



SDSU Extension Set For Convention

BROOKINGS — There will be an SDSU Extension Roundup on Tuesday, Dec. 8, during the South Dakota Cattlemen's Convention held at the Ramkota Inn in Pierre.

The program will run from 5:30-7:30 p.m. (CST). There will be no charge or pre-registration required for the Extension Roundup, however, registration and tickets are required for the other events associated with the S.D. Cattlemen's Convention. Visit www.sd cattlemen.org for further information and packages.

"This program is designed to offer timely information that can be used to make better-informed management decisions," explained Warren Rusche, SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist.

The topics for this year's SDSU Extension Roundup include:

- Protein Effects on Reproductive Efficiency, led by Taylor Grussing, SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist;
- Feedlot & Carcass Data: Making "Cents" and Decisions, led by Dr. Julie Walker, SDSU Extension Beef Specialist;
- Cattle Lameness, led by Dr. Dale Miskimins & Dr. Regg Neiger, SDSU Veterinary Pathologists and Dr. C.A. Owen, Animal Clinic, Ltd;
- 2016 Climate Outlook, led by Dr. Dennis Todey, South Dakota State Climatologist & SDSU Extension Climate Specialist.

For more details on the SDSU Extension Roundup, visit iGrow.org and for more information on the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and Trade Show, visit <http://www.sd cattlemen.org/>.

2016 SDSU Beef 20/20 Slated Jan. 6-8

BROOKINGS — SDSU Extension staff together with the South Dakota State University Animal Science Department faculty and staff are gearing up to host the 2016 BEEF 20/20 program Jan. 6-8, 2016, on the SDSU campus in Brookings.

"BEEF 20/20 is designed to provide an intensive, hands-on, educational opportunity to enhance the understanding of the production and marketing of high quality, high value beef," said Keith Underwood, SDSU Associate Professor of Meat Science.

Attendees do not need to be cattle producers to attend the program. "Anyone affiliated with the beef industry - producers, allied industry representatives, locker operators, restaurateurs, retailers - is welcome," said Amanda Blair, Associate Professor & SDSU Extension Meat Science Specialist.

The 2016 program will begin at 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 6 and will end at noon Jan. 8. Due to the intensive, hands-on nature of the program, registration is limited to the first 30 participants that contact Amanda Blair to register. Registration deadline is Dec. 18, 2015.

Along with informational presentations, the program will include hands-on opportunities with:

- Market Beef Cattle Evaluation: Live animal evaluation is highly subjective, however it is important to know the basic concepts of evaluation from a marketing perspective. Participants in BEEF 20/20 will learn about the aspects of evaluation followed by the opportunity to practice these skills on a group of market cattle.
- Beef Carcass Grading and Pricing: Quality and cutability are the primary determinants of beef cattle pricing structures. Understanding how USDA Quality and Yield Grades are determined is critical to understanding how management and genetic decisions affect those grades and how changes could be made to improve product quality and consistency.
- Beef Carcass Fabrication: BEEF 20/20 participants will experience the process of breaking a side of beef into wholesale (loin, rib, round, chuck, etc.) and retail cuts (ribeye steaks, sirloin roasts, etc.) in a hands-on fabrication workshop. Understanding where different cuts of beef come from, best cooking methods for various cuts and value differences between carcasses enable participants to become better educated about beef selection and in turn will allow them to share this information with consumers.

BEEF 20/20 is sponsored in part by the South Dakota Beef Industry Council through the beef checkoff.

For more information or to register, contact Amanda Blair (605) 394-2236 or amanda.blair@sdstate.edu.

Birds Of A Feather?

Raising Backyard Turkeys, Part 2: The Differences Between Turkey, Chicken Care

BY RITA BRHEL
P&D Correspondent

For backyard chicken owners considering getting into turkeys, there is a significant learning curve to overcome. Besides both having feathers, the two species don't have many commonalities in their care.

"A turkey is not a chicken. They have anatomy, physiology, psychology and environment differences," said David Frame, poultry specialist with Utah State University at Logan, Utah, who spoke during an online November class for backyard poultry owners just getting started with turkeys.

