri-State Neighbor

As the decade comes to a close, the agriculture industry is left with one big question: what should be done with gene editing?

Two of the top geneticists in the country were available to answer the question at the 2019 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Research Symposium and Convention in Brookings, S.D., June 19.

Mark Allan, the director of product development and genomics for Trans Ova Genetics in Sioux Center, Iowa, as well as Alison Van Eenennaam, University of California–Davis Extension specialist in animal biotechnology and genomics, came together to discuss how the beef industry will use gene editing and expanded genomics testing in the 2020s and beyond.

Allan, who focuses primarily on genetic testing, said the dairy industry can teach the beef side of the livestock world a lot about how to use data and genetics to better their animals. Over the last 50 years, the dairy herd has dramatically decreased, but milk production has increased per cow. This indirect relationship is entirely attributed to genetic selection, Allan said.

"The tools in the toolbox change and improve but we never replace a tool in the toolbox," he said. "It just keeps getting better and better while building."

Allan marked 2014 as the real rise in genotyping of cattle. In 2018, 400,000 to 500,000 dairy females were genotyped specifically to gather data on the best females to reproduce. Most dairy cows go through genetic testing and data collection before ever reaching a commercial market. That's the inverse of the beef industry, where most seed stock producers sell directly to commercial buyers.

Please turn to GENETICS on Page 19

Differing success: How four ranchers approach herd management

By Jager Robinson
Tri-State Neighbor

Herd management isn't black and white. There are no silver bullets to managing cattle, just like there are no silver bullets to managing crops. But for some ranchers, their management style has become the key to sustained growth.

At the Beef Improvement Federation Research Symposium and Convention June 19 in Brookings, S.D., four ranchers from across the nation gathered to talk about how what they do has influenced their herds. John Moes of Moes Feedlot in Watertown, S.D. was joined by Trey Patterson, CEO of Padlock Ranch in Ranchester, Wyo., Tylor Braden, cattle manager at King Ranch, Kingsville, Texas; and John Maddux owner of Maddux Cattle Co. in Wauneta, Neb.

In a question and answer style panel, the four producers discussed how each of their different managing techniques has led to success.

Moes said his operation relies heavily on synchronization of the herd. Moes Feedlot is a 300-350 cow-calf operation with 2,000 head of cattle in the feedlot.

"We go start to finish with these cows," Moes said.

Through stewardship and conservation, he earned the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Region 7 Environmental Stewardship Award in 2018. His main focus, however, has been integrating artificial insemination to make sure everything is synchronized in the herd.

"If you don't use technologies, you're going to lose them," he said. "We used to synchronize the heifers because it was the easiest to do but now we synchronize everything."

On top of artificially inseminating his heifers and cows, Moes has begun work on genetics to map out his entire herd. His focus will be on maternal traits rather than production traits to make sure their longevity in the herd is profitable. Because of this shift, Moes said he's taken several hundred head of his herd routinely.

"It's just like clockwork the last few years," he said. "We're taking them out in the middle of April. It's all because of genetics."

Braden of King Ranch in Texas has a different approach to herd management, but one he said came directly because of the size of their herd and the climate of south Texas. King Ranch is roughly 825,000 acres and has a herd of 15,000 purebred cattle with about 23,000 breeding females, and 16,000 mixed cattle on a feedyard. Braden their motto has become sustaining the business for the family that owns it.

"It's economically and ecologically, and therefore multi-generationally, sustainable," he said.

Rather than focus on anything from a carcass standpoint, Braden said they first focus on cost-effectiveness and improvements.

"Our model focuses heavily on cost control," he said. "There is more opportunity to control cost than to add value. Unfortunately, that model just isn't sexy."

Braden said King Ranch is using genetics to focus on longevity in the herd. The herd was already breeding in the 90 percentile, so Braden said it wasn't worth improving further



John Moes of Moes Feedlot in Watertown, S.D., right, was joined by Tylor Braden, cattle manager at King Ranch, Kingsville, Texas, John Maddux owner of Maddux Cattle Co. in Wauneta, Neb., and Trey Patterson, CEO of Padlock Ranch in Ranchester, Wyo., at the Beef Improvement Federation Conference on June 19. (Jager Robinson, Tri-State Neighbor)

because of diminishing returns.

"The biggest opportunity is the sustainability of those commercial cows," he said. "Our average cow isn't 8 or 9 years old, we are in that 5 and 6 range."

Maddux has an entirely different operation than the other three speakers, he said. As a fourth generation rancher on an operation started in 1886, Maddux said he has focused on keeping the herd stress free rather than overly productive. The Maddux herd is roughly 2,500 head of cattle.

"We don't want to put pressure and focus on production traits," he said. "That profit function for that cow is heavily, heavily driven by just the ability to raise a calf. It really makes production traits trivial by comparison."

As the fifth generation on his operation, Patterson said keeping his Wyoming herd stable has been his focus as Padlock Ranch expands. His main approach has been to remain hands off with many of the cattle.

"There (shouldn't be) intensity to that scenario of calving," he said. "They'll have to make a living on their own."

Being in expansion mode, Patterson said he has begun to see things as integrated parts of the business rather than separate entities to be micro-managed.

"Everything is integrated in this business," he said. "If you're looking at everything in a singular aspect, you're already missing something."

These four managing philosophies don't compete, Maddux said, but they are influenced by the region they operate in and how big the operation has become.

The first question posed to the group asked how each ranch deals with replacement heifers, since all four said they keep a pretty closed herd. For Maddux, this is where his philosophies differ from common, accepted practices. Maddux Cattle keeps roughly 1,100 to 1,200 heifers, Maddux said, and each is exposed in that first year to be naturally selected.

"Those heifers that get bred are the most valuable heifers," he said. "The bulls make that decision, not us."

