

Thoughts on April calving

And So It Goes.... I was just looking at the March calendar thinking about how much in life is a cycle repeating itself over and over. March is a huge calving month and it is almost over. It reminded me of a great beef resource by Dale Blasi, Extension Beef Specialist at K-State.

And So It Goes...
Byron W. Hale



effective both before and after calving. Consult your nutritionist.

*Mineral supplementation should include greater levels of magnesium (intake should be between 15 to 30 grams (g) per head per day, or at least 11 percent of the mineral mix) for grass tetany prevention.

*Plan your breeding season, both AI and natural service. Make sure all supplies and semen are on hand prior to the breeding season. For natural-service programs assign yearling bulls to 10-15 cows, 2 and 3-year-old bulls to 20-25 cows, and older bulls to 25-40 cows. Breeding for 65 days should be long enough; less than 90 days is a key sign of good management. Some suggest the service capacity of a yearling bull (less than 24 months) is equal to his age in months at turn out.

*Bulls should be in good body condition prior to the breeding season. Thin bulls can run out of stamina. Now is the time to

make sure bulls are physically capable of performing for the upcoming summer breeding season.

*Breeding soundness examinations are recommended for all bulls.

*Consider using estrus synchronization and AI. Several synchronization systems to overcome anestrus are available. Selection depends on labor, facility and implementation costs.

*Consider breeding heifers three weeks prior to the mature cow herd to give them a greater chance to rebreed.

*Maintain top management concerning calf scours (sanitary conditions, early detection, electrolyte/dehydration therapy).

*Vaccinate calves as per veterinarian consultation. Castrate males that are not candidates for breeding stock prior to pasture turnout. Implant calves that will be sold at weaning.

*Wait for fly control until critical numbers are reached (100 to 200 horn flies per animal).

*Deworm cows and bulls if needed. Expect performance response to be variable dependent on location, weather, grazing system, history, infestation level and management.

Weather Spotting!



The National Weather Service and the Norton County Emergency Management hosted a weather spotting class in Norton on Tuesday, March 11 in the basement of Prairie Land Electric. (Pictured) Warning Coordinating Meteorologist David Floyd explained how weather updates can be received on wireless devices.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Cabinetmaking benefitting rural economy

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

The business executive and his wife are building their dream home. For the kitchen, they are preparing to order fancy cabinets from Italy. But they decide to make a change. They end up with beautiful cabinets for less money by sourcing those cabinets from an expert cabinetmaker in rural Kansas.

Thad Wende is founder and owner of Wende Woodworking in Mayetta, Kansas. He came by his woodworking skills naturally from his father who was a do-it-yourselfer.

"My dad was one of those guys who didn't hire anybody to do anything around the house," Thad said. "If something was going to be done, we had to figure it out and do it ourselves. We grew up around concrete and lumber."

In high school, Thad spent lots of time in woods shop. He planned to go to Pittsburg State for a wood tech degree, but his cabinet-making business grew. In 1996, he formed Wende Woodworking LLC and started doing projects in his wife's family's garage.

One day Thad went to an auction where he purchased a hinge machine. Inside the machine was a book titled "How to Make European-Style Cabinetry." Thad read the book cover to cover and it had a tremendous influence on him. The book may have been more valuable than the machine itself.

European styling uses lots of panels of plywoods and composites and has sleek hardware which gives the cabinets a modern, contemporary look. Demand for Wende Woodworking cabinets continued to grow.

Thad learned about Blum, a major hinge manufacturing company in North Carolina

which pioneered the concept of dynamic space in designing kitchens. Thad is now the only certified dynamic space fabricator and has the only such showroom in the Midwest.

Custom-made cabinets have become the specialty of Wende Woodworking. "We are what I describe as a job-at-a-time shop," Thad said. Whether in a remodel or new construction, Thad will design the cabinetry with the client and then build it to suit. Wende Woodworking will deliver and install.

In 2007, Thad built a 10,000-square-foot shop to go with his 3,000-square-foot house.

He partnered with a company in Topeka to acquire a sophisticated computer-controlled router which could do fabulous designs and handle wood very efficiently. Once a design is created and assigned a bar code, the operator can select the file and the machine will use a vacuum device to load a single sheet at a time and automatically custom-cut the design.

"It's pretty high-tech for red-neck Mayetta," Thad said with a smile. Mayetta is a rural community of 312 people. Now, that's rural.