But if poultry producers are able to recognize that turkey production, just as it would be for waterfowl production, has separate requirements from chicken production, they may be able to find enjoyment in raising turkeys – not to mention the potential for a homegrown Thanksgiving dinner next year.

Compared to chickens, turkeys tend to require more intensive care as poults – the term for a young turkey.

"They have a tendency to look for ways to commit suicide more than chickens do, so you have to think about that," Frame said. "It's part of that psychological difference from chickens."

Turkey brooders are set up much like chicken brooders, with a guard high enough for poults not to jump out and to direct heat from the heat lamps overhead to the poults, with several chick-sized feeders and fountain waterers available to the poults – perhaps a few more per head than would be in a chicken brooder as poults seem to have more difficulty identifying feed and water sources than chicks, Frame said.

"Fill feeders to almost overflowing," he added. "The waterers also need to be placed so that the birds have to trip over it to miss it."

With feeders, Frame's research has shown that turkeys prefer the color green over red or unpainted silver metal.

"We found they also like anything that's bright and attractive," he said. "They really like light."

As a follow-up to this research, Frame has found that the best way to help poults find their feed source is to sprinkle cracked corn on top of the poult starter feed, as the poults will peck at the corn to investigate and inadvertently find the feed.

Whenever moving around feeders and waterers in the brooder, he encourages moving the elements very gradually to their new position – no more than 6 inches from their previous location per day – as poults tend to lose their bearings very easily. Poults tend to eat litter when they cannot find the feed, impacting their nutritional health and putting them at risk of plugging up the gizzard.

Besides teaching poults where to find feed and water, "the most important thing is to watch where the birds are," Frame said. "They're very susceptible to temperature, drafts particularly."

As with chicks, if the poults are huddling under the heat lamps, they are too cold and any drafts need to be stopped and the heat lamps need to be lowered to make the brooder warmer. If the poults are around the edges of the brooder, they are too hot and the heat lamps need to raise to cool the brooder.

The average turkey brooder is 4 feet in diameter and round in shape. Corners are avoided because of the risk of bird-induced suffocation.

"Be careful they don't start piling in a corner, because once they start piling,



ILLUSTRATION: METRO GRAPHICS

you'll lose a few," Frame said.

Brooders should also have 4 to 6 inches of bedding, preferably wood shavings. The heat lamps should be positioned about 18 inches above the litter, and thermometer needs to register 100 to 110 degrees Fahrenheit under the lamp and no cooler than 84 degrees at the brooder edge.

Poults also need different feed from chicks.

"Turkeys need more protein than chickens, so chick grower is not suitable," Frame said. "If you can't find turkey starter, try game bird feed. Turkeys tend to be more carnivorous than chickens. That's one of the reasons their feed is higher in protein. They require more meat, particularly when they're younger."

Turkey growers are advised to give a starter feed for 2 to 3 weeks, followed by a grower feed. Some producers will also use a finishing feed. Poults in backyard flocks can also be turned out into gardens or yards to free range for bugs.

As poults grow, Frame suggests switching to from chick feeders to feeders with a lip on the feed dish, to reduce waste.

"You pay good money for that feed," he said. "You want it in the bird."

Not only do poults seem more sensitive than chickens in feeding and brooding, but so are they in handling. Probably because of their commercial breeding for rapid weight gain, turkeys feet and legs are sensitive to injury and susceptible to injuries that can cause sepsis, or blood poisoning.

"Turkeys have wider legs, and their hip joints can come out," Frame said. "Never grab a turkey by one leg."

Turkeys are also more susceptible to

disease than chickens, a species that can even serve as carriers of certain turkey diseases — making poults an unwise addition to existing backyard chicken flocks.

"The respiratory system on turkeys is a little more sensitive than chickens are," Frame

Too much dust and poultry manure, with temperature fluctuations more than 15 degrees, puts poults at risk for aspergillosis and fowl cholera. The presence of chickens, on their own, increases the chance of turkeys contracting mycoplasma gallisepticum and blackhead.

