

Kansas Cattlemen's Association

For Immediate Release

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Steve Westin Stresses Importance of Calcium At Crop Production Class

By: Tyler Bowser

Kansas Natives Perry Owens of Ottawa County Feeders and Joe Knopp of Midstates Consulting hosted Steve Westin, a soil techniques private consultant in Minneapolis, KS on June 11. Westin led a class discussion based on calcium levels in crop soils. The crop production class and field day was held at the Ottawa County Extension Office and described the importance of a balanced mineral level in soils.

Westin told the audience how adding calcium can improve the soil and can ultimately improve overall crop yield. According to Westin, an improper balance of minerals in the soil can lead to unhealthy crops, less harvest per acreage and younger plant and field life. Instead of adding just phosphorous and nitrogen as fertilizers, Westin suggested adding calcium as well.

"The number one problem with soil today is calcium and that's because no one knows how to use it," Westin said. "Everyone and everything needs more calcium. It is the most under-rated and under-appreciated mineral in the world."

Westin received a degree in Geology from the University of San Diego and since then has conducted research as a petroleum engineer and studied the Theory of Ionization with Dr. Carey Reams. He has recently traveled across the country teaching sessions about his work and soil techniques to interested farmers and producers.