

Agriculture

CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS

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May 2022

Upcoming Events

May

- 4** Saline County PBA meeting
- 12** CKD Cool Season Forage Field Day
- 27** Wheat Plot Tours
- 30** Memorial Day, offices closed

E- Newsletter Now Available



Central Kansas District is now offering an email option for the monthly Agriculture newsletters. Instead of by mail, each month you will receive the newsletter in a PDF format via email. If you would like to sign up to receive our newsletters via email, please follow the link https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3EgwMTFYgCQhb4a or scan the QR code.

Proactive Weed Management

It is interesting to see weed management evolve over time. The days of the roundup easy button now seems like a distant memory, similar to stories of atrazine in the 70's. So what is the next technology that will provide clean fields with minimal effort? At this point it merely exists as a dream, and with the conversations that I have had with weed scientists it is a distant dream as well.

What do producers need to do to have clean fields? In many instances our best options are similar to moving back in time when post emergent options were limited. Cultural practices like crop rotations between cool and warm season crops have long been used. Today we also see more narrow rowed planters with the intention to shorten the amount of time it takes for a crop to reach canopy. Some producers go as far as to planting cover crops for weed control purposes to provide that shading of the soil surface in the early season. Effective chemical control has evolved as well. Now if you want clean fields your best money spent is on the front side of the cropping season. Quality pre-emergence programs are the most effective at limiting weed problems. Most times we under estimate the effectiveness of that initial weed barrier probably because even the best pre will eventually have escapes.

We still have several post emergence products that are effective tools, you just need to understand the limitations. The main issue with these products is the limited window which you can expect that good control. Weeds need to be small, weather needs to cooperate, and your first application needs to work. Escapes from a post emerge program become a lot harder to manage. Moving away from a reactive thought process of how large are the weeds, too a mindset of how long has it been since that pre was applied will help stay ahead of the problem.

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Being proactive in your management of weeds is likely the best option. Understanding the history of weeds on the field and then identifying the best management practice to address the issue. Learn what chemical that best works on that weed and have that product on hand because some shortages do exist. Pre-emerge herbicides are critical. Tank mixing another pre during the post applications is now common place. This layering of the coverage and provides for longer clean fields. Remember, the weed you do not see is the easiest one to kill.

If you would like to hear about weed management from the experts check out the War Against Weeds podcast. It features our weed management specialist Dr. Sarah Lancaster with many of her colleague friends from around the country who discuss a myriad of weed control topics. They are now on the third season so lots of information can be found by scanning the QR code or clicking on this link. <https://waragainstweeds.libsyn.com/>



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

By Scott Beyer, KSU Extension Poultry Specialist

A potentially harmful virus called avian influenza has been detected in many states this spring, including Kansas and surrounding states. The virus has been confirmed in wild birds in Kansas, and at least one small poultry flock. The virus has been isolated in waterfowl, wild birds, small farms, and commercial operations. Data indicates that the virus is probably moving with the aid of the spring migration of waterfowl as the weather begins to warm. To protect your

birds, now is the time to keep as much distance as possible from migrating ducks and geese.

This current outbreak is in a form that is more concerning than many. It is being referred to as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). This term means it is highly contagious and can infect chickens, turkeys, gamebirds, and other birds and can cause severe illness and/or sudden death.

As widespread as it now is across the nation, poultry owners should assume the virus is likely present all around and begin an immediate biosecurity program. Backyard flocks are susceptible to this virus as well. There is no licensed and approved vaccine for use against avian Influenzas in poultry in the US. The best way to protect your birds is to practice good biosecurity.

Monitor your birds for symptoms including sneezing or wheezing, coughing, nasal discharge, facial swellings, and other signs of respiratory struggle, like gasping for air. Look for a lack of energy, movement, and reduced appetite. Infected layers may suddenly lay fewer eggs that are misshapen. The birds may appear to have incoordination and diarrhea. Be on the lookout for sudden death in birds even if they aren't showing other symptoms.