After that, Maddux said they keep only heifers that breed in the first year and sell the rest. For the cows, only two cycles are allowed before they are sold as well. After adopting this method, fertility rates skyrocketed because there were no late calving heifers or cows.

For Braden, the two sides of the King Ranch operation have different priorities. The commercial side has focused solely on numbers while the purebred side has strict genetic criteria for heifers.

The big question for the group came when asked about how they handle genetics on the ranch. While Braden and Moes have begun work into genetic testing, and King Ranch's purebred herd is entirely genotyped, Patterson and Maddux have laid off the testing.

"I'm afraid our genetic program is more biblical in its nature," Maddux said. "I can't quote you the verse, but it goes back to 'like begets like.'"

"I guess ours is more New Testament anyways," Patterson joked in reply.

The reason King Ranch uses such heavy genetic testing, Braden said, is because they ran out of ways to improve before that.

"To continue the rate improvement, we needed to have new steps and strategies and genomics became that step for us," he said.

For Moes, the decision came when South Dakota State University professors approached him to be part of their research. While he has been slow to adopt a use for the data, Moes said embracing technology has to be part of his lexicon.

"If we don't use technology, we'll just be behind everybody," he said. "We need to be on the same page."

"All technology that can improve your generation intervals is important," Braden added. "It's been our Achilles' heel compared to the pork and poultry industries."

The leadership panel's last bit of advice came in the form of a longevity question. The panel was split on how important longevity was to their individual herds, but each agreed that depreciation of cow value is a big sticking point for every operation.

"The largest cost of a cowherd is the annual depreciation of a cow that is losing value," Maddux said. "I'd rather harvest those cows before that depreciation happens and we've found an excellent market for them."

Maddux's philosophy on longevity traits involves the phrase "up to a point." While he believes keeping cows in the herd until they are seven or eight makes sense, he has been lucky enough to replace older cows so they that they don't depreciate too far in value.

Braden, on the other hand, said longevity has become one of their top priorities as they maintain a massive herd in south Texas.

"Longevity is imperative in commercial cow-calf operations," he said. "There is nothing that is a higher leverage point for controlling costs."

For Moes, longevity came as a byproduct of trying to stay in business 16 years ago during a tough time. As he focused on making sure his cows stayed in the herd longer, they have naturally become efficient animals.

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GOATS

Continued from Page 1

raising goats back in 1998 because we're elk hunters," Herbolsheimer said. "We were looking for a good way to hunt deep in the backcountry without having to use an outfitter and all the things we'd need to take to use horses as our pack animals. Pat and I also wanted less risk than you would have by using horses in the backcountry."

Maline is a practicing veterinarian in Oakland, Neb. The inspiration for trying goats as pack animals came around thanks to one of Maline's veterinary classmates, an avid elk hunter who was working in Montana.

"He mentioned to Pat and me that they had guys up in Montana who were using pack goats up in the backcountry while they went elk hunting," Herbolsheimer said, adding with a laugh, "That where we first got started, back in the days of AOL dial-up internet. I spent a lot of evenings doing research on that dial-up internet and looking for pack goats."

"The very next day, I went into the local grocery store and talked to a gal who was working for me. She told me that their goats had just given birth to two babies the previous night, but they were unhappy that both were males. She looked at me like I was crazy when I said, 'I'll take them.' That's how we landed our first two goats."

The two friends spent a lot of time looking for goats in the first few years of their business efforts. Those early years were frustrating because they couldn't find many goats with the right temperaments to be good pack animals. There was a time when one of every three or four goats they purchased would turn into a solid pack goat.

"That's why we started accumulating our own does," he added. "It gave us a little more control over the types of animals we were getting."

"We predominantly use dairy goat breeds for our pack animals. Others in the industry have ventured into trying the meat breeds but we haven't ventured that direction yet. One of those meat breeds is called a Kiko, and we're looking at getting a Kiko buck in the fall and introducing some of those traits into the herd."

Their regular breeds include Saanen, Sable Saanen, Alpine, as well as Toggenburgs, which were the first few goats he ever owned.

Herbolsheimer said bonding with humans is by far the most important part of raising good packing goats, because after a couple of days with their mother, the kids are raised on bottle feeding.

"Goats are growing for the first four years of their lives," he said, "so their maximum utility as pack goats doesn't come around 'til they're four years old. While they grow, those bones are really soft. You don't want to overwhelm them and affect their bone growth before then."

