



## Weather data for animal decisions

*Article submitted by Chip Redmond, Mesonet Manager, Kansas State University*

Nestled in a quiet corner of a nearby field, an unassuming bit of equipment quietly goes about its business, collecting essential weather data. The information feeds into the Weather Data Library at Kansas State University where it's archived and available free to the public. A network of 78 weather stations across the state make up the Kansas Mesonet ([mesonet.ksu.edu](http://mesonet.ksu.edu)), a long-term, standardized network that collects weather and climate data.

The Mesonet is the only network in the state that collects data driven for agriculture — including solar radiation, soil temperatures, and soil moisture among other basic weather parameters. However, data is also used extensively by emergency personnel, veterinarians, science teachers, construction companies, gardeners, watershed managers and anyone interested in current and historical Kansas climate/weather information.

During the summer months, heat stress on animals and people are especially of concern. The Mesonet's website incorporates the recorded data into real-time and historical tools including Animal Comfort ([mesonet.ksu.edu/agriculture/animal](http://mesonet.ksu.edu/agriculture/animal)). This tool is excellent for animal managers to evaluate the current stress as a result of temperatures, humidity, wind, and solar radiation.

Other times of the year, especially during calving, cooler weather and moisture is a bigger concern. You can assess precipitation compared to normal on the Daily Totals tool ([mesonet.ksu.edu/precip/daily](http://mesonet.ksu.edu/precip/daily)) and also utilize the historical data access portal to evaluate other periods of interest ([mesonet.ksu.edu/weather/historical](http://mesonet.ksu.edu/weather/historical)). Lastly, the Animal Comfort tool also considers the cold side of the spectrum and is a year-round tool in the toolbox.

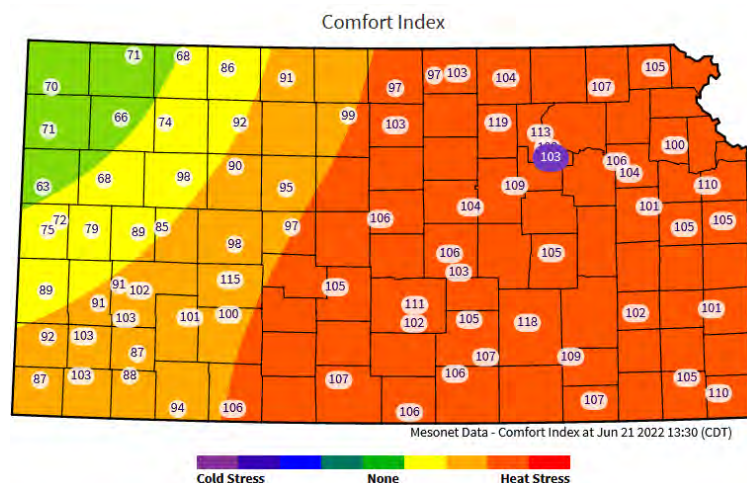
For additional information, reach out to the Mesonet Manager: Chip Redmond, [christopherredmond@ksu.edu](mailto:christopherredmond@ksu.edu) or visit: [mesonet.k-state.edu](http://mesonet.k-state.edu).



### Division of Animal Health

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## Field Veterinarian Dr. Paul Grosdidier Retires

After nearly 31 years working for the State of Kansas, Dr. Paul Grosdidier, Northeast Field Veterinarian, turned in his vet truck keys. His career included disease eradication and working overseas, regulation overhauls, and an absolute dedication to his profession.

After nine years in private practice Dr. Paul, as so many know him, joined the Kansas Animal Health Department in October of 1991, primarily to aid in the eradication of brucellosis in cattle and pseudorabies in swine, and to serve as a veterinary consultant for the Animal Facilities Inspection Program.

Early career highlights included cleaning up the last brucellosis infected cow herd and the last pseudorabies swine herd. Following these accomplishments, USDA assigned Kansas the Free status for each disease by July of 1999.

Dr. Paul was deployed to England during the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in 2001 and to California during the exotic Newcastle disease (END) outbreak in 2003.

Efforts to write regulations and oversee the growing Kansas cervid program were led by Dr. Paul. He also wrote the original scrapie regulations. More recently, he led the animal health regulations working group to revise outdated regulations.

Dr. Paul leaves the KDA Division of Animal Health as the last employee to have witnessed brucellosis in cattle, pseudorabies in swine, tuberculosis in elk, and scrapie in sheep.