If you are able, while birds are migrating through, keep your flock indoors or undercover. The biggest risk to a small farm is waterfowl and wild birds that stop by to steal feed or water and mix with your birds while feeding. You must keep waterfowl far from your birds. The virus can also spread from passing waterfowl to local birds that do not migrate.

If you have a pond that is attracting the migrating birds, then stay away, and keep your pets away as well. Expect the pressure to seek water from your property to be stronger in the Mid-

west and West this year as moisture levels have been low.

Eliminate roosting birds like starlings and pigeons if you have them. Now is the time to stop attracting wild birds with feeders. There is data that suggests that the well-intended feeding of wild birds could lead to a concentration of birds that allows rapid spread of diseases during an outbreak. Wild birds are starting to build spring nests, and these should be removed from coops and barns. Wear gloves and a mask to reduce your exposure to mites and other diseases these nests may harbor. Never place a bird house near your poultry. Light anti-bird netting can be used to keep the birds from building nests, and nets over pens can keep wild birds from entering your coop.

Many small flocks leave feeders full of grain all day and night in the coop. This is never a good idea because many rodents and small mammals visit at night to steal a meal and spread droppings that may contain diseases. A good way to feed birds is to determine how much they will clean up during the day, and feed only this amount every morning. By roosting time, the feeders should be empty. It is even better to pull up the feeder and store it in a rodent proof tub overnight.

Good biosecurity includes other important prevention strategies. You can make an emergency footbath by using a half cup of bleach in a gallon of water, then placing this in a shallow container to step in when entering your bird coop. Don't visit other flocks. Auctions, shows and swaps will be at risk during this time. Purchase chicks from only a tested source. Though most mail order hatcheries are monitored, there is still a small risk of infection. Stop purchase of hatching eggs and chicks from small internet sellers of stock that are not monitored. Some offers will say that their birds are tested, but this likely

refers to *Salmonella pullorum* because most small flocks are not required to be tested for avian influenzas like commercial poultry.

Gamebird operations should be alert as well. Netted flight pens are subject to pressure from wild birds and waterfowl the same as small poultry farms. Commercial gamebird farms should not be located near water sources where waterfowl stop. Any method of keeping the waterfowl away from the flight pens should be implemented immediately. If an ATV is used on the farm, it should be decontaminated by washing and applying disinfectant before getting it close to the pens. It is still early spring, so most pheasant operations have not released started chicks to the flight pens. If you are able, try to hold the chicks back in the brooder house as long as possible to give yourself more time for the migrating birds to clear.

Now is the time to be neighbor friendly and stay away from other poultry farms. Commercial poultry farms are highly invested in poultry production so being a good neighbor by staying off their premises during this time is helpful. Many producers enjoy giving educational tours of their farm, but all tours should stop until this threat subsides. Most commercial farms never welcome visitors because this is part of their biosecurity programs.

Even the best prevention plan will not prevent all cases of avian influenza. The Kansas Department of Agriculture is a good source of current testing results and contacts for potential problems. If your birds have symptoms of HPAI, contact your veterinarian or call KDA toll free at 833-765-2006, or contact them via email at KDA.HPAI@ks.gov. This article comes from the Kansas State University ASI Poultry Newsletter. To receive future editions of the newsletter, please visit www.asi.ksu.edu/poultrynewsletter and follow the sign-up tab.



Saline County Conservation District

2023 Cost Share Program Sign Up

March 28-June 3, 2022

Cost Share Practices Include*:

- Abandoned Well Plugging
- Cover Crops
- Livestock Waste System
- Lagoons & Septic Systems
- Terraces
- Grassed Waterways
- Brush Clearing
- Range Planting

*This is NOT a complete list of available practices.