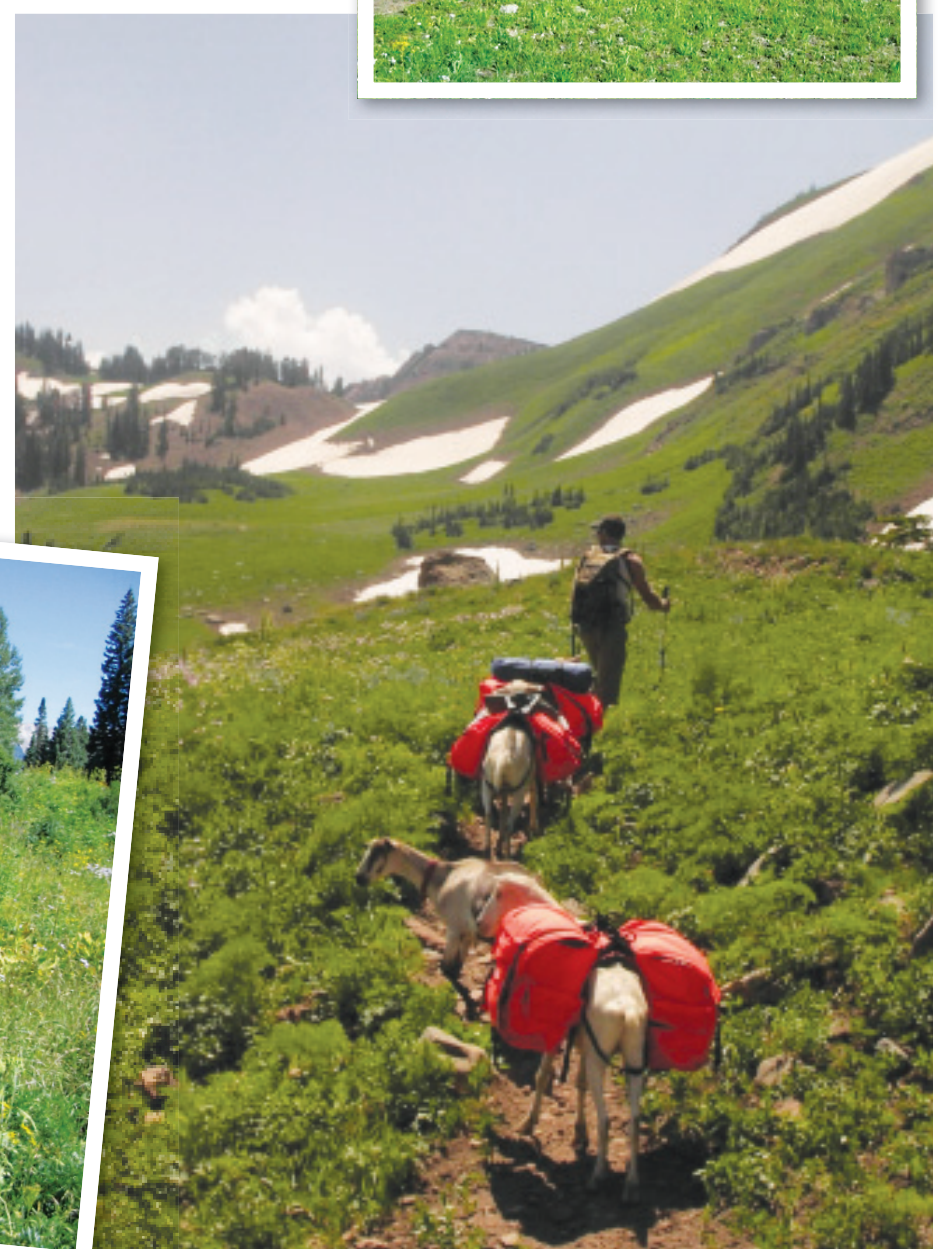
"We start training them around 2.5 years old to see if they're going to be good pack animals. We use really light loads at that age. When we first take them out into the country, we like to bring along some older goats that are proven to be solid pack animals. Goats have a herd mentality, so they're very comfortable in following another goat's example."

Herbolsheimer said pack goats can carry supplies as high as 11,200 feet up. Some of the particular supplies that goats can carry include an ultra-light teepee, a collapsible wood stove, kitchen supplies, and sleeping bags, pads, or air mattresses.

They sell the goats

to customers from all over the country. The majority of their customers are bow hunters from states like Minnesota, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, West Virginia, Utah, Washington, Colorado, and Wyoming. The best pack animals are marketed on their website at www.summitpackgoat.com.

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GENETICS

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“We have to get to collecting more carcass data and weights in mature cows,” he said. “We can talk about and implement technologies but we have to work on the foundation.”

Dairy cattle are also leading the charge on gene editing. The first real exploration into practical gene editing has begun in dairy cattle and it started with removing horns. With DNA from an Angus cow, Van Eenennaam’s team was able to genetically engineer a polled, or hornless, dairy calf, eliminating the painful dehorning process. After testing the calf through to maturity, she said she believes gene editing is the silver bullet to humane cattle handling.

As gene editing has become more newsworthy, Van Eenennaam has worked to improve the discourse on the topic rather than alienating the public.

“We’ve been doing a lot of outreach with these animals because when genetic engineering or GMOs came out, we didn’t have a good public discussion,” she said.

Lessons learned from the widely debated and criticized move toward genetically modified crops have helped Van Eenennaam and her team set up field days for students to visit the gene edited animal and see her progress. After learning about the calf, a majority of students supported the idea of gene editing for humane purposes — something that was echoed in a recent poll in the United Kingdom.

“I think of (gene editing) like the seed industry sees top dressing gene edited corn,” Allan said. “We keep refining and adding a little extra to make an animal a little bit better.”

Even if they are behind dairy, genetics in the beef industry have come a long way, he said. Over the last 50 years, Allan’s data suggests that as the beef cattle herd dropped nearly 15 million animals, the average pounds of beef produced has risen nearly 3 million pounds. Even if it was unintentional genetic selection, Allan said beef producers have been working to improve genetics.

“When you start thinking about efficiency and getting better, we aren’t there yet but it’s come a long way,” he said.

The key points Allan suggests beef needs to take up are working with younger animals to genetically test, leveraging data with dairy to understand how genetics can play a role in the herd, and embracing change.

“We’re fragmented because of the way our industry splits into different sectors,” he said.

“We need to work as a team all the way from conception to consumer or we will be told how to fit in going forward.”

Allan said the only way the beef industry can catch up with the dairy industry would be to keep pushing genetic profiles to see how each individual cow and bull is doing on their lot.

“We need to think about how we use these young animals with the information we have,” Allan said. “But if I’m buying a bull, he has to have a genomic-enhanced profile to take advantage of everything that’s there in the toolbox.”

While beef catches up to dairy in the next decade, Van Eenennaam suggested that gene editing will most likely be the next inflection point in the industry marked by very key changes in genetic understanding. Since artificial insemination was introduced in the 1940s, Van Eenennaam said each addition to the genetic toolbox has marked a very clear rate of genetic gain.

“The main question is ‘Will gene editing be the next inflection point?’” Van Eenennaam said.