The Division of Animal Health hosted a reception in April to send him into retirement with extreme respect and appreciation for his passion and 40-year commitment to the Kansas livestock industry.



Pictured above: Dr. Gerald Gibson, retired Southwest Kansas Field Veterinarian; Dr. Bill Brown, retired Kansas Animal Health Commissioner; Dr. Paul Grosdidier, retired Northeast Kansas Field Veterinarian.



Pictured above: Dr. Andy Hawkins, USDA-APHIS-VS Epidemiologist and former Assistant Animal Health Commissioner; Dr. Paul Grosdidier, retired Northeast Kansas Field Veterinarian.

Pictured at left: Dr. Paul Grosdidier, retired Northeast Kansas Field Veterinarian; Dr. Bill Bryant, retired Field Veterinarian, Dr. Rick Tanner, USDA-APHIS-VS Kansas AVIC.





## Regional Beef Packer Meeting Well Attended

The Regional Beef Packer Meeting was held May 3-4, 2022, in Kansas City, Missouri, where 46 stakeholders gathered to discuss the packing industry's perspective and impact of a potential foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak affecting beef cattle. Attendees from 11 states represented the beef packing industry, livestock transporters, national and state livestock industry associations, renderers, state and federal animal health agencies, and academia. The event was hosted by the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health (KDA-DAH) with funding from USDA National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Planning (NADPRP). The six-state region includes Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The meeting's goal was to further the development and implementation of the Secure Beef Supply (SBS) Plan with a focus on the beef packer industry for Continuity of Business during a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak. Each state invited participants and requested they submit questions to be addressed during the meeting. Presentations were created using existing resources, submitted questions, and posed additional questions for the group. The meeting was primarily a facilitated

discussion allowing stakeholders to learn and share perspectives on FMD response activities and business continuity challenges and opportunities.

Attendees were provided with resources about the SBS Plan, FMD virus, and FAD guidance created by the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) for packers. To receive these resources, please contact Kelly Oliver at 785-473-6547 or [Kelly.Oliver@ks.gov](mailto:Kelly.Oliver@ks.gov).



Kansas Animal Health Commissioner Dr. Justin Smith charged the group with candid discussions to help move the industry forward with preparation for disease outbreaks.

## New CVI Available

Funded in part by KDA-DAH, the Vet-CVI is an electronic health certificate program offered in both mobile and desktop applications. This app is offered free to accredited veterinarians.

- It is approved for submitting certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs) to all U.S. states.
- You can connect an existing email address book for auto-fill options.
- There is a clone option for quick submissions.
- Once completed, it has immediate submission to state animal health officials.
- CVIs may be easily shared with clients.
- Download Vet-CVI in the app store for your device or computer.



### THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE **FAD EXERCISE**

**SAVE THE DATE**      **DECEMBER 12-14, 2022**

Please contact us if you are interested in playing at any level.  
[Nathan Brown](mailto:Nathan.Brown@ks.gov) | [Nathan.Brown@ks.gov](mailto:Nathan.Brown@ks.gov) | 785-564-7468

**DECEMBER 12-14, 2022**      **SAVE THE DATE**

### SMALL ANIMAL FACILITIES WEBINAR

Welcome to  
**Behavior and Enrichment in Animal Facilities**

**Click to view the webinar**      **Hayley Barkoviak, DVM**  
Kansas State University  
College of Veterinary Medicine

# KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS

## Get started with a FREE Secure Food Supply plan in Kansas

1. Contact the KDA Secure Food Supply specialist to begin the process of working on a plan. You will need a Premises Identification Number (PIN) that is free and confidential to get started.
2. Schedule an employee orientation with key operation personnel and a KDA representative to begin developing your plan.
3. Once your plan is finalized, train employees as outlined in the plan.
4. Complete yearly assessments with KDA to update your plan if needed.
5. Exercise your plan through a site-specific drill, exercise, tabletop, or through participation in the annual KDA foreign animal disease functional exercise.



For questions or to start a plan, please contact:

Kelly Oliver  
785-564-6608  
Kelly.Oliver@ks.gov

## Welcome New Employees, Student Workers



**Taylor Falkenstine**  
Student Worker



**Dr. Elsie McCoy**  
Field Veterinarian,  
Northeast Kansas



**Angie Melchor**  
Student Worker



**Sara Washee**  
AFI Inspector,  
Central Kansas

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# KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS

## Compost Training Provides Subject Matter Experts

Specialized training is required to qualify as a USDA Large-scale Livestock Mortality Compost Subject Matter Expert (SME), utilized during disease outbreaks. Participants in the two-part SME Training reconvened to complete their requirements in April.

