Pottawatomie County
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION NEWS
Agriculture and Natural Resources
pottawatomie.k-state.edu

March 2026

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https://www.pottawatomie.k-state.edu/news/index.html

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension
Pottawatomie County

UAS (Drone) Use in Agriculture

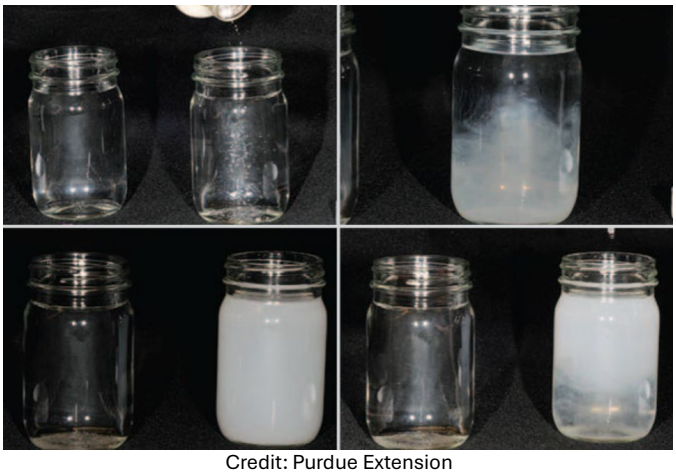
Uncrewed Aircraft System (UAS) or drones are playing an increasingly important role in agriculture – from crop spraying to field imaging. Plan to join Pottawatomie County Extension for a UAS/Drone Use in Agriculture workshop to be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, from 4:30-6:30 pm, at St. Marys High School, 601 East Lasley Street, St. Marys, KS 66536.

Presentation topics will include how UAS are being used in farming and ranching, regulations and getting started using drones for production agriculture. Spray drones and their effectiveness in precision farming and tips for hiring UAS businesses for your agriculture operation will also be covered. Live demonstrations of different drones and uses will be provided. Presenters include Deepak Joshi, Kansas State University Precision Agriculture Extension Specialist; Spencer Schrader, K-State Salina UAS Flight Operations Manager; and Shannon Blocker, Pottawatomie County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources. NewAg Dynamix / Newland Ag Drones, K-State Salina UAS, and Rezac Land and Livestock will offer a chance to look at different UAS, answer questions, and provide flight demonstrations for workshop participants.

Thanks to NewAg Dynamix / Newland Ag Drones for sponsoring this workshop and providing refreshments. Registration is open at www.pottawatomie.ksu.edu under “Hot Topics.” You may also call the Pottawatomie County Extension Office at (785)-457-3319, from 8:00 am-4:30 pm Monday-Friday. Registration is requested by March 20, 2026.

Shannon Blocker
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources
K-State Extension, Pottawatomie County

Spray Water Quality Effects on Weed Management



Credit: Purdue Extension

Impact of Water Hardness

- Left bottle: distilled water with zero hardness
- Right bottle: hard water
- Material that mimics glyphosate added to both bottles of water
- Clear water on left, cloudy solution on right
- Hard water ties up glyphosate (mimic) with calcium ion

Water pH can also play a significant role in weed management. Remember that approximately 99% of your spray tank volume is water. Weak acid herbicides, such as glyphosate, gain or lose hydrogen ion depending on the pH of the surrounding solution. They remain neutral at acidic pH (< 7.0) and become negatively charged at alkaline pH (> 7.0). The leaf cuticle and cell membrane can create barriers for the absorption of negatively charged herbicides. AMS added to the spray water reacts with Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, and Fe^{3+}, forming insoluble sulfates that will not react with glyphosate, preventing antagonism. AMS added at 1-2% by weight (8.5 - 17 lb/100 gal).

Improve Your Herbicide Efficacy Survey
Survey link also here.

K-State researchers are conducting a survey for spray water quality (link and QR code at bottom of previous column). Producers that wish to get a free water quality test can include their contact information at the end of the survey.

Winning the Game Grain Marketing Webinar

Volatile grain markets may provide Kansas farmers and agribusiness with the opportunity to price 2026 crops at or above breakeven costs. This webinar will help Kansas farmers develop effective 2026 grain marketing plans for Kansas crops. It will include an analysis of the March 31 planting intentions report, as well as the grain stocks report. This webinar will be presented by Daniel O'Brien and Guy Allen from Kansas State University. Webinar registration is required to obtain the link.