The reason gene editing has begun to take off is the invention of CRISPR. This newer method of gene editing is the first to use guide RNAs, which are pieces of genetic information, to help ease the spliced piece of DNA into the designated breaking point.

“You can now tell your pair of scissors to go to a particular location with guides,” she said. “Instead of \$400, it is now about 30 bucks.”

With this massive drop in cost, progressively more gene editing is being tested across the globe. Van Eenennaam’s team is working on several key edits in beef cattle ranging from increase heat tolerance to disease and allergen resistant cows.

It’s a slow process, and on top of the procedure, it is still unclear whether or not the research that is being done is considered illegal.

“On Jan. 17, 2017 (the cow) was a healthy gene edited cow without horns and on Jan. 18, it was an unsafe drug,” she said.

This piece of regulation placed at the end of the Obama Administration by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration limited gene editing research. Van Eenennaam called the move reactionary rather than risk-based, as her gene edited cow has shown no signs of being any different than any other dairy cow.

Because of this unstable time in gene editing regulation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the FDA vying for control over the regulatory process, Van Eenennaam said several other countries have taken a more relaxed approach and are encouraging gene editing in their herds.

“There will be an interesting question being



Mark Allan, the director of product development and genomics for Trans Ova Genetics in Sioux Center, Iowa, left, and Alison Van Eenennaam from the University of California-Davis Extension came together June 19 to discuss genetic advancement in cattle. (Jager Robinson/Tri-State Neighbor)

posed to these developers on whether or not they should risk it and go down to Brazil and try to import it back to the U.S.,” she said. “There is a lot of opportunities to work with South America and their sensible approach to this technology.”

With all the uncertainty in both genetics in beef and gene editing in livestock agriculture as a whole, Allan said the key takeaway remains to just collect information as best as possible.

“Still, number one is always the collection of complete data,” he said.





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UNIQUE

Continued from Page 16

“They are easy to care for and manage, which is one of the reasons we fell in love with them,” Emely said, noting that their breed of kunekune have wattles. “Annika, who is 10, can jump the fence and stand face to face with them, rub their bellies, and they will fall over every time.”

Emely said kunekune pigs thrive in the outdoors of Nebraska.

“They are one of the only true grazing pigs that can be maintained on grass alone, but we choose to provide them a wide-variety of forage options to hopefully one day create the most sought after pork in the Midwest,” she said.

The Hendls are one of just a handful of registered kunekune breeders in Nebraska. Currently, they have four gilts of breeding age, two sows ready to deliver by September if all goes smoothly, plus two boars as herd sires and a third that will be ready early next spring.

“We breed for confirmation standards, quality and size,” Emely said. “I want other homesteaders, small farmers

and large alike to trust our genetic diversity for growth rate and confirmation to the breed.”

She added that they welcomed their first litter of eight kunekune last February.

The Hendls carefully sort each group of piglets between their meat herd and breeding herd. The piglets that will be processed should take about a year to reach optimum growth weight, she explained, which is between 120-160 pounds.

Kunekunes provide an exclusive marbled red meat that is highly sought after in culinary circles, Emely said.

“Our goal is to sell to restaurants and butchers in and around Omaha,” she explained. “We will also have individual cuts of pork available for sale at our farm, with an emphasis to create the best bratwurst available without having to go all the way to Germany.”

She added that in order to sustain enough pork for their clientele, Anchor Meadow Farms will be working closely with Heather and Steve Scar of Meadowlark Farm in Adair, Iowa, who are fellow veteran farming friends.

This year, the Hendls also planted 25 hazelnut trees for their kunekune herd to forage on in the future.

“We would love nothing more than to create an Italian-inspired ‘prosciutto di Parma,’” she said.

“Hazelnuts are most commonly used in desserts and chocolates, but they also add a sweet flavor to the meat and provide

many of the same health benefits on finished pigs as in humans, including heart-healthy fat known to lower levels of LDL and raise HDL.”

The Hendls also live not too far from Del Ficke, owner and manager of Ficke Cattle Company, and credit him as being a big reason it was possible for them to get started in farming.

“We have learned so much from Del and are honored to be associated with his family and their cattle endeavors just down the road from us,” Emely said. “That’s what it’s all about, working with neighbors.”

“We look forward to expanding our kunekune herd, continuing to raise honey and anchoring our farm firmly in Nebraska for generations to come.”

You can find the Hendls on Facebook by searching Anchor Meadow Farm.

Kerry Hoffschneider can be reached at kerry.hoffschneider@midwestmessenger.com.



(Photo courtesy Hendl family)



Annika enjoys spending time with the kunekune pigs. (Photo courtesy Stacy Ideus)



The Hendl family — Matt, Annika and Emely — with the symbol of their farm, Anchor Meadow Farm, which is appropriately named after Matt’s service in the U.S. Navy. (Photo courtesy Stacy Ideus)



(Photos courtesy Hendl family)

Auction markets raise over \$230,000 for Nebraska flood relief

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Thirteen auction market members of the Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) hosted the sale of a roll-over auction animal earlier this spring to support Nebraska flood relief efforts. The livestock sales, which took place across Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming, raised more than \$230,000 worth of proceeds.

Member markets who hosted roll-over sales included Alma Livestock Auction, Alma, Neb.; Atkinson Livestock, Atkinson, Neb.; Basset Livestock, Bassett, Neb.; Beatrice 77 Livestock Sales, Beatrice, Neb.; Columbus Sales Pavilion, Columbus, Neb.; Elgin Livestock, Elgin, Neb.; Fullerton Livestock Market, Fullerton, Neb.; Huss Livestock Market LLC, Kearney, Neb.; Sheridan Livestock, Rushville, Neb.; St. Onge Livestock, St. Onge, S.D.; Torrington Livestock Market, Torrington, Wyo.; Verdigre Stockyards, Verdigre, Neb.; Wahoo Livestock Sales, Wahoo, Neb.; and West Point Stockyards, West Point, Neb.