The series began in Hays in Spring 2022, with a 3-day course. To complete the training, participants met for two weeks in Hutchinson for classwork and traveled to nearby Mizell Farms Inc. for hands-on livestock mortality composting.

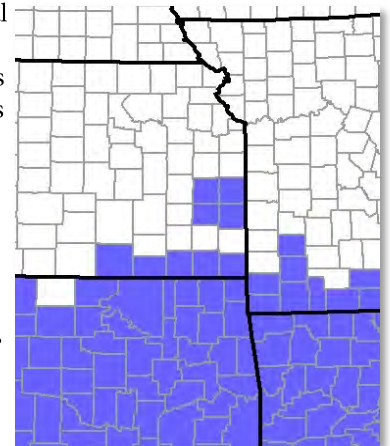


Participants pictured left to right: Dr. LewAnn Schneider, North Central Kansas VMO, USDA-APHIS -VS; Tim Yingst, Seaboard Foods; Dr. Shelley Oelkers, North Central Kansas VMO, USDA-APHIS-VS; Sara Ford, Kansas Emergency Coordinator, USDA-APHIS-VS; Ken Powell, Compost SME and Trainer, Retired KDHE; Wendie Powell, Wildcat District Extension Agent, K-State Research and Extension.

## Feral Swine Numbers Decreasing in Kansas

Here in Kansas, officials report feral swine numbers are decreasing and that's great news for farmers and ranchers, especially in Southeast Kansas.

Efforts to decrease the feral swine population are led by USDA Wildlife Services (WS), although state funds are also allocated annually to support the program. It's an ongoing battle as it's estimated feral swine populations double every five to seven years without control efforts. Since 2006, WS eradicated 12 distinct populations and removed over 10,000 feral swine in Kansas. Currently, WS removes around 500 pigs annually in Kansas.



2021 Feral swine populations by county. Source: [USDA-APHIS](#)

The greatest pressure is from feral swine moving into the southern counties from Oklahoma and Missouri. Efforts are focused greatly in that area, although WS investigates all reports of feral swine in the state. Prevention is key to maintaining low feral swine numbers.

USDA is creating videos for the series "Feral Swine in America," chronicling feral swine damage and its impact on livelihoods and ecosystems. To view currently published videos, [click here](#).

To report feral swine activity, contact Curran Salter, Wildlife Biologist, USDA-WS, at 620-260-7432 or [gregory.c.salter@usda.gov](mailto:gregory.c.salter@usda.gov).

## USDA's Free RFID Tags Continue

USDA continues distributing free low frequency RFID ear tags for the reproductive animals of the cow herd. Orders must be placed by an accredited veterinarian. Order soon as tags are limited. When placing the order, request a one-year supply. No stockpiling is allowed.

For additional details and to order tags, contact:

**Karaline Mayer** — [Karaline.Mayer@ks.gov](mailto:Karaline.Mayer@ks.gov), 785-313-0266

**Kelly McDonald** — [Kelly.McDonald@usda.gov](mailto:Kelly.McDonald@usda.gov), 785-228-6579

**Lindy Trapp** — [Lindy.Trapp@usda.gov](mailto:Lindy.Trapp@usda.gov), 785-250-7830

## Swine Exercise Hosted in Kansas

Source: *VS National Training and Exercise Program*

The National Pork Board (NPB) sponsored several full-scale state emergency preparedness exercises in 2022, partnering with five states. The exercises spanned four days, each starting with a foreign animal disease investigation and concluding with depopulation and disposal. Kansas was first to host in March.

The goals of the exercises were to:

1. Practice a foreign animal disease investigation (FADI) on a hog farm.
2. Provide an environment where a state can practice its depopulation and disposal planning processes and activities in a real-world situation.
3. Increase stakeholder understanding and build producer confidence in a state's FADI and in its depopulation and disposal activities.
4. Explore how National Pork Board's AgView traceability platform can be used to augment a FADI or a subsequent epidemiological investigation.