"Thanks to the router, our revenues grew one and a half times," Thad said. He works at staying current on the latest trends in hardware and materials and attracts customers through word of mouth.

"All our business comes from referrals," he said. "We believe we have a unique skill set and we understand our customers' needs. We're fortunate to have great clients with great ideas."

Thad enjoys the challenge of designing different cabinets for his customers, adding, "My brain would go numb if I was doing the same thing every

time."

Examples of Thad's work can be viewed online at www.houzz.com/wendewood.

One day Thad was called in to meet a couple who wanted some built-in cabinets in their library. It was a business executive and his wife who were building their dream home. "What are you doing for the cabinets in the kitchen?" Thad asked. The couple explained that they were ordering cabinets from Italy. Thad offered to prepare a bid but they explained that they had already paid a retainer for the Italian cabinet company. "If you don't mind, I'd still like to prepare a bid," Thad said. He designed and prepared some creative ideas in cabinets and in the end, earned the bid.

We commend Thad Wende of Wende Woodworking for making a difference with entrepreneurship in cabinetmaking. Will such a business benefit the rural economy? It sure would.

And there's more. Remember that company that Wende Woodworking partnered with in Topeka? We'll learn about that next week.



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Farm Bureau president to retire

After serving on Kansas Farm Bureau's board of directors for 17 years, Ottawa County farmer Steve Baccus has announced he will retire Dec. 3, 2014. Baccus served as vice president of the organization for five years and has served as president of the organization since 2002.

"Farm Bureau has been my life for a long time," Baccus says. "There is nothing better than working for the farmers and ranchers of Kansas Farm Bureau. My wife, Pat, and I have had long conversations about this, and together we have decided now is the time."

"Steve has been an outstanding president," said Kansas Farm Bureau's CEO and General Counsel Terry Holdren. "His leadership on behalf of our members can be seen in

the strength and respect Kansas Farm Bureau enjoy across the state. The state of Kansas, and our farmers and ranchers, have benefitted from his hard work."

Baccus began his Farm Bureau leadership role as president of Ottawa County Farm Bureau. He was the 1992 Kansas Farm Bureau's District Leader of the Year and in 1996 Baccus and his family received the District Farm Family of the Year award. He is a past member of the Kansas Farm Bureau's Natural and Environmental Resources Committee and a past member of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Wheat Advisory and Grain Quality Advisory committees.

In January 2004, Baccus was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Farm Bu-

reau Federation, where he has worked to set policy and direction for the leading agriculture advocacy organization in the nation.

Baccus also served as Chairman of the Board of Farm Bureau Mutual Holding Company, Farm Bureau Property and Casualty Insurance Company and Western Agricultural Insurance Company. He also served on the boards of the Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, its parent company, FBL Financial Group, The American Agricultural Insurance Company and the Farm Bureau Bank parent company.

Kansas Farm Bureau represents grassroots agriculture. Established in 1919, this non-profit advocacy organization supports farm families who earn their living in a changing industry.

Patrol releases seatbelt enforcement results

The Kansas Highway Patrol joined other law enforcement agencies across the state in February and early March for an annual seatbelt enforcement campaign conducted around area high schools. The campaign ran from Monday, Feb. 24, through Friday, March 7.

During this annual enforcement, the Patrol issued:

Teen seat belt citations (ages 14 -17): 123

Adult seat belt citations: 493

Child Restraint citations: 67

This seatbelt enforcement is conducted in conjunction with the SAFE (Seatbelts Are For Everyone) program, which is

run by the students of the high school they attend. Currently, 54 counties totaling 124 schools participate in the program.

In 2012, according to Kansas Department of Transportation statistics, Kansas unfortunately lost 43 teens in vehicle crashes, 74 percent of whom were not properly restrained. The Kansas Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Safety and Technology hosts the two-week awareness campaign in

hopes of decreasing that number, and increasing seatbelt usage. The Kansas Department of Transportation and law enforcement partners across the state have spent over 20 years educating Kansas teens on the dangers of driving without a seatbelt.

In 2013, the observed seat belt rate for the ages of 15-17 was 81 percent. To put this into perspective, the rate for the same age group was 61 percent in 2008-09.

So what are the odds?
Chance of experiencing a house fire...1 in 1200
Chance of experiencing an auto accident...1 in 240
Chance of needing long-term care...3 in 4
Chance of becoming an angel...1 in 1

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