



Agriculture

CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS

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April 2018

Upcoming Events

April

- 19** Ottawa and Saline Co.
KLA meeting, Smolan
- 23** Southern Plains
Drought Webinar Series

May

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

One Block North

As many of you read in the newsletter last month, I'm back – and I couldn't be more excited about it. My anticipation has been building for some time. As I told the other agents, I was disappointed to see Anthony depart for his new position on campus back in December, but I would be lying if I didn't say that I was also overjoyed. I tell you this to convey how much I adored being in this role previously and that I find a great deal of satisfaction in the work that we do as Extension professionals. I very much enjoyed my time at the bank, learned a tremendous amount, and got the opportunity to work with some awesome people there. However, I feel that being an Extension agent is my true calling and now that I've got the office desk turned back 90 degrees and my Hula Pig in its designated post, I find myself back riding that proverbial bicycle – albeit a little wobbly right now.

Some might find the title of this piece to be a bit odd. What is "One Block North"? Well, the story behind it came from none other than my youngest son who, the evening I was working on my presentation for my interview, I had asked where he wanted to go for his birthday that would be in a few days. His standard answer was "I dunno. Where do you wanna go?" Since I had the interview on my brain, I simply replied "back to the Extension Office". He looked at me funny and asked "how do you get there?" His timing couldn't have been more perfect as I was struggling to word a title for my slide show and I told him "one block north of the bank". Needless to say, that kinda cemented the opening slide of my presentation because one block north is where I wanted to be.

Colyer's simple questions of "where do you wanna go" and "how do you get there" are the same exact questions that I loved to ask as a lender and will continue to ask as an Extension agent. My goal is to find out where you want your operations to go and to have a role in helping you get there. "One Block North" is simply an analogy of where it is that you ultimately want to be.

I want to thank all of you that have called or stopped in the last couple of weeks to offer a warm welcome. It's been great to see many of you again and meet others for the first time. I will forewarn those of you with questions that until I get the chain of my bicycle oiled and the tires pumped up, like my son, I may have to answer "I dunno". Please know, though, that I will try my hardest to find an answer, locate a resource, or formulate a solution to help you get One Block North.

Cade Rensink, Livestock Production Agent

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Research and Extension

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

2018 CKD Wheat Variety Plot Tours

Thursday, May 24, 2018

8:30 a.m. – Tom, Pat & Luke Ryan – Solomon, KS

Plot is located 3 miles west of Solomon on Old Hwy 40, then 2 ½ miles south on Gypsum Valley Rd.

11:00 a.m. – Vaughn Isaacson & Sons – Mentor, KS

Plot is located ½ mile west of Mentor at intersection of Old Hwy 81/Mentor Rd.

Noon – A complimentary meal will be served courtesy of Phillips Seed Farms, Inc.

2:00 p.m. – Tim & Ryan Myers – Minneapolis, KS

Plot is located 1 ½ miles west of K-106 Hwy on Justice Rd.

Speakers:

Romulo Lollato, Extension wheat specialist
Erick DeWolf, Extension plant pathologist
Tom Maxwell, District Extension agent

Topics:

*Wheat variety selection, agronomic traits and production practices

*Diseases in the 2018 wheat crop and management practices

All wheat growers, landowners and other interested persons are invited to attend. No RSVP needed. New purple variety signs have been ordered and they should be up by May 1st, so stop by and take a look before the tour. For more information contact Tom Maxwell at 785.309.5850.

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

A



View From The Basement

One of the perks of being an Extension agent in the Minneapolis Office is that I get to work in a basement. Even when I was an agent in Coffey County, I was blessed to be able to work in the basement of the courthouse in Burlington.

Now, most of you are probably wondering how in the world working in a basement is considered a perk. For me, the view from a basement forces optimism. When I look out my office window, I look Up. At the end of the day, I walk Up the stairs. You see, when you're in the basement, there's nowhere to go but Up.

I think this is especially important as it relates to where we are in the ag economy today. Many would argue that, while there are a few bright spots, we are pretty much in the basement. No doubt, we have been experiencing some tough times in farming and ranching with depressed markets, dry weather, and political chaos. There seems to be plenty of struggle, stress, and, unfortunately, even some surrender. Yet, I would encourage optimism as there's nowhere to go, but Up. We just need to take the appropriate steps to get There.

