

Agriculture

CENTRAL KANSAS EXTENSION DISTRICT NEWS

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November 2019

Upcoming Events

December

10 Cover Crops: Do they pay?, Salina

January

13 Soybean School, Salina

15 Farm Financials for Women in Ag #1, Salina

22 Farm Financials for Women in Ag #2, Salina

23 Calving School, Salina

29 Farm Financials for Women in Ag #3, Salina

February

5 Corn School, Salina
Farm Financials for Women in Ag #4, Salina



Carl Garten Retirement Reception

After 41 1/2 years, Carl is retiring from the Central Kansas Extension District. A reception will be held Friday, January 3, at American AgCredit, 925 W. Magnolia Rd. in Salina, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. American AgCredit is just west of the I-135 /Magnolia exit at the entrance to Menards in Salina. Cards may be sent to Carl's home address: 116 Aspen Rd., Salina, KS 67401.

Get the most out of corn stalks

The old rule of thumb for grazing milo stubble is "one acre per cow per month". While this isn't exactly perfect, it's a pretty good starting point. As corn harvest winds down and cows get turned out on those stalks, how should this grazing be managed to get the most out of those?

Fortunately, we have another rather easy rule of thumb for corn residue. You can get a good estimate for corn stalks by dividing the corn grain yield by 3.5 to estimate grazing days per acre for a 1,200-pound cow. So, for a field that yielded 160 bushels per acre, dividing 160 by 3.5 gives 45 grazing days per acre. Thus, a 160-acre field could provide 7,200 cow grazing days. That means you could graze 7,200 cows for one day or 1 cow for 7,200 days. Not very practical—so some other combinations need to be explored.

One possibility is to graze 45 cows for 160 days. Starting here in the middle of November, that could take you all the way through the first of May. Sounds pretty good, but how will this work nutritionally? Cows will eat the best feed first, any downed grain and the husks. After a couple months, all that will be left are stalks and leaves

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that have been walked over, rained or snowed upon. Without a lot of supplements, these cows will be in very poor shape by the first of March.

Clearly, shorter grazing periods are needed. Maybe, instead of 45 cows for 160 days, you graze 160 cows for 45 days. Better, but you still may need supplements near the end of the 45 days. The best plan would be to give those 160 cows just one week's worth of the stalks to start, about 25 acres. By day 6 and 7 those 160 cows will have cleaned up just about everything, but on day 8 you give them a fresh 25 acres, returning them to high quality feed without so much supplement.

Both stocking rate and changes in the quality of grazing need consideration as you plan and manage stalk grazing, whether it be corn or milo. Do it right and residue becomes a great winter feed resource.

Cade Rensink, Livestock Production Agent



Profile samples key in determining soil fertility needs

The 2019 year has been another interesting one, given our ever-changing and unpredictable weather. Much of our district received well above average moisture and flooding in many cases. The leaching potential that occurred as well as the uptake from good yield-

ing crops may have created a scenario that could leave soils short of residual fertility. Producers should be aware of this as they prepare for the next growing season.

To accurately determine the quantity of fertilizer remaining in your soil, you need to do a subsoil test in addition to the normal six-inch sample. A subsoil test is generally 0-24 inches and needed to determine the contents of mobile nutrients, particularly nitrate nitrogen, sulfate, and chloride.

What makes these nutrients mobile is a negative charge that does not bond with soil particles or organic matter that are also negatively charged. Akin to a pair of magnets where identical poles repel, and opposites attract. Nutrients and soils act in the same manner. The result is mobile nutrients that are freely available in soil solution and that will move with water.

The six-inch soil sample provides good information of immobile, positively charged nutrients as well as soil pH and organic matter. It will determine the needs and availability of nutrients like phosphorus, potassium, zinc, and boron. Without a subsoil sample, the Kansas State recommendation will assume that the soil contains thirty pounds of nitrogen available below the surface to create a nitrogen recommendation. That assumption could be entirely wrong. Additionally, you will not get sulfur or chloride recommendations without a deep sample. Both nutrients are commonly deficient here in Kansas.

This fall is a good time to take these samples to receive the results in a timely fashion. By taking a subsoil sample you will have the information needed to get a quality recommendation. Then you can begin to determine the fertility plan and crop budget for next season.

Jay Wisbey, Crop Production Agent

Cover Crops: Do they pay?

Tues., December 10, 2019

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

K-State Polytechnic Campus
College Center Conference Room
2310 Centennial, Salina, KS



Featured Presenters:

Doug Peterson

Peterson has been a NRCS employee for over 30 years. He is a Regional Soil Health Specialist for Missouri and Iowa teaching producers how soil health impacts virtually all natural resource processes. Doug also operates a cow/calf and contract grazing operation where they utilize Holistic High Density Grazing to improve soil health while eliminating the need for most purchased fertilizer and harvested forages.

Candy Thomas

Candy has been with NRCS since 1994 and is now the Regional Soil Health Specialist for Kansas and Nebraska. She provides agronomic advice on soil health indicators, cover crops, water quality resource issues, erosion control, and training in conservation planning and management systems.



Pre-Registration due by Thursday, December 5

**\$20 per person
(includes lunch, refreshments & handouts)**

**For more information or to RSVP, call
(785) 392-2147 or email crensink@ksu.edu**

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Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition

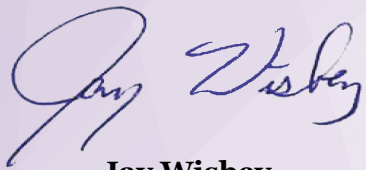
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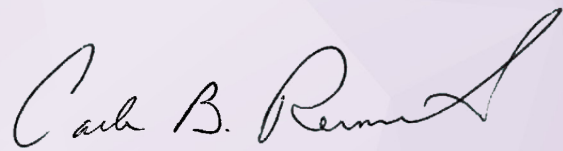
Address Service Requested

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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