One LMA member who hosted a roll-over benefit auction was directly affected by the floods. Lu Rieken, owner of Fullerton Livestock Market, said there was less than an hour warning before flood waters hit their business. With 4.5 feet of standing water inside the market, damage from water and debris was extensive.

Despite facing damage themselves, Fullerton Livestock Market chose to participate in a roll-over auction to assist relief efforts across the state.

“Our philosophy is that it’s not how far or how hard you fall, it’s how fast you get back up,” Lu Rieken said. “We weren’t the

only ones suffering. Everyone was and we wanted them to know we put them first.”

A majority of the funds raised by participating member markets were contributed to the Nebraska Cattlemen Disaster Relief Fund or directly to feed, fencing and hauling needs of individuals. Some markets chose to serve as pick-up sites for producers to access feed, hay and other supplies.

Pete McClymont, executive vice president of the Nebraska Cattlemen Association, said the contributions given to the relief fund by LMA member markets were overwhelming.

“When I see Dennis Henrichs, with Beatrice 77 Livestock Sales, enter our office with an envelope full of donations, it just about makes you cry,” McClymont said. “It makes you feel good about mankind to know people are sitting in the seats of these markets bidding, saying ‘Yes, I want to help.’”

According to McClymont, all proceeds received by the Nebraska Cattlemen Disaster Relief Fund will be distributed back to those who completed an application for need. The LMA also contributed \$3,000 to each participating member market’s total donations raised.

The Livestock Marketing Association, headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., is North America’s largest membership organization dedicated to supporting, representing and communicating with and for the entire livestock marketing sector. LMA has more than 800 member businesses across the U.S. and Canada. For more information, visit www.LMAWeb.com.

Controlling summer weeds in alfalfa

By **Bruce Anderson**

Wet soils in alfalfa fields right after cutting will certainly do one thing. It helps weeds and grasses grow. Let’s talk about what you can do about these weeds.

How do you reduce the amount of foxtail, crabgrass, pigweed and other weeds in your hay? The best way to start is to keep alfalfa thick and thrifty so it will compete aggressively with invading weeds. Thick initial stands and good soil fertility are needed. In addition, harvest alfalfa only after it begins to bloom or when new shoots appear at the base of the plants. Then alfalfa should regrow rapidly so weeds don’t get much time to become a problem.

Unfortunately, this method is easier said than done, and forage quality will be lower since harvest occurs after bloom begins.

Herbicides are another option. Roundup works great for Roundup Ready varieties. For conventional alfalfa varieties, two chemicals

that control annual grasses are Select Max and Poast Plus. These herbicides work well on seedling grasses that are less than 4 inches tall, and alfalfa tolerates both herbicides very well. Neither of these herbicides has any soil residual activity, so good plant coverage is necessary and you may need to repeat the spraying if new grasses emerge.

For broadleaf weeds, Raptor and Pursuit are your best choices. They, too, need to be applied before weeds are 4 inches tall. Fortunately, both Raptor and Pursuit have some residual activity so you can apply them a little early and still get control of many later emerging weeds. They will, however, also set back your alfalfa just a little bit.

If weedy grasses or broadleaves are a problem in your hay, thick and vigorous alfalfa stands and some well-chosen herbicides can help you get it under control.

Bruce Anderson is a hay and forage professor at Nebraska Extension

Data helps make good decisions on the ranch

By **Janelle Atyeo**

Midwest Messenger Regional Editor

The uncertainty of the weather and the limits of your land and water are the biggest factors influencing the success of a cattle operation, but collecting data and knowing where you stand can help make decisions.

That was the message Trey Patterson had for attendees of the Beef Improvement Federation conference in Brookings, S.D., June 18. The former South Dakota State University Extension beef specialist is now CEO of the Padlock Ranch Co. He heads the ranch for the Scott family, which owns a feedlot operation and runs 2,000 cow-calf units on 400,000 acres between Sheridan, Wyo. and Billings, Mont.

The ranch was recognized for its resource management with a Leopold Conservation Award in 2013. It’s a careful balance, managing the land that produces feed for cattle while protecting resources. Padlock Ranch managers measure pasture use with a model built using soil maps from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The goal is to be fully stocked while still improving the delicate range resources, Patterson said.

“We want to be well planned,” he said.

His job is to turn data into a useful tool for the ranch, and the goal is to be profitable. The ranch tracks the cost of raising a calf from breeding to weaning, collecting data on everything from appreciation of the bull the calf came from to the cost of the labor it takes to care for the animal.

“Accounting is the backbone of the data that allows us to make decisions on our operation,” Patterson said.

When an unexpected hardship comes along — such as the massive fire that burned through rangeland at the Padlock Ranch in 2012 — the Scott family was able to weigh the options. Feed went up in smoke, so they needed to decide if it was best to look elsewhere and buy more feed or to reduce the herd size and make some quick money from cull cattle.

The family decided to take the hit on profits that year and buy hay to feed its herd. It paid off when the cattle market rebounded in 2013, plus it kept their genetics strong, Patterson said.

“It was intentional management. It wasn’t a guess,” he said.

Janelle Atyeo can be reached at janelle.atyeo@lee.net.

