



K-STATE Research and Extension

Finney County Extension Connection

AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

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August 2016

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Silage Safety Meetings

Do your employees know how to stay safe around silage pits & piles?

Are they aware of the risks of silage avalanches and other dangers?

Come attend the “Silage Safety Meetings” with Dr. Keith Bolsen, KSU Emeritus Professor. Two meetings will be held August 23rd and 24th. The August 23rd meeting will be held at the SW Research-Extension Center in Garden City and the August 24th meeting will be held at the William Carpenter 4-H Bldg in Scott City. Both meetings will start at 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with lunch being provided. Participants will learn how to stay safe and prevent unnecessary accidents from occurring. Please RSVP by August 19, 2016 to: Justin Waggoner, jwaggon@ksu.edu, 620-275-9164.

2016 Finney County Fair Results

The 2016 Finney County Fair has come and gone. A big congratulations and thank you to all who exhibited and visited the fair. Following are the results from the Market Wheat Show and Crop Contest.

Market Wheat Show

All Hard White Winter Wheat

Champion: Abby Murrell - Danby Variety
Reserve Champion: Kennan Murrell - Aspen V.
3rd Place: Elly Murrell - Danby Variety

All Hard Red Winter Wheat

Grand Champion: Rapp Farms - Post Rock V.
Reserve Grand Champion: Kason Robinson - Mint Variety
3rd Place: Brandon Robinson - Mint Variety
4th Place: Brayden Robinson - Mint Variety
5th Place: Joe Ohmes - Jagalene Variety
6th Place: Harold Mai - Monument Variety
7th Place: Kyle Deaver - Post Rock Variety
8th Place: Richards & Deaver Farms - Post Rock Variety
9th Place: Ava Albright - Longbranch Variety
10th Place: Brandon Robinson - Longbranch V.

Crops Contest

4-H

Brayden Robinson - Wheat - Grand Champion
Brayden Robinson - Forage Corn - Champion
Ryan Heiman - 10 Ear Corn - Grand Champion
Brady Schmeeckle - 10 Ear Corn - Reserve Grand Champion
Brady Schmeeckle - Forage Sorghum - Grand Champion
Brady Schmeeckle - Dryland Grain Sorghum- Grand Champion

Open Class - Youth

Abby Gillen - 10 Ear Corn - Grand Champion
Timothy Gillen - 10 Ear Corn - Champion
Timothy Gillen - Dryland Corn - Blue
Abby Gillen - Dryland Sorghum - Blue
Timothy Gillen - Dryland Sorghum - Champion
Ava Albright - Forage Corn - Grand Champion

Open Class - Adult

Doyle McGraw - 10 Ear Corn - Champion
Doyle McGraw - Forage Corn - Champion
Mark Gillen - Dryland Sorghum - Champion
Doyle McGraw - Soybean - Champion

New Extension Publications

K-State Research and Extension has come out with two new extension factsheets on wheat. Both are focused on dual-purpose producers (forage + grain).

1: Using your smartphone to better manage wheat grazing

<http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3304.pdf?platform=hootsuite>

2: Wheat variety comparison on date of first hollow stem, fall forage yield, and dual-purpose vs. grain only yield

<http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3312.pdf>

Both factsheets are available online and at the Extension office.

Apply now for K-State Research & Extension Master Gardener program

If you enjoy gardening, working with others and having fun while sharing your passion, then the Extension Master Gardener program may be just the opportunity for you. Applications are now being accepted for the K-State Research & Extension Master Gardener (EMG) 2016 training program. Application deadline is Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Training will start Thursday, September 8 and will run each Thursday through October 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All classes will be conducted at the Finney County K-State Research & Extension Office, 501 South 9th St. Garden City, KS. There is a \$100 administration fee for those attending the training. If you are interested in applying for the program, or would like more information, please contact the Extension office at 620-272-3670 or visit www.finney.ksu.edu.



Governor Brownback Proclaims August as Farmers' Market Month

MANHATTAN, Kan. — In recognition of the important role farmers' markets play in Kansas communities, Governor Sam Brownback proclaimed August as Farmers' Market Month in Kansas.



In both urban centers and rural communities, farmers' markets give consumers access to fresh, locally grown produce and serve as an important link between food producers and consumers of Kansas products. Farmers' markets also keep money in Kansas communities, which helps make small businesses stronger and positively contributes to local economies.

The number of farmers' markets in Kansas has grown from 26 in 1987 to more than 70 registered farmers' markets in 2016. They are a vibrant part of many Kansas communities, and contribute to the health, well-being and quality of life for many Kansans.