April 1, 2026, 12:00 pm via Zoom
https://ksu.zoom.us/meeting/register/NJNTMihgTp6yYw-uajPKQA#/registration

Alfalfa Weevil is Now Active in Kansas

Like last year, degree day accumulations for Kansas alfalfa weevils are well ahead of normal for the entire state. As air temperatures continue to increase, it is recommended that scouting for weevil activity should be occurring right now in all regions of the state. There are confirmed reports of weevil activity and evident pinholing in south central Kansas and along the Oklahoma border.

The chart on the next page is from the Kansas Mesonet on March 9, 2026, showing alfalfa weevil growing degree data for three nearby stations.

Alfalfa Weevil Equation ❯

2026-01-01 — 2026-03-08

Station	Alfalfa Weevil Growing Degrees		
	Actual	Normal	Departure
Corning 2NW	193	7	186
Manhattan	245	18	227
Rocky Ford	247	11	237

[150-180] Begin Scouting
[300-450] Leaf pinholing
[450-600] 2nd and 3rd instars - Defoliation
[600-750] 3rd and 4th instars - Defoliation
[750+] Pupa to adult

Carcass Handling: Shallow Burial with Carbon Training

Kansas livestock producers, emergency responders, and animal health professionals are invited to participate in a Shallow Burial with Carbon (SBC) Training and Demonstration on April 8, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Manhattan, Kansas.

Led by Gary Flory of G.A. Flory Consulting, the training will provide an in-depth overview of SBC carcass disposal, including the method's benefits, limitations, and best practices for constructing and managing an SBC site. The morning classroom session will be followed by a hands-on outdoor demonstration in the afternoon.

The event will take place at the Kansas State Agronomy North Farm, 2200 Kimball Avenue, in Manhattan. A box lunch will be provided for registered participants.

Registration is required by March 25, 2026.

Participants can register online at: https://fs22.formsite.com/KansasDeptAg/alayuhg2zj/index

For additional information, contact:
Sara McReynolds
Assistant Animal Health Commissioner, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Sara.McReynolds@ks.gov
785-473-6774

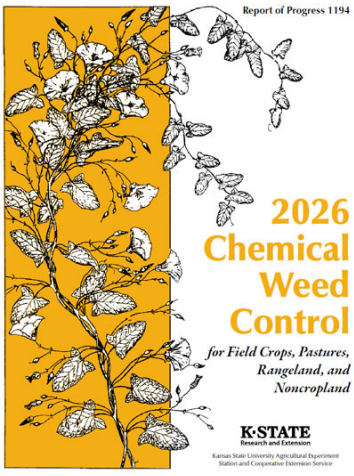
Using Genetic Tools to Select the Next Generation of Females

Last Friday was Cattlemen's Day at K-State and Dr. Jamie Courter, University of Missouri: Beef Extension Specialist, was a presenter. She spoke about "Using Genetic Tools to Select the Next Generation of Females." If you were unable to attend but want to check it out yourself, the K-State Animal Science Department will post the videos at this website after processing. https://www.asi.k-state.edu/events/cattlemens-day/video.html.