LIVESTOCK CALENDAR

JULY

- 12 Ft. Pierre Livestock Auction, Early Summer Special Fall Calf & Yrlg, Ft. Pierre, S.D.
- 12 Fullerton Livestock Market, Special Lightweight Calf, Fullerton, Neb.
- 12 Lexington Livestock Market, Special Feeder, Lexington, Neb.
- 12 Wahoo Livestock Sales, Special All Class Cattle, Wahoo, Neb.
- 13 Ericson-Spalding Livestock Market, Annual BBQ Auction, Ericson, Neb.
- 15 Wahoo Livestock Sales, Hay, Hog, Sheep & Goat, Wahoo, Neb.
- 17 Bassett Livestock Auction, Special Bred Cow & Bred Heifer & Pairs,

- Bassett, Neb.23
- 17 Beatrice 77 Livestock, Fall Bred Cow Special, Beatrice, Neb.
- 17 Huss Livestock Market, Special Calf & Feeder, Kearney, Neb.....24
- 18 West Point Livestock Auction, Special Feeder & Bred Cow, West Point, Neb.....24
- 18 Valentine Livestock Auction, Special Fall Bred, Valentine, Neb.23
- 19 Burwell Livestock Market, Special Cattle, Burwell, Neb.23
- 19 Ft. Pierre Livestock, Special Pairs & Fall Calving Bred Cow, Ft. Pierre, S.D.....23
- 26 Lexington Livestock Market, Special Feeder, Lexington, Neb.....24

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Researchers look for traits to help cattle beat the heat

By Janelle Atyeo

Midwest Messenger Regional Editor

Wearing black isn't the best plan for staying cool on a hot summer day, so with Midwest temperatures rising, producers may need to reconsider their preference for black cattle.

"Heat stress is a major limiting factor in beef production," Dr. Raluca Mateescu said.

Mateescu has been studying cattle genetics and how it influences heat stress at the University of Florida. She spoke on thermotolerance June 19 at the Beef Improvement Federation conference in Brookings, S.D.

Heat stress can hurt the bottom line. Cattle that are too hot will eat less and sweat more, which means putting on fewer pounds.

Mateescu has been working to find a way cattle breeders can select genetic traits for tolerating heat while still breeding productive cattle. She studies a herd at the University of Florida with purebred Angus, purebred Brahman and a mix of hybrids of the two.

Brahman cattle are typically found in tropical or subtropical regions. They're known for their loose skin, big ears and the hump over the back of their necks — all traits that help keep the animal cool.

Studying 335 heifers, researchers on Mateescu's team use vaginal sensors to monitor the cattle's body temperature. They compare the

readings with outside temperatures and humidity.

The team found that Brahman breeds were able to maintain a fairly steady body temperature up until the hottest hours of the day. The body temperature of purebred Angus heifers, however, started spiking by 9 a.m.

Angus benefitted some on cool nights. Their body temperature dipped lower than that of the Brahman heifers. But Angus cattle got hotter more quickly once daytime temperatures rose. Brahman temperatures stayed steadier.

"That seems a bigger advantage in having a constant temperature," Mateescu said.

Several traits factor into heat tolerant cattle. She looks at their coat score by taking a hair sample and noting the length and diameter of the top and undercoat. She takes a small biopsy of the skin and studies the size of the sweat glands. Brahman have larger sweat glands and more of them.

"Just the size is a tremendous difference between the Angus and the Brahman," she said.

Working with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, a large Brahman producer, she's looking into more traits of the white cattle. She measures temperament, body condition and pregnancy — which can also be negatively influenced by heat stress.

She's finding that Brahman can help improve a herd's heat tolerance to some extent.

"They bring adaptability to our population,



Dr. Raluca Mateescu of the University of Florida stands with Brahman cattle she's studying for their heat tolerant traits.

but not all Brahman are the same," she said.

She's hoping to learn how to identify traits that make them resistant to heat stress but create a

cow that can still produce.

Janelle Atyeo can be reached at janelle.atyeo@lee.net.

Week 27 Winner: Glenda Amsberry, Valentine, NE

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90 Black Angus, 2nd and 3rd calvers; 120 4th calvers, to solid mouth. Aug. 24th for 60 days. Bred to Black Angus Bulls. Sell any number. 402-394-8703

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Special Pairs & Fall Calving Bred Cow Sale
Big Run Weighups 8AM CT - Pairs & Bred Cattle 1 PM CT

Pairs

Cons, 35 B,Bwf pairs (4-6's, few older) w/big 3 wt clvs

Summer & Fall Clving Bred Cattle

Gesinger Fall Clving Disp, 40 HR Blk cows (3-5's, few older) bred Schiefel-bein Angus, clf Aug 14th

Dakota Winds, 21 HR Blk cows (3-6's) bred Ang, clf Aug 1st

Dikoff Age Disp, 100 B,Bwf, few Red cows (SM-BM) bred Ang & Hereford, clf Aug 25th

Plus many more by sale day.

Our website is updated daily, for current listings check our website.

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BURWELL LIVESTOCK MARKET

BURWELL, NE

SPECIAL CATTLE AUCTION

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2019

9 AM WEIGH UPS 11:30 AM REGULAR AUCTION

BRED FALL COWS:

- 90 BK COWS, 3YRS-SM, BRED BK, CALVING 9-15 FOR 60 DAYS, **CEDAR CREEK FARMS, (308-379-4264)**
- 80 BK/FEW BWF COWS, 1ST CALF-RA, BRED BK ANG., 9- 1 FOR 60 DAYS, HR **MIKE & BARRY POSPICHAL, (402-482-5698)**
- 66 BK ANG COWS, 3-8 YRS OLD, A/D TO SUMMITCREST DARTH BLK ANGUS, TO CALVE 9-15 FOR 1 DAY, CLEANED UP W/BK ANG LONESOME RIVER BULLS FOR 45 DAYS, HR, 1 IRON..... **WM ZUTAVERN CATTLE CO, (308-870-3445)**
- 40 HERF COWS, 4TH CALF, (5 YR OLD), BRED TO GRISWOLD LOW % SIMM/ BLK ANG BULLS, CALVE 8-15 FOR 60 DAYS..... **PRESTON HAWLEY, (402-641-8363)**
- 35 HERF COWS, 2ND CALF, (3 YR OLD), BRED TO HAWLEY BLK ANG. BULLS, 8-15 FOR 60 DAYS **PRESTON HAWLEY, (402-641-8363)**

