

Feedlot Field Day: Management To Improve Cattle Performance and Water Quality

Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources & the Environment (KCARE)
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Cattle producers gathered at the Jaret Moyer feedlot outside Emporia to learn best management practices for cattle health and well being, as well as for protecting and preserving water quality. K-State Watershed Specialists provided practical ideas to meet environmental expectations and protect Kansas waters.

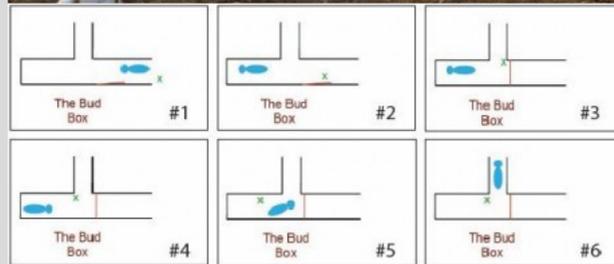


What Is KCARE?

Kansas State University established KCARE to coordinate and enhance research, extension, and teaching activities pertaining to environmental issues related to agriculture. Our projects examine water management issues, water quality, prairie ecosystem maintenance, fertilizer research, and the effects of climate change on beef cattle production in the Southern Great Plains.

KCARE forges partnerships between K-State scientists and other research institutions to create quality solutions for the environmental issues our state faces now and into the future. Our projects examine current issues and create new innovations to offset the changing landscape; together, we can help Kansas agriculture remain successful and sustainable.

Healthy Handling



Bud Box diagram courtesy of Penn State University

The feedlot field day demonstrated the use of a Bud Box, which enables low-stress handling while increasing safety for both cattle and handlers. Reducing cattle stress gives the best response to vaccines.

Non-Confined Feeding



Non-confined feeding areas should be located at least 100 feet from streams or drainage way. Place bunks on a ridge, with water from the bunk area draining away from the feed road. An alternative water source may need to be developed in crop fields.



We want to put our experience and expertise to work for the benefit of your operation. K-State Watershed specialists assist cattle producers to ensure surface water quality meets state standards. Visit the KCARE website, www.kcare.k-state.edu to find out if there is a specialist in your area.

Keeping Pens Clean



Clean pens reduce flies, excess nutrients, and mud and manure accumulation. Producers then can apply collected manure to crop fields at agronomic rates. Four to eight inches of mud reduces feed intake by 8-15 percent, daily gain by 14 percent, and feed efficiency by 13 percent.

Feeding Pen Site Selection



Select the best location for feeding pen sites. Exclude extraneous drainage from entering the feeding pen. Maintain a dense stand of grass buffer downslope of the pen; drainage should flow evenly across the buffer area to allow maximum infiltration. Consider the slope, soils and separation from any nearby water bodies.