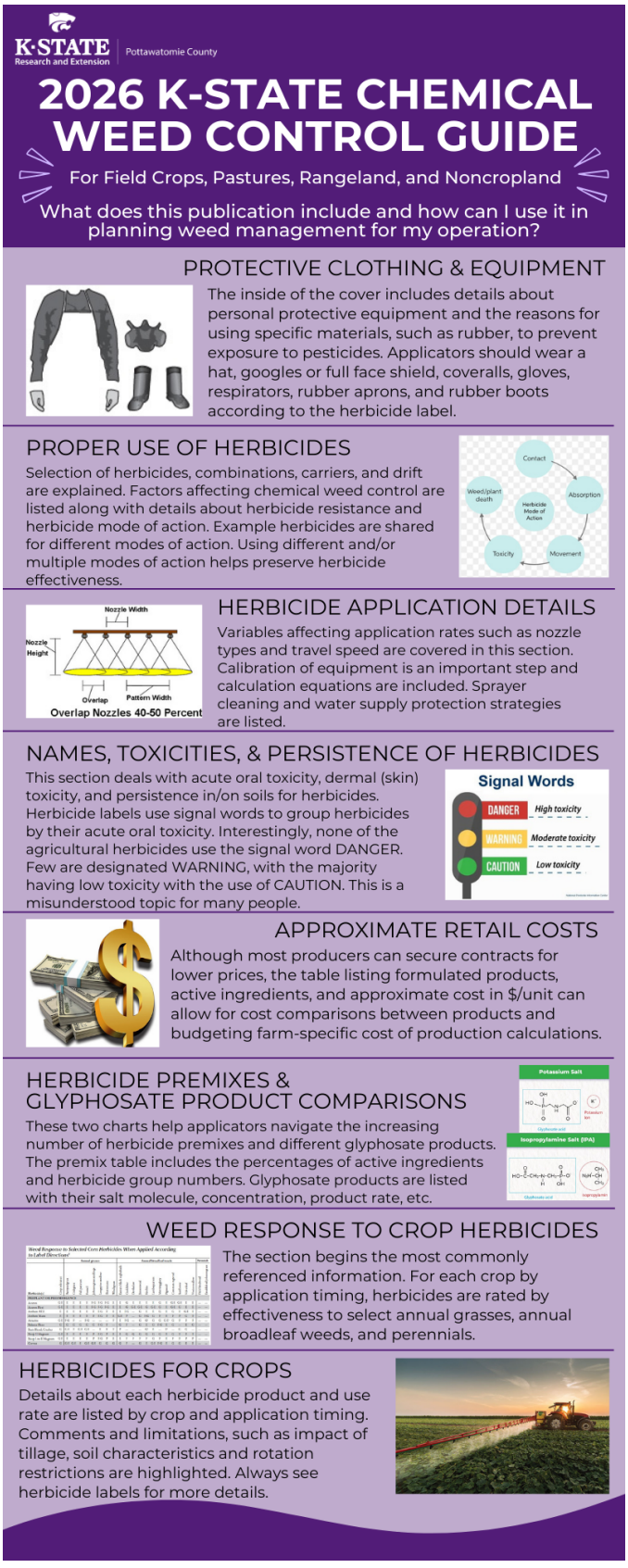
She shared that producers think that increased fertility and longevity make a better cow. However, these traits are both lowly heritable traits that are impacted by a lot of environmental factors. She encouraged us to think about how to build better females by considering traits with higher heritability and making management decisions to help make genetic change.

This can be accomplished by defining your breeding objectives based on your biggest revenue generator (i.e. market age, bulls, replacement heifers, etc.) and considering other important traits based on cattle environment. Producers can then identify important traits and determine what EPDs and Indexes to use. Remember to not use single trait selection, but with many EPDs available, you don't always need all of them!

She also shared information about commercial genomic testing of females. Companies include GeneMAX Advantage, Igenity Beef, and Inherit Select. These tests are approximately $30/test, so it is important to use the data to help select replacement heifers, verify parentage in multi-sire pastures, and/or identify your trait improvement needs. These tests also open up some marketing opportunities to use terminal traits to market feeder calves and market heifers that don't your operation's breeding objectives.



Available now at the Pottawatomie County Extension Office in hard copy or online at: 2026 Chemical Weed Control



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UNCREWED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS
USE IN AGRICULTURE

Drones are playing an increasingly important role in agriculture–from crop spraying to field imaging. Join us for live demonstrations and to learn how drones can be effectively and efficiently integrated into your farm operation.

Presenters:

Deepak Joshi, K-State Extension Precision Ag Specialist
Shannon Blocker, Pottawatomie County Ag Extension Agent

Wednesday,
25 March 2026
4:30 - 6:30 PM

St Marys High School
601 E Lasley St
St Marys, KS, 66536

REGISTER TO JOIN US BY 03/20/26

785-457-3319
www.pottawatomie.ksu.edu

K-State Extension Horticulture Newsletter

Our Horticulture Newsletter is a weekly publication put out by our extension specialists. Timely information on basic plant care is covered in addition to any disease or pest issues that may be appearing throughout the state. Go to our newsletter website to read the most current issues and explore our newsletter archives.

Want to receive the Horticulture Newsletter by email? Email hortsupport@ksu.edu to subscribe. Simply include your email address in the message, and the word subscribe to sign up.

Read the first horticulture newsletter for 2026 here.

Don't forget to join us for the K-State Garden Hour on the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Register here. The March webinar was presented by Dr. Cheryl Boyer about Naturalistic Landscape Design. Webinars are recorded and posted for later viewing, so check it out!

Now is the time to start summer vegetables indoors!

See the infographic on the left for more information.

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Events and Dates

March

10 CROP*talk* Webinar: What's Bugging You?

25 Uncrewed Aerial Systems (Drones) in Agriculture Workshop; St. Marys

28 K-State Sheep Day; Manhattan (pre-register by 3/13)

April

1 Winning the Game Grain Marketing webinar

8 Carcass Handling: Shallow Burial with Carbon training; Manhattan (pre-register by 3/25)