FEEDERS:

- 125 RD/RD ANG X & BK S/H, (80 STRS @ 750-900 #), (45 HFRS @ 700-800 #)..... **BULLIS CREEK RANCH**
- 30 BK/RD S/H, 700-850#..... **EUGENE MICHALSKI**
- 20 BK/FEW BWF S/H, 600-850#..... **RICHARD MEYER**

AUCTION MARKET 308-346-4257 • TODD EBERLE 308-870-1783
burwelllivestock.com or krvn.com • View, Pre-Register & Bid on our
auctions live online at: dvauction.com & CattleUSA.com

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BULLS FOR SALE: Angus & Polled Hereford. Many suitable for heifers. Complete performance info, EPDs, and ultrasound data available. Frenzen Angus & Polled Herefords, Fullerton, NE. Galen: (308)550-0237, Eric: (308)550-0238.

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For Sale: Registered Angus Yearling Bulls. SAV Genetics. Gentle disposition. Reasonable. Scott Angus Cattle. (308)550-1726.

For Sale: Top-quality yearling Charolais bulls. Easy calving, high performance, semen-tested, ready to load. Tom Sonderup: (308)550-0254.

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Valentine Livestock Auction

Thursday, July 18, 2019

SPECIAL FALL BRED & REGULAR SALE

S.T. 10:00 on weigh-ups

2:00 on bred females

Pairs:

- 210 ang (120 @ 2-5 yrs; 1250-1500#) w/March-April cfs at side. Most home raised, Calves not worked, almost exclusive Hall Angus genetics, past 5 yrs steer calves in October wt 550#, exposed to ang bulls turned out June 20 (cf 3-25). Complete dispersion **Tyler Morgan & Katie Jo Morgan (Tyler @ 402-376-4384)**
- 20 corriente-x (10 pairs, mixed ages). Horns & color **Tyler Morgan & Katie Jo Morgan**

Listings:

- 70 Hereford (2 ½ yrs; 1200#) bred blk ang; cf 8-1 for 50 days. Starting to show, like the look! **Turner Ranch LLC (Lawrence @ 402-376-5248)**
- 120 rd ang (47 @ 3-4 yrs; balance 5-9 yrs) bred rd ang (X-Diamond & Beckton); cf 8-20 for 30 days. outstanding genes..... **Paxton Rn (John Warren @ 308-650-9000)**
- 35 rd ang (3 & 4 yrs) bred LBW rd angus (Beckton, Calvo, Hueffle); cf 8-15 for 45 days. HR, broody..... **John & Lynn and Joe & Katie Mundorf (John @ 402-322-3241)**
- 24 rd ang (running age) bred rd ang; cf 8-20 for 30 days. Beckton genes HR **Hall/Pokorny**
- 180 blk & ang and rd ang (25 hd) (3-7 yrs; 1200-1350#) rd bred rd ang; blk bred blk ang (Schelskie); cf 9-1 for 45 days. Complete dispersion..... **Swenson Farms (Todd Swenson) (Sheridan @ 605-354-2127)**
- 62 blk, bwf (1 rwf) (6 yrs+; 1400-1500#) bred ang (AK); cf 8-15 for 62 days. HR Complete dispersion Fall herd..... **AK Angus (Richard Keller @ 402-322-0796)**
- 45 bwf (F-1) (3-8 yrs) bred ang (Sitz); cf 8-10 for 30 days. Long sided **Dusty Paxton (308-530-1518)**
- 39 ang (3-5 yrs) bred ang (Slagle, Ostrand); cf 9-1 for 40 days. Always good HR **Mart McNutt (308-520-7535)**
- 30 blk (3 bwf) (3-8 yrs) bred ang; cf 8-25 for 70 days HR..... **Nick Simmons**
- 24 blk, few bwf (8-14 yrs; 1300-1450#) bred blk angus; cf 9-1 for 60 days HR **Beel Bros. (Frank @ 402-382-8641)**
- 23 black, bwf (2 HD) (15 @ 3 yrs, 8 @ 4 yrs; 1200-1300#) bred ang (Rishel); cf 8-28 for 60 days **Bestol & Masek**
- 80 blk, ang (ST; 1150-1225#) exposed ang; cf 3-10 (not pregged, buy as weigh-up)..... **Dean Marshall**

Plus more from: Tetherow (11 rd), Schelske Rn (23), Dockweiler (10)

1-800-682-4874 or (402) 376-3611 • www.valentinelivestock.net

Greg Arendt, Mgr. 402-376-4701

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BASSETT LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Special Bred Cow, Bred Heifer, & Pairs Auction