"It's never a good idea to raise turkeys and chickens together, or even on the same place separately," Frame said. "Blackhead is a real serious disease of turkeys. You don't want that to happen to a bird you got a lot of time and money in. If nothing else, this is the one reason why you should not raise chickens with turkeys."

Outside of pathogenic diseases, turkeys are sensitive to impacted crops, when feed and water mix disproportionately in the digestive tract and stop the flow of food.

"It's sort of like a beanbag that swells up," Frame said.

Besides what appears to be a long list of cons, Frame says that turkeys — with proper care that is distinct from keeping chickens — can make an excellent backyard flock that producers find very fulfilling.

"Turkeys are quiet birds," he said. "They're not as noisy as chickens. Turkeys will imprint on you. They'll follow you around. And they're very good at garden and insect control."

After Record Warm Fall, December Forecast Sees More Warmth

BROOKINGS — A record warm autumn ended in a winter storm across South Dakota on the last day of meteorological fall.

"The snow was a large transition with eight weather stations setting new records for warmest fall seasons (September through November) according to preliminary data from the S.D. State Climate Office and National Weather Service," said Dennis Todey, South Dakota State Climatologist & SDSU Extension Climate Specialist. "A warmer-than-average fall season was predicted by the Climate Prediction Center, and that forecast certainly held true for South Dakota this year."

The eight stations recording their warmest fall season were Bison, De Smet, Edgemont, Lemmon, Maurine, Summit, Watertown and Waubay. Another 53 climate stations ranked fall 2015 among the top 10 warmest. Todey said the remaining stations ranked this fall among the top 20 warmest.

November 2015 temperatures overall were not as remarkable. Fewer than 10 stations ranked the month among the top 10 warmest. "About 15 stations across the state ranked in the top 15 warmest on record. Temperatures were closer to average at the end of the month which kept the state away from establishing more records," explained Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist. She explained that the significant snowstorms which hit mid-month and again on the last day of November punctu-

ated the end to autumn.

Sioux Falls set two, single-day snowfall records in the same month. A handful of weather station locations in the southeast, including Sioux Falls airport and Canton, ranked November 2015 among the top five wettest in more than 100 years. Some other stations scattered across South Dakota also landed this November among the top 10 wettest; including Mt. Rushmore, Philip, Pickstown and DeSmet.

Some volunteer weather observers with the CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain Hail & Snow Network www.cocorahs.org) network reported more than 20 inches of snow for the month; including the Nov. 30 to Dec. 1 storm.

There were also dry locations, which have been depicted in the U.S. Drought Monitor as Abnormally Dry (D0) for most of the month, primarily in the northeast and west — with Wasta and Ft. Meade (near Sturgis) ranking November 2015 among the top 10 driest.

CLIMATE FORECAST FOR DECEMBER 2015

"The outlook for December shows relatively high probability of warmer-than-average conditions," Edwards said. "Beginning the week of Nov. 30, the newly fallen snow will quickly melt as warmer temperatures return."

The updated outlook, released Nov. 30, by the National Oceanic Atmospheric

Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center, shows a 60 to 70 percent probability of warmer than average temperatures for December 2015 in northeastern South Dakota, with slightly lower probabilities over the rest of the state.

Northwestern counties are slightly more likely to be drier than average. "This area has had some events come through this fall with

hit-or-miss storms," Edwards explained. "To our south, much of Nebraska is leaning towards wetter than average conditions in December. There remains some possibility of a more active storm pattern which could reach southern or southeastern South Dakota, as we saw with the snow storm a couple of weeks ago that brought several inches of snow to that area."

CLIMATE AND AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP

On Dec. 15, a one-day workshop will bring climate and agriculture together. Edwards and Todey are hosting the event in Mitchell at the Davison County 4-H building, at 3200 West Havens.

They will present climate trends, tools and resources for using climate information

in row crop production, primarily focusing on corn and soybeans. Other presenters from South Dakota State University, SDSU Extension and USDA's Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub will show some best management practices for considering climate in agronomy, insects and plant diseases.

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