



Agriculture

CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS

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March 2018

Upcoming Events

March

- 24** Sheep Production Workshop, Clay Center
- 27-** Mid-America Farm
- 29** Expo, Salina

April

- 14** Central Kansas Spring Beef Show, Salina

May

- 24** CKD Wheat Plot Tours, Saline and Ottawa Co.
- 29** Hazardous Occupations Training, Salina

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Research and Extension

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Sheep Production Workshop



Date: Saturday March 24

Place: United Methodist Church 921 5th Street Clay Center, Kansas

Cost: \$10 RSVP by March 14 for the Meal Count 785-325-2121

Speakers and Topics

Bridger Feuz: Sheep cost of production and economic tools

Barton Stam: Match your range and pasture with ewes needs

Hudson Hill: Risk Management Tools used for sheep production

Speakers are from the University of Wyoming

The event is partly funded in partnership by USDA, Risk Management Agency.

Last Call for Dicamba Training

If you are planning to purchase and apply one of the low vapor dicamba herbicides (Engenia, FeXapan, or XtendiMax) you will need to attend a training session conducted by K-State Research & Extension or one of the chemical companies to become certified. You will also need to be certified as private pesticide applicator or a 1A (Agriculture Plant) commercial pesticide applicator since these dicamba products are Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP's).

Many of you have already attend a dicamba certification training and have received your certification card, but I have had a few farmers call who have not yet been certified. So, don't wait. A couple of nearby dicamba certification trainings yet to be held are in Junction City (March 14) and Hutchinson (March 23). Call Tom ASAP for preregistration details.

**MID AMERICA FARM EXPO –
SALINA**

March 27, 28 & 29, 2018

Tony's Pizza Events Center and Saline
County Livestock & Expo Center
Salina, KS

EXPO HOURS

9am – 5 pm, March 27 & 28

9am – 4 pm, March 29

Tuesday, March 27

Cattle Handling

10 -11:30am & 1:30 -3pm

Agricultural Hall

Conducted by: Curt Pate

Sponsored by: Farmers & Ranchers
Livestock, Salina

Wednesday, March 28

Estate/Succession Planning Overview

10 – 11:30am; 4-H Building

Discussion moderated by KFRM. Panel
includes representatives from Norton,
Wasserman, Jones & Kelly, and
Kansas Farm Management.

**Estate/Succession Planning Detailed
Discussion**

1:30 – 3pm; 4-H Building

Discussion moderated by KFRM. Panel
includes representatives from Norton,
Wasserman, Jones & Kelly, and
Kansas Farm Management.

Thursday, March 29

**Livestock and Grain Marketing
Outlook**

10 – 11:30am; 4-H Building

Conducted by: Darrell Holaday
Country Futures
Sponsored by: American AgCredit

Happening Daily!

Free well water testing*

10am – 2pm; Tony's Pizza Events Center

*Testing for nitrate and chloride. Bring 1 cup
of water in clean, disposable container.

Sponsored by: Saline County Environmental
Services

Free parking, free admission.



Hazardous Occupations

Training

Date: Tuesday, May 29, 2018

Time: 8:30 – 4:00pm

Location: Welcome Center/ K-State
Polytechnic Salina, KS

Directions: From the I-135/Magnolia Rd.
exit go west on Magnolia Rd. to
Centennial Rd., turn left,
continue south to Beechcraft
Rd. then turn right, finally turn
right onto Scanlan Ave.
Welcome Center is on your
right.

Who: 14 & 15 year old youth operating
a tractor of 20 horsepower or
more on a farm other than of
their legal guardian.

Cost: \$15.00; pre-register by Friday,
May 11th at local Extension
offices:
Salina Office, 2218 Scanlan
Ave., 785-309-5850
Minneapolis Office, 307 N.
Concord, 785-392-2147

Soil pH, Liming and Cover Crops

Many Kansas soils require periodic applications of ag lime, or other materials for optimum crop production. Liming has several beneficial effects: 1) it reduces harmful or potentially toxic conditions which can develop in acid soils, especially aluminum toxicity; 2) it increases the availability of some nutrients; 3) it replaces the supply of calcium and magnesium essential for plant growth (these nutrients are depleted as soils become acid); 4) it ensures favorable conditions for the activity of certain herbicides such as atrazine; and 5) it provides a suitable environment for microbial activity.

As we begin to explore the use of cover crops on our fields to improve soil health, remember point #5 above. Liming is the quickest and easiest way to improve the soils chemical and physical properties and provide a suitable environment for microbial activity. Yet, liming often is not given the same level of attention as cover crops for soil improvement. Frankly, liming is not sexy. Cover crops are much more exciting to talk about! But, if your chemical foundation is not good, i.e., low pH, growing a cover crop may not work as well as it could or it may take longer until we provide the conditions for the biology behind cover crops to work. When I visit with farmers about using cover crops on their farm, usually the first piece of information that is helpful to know is their soil pH. In order for microbial activity to improve soil health and increase organic matter, we need to supply the right “chemistry” in the form of ag lime if needed.

Soil sampling is an excellent tool to assess soil pH and the use of grid sampling can more precisely show where ag lime is needed the most. Once we correct the chemical properties of the

soil, cover crops can provide the proper environment for microbes to do their amazing job of improving soil health.

Tom Maxwell, Crop production agent

K-State 2018 Chemical Weed Control Guide now available

The new K-State 2018 Chemical Weed Control Guide is now available at both CKD offices. It is also available online at:

<https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/chemweedguide.pdf>



This publication provides herbicide recommendations for weed control in field crops, pastures, rangeland, and noncropland. Pick up a copy today.

New Livestock Agent

Cade Rensink returns to the Central Kansas Extension the last week of March as the District’s Livestock Agent. This is a position Cade held 7 years ago before going into banking. We are looking forward to his return to the Central Kansas District team of agents. Stop in and welcome Cade back.



**Central Kansas Extension District
Salina Office**

K-State Polytechnic
2218 Scanlan Ave
Salina, KS 67401-8196

Address Service Requested

The enclosed material is for your information. If we can be of further assistance, feel free to call or drop by the Extension Office.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Maxwell
District Extension Agent
Crop Production
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