



the Dairy Dispatch

*A publication devoted to supporting the Kansas
Dairy Industry and Farmers*

Legislative Update

2020 General Election Results and Update

The August primary contests set into motion what many thought might produce a change in the Kansas Senate. While change occurred, it was a bit different than expected. For months leading up to the 2020 general election cycle, anticipation has been building. Tuesday evening results did not disappoint in terms of surprises.

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Kansas Senate

Following the August primary elections, which trended much more conservative in the Kansas Senate- specifically in Johnson County- Democrats set their sites on attempting to capture several seats. Prior to the November election, the Senate numbers showed 11 Democrats and 29 Republicans. Those numbers didn't change on November 4th, but the landscape likely changed dramatically with 14 of the members being new to the Chamber.

Most notable was the upset of legislative veteran Sen. Anthony Hensley (Topeka-D) losing to political newcomer Rick Kloos. Hensley, who has long-served as the Senate Minority Leader was first elected to the Kansas Senate in 1992. Prior to that, he served in the House of Representatives from 1977 to 1992. Hensley's loss is certainly a blow to strategies between the Governor's administration and the upper body. Kloos, as self-described chaplain and bi-vocational clergyman is the founder of the second-hand goods store in Topeka- God's Storehouse. He also ran for Governor in 2018, finishing in last place with a 0.62 percent of the vote. In hall-talk around Topeka, frequent discussions centered on several competitive Johnson County Senate races picking up down ballot votes, due to the expected heavy turnout for Congresswoman Sharice Davids and challenger for U.S. Senate Barbara Bollier.



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News from the Executive Director

Well, I could certainly talk about all the negative in the world today but thought better of that. I'm tired, stress & sick to death of complaining about 2020....lets focus on some good things that Kansas Dairy has had a hand in! Over the summer, we had two young men awarded with scholarships from the Kansas Dairy Commission. Simon Schmitz, Axtell; and Grant Fincham, Marysville were each awarded \$1000.00 from the Board of Directors. Both these recent High School graduates excelled in leadership and academics and both are attending Kansas State this fall. We wish them lots of luck and success in their future.

During the month of September, Kansas Dairy was honored to sponsor a reception for George Blush as he was bestowed with the Kansas Dairy Leader Award. George's family and a host of friends, including several dairymen from across the state were in attendance to help celebrate. Kansas State Call Hall Ice Cream was served to everyone that was there.



George & Laurie Blush at the presentation of the Kansas Dairy Leader Award, Manhattan Kansas

Simon Schmitz-
Attending Kansas
State Polytechnic
for Mechanical
Engineering



Grant Fincham-
attending Kansas
State University
for Animal
Science

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Walton Rural Life Center Unique Education

At the end of October, Kansas Dairy was asked to present at the Walton Rural Life Center. There were several rotations, two of which centered around dairy. MeLissa Drzymalla of Le-Dr Dairy, Newton along with her daughters, taught the students about dairy cattle. Her family brought along a dairy and beef calf so that the students could learn the difference between the two types of cattle used in production agriculture. Kansas Dairy was responsible for talking to the students about dairy nutrition. The students were shown different dairy products and were given string cheese sticks to enjoy. The elementary school is very unique, the entire school is focused around an agriculture based curriculum. There are literally farm animals at the school! Students learn how to feed, care for and market products from the farm. In addition, with the help of a greenhouse the students also market and grow plants. To learn more about the Walton Rural Life Center or to donate to the program please visit their website at:

<https://w-usd373-ks.schoolloop.com/foundation>



MeLissa Drzymalla Le-Dr Dairy talking to the students about dairy calves



Students learn how to care for chickens and market eggs.

Kansas State Welcomes New Instructor

KSU is pleased to announce that Dr. Victor Gomez Leon will be joining the K-State family as a faculty member in Animal Science & Industry, beginning January 11, 2021. We are looking forward to Victor building an impactful extension and research program in dairy cattle. KSU hopes to have additional information concerning the dairy teaching and research position in the next few weeks.



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Dairy Margin Coverage Enrollment



The 2018 Farm Bill authorized the new Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program, which is a voluntary risk management program for dairy producers. DMC replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy). DMC continues to offer protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. Enrollment for the 2021 DMC program year starts Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2020 and runs through Dec. 11, 2020. Decision Tool – The current version of the DMC decision tool has been enhanced and was developed in partnership with in cooperation with representatives from the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin to help producers determine the level of coverage under a variety of conditions that will provide them with the strongest financial safety net. The weekly Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Enrollment, Production and Payment report will be updated every Monday at 2:00 PM Eastern.