8 am Weigh Ups - 11 am Bred Cows, Bred Heifers, & Pairs - Expecting 2,000 Head

- 467 blk inc 247 2 yr-old hfrs - bred to blk bulls, cleaned up with sons of Bismarck - calve Aug 21 for 30 days & 220 mostly 2nd calvers - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 15 for 55 days **Kyle Lingenfelter (402-382-8092)**
- 190 blk, few red mostly solid-running age cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 27 for 80 days - **Rodney Lamb (308-643-9298)**
- 180 blk, few bwf 2nd cf-broken mouth cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 15 for 60 days - comp disp **Rocking C Ranch (402-394-8516)**
- 108 inc 70 mostly red 2nd cf-solid mouth cows - bred to red bulls - calve Aug 10 for 60 days & 13 red-rwf spring pairs with big red calves & 25 red hfrs (RQ) 700-800 **Wayne Monahan (402-925-2583)**
- 90 blk-bwf running age & older cows - bred to Pharo Cattle Co ang bulls - calve Aug 1 for 75 days - comp disp **Regina Wiese (402-394-7042)**
- 80 blk-bwf young cows - bred to sim angus bulls - calve Aug 29 for 65 days - **O'Neill Cattle Co (402-340-3463)**
- 70 blk 4 yr old-running age cows - bred to char bulls - calve Aug 8 for 65 days..... **Dan & Nick Schott (402-640-4955)**
- 65 blk mostly broken mouth, few young cows with May calves **Spring Valley Ranch & Cattle (Ben 402-382-8181)**
- 50 blk young-running age cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 20 for 60 days - **Tom & Deb Frank (402-822-0099)**
- 50 blk 3rd cf, short term cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 17 for 60 days - **Brian & Jill Munger (402-382-8814)**
- 44 blk cows coming with 4th cf - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 21 for 60 days **Kent Kaup (402-394-8703)**
- 40 blk cows coming with 2nd-3rd cf - bred to blk bulls - calve Sept 10 for 40 days - **Darrin Paxton (402-340-1486)**
- 40 blk mostly 3-4 yr old cows - bred to sim angus bulls - calve Aug 19 for 30 days - **Craig & Caleb Miles (308-748-2297)**
- 40 blk inc 25 2 1/2 yr old hfrs - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 25 for 30 days & 15 3-5 yr old cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 25 for 50 days - **Bruce & Julie Palmer (402-382-8670)**
- 36 blk-red 1st cf-8 yr old cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 1 for 80 days - comp disp - **Marvin Scholz (402-924-3929)**
- 35 blk mostly 3-4 yr old cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 12 for 30 days - **Manning Ranch Co (402-322-1314)**
- 30 blk, few bwf mostly 3-4 yr old cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Sept 1 for 60 days - **Milldale Ranch (402-340-0615)**
- 17 blk 3-7 yr old cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 23 for 63 days - **Arden & Lynn Garwood (402-340-0486)**
- 15 blk 3-8 yr old cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 25 for 45 days - **Monte Rainforth (402-340-6734)**
- 15 blk 3-5 yr old cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 10 for 35 days - **Gordon Simonson (308-538-2618)**
- 14 blk 1st cf-8 yr old cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 20 for 60 days - **Dan Druke (402-336-3002)**
- 10 blk running age cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 20 for 60 days **DD Linse (402-760-0537)**
- 10 blk running age cows - bred to blk bulls - calve Aug 15 for 45 days - **Jerry Childers (402-482-5688)**

Several pkgs of 5-40 hd of bred cows & pairs with more listings by sale time.

BASSETT LIVESTOCK AUCTION 888-684-0584 OR 402-684-2361

Jake Maurer 402-822-0080 • Shane Kaczor 402-336-7011

Joe Leonard, Fieldman 402-376-4988 • Payton Shankland, Fieldman 402-822-0226

Radio Updates: KRVN 10:19 A.M. Tuesday — WNAX 10:38 A.M. Tuesday

www.bassettlivestock.com

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NO CATTLE AUCTION - JULY 19TH
SPECIAL FEEDER AUCTION - JULY 26TH

OFFICE 308-324-4663 www.lexlivestock.com
RICK SHOEMAKER, OWNER 627-7284; Jeff Rogers 325-1272
Jeff Marshall 233-4633, Ryan Rogers 325-1273
Dean Dallman 380-2615, Gary Cook 870-0414
Geoff Cook 870-2791, Brian Eberle 440-4798

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WEST POINT LIVESTOCK AUCTION

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019

Special Feeder/Bred Cow Sale

Starting at 12:30 PM

Feeders:

65 Blk Hfr 800-825 J. Bose
60 Hol St 500-700 T. Brabec
50 Blk/Bik WF St/Hfr 600-900 P. Rosburg
10 Blk Str/Hfr 550-600 H. Hasenkamp

Breds:

50 Blk & WF Fall calving cows mated to Blk Sem Bulls start calving
Aug 20th. Complete dispersion of super cows, all coming
4th calf! E & J Brester

BBQ Sale - Monday August 19, 2019

Sale starts at 10:30 AM

www.westpointlivestock.com—Office: 402-372-2493
Brian Brester (Mg): 402.750.5821 • Martey Stewart: 402.375.8913
Jim Schaben Jr.: 712.263.9449 • Jon Schaben: 712.263.0755
Come and see what we have to offer!

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HUSS LIVESTOCK MARKET, LLC

Kearney, Nebraska • Market Office 308-234-2502
www.hussauction.com

WEDNESDAY JULY 17TH
SPECIAL CALF & FEEDER AUCTION
BUTCHER COWS 8:00 AM * FEEDERS NOON

6 Angus Simm X Cows-Calf Fall DICK & PATTY WILSON
300 Angus Char X Heifers, 850-900 #4PW
..... ROBERT, FORREST & COLT SWANSON
161 Angus Steers, 900-925 #4PW SHOEMAKER LIVESTOCK LLC
155 Angus Bwf Steers, 900-950 #4PW GENE DORSEY
115 Angus few Red Steers & Heifers, 550-750 #4PW ERIC WENDELIN
100 Angus Red X Steers, 850-900 #4PW LOUIS MYERS
84 Angus X Steers & Heifers, 650-825 #4PW
..... GORDON, GLENDA, GARRET & GRANT SCHROLL
70 Angus X Steers, 800-825 #4PW WAYNE MEYER
62 Angus Steers, 925-975 #4PW RANDY & CLINT BENTLEY
60 Angus X Steers & Heifers, 600-750 #4PW NED BERKEYPIL
20 Angus X Steers & Heifers, 550-650 #2PW BOX R RANCH
18 Angus Steers & Heifers, 450-650 #2PW JIM LEIF

SPECIAL CALF & FEEDER AUCTIONS: JULY 31st, August 14th & 28th
VIDEO AUCTIONS JULY 31st & August 28th

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