I have a book right under my office light switch called Cowboy Ethics – What Wall Street Can Learn from the Code of the West. The author, James Owen, outlines 10 principles that he encourages the wolves of Wall Street to adopt and operate by. By no means am I trying to put any of you in the same boat as those working in New York, but I pulled three of those codes that I feel apply to where we are at right now in farming and ranching and what we need to be considering in our course of action. In no particular order they are: *Live Each Day with Courage*, *Do What Has to be Done*, and *Know Where to Draw the Line*.

I won't spend a lot of time elaborating on these, but do have a few comments. Each of you al-

ready live each day with courage. Otherwise, you wouldn't be doing what you're doing. Many have a take on the second code as "*Do What Has Always Been Done*", which should not be the case nowadays. The code says "*Do What Has to be Done*" and it may just mean abandoning tradition in order to survive. Lastly, I've been told that when you're riding through hell, keep riding. We just talked about doing what has to be done, but I would advise to also know where to draw the line. Keep in mind that the first Law of Holes is that if you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

Fundamentally, I think these three codes are the necessary steps to take in order to go Up. I recognize that it may be difficult for some to glean any optimism right now, but we have to realize that, in challenging times, the optimism is in the opportunity. The opportunity to ask questions and learn more about what you're doing and how to improve or maybe find out that you're better-suited doing something else. K-State Research & Extension has a tremendous amount of resources and programs that can guide you in doing what has to be done and also knowing where to draw the line.

If you think you're stuck on the elevator on the way down or actually in the basement, just turn right, come in the office and we'll see if we can help you find the stairs. Just know that there is a silver lining in every situation, but you will have to be courageous in order to find it. I'm not sure K-State can help much in the courage department, but whether you're in the basement or not, I do know where one can look to find it – Up.

Cade Rensink, Livestock Production Agent
Scout Wheat Fields For Freeze

Injury and Foliar Diseases

Drought conditions and a series of spring freezes has hampered the 2018 wheat crop and some

fields are showing varying degrees of visual injury from these conditions. As of this date (4/16/18) most of the freeze injury is showing up as burned leaves and wilting. Some of the wheat in Ottawa and Saline County was jointed when the freeze events occurred on April 4th and 7th. However, the majority of our wheat was jointed when the April 15-16 temps got down to 24 degrees or less for 10 hours according to the K-State Mesonet station at Gypsum. We will need a week or two for the symptoms to develop and to be able to evaluate damage to the growing points (developing heads). Jointed wheat can suffer yield loss at temperatures of 24 degrees for 2 hours and we were certainly at or below that temperature threshold on April 15-16.

Stripe rust has been identified in SE Kansas at low levels, but I have not found any disease problems of concern in the wheat in CKD yet. Daytime temps of 70 degrees and overnight lows of 40-50 degrees with 3-4 hours of wet leaf surfaces from morning dews are ideal conditions for stripe rust to develop on wheat leaves. Obviously we have not had those conditions here yet. K-State plant pathologist Erick DeWolf is thinking that the risk of wheat foliar diseases is low-moderate this year, simply because of the dry conditions south of us in Texas and Oklahoma and the fact that the incidence of stripe rust and leaf rust there is low. We will need to continue scouting for fungal diseases as this crop develops and manage foliar diseases with fungicide application if needed. Meanwhile, we will remain hopeful that rain comes soon for the 2018 wheat crop.

Tom Maxwell, Crop Production Agent

Soil-applied residual herbicide options for soybeans

With the introduction and use of new herbicide-resistant technologies in soybeans, it will be important to utilize an integrated weed management system that includes soil-applied residual herbicides to optimize weed control and sustain

the technology.

Broadly speaking, there are many good reasons to use a soil-applied residual herbicide for soybeans, including:

- Get early-season control of weeds and grasses to minimize early-season weed competition.
- Provide more flexibility with postemergence treatment timing.
- Provide additional herbicide sites of action to help manage and slow the development of herbicide resistant weeds.
- Help reduce the weed seed-bank over time.

There are a number of good soil-applied residual herbicide options for soybeans depending on the primary target weeds.