For more information:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/dairy-margin-coverage-program/index>



Vanilla sweet cream for the holidays

1 vanilla bean

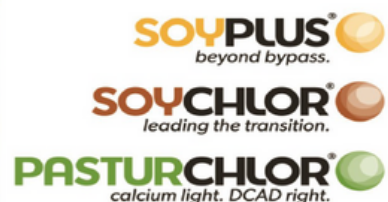
1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk

1 cup heavy whipping cream

Dash salt

For the cream, split the vanilla bean lengthwise and scrape the seeds from the center into a small saucepan; then add the bean. Add condensed milk, whipping cream and salt. Cook and stir over medium heat 5-7 minutes or until heated through. Remove from heat; let stand, covered, 15 minutes to allow flavors to blend. Discard vanilla bean and let the mixture cool completely. Fill a serving glass with ice. Add cold brew, leaving a little room for cream at the top. Add your preferred amount of sweet vanilla cream and serve. You can store the vanilla sweet cream and cold brew coffee in the fridge for up to two weeks.

Have a Blessed Christmas with family & friends!
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Personally Penned

By Dr. Aaron Schaffer



Biosecurity

COVID-19, the coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2—whatever you want to call it, I think we are all too familiar with it and are all ready to move on. However, before we move on, I think it would behoove us to stop and reflect on the lessons that we can learn from this experience. The more philosophical lessons pertaining to relationships, adaptability, resiliency, etc., may provide more infinite value, but the lesson I want to focus on today is biosecurity. Pre-COVID, for many people biosecurity was merely a word that was thrown around by academia, industry professionals, and the veterinarian. Now, whether we realize it or not, we are all intimately familiar with biosecurity—social distancing, face masks, and quarantine. This creates a great opportunity for us to improve as we focus the knowledge that we have gained through COVID onto our livestock operations. First, let's backup and define what biosecurity is and why it is important. Simply put, biosecurity refers to measures that are implemented to decrease the spread of infectious disease. If we can reduce the transmission of disease, we can improve the health and wellbeing of our livestock, and hence, our operations. So, despite the angst that some associate with the biosecurity measures recommended during COVID, biosecurity really does create a win-win for our operations. In addition, biosecurity is often not all that expensive to implement on our operations. Often, the more challenging part is merely changing our habits. For example, let's talk about hygiene. The number one biosecurity measure shown to decrease the spread of human disease is hand washing. This is simple, right? Why is it so important? Because our hands touch everything, and everything we touch is touched by everyone else spreading the biological agents that cause disease. The same is true for our livestock; hygiene is critical. So, what is "everything" that is touched by "all" of the livestock on our operations? In calves, we need to be thinking about the bottles, nipples, buckets, hutches, calf carts, etc. that are used for multiple animals. The calves cannot clean this equipment themselves; are we doing a good job for them? Or, are we leaving a biofilm in the bottles or not taking the time to clean hutches between calves? These calves are the future of our farm. There has been a plethora of research demonstrating that health events early in the life of our calves can be significantly detrimental to their performance throughout life. Let us take some time to make sure we are treating these babies right. Shifting the focus from the calves into the parlor, what touches "every" animal here? The milking machines and milkers. Duh, right? Are we doing a good job maintaining our machines? Are our parlor prepping procedures and post-dipping as consistent? Have new employees been trained appropriately? Because of the focus that has been given to *S. aureus*, it is thankfully less of an issue today that it has been historically. However, other contagious pathogens like *Mycoplasma* and *Prototheca* seem to be more common. In addition, diligence to hygiene in the parlor will also decrease the incidence of non-contagious mastitis as well.

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While close in early results, those races remained in the Republican control in District 9 with Beverly Gossage (R) defeating Stacey Knoell (D) 52-48 percent; District 10- Mike Thompson(R) beating Lindsey Constance (D) 52-48 percent; and District 11 Kellie Warren (R) besting Joy Koesten (D) 53-47 percent. The only change in the area was Cindy Holscher (D) winning over James Todd(R), the seat previously held by retiring Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning (R).

There were a couple of competitive races in the Wichita area as well. District 28 incumbent Mike Pertersen(R) beat challenger (and former House Minority Leader) Jim Ward 55-45 percent; and, in the District 30, the seat retired by the Senate President Susan Wagle, Renee Erickson (R) moves from the House to the Senate with a victory over Melissa Gregory(D) 53-47 percent.