The FAD exercise project was funded by the Pork Checkoff and was implemented under its Local, Regional FAD Prevention and Preparedness initiative. Keeping African Swine Fever (ASF) out of the U.S. and preparing for any foreign animal disease like ASF remains a top priority for NPB in 2022 as identified by its producer leadership.

In Kansas, the NPB-sponsored exercise was held in collaboration with Kansas Pork Association, KDA, and local, state, and federal agencies and institutions. This was the first time a full-scale exercise was implemented, putting all of the pieces together.

Day 1 focused on the processes and procedures associated with a host producer and/or their herd veterinarian suspecting and reporting a FAD.

Day 2 focused on depopulation and disposal planning, including the development of a herd plan and the settlement of indemnity for the affected operation.

Day 3 was devoted to site preparation for depopulation and disposal. The day involved staging supplies, equipment, and animals as well as setting up site security. Approximately 100 cull sows were used for the exercise.

Day 4 focused on implementing the depopulation and disposal plans developed by the state.

## Monkeypox Outbreak in the U.S.

Source: *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*

Monkeypox is a zoonotic disease, meaning that it can spread between animals and people, and is caused by Monkeypox virus, an Orthopoxvirus. While the host animal is unknown, small mammals are thought to maintain the virus in the environments of West and Central Africa. People can get infected with the virus through direct contact with infected animals. Small mammals can carry the virus, sometimes without apparent symptoms, while non-human primates can get sick with monkeypox and have signs of disease like humans.

In 2003, an outbreak of monkeypox in domesticated prairie dogs occurred after they shared bedding and caging with a shipment of infected small mammals from West Africa. This led to 47 human cases in 6 states in the United States. Instances of animal-to-animal and animal-to-person spread, such as the 2003 outbreak, demonstrate the need to reduce the risk of secondary infections to and from animals by isolating infected people as well as exposed and infected animals.

As a result of the 2003 outbreak, Kansas implemented a ban on the ownership and sale of prairie dogs. This prohibition remains in place.

Current status of monkeypox in the United States:

- CDC is tracking multiple cases of monkeypox that have been reported in several countries that don't normally report monkeypox, including the U.S.
- CDC is urging health care providers in the U.S. to be alert for patients who have rash illnesses consistent with monkeypox.
- Monkeypox is rare and does not spread easily between people without close contact. The threat of monkeypox to the general U.S. population remains **low**.
- Veterinarians should consider all mammals susceptible to monkeypox and be aware of how the disease transmits from animal to animal. Veterinarians who decide to treat animals with suspected monkeypox should use infection control precautions to protect themselves, staff, and clients, as well as other animal patients in the clinic.



# KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS

## Avian Influenza Impact in Kansas

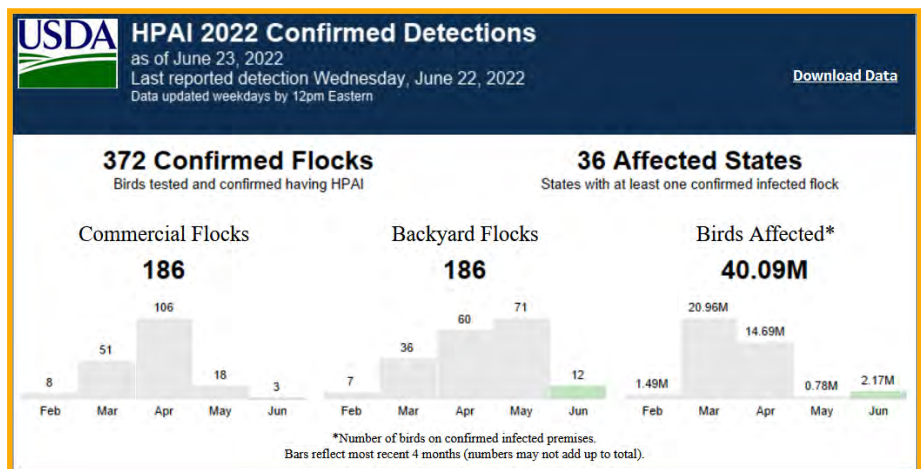
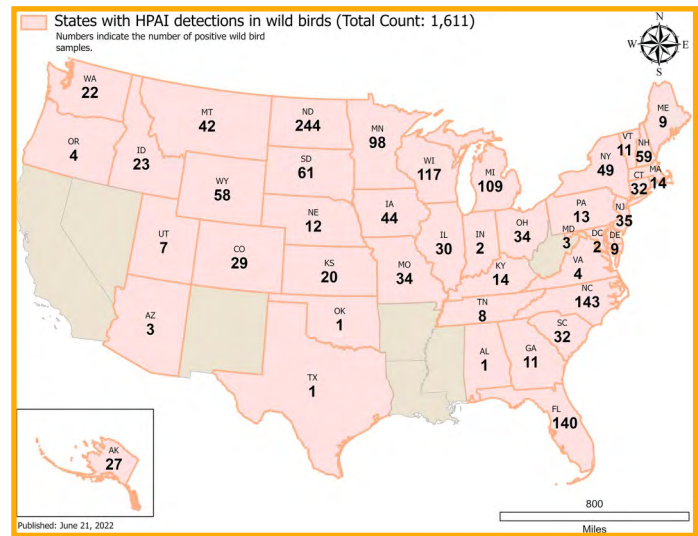
Kansas experienced positive cases during the 2022 outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The first case was confirmed in a non-commercial backyard flock consisting of a mix of birds, including chickens, turkeys, ducks, peafowl and geese on March 10. This was the first of six cases in Kansas. H5N1 HPAI was confirmed in a total of five backyard flocks and one commercial turkey operation.