Pigweeds (including waterhemp and Palmer amaranth). Glyphosate-resistant waterhemp and Palmer amaranth are now fairly common in many fields throughout Kansas. Pigweed emergence will generally start in April but the greatest amount of emergence will occur in May and June. Preemergence or burndown-plus-residual herbicide applications will need to be targeted before pigweed has emerged or while it is still at small growth stages.

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For early-season pigweed control, the Valor-based herbicides (Valor SX, Valor XLT, Rowel, Encompass, Outflank, Panther, Fierce, Fierce XLT, Gangster, Surveil, Trivence, Afforia, Enlive, and Enlite) and Authority-based herbicides (Authority First, Sonic, Authority Assist, Authority MTZ, Authority Maxx, Authority Elite, Blanket, Broadaxe XC, Spartan, and Spartan Elite) can all provide very good to excellent con-

trol to supplement a postemergence program. If glyphosate-resistant pigweed is suspected, higher use rates may be required to give adequate residual control.

Prefix, Zidua, Zidua Pro, and Anthem, are other excellent “foundation” herbicides for residual pigweed control in soybeans. Metribuzin, Warrant, Dual, Boundary, Outlook, and Prowl products can also provide some early-season pigweed control, but may not provide as much residual control as those previously mentioned products. Split applications of overlapping residual herbicides -- early preplant and at-planting or early postemergence -- may be the best approach to manage glyphosate-resistant pigweed in no-till systems.

Marestail. Marestail is probably the most widespread glyphosate-resistant weed in Kansas. Marestail control in soybeans should begin in early spring by controlling fall-germinated seedlings and rosettes before they start to bolt. 2,4-D and dicamba can be used in early spring, but the proper preplant intervals need to be followed. The preplant intervals for 2,4-D LV4 are 1 week for up to 1 pt/acre and 30 days for 1 to 2 pt/acre. The preplant interval for Clarity is 14 days following an application rate up to 8 oz/acre and accumulation of 1 inch of rainfall. Dicamba has generally provided better marestail control than 2,4-D. Xtendimax, FeXapan, and Engenia can be utilized ahead of Xtend soybeans without a preplant waiting interval.

The Kixor-containing products Sharpen, OpTill, Zidua Pro, and Verdict can be used any time before soybean emergence (cracking), but are most effective if applied before plants get too big. To optimize marestail control with Kixor products, use an adequate spray volume to insure good spray coverage and apply in combination with a methylated seed oil.

Liberty herbicide may be the best option as a rescue treatment to burn down bolted marestail prior to planting. There is no waiting interval required between a Liberty application and planting soybeans, but it will not provide any residual marestail control. Other preplant herbicides that can help with burndown and provide residual marestail control include FirstRate-based herbicides, such as Authority First, Sonic, Gangster, or Surveil in combination with glyphosate.

Crabgrass and other small-seeded

grasses. Glyphosate usually gives good control of most grasses, but producers may want to apply a foundation herbicide to control grasses early, followed by a postemergence grass control herbicide. Fierce, Fierce XLT, Prefix, Zidua, Zidua Pro, Anthem, Dual II Magnum, Outlook, Warrant, and Prowl H2O can all provide early season grass and pigweed control ahead of postemergence treatments. Of these, Fierce, Fierce XLT, Prefix, and Zidua, Zidua Pro generally provide the best pigweed control, and Prowl H2O the least.

Drought Decision Making

I think you will agree with me that it's been a rather pitiful winter and early spring when we look at how much moisture we've received. If we look at the timeframe of November 1, 2017 thru March 31, 2018, Ottawa County is 33% of normal precipitation and Saline County is grasping at 14%. Depending on where you live in the district, we are in anywhere between a D1 – Moderate Drought to D3 – Extreme Drought. Given this scenario and the fact that we need to be turning out in the next few weeks, some decisions are going to have to be made and some planning done for the “what if's”.

For those of you that have called or stopped in asking about this, you know my first question is if you have any feed left. Overwhelmingly, the answer has been no. Most of us are getting really short on stored feed and because it's been dry, there isn't much, if any, planted forages to rely on. For those that do have the resources, I'm recommending delaying turnout by at least a couple weeks and then re-evaluate where we're at. This gets a little trickier, though, if feed is in short supply and you have to consider buying expensive hay.