In Leavenworth-Lansing are, District 5, a district that has often seen the back and forth of Democrat/Republican office holders, Sen. Kevin Braun(R) lost to challenger Jeff Pittman (D) 47-53 percent.

There are still 66,196 mail in ballots statewide that have not yet been returned and could still influence any close race as they make their way to election offices before the deadline later this week. One such race that could be affected is in District 22 where Wen. Tom Hawk (D) holds a 300 - some vote lead over challenger Craig Bowser (R).

It was expected that there would be folks campaigning internally for the leadership slots of President, majority Leader, and ice-President of the Senate. The continued shuffling of the deck will produce confirmed candidates for those slots. Names mentioned to date are Sen. Ty Masterson and Jeff Logbine. Because of the number of moderate candidates lost in the primary, Longbine's chances are likely slim. Additional names for the top spot in the Senate will make their way in to the public eye soon.

What was not expected was the need for Senate Democrats to rally around a new leader.

The dust is still settling, but the selection of a new Minority Leader will be on of the stories to follow in the coming months.

Newly elected Senate and House members will gather in December to elect their leadership.

Kansas House of Representatives-

There seems to be little change in the House as far as the majority is concerned. In fact, it got a little stronger Tuesday evening. At present , the majority increased from 84 Republicans to 87, dropping the Democrats to 38 from 41. There are still several races that are close enough to warrant a recount- and don't forget about the mail and provisional ballots still waiting to be counted.

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House district races still in question. District 16-Rashard Young(R) currently trails Linda Featherston (D) by four votes; District 48- Terry Frederick (R) leads Jennifer Day (D) by 11 votes; District 102- Incumbent Jason Probst (D) is ahead by four votes over John Whitesel (R)

Under the "Interesting to note" category, Susan Estes (R), wife of Congressman Ron Estes(R), will serve in the District 87. The political couple will split their time during the Kansas Legislative Session between Washington D.C. and Topeka.

Two of the losses that represent a shift toward a more heavily weighted Republican majority were Democrats known for their expertise in their particular area of practice. In District 3- Monica Murnans (D) lost to Chuck Smith (R). Murnan was a go-to legislator for child advocacy issues. Smith returns to the Kansas Legislature having served the same district in prior legislative session. Rep. Tim Hodge (D) , a Newton attorney lost to challenger Avery Anderson (R) in District 72. Hodge was familiar with and introduced numerous bills in the House Judiciary Committee.

What remains to be seen is how the House Leadership shakes out. Again, no real surprises in the Chamber. Rep. Ron Ryckman(R) has served two-terms as Speaker. He is expected to run for a third.

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Reps. Dan Hawkins (R) and Blain Finch (R) also hold leadership positions as Majority Leader and Speaker Pro-tem, respectively , and could be interested in moving up the ladder. At this point, no other names are being tossed around and no change could put the House in position to be the lead negotiating body in the Legislature.

Kansas National level-

Probably the most discussed race of this election cycle was the battle for the U.S. Senate. With Sen. Pat Roberts (R) retiring his seat, Dr. Barbara Bollier (D) and Congressman Dr. Roger Marshall (R), locked horns for a fierce battle for the seat.

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Kansas has not elected a Democrat to the U. S. Senate since the 1930's and although Dr. Bollier was successful in several districts in which she was projected to capture, Dr. Marshall ultimately won the Senate seat in the end.

In Congress races, Tracy Mann (R) won the KS-1; Jake LaTurner (R) took KS_2; Sharice Davids(D) retained her seat in KS3; and , Ron Estes (R) held on to the KS-4.

What's Next?

Public policy discussions certainly became more partisan as a result of Tuesday's election returns. As the state continues to manage issues related to the COVID pandemic, it's likely the House and Senate will be even more strident in their respective positions, using the election results as a "mandate" to carry their message. Bills that may have been vetoed by the Governor over the past two legislative sessions may be veto proof moving forward.

That brings back to the table issues such as ta policy and possible constitutional amendments on abortion restrictions and possibly education. The Consensus Revenue Estimating Group will gather on November 6 to look at state finances over the next year-and-a-half. There is an expected \$1.45 billion shortfall in state finances by the end of FY 2021, but the first-quarter returns have all been up. The reason may be from the influx of federal stimulus due to the COVID pandemic. Leadership elections in December will provide some level of clarity on how these proposals as well as budget discussion will move forward. Additionally, the outcomes of the 2020 election will play a significant role in the re-districting process that will stare in 2021, but really pickup momentum 2022.