All infected flocks were reported to the KDA Division of Animal Health (KDA-DAH) by the flock owners indicating significant death loss and birds appearing clinically sick. Upon laboratory confirmation, the animal health team responded with the goal of stopping the spread of the virus by quarantining the premises, and euthanizing and properly disposing all of the susceptible birds. A 10-kilometer control zone was established around each of the infected premises and farms within the control zones were contacted. Each of the confirmed positive backyard flocks were disposed by on-site burial while the commercial turkey operation used composting.

Unlike the last major outbreak in 2015, this year most of the spread between facilities was the result of exposure to significant virus loads in the wild bird population and point source infection. This contrasts with the major method of infection in 2015 being lateral spread (virus being spread from facility to facility). This is a testament to the effectiveness of enhanced biosecurity plans. Each of the Kansas cases was determined to be an isolated infection, with genetic sequencing of the virus indicating it was derived from a North American wild bird lineage and was not the result of farm-to-farm spread.

The last case diagnosed in Kansas was on April 26. All control zone quarantines have been removed. KDA-DAH continues to respond to sick bird calls from concerned flock owners, but

all recent investigations have been negative. Dry, hot conditions should dramatically reduce the virus load that is in the environment; however, experts warn that this virus is not completely eliminated and likely will show up again this fall.



## Free Online Continuing Education for Veterinarians

Source: Iowa State University

The Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH) at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine is offering free online continuing education to veterinarians, veterinary technicians, animal health professionals, and others interested in biosecurity in livestock and poultry production. There are two course options. [Register here!](#)

- **Basic course:** principles of biosecurity and biosecurity risks like personnel, animals, and vectors. It is RACE®-approved for 3 CE hours for veterinarians and veterinary technicians.
- **Advanced course:** covers all information from the basic course plus topics including risk assessment and writing/implementing a biosecurity plan. It is RACE®-approved for 6 CE hours for veterinarians and veterinary technicians.



# KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS



## Kansas AG SUMMIT

GROW SMARTER. GROW STRONGER. GROW KANSAS.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is looking forward to hosting the seventh annual Kansas Governor's Summit on Agricultural Growth on August 18, 2022, at the Manhattan Conference Center in Manhattan. The Summit hosts Kansas farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses and invites them to work together in a collaborative setting to discuss growing the agriculture industry in Kansas.

Please join us and agriculture leaders from across the state as we share ideas about how we can work together to expand opportunities for Kansas agriculture.

We will kick off the Summit with an optional social event the evening before the main event. Details for this event are still being worked out, but please mark your calendar for the evening of August 17, 2022, in Manhattan, Kansas.

Visit [agriculture.ks.gov/summit](https://agriculture.ks.gov/summit) for more information as it becomes available.

**AUGUST 18, 2022**

**2022 Kansas Governor's Summit on Agricultural Growth  
Manhattan Conference Center  
Manhattan, Kansas**

**[ REGISTER NOW ]**

A social event will be held the evening of August 17 in Manhattan.  
Details will be posted on our website as they become available.

Come early and  
join us for the  
social event!  
**AUGUST 17**

[agriculture.ks.gov/summit](https://agriculture.ks.gov/summit)