From there, my next question is how flexible your stocking plan is. For the stocker guys, this is pretty much straightforward since their herd is liquid at any time and most stocker operators do a fairly good job at only buying what they their grass will handle in any given year – if they overbuy, sell off is easy. For the cow man, however, things are not as black and white. If you can't delay turnout, my standard recommendation is to go in with no more than 80% of normal stocking – at least for a few weeks. Perhaps then you have enough resources to dry-lot or continue feeding only 20% of the herd. If that still isn't an option you can either send them off to be cared for on a custom basis or make some hard decisions of reducing the herd.

I encourage cow/calf operators to consider their herd as three groups (i.e. A, B, C). Group A should be the “core” cows that are most profitable, have the best genetics, and are the most sound. B is your developed heifers that have a lot of potential value and replacement heifers that represent your genetic advancement. Groups A & B should combine for about 60-80% of the sustainable carrying capacity of their ranch. The C group would then be any stockers that you may have, older and unsound cows, or any other scrubs that you've been considering sending to town. Basically, this group are the ones that could be sold tomorrow and not totally wreck the economic sustainability of the operation. So, if herd reduction is in the cards now or over the course of the next six months, you have a roadmap on who can go and when.

The “when” can be dictated by climatic, financial, or forage resource conditions. For now, we'll focus on the weather and the forage availability in our native grasslands. Managers can adapt to the variations of these by establishing “trigger dates” that will help minimize long-term negative impacts of below average conditions. It should be noted, though, that these triggers will only work if you have that flexible stocking plan and a good understanding of your operation.

In general, the first trigger date for the Central Kansas District is anytime between the end of the previous growing season and April 1. This is the time where evaluation needs to be done regarding how you ended 2017. How much was utilized last year and how much residue was left through the winter? On April 1, we should have also been considering how much effective

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moisture we'd received since November 1. If less than 4” made it into the soil or your pastures ended in a weakened condition last fall, then we need to reduce initial stocking rate by at

least 10% come May 1. As stated earlier, the district was well under that – so 10% will be an absolute minimum at this point.

Around June 15, we know that approximately 75% of the average annual precipitation has occurred and about 50% of our forage production has taken place. By this time, if we are 80% or less of normal (Nov 1 – June 15) precipitation, plan to reduce stocking rate to 60-70% by July 1. If you pulled the first 10% at turnout out of Group C, this could very well finish that group off. From there, the next three weeks are critical as you may have to reach into Group B during this time. Our goal will be to protect the A Group.

July 15 is perhaps the most important trigger as destocking should be completed by this date. Also, 75% of forage production has now occurred and anything that does grow after this point will be reproductive, not vegetative. Depending on conditions, quality and intake can start heading downhill quickly. From this date on, you should really keep a close eye on remaining inventories of both forage and cattle – we don't want calves to go backwards or cows to slip BCS.

August 15 marks 90% of forage production in most years and how the grass finishes between this date and frost will determine how strong your perennial species will come back next year. We also want to be mindful of leaving at least 800 lbs. of residue per acre at the end of the season in order to set us up for winter and, ultimately, next season.

Managing cattle and grasslands is as much of an art as it is a science. I can give you all sorts of parameters and frameworks to work within, but the bottom line is that you still have to make some tough decisions. Running an operation is difficult with so many things that need to be done, but if we don't take time to look ahead,

consider the possible outcomes and make our very best choices, we leave our fate to chance. The most effective responses to drought are those made early in the process. The more time you take before you make decisions, the fewer options you will have available to you.

Cade Rensink, Livestock Production Agent

Southern Plains Drought Webinar Series

Monday, April 23, 2018 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Due to drought severity across the Southern Plains, including portions of Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas, a collaboration of drought, climate and fire experts are providing up-to-date information on the drought.

Join us on April 23 for the latest information on current drought conditions, impacts, and outlooks. This webinar will also highlight fire vulnerabilities and outlooks for the region.

The webinar will be led by Brian Fuchs, Associate Geoscientist/Climatologist, National Drought Mitigation Center.

To register, visit www.drought.gov and scroll down to Upcoming Events. Click on “Southern Plains Drought Webinar”.

**Central Kansas Extension District
Salina Office**

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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,



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