Wanted



Engaging Youth

Midwest Dairy is invested in creating dairy advocates as well as developing the next generation of dairy leaders. The Kansas Dairy Ambassador Program is a leadership opportunity for students interested in dairy. Dairy Ambassadors will have the opportunity to connect with consumers and share their dairy story while networking with their peers and industry professionals. Deadline to apply is December 1st.

<https://www.midwestdairy.com>

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Biosecurity continued from page 5

Data shows that decreasing linear SCC by one half will increase first lactation production by 200 pounds per lactation and second lactation and greater production by 400 pounds per lactation. his production data speaks to the profitability of implementing sound biosecurity and hygiene practices. If we move back outside to biosecurity around the around the operation, there are areas of opportunity here as well. Are driveways and feed bunkers maintained or are we tracking mud and manure from these areas into the barns and feed alleys? Do we use the same loader bucket to fill the TMR and the manure spreader? What about birds and rodents? Or, maybe you think these aren't a big deal? What if I would tell you that in the mid-1300's the bubonic plaque, carried by rats and fleas, killed one in three Europeans? Currently, COVID has killed 70 out of 100,000 people in the US and we think it is a big deal...maybe rodents and biosecurity are a bigger deal than we think. I don't know that we need to discuss putting face masks on all of our livestock, however, I do think that we could continue discussing other aspects of biosecurity. Yet, in the essence of your time, maybe we will table this discussion for another issue. Maybe then I will have a few answers instead of only questions. Maybe then COVID will be over.

Participating in FARM Animal Care

Open to all U.S. dairy farmers, co-ops and processors, the National Dairy FARM (Farmers Assuring Responsible Management) Program works with dairy farmers, the producer community and industry partners to show customers and consumers that the dairy industry is taking the very best care of cows and the environment, producing safe, wholesome milk and adhering to the highest standards of workforce development. Created by the National Milk Producers Federation in partnership with Dairy Management Inc., FARM helps ensure the success of the entire industry by demonstrating that U.S. dairy farmers are committed to producing the best milk with integrity. FARM is open to all farms, milk processors and cooperatives and program components are guided by their respective advisory groups.

The first step is enrolling in the FARM Animal Care Program, the cornerstone of FARM and the umbrella program for our other FARM silos: **Environmental Stewardship, Antibiotic Stewardship and Workforce Development.** To enroll your organization in FARM Animal Care and/or Environmental Stewardship, please email dairyfarm@nmpf.org.



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Kansas Dairy Selected

World Dairy Expo Tour Farm 2020-21

Congratulations to the Hildebrand Family Dairy for being nominated by the Kansas Department of Agriculture as a sponsored farm for the World Dairy Exposition. The Hildebrand operation was then selected as one of the 8 farms Nationwide as an honoree to be featured through a virtual tour at the 2021 Exposition. The farm, located west of Junction City, care for their herd of Holsteins and bottle in an onsite processing plant. The plant is available for tours and also has a farm store for visitors. The World Dairy Exposition is slated for Sept 28-October 2, 2021 in Madison Wisconsin. To learn more about the Expo, please visit worlddairyexpo.com. Information about the Hildebrand Farm can be found on Facebook or at hildebrandfarmsdairy.com.



The Hildebrand Family take a break from harvest for a photo op. The farm offers a variety of milk flavors including their signature Root Beer. The Farm Store also carries: cream, butter, yogurt, meat and Land of Kansas Products.

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SECOND ROUND OF PAYMENTS THROUGH USDA'S CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced information on the second round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) payments. If you are a producer whose operation has been impacted, you are likely eligible for this second round of direct support. The dairy payment will amount to \$1.20/cwt. on a farm's production during the last nine months of 2020. Dairy payments will be based on actual milk production from April 1 to Aug. 31, 2020. Milk production for Sept. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020, will be estimated by FSA, using daily average production from the April-August base period of known production. For dairy beef, producers are eligible for cattle inventory payment on bull calves and dairy steers, but not for breeding stock. The beef payment is \$55 per head on eligible cattle in inventory on a date selected by the producer between April and the end of August. Click here for a full list of eligible commodities and payment rates. 100 percent of the payment will be made once a farm's eligibility is determined. Dairy operations applying for CFAP 2 must be producing and commercially marketing milk at the time of application. Producers will also have to certify they meet the Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$900,000 unless at least 75 percent of their income is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting CFAP 2 applications now through Dec. 11, 2020. Visit farmers.gov/cfap for more information.



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Upcoming dates

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Dairy Days Seneca

January 28

Dairy Days Whiteside

January 29

Women Managing the Farm

February 10-12



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