Financial assistance is available to help with implementation of conservation practices on your land. An excellent opportunity to make improvements. "Funding provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund." Contracts are with the State of Kansas. For more information and to see if you're eligible, contact the office 8:00am to 4:30, M-F



1410 E Iron Ave, Ste 12
Salina, KS
785-825-8269 ext 3.

Smokey Hills PBA

A Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) is a group of landowners/managers and other interested persons that form a partnership to organize and conduct prescribed burns. Developing a local PBA will assist the central Kansas landowners with education, training, and assistance in conducting prescribed burns. Prescribed burning is an effective and efficient tool for management of Conservation Reserve Program, native prairie enhancement, pastureland revitalization, and tree encroachment. The four most commonly used concerns are 1. Liability, 2. Lack of training, 3. Lack of equipment, and 4. Lack of help.

The Smoky Hills PBA was formed to assist landowners in alleviating these concerns. Plan to attend to meet others who are interested, the variety of agency personnel who support prescribed burning and join the Smoky Hills PBA.

If you are interested in learning more about or joining the Smoky Hills Prescribed Burn Association, there will be an inaugural meeting on May 4th at 6pm at the Saline County 4H building. The doors will open at 6pm with the meeting to begin at 6:30pm. This evening meeting includes information on the PBA benefits and to encourage membership. The meeting will allow interested members to view the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, PBA Handbook and to learn more about the affiliation with the Kansas Prescribed Burn Association. The following link can be used to receive Smoky Hills PBA correspondences: <https://forms.office.com/r/FV1sEsZ1Zq>

**Smoky Hills Prescribed Burn Association
Saline County 4H building**

May 4th, 2022

Doors open at 6pm

Meeting Begins at 6:30

making the Smoky Hills smoky

#lanemillsphotography

**Join the SHPBA, (\$40 annual dues)
meet your interested neighbors, and
learn about the resources available to
maintain a healthy prairie**

The following link and QR code can be used to receive
Smoky Hills PBA correspondences:

<https://forms.office.com/r/FV1sEsZ1Zq>



'making the Smoky Hills smoky'

Central Kansas Cool Season Forage Field Day

Thursday, May 12, 2022
Lunch at Noon, Tours at 12:30PM

Saline Co. Conservation District Farm
3421 E. Water Well Rd., Salina, KS

From I-135: Take exit 88 and go 4 mi. east on Water
Well Rd. Watch for event signage.



Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 10 by calling (785) 309-5850.

Tour demonstration plots consisting of winter barley, spring oats, rye, winter triticale, annual ryegrass, spring triticale, and Reed canary grass.

See results from a Crown vetch control trial using six different herbicides.

Learn about available programs through USDA-NRCS and County Conservation Districts.

Featured Presenters

- Mike Henry – Saline County Farmer / Rancher
- Trent Page – Sales Manager, Star Seed
- Jay Wisbey – Crop Production Agent, Central Kansas Extension District
- Kristen Kuntz – District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Diana Harden – Manager, Saline County Conservation District
- Cade Rensink – Director, Central Kansas Extension District



Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Cade Rensink, District Director, at 785-309-5850 or crensink@ksu.edu.
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CKD Wheat Plot Tours

Friday, May 27, 2022

11:00 A.M. Ryan Farm Southwest of Solomon

3 miles West of Solomon on Old Hwy 40 and 2.5 Miles South On the Gypsum Valley Road

Lunch following the first tour sponsored by Phillips Seed Farms

2:30 P.M. Tim and Ryan Myers, Minneapolis

1.5 Miles West of K-106 Highway on Justice Road

Speakers

Romulo Lollato, Extension Wheat Specialist

Kelsey Anderson Onofre, Extension Plant Pathologist

For more information,
Contact Jay Wisbey
785-587-7987



Central Kansas
District

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact Jay Wisbey two weeks prior to the start of the event May 12, 2022 at 785-587-7987 or jwisbey@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.

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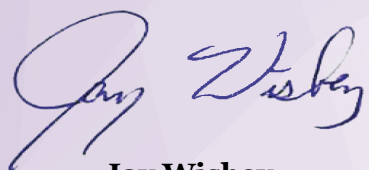
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Minneapolis Office**

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Minneapolis, KS 67467-2129

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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Crop Production
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