"We are excited about the growth and expansion of farmers' markets across the state," said Julie Roller, agriculture marketing specialist at the Kansas Department of Agriculture. "Farmers' markets serve as a great way for producers to connect with consumers and sell their products locally."

Farmers' markets in Kansas can register with the Kansas Department of Agriculture as part of the state's agricultural trademark program, From the Land of Kansas. This central registration became possible in 2013 following the passage of Senate Bill 120, legislation designed to protect farmers' markets and their managers from potential legal liability, thus opening doors for additional markets throughout the state. As a result of this state support, registered markets now have access to free marketing, outreach and advocacy efforts.

KDA supports farmers' markets through a variety of services and programs, including the Kansas Farmers' Market Toolkit, the Savor the Season campaign and by hosting state and regional

farmers' market workshops. KDA also provides information about food safety regulations and best practices to farmers' markets across the state. KDA and From the Land of Kansas strive to serve Kansas farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and consumers by expanding agricultural markets and providing support and assistance to help Kansas businesses grow.

Tomatoes Slow to Ripen?

The extremely hot weather we have had recently not only interferes with flower pollination but also can affect how quickly fruit matures. The best temperature for tomato growth and fruit

development is 85 to 90F. When temperatures exceed 100 degrees, the plant goes into survival mode and concentrates on moving water. Fruit development slows to a crawl. When temperatures moderate, even to the low to mid 90s, the fruit will ripen more quickly.

Tomato color can also be affected by heat. When temperatures rise above 95 degrees F, red pigments don't form properly though the orange and yellow pigments do. This results in orange fruit. This doesn't affect the edibility of the tomato, but often gardeners want that deep red color back.

So, can we do anything to help our tomatoes ripen and have good color during extreme heat? Sure, there is. We can pick tomatoes in the "breaker" stage. Breaker stage tomatoes are those that have started to turn color. At this point, the tomato has cut itself off from the vine and nothing will be gained by keeping it on the plant. If tomatoes are picked at this stage and brought into an air-conditioned house, they will ripen more quickly and develop a good, red color. A temperature of 75 to 85 degrees F will work well.
(Ward Upham, KSRE Rapid Response Specialist)

Fall Gardens

This is the time of year we normally think of planting a fall garden. Crops that can be planted now include lettuce, radishes, spinach, and similar crops. There still is time to raise another crop of green beans along with some summer squash. If you can find plants, cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower can also



mature during the fall season.

Planting a fall garden is just like planting a spring garden with some big advantages. You will find the weed pressure to be much less and insect problems may be far fewer than in a spring garden. Seeds will germinate rapidly, so you will have crops up and growing in just a few days – compared to several weeks in the spring.

There are a few drawbacks to fall gardening, and one of those is that you must provide regular, frequent watering (possibly daily) until the crops are up and growing. It is best to plant seeds deeper than you do for a spring garden because soil is cooler and moister down a little deeper.

As far as soil preparation is concerned, don't get too excited about deep tillage for a fall garden. Lightly work the soil enough to establish a seedbed; reserve your deep tillage for later in the fall. Also, don't concentrate on adding a lot of organic matter and fertilizer for the fall garden. The organic matter can be added later in the fall with the deeper tillage, and excessive fertilizer application in hot weather is not a good idea. If you have some crop residue to remove from a previous crop, chop the residue with a lawn mower and lightly till the soil surface after the residue has had a chance to dry for 2 to 3 days.
(Ward Upham, KSRE Rapid Response Specialist)

Chiggers

Chiggers are mites, not insects. And like all mites, the adults have eight legs. However, the larva only has six legs. Though the bright red female adult is tiny (about 1/20th of an inch) the larva is much smaller (about 1/150th of an inch). Only the larvae are parasitic and attack animals. The larva injects digestive juices into the skin, which causes a rapid swelling. In the center of the swelling is a "feeding tube" from which the chigger sucks out liquefied skin cells. Feeding usually continues for 2 to 4 days.

Protection from chiggers uses two approaches. The use of a repellent can discourage chiggers from attacking. The most effective repellents are Deet and permethrin. Both are applied to clothing. The second approach seeks to reduce chigger populations. Keeping the lawn mowed regularly can help, but large populations may require the use of an acaricide. Effective products include bifenthrin (Talstar, Hi-Yield Bug Blaster II, Hi-Yield Bug Blaster Bifenthrin, and Ortho Lawn Insect Killer Granules), cyfluthrin (Tempo 20, Bayer Vegetable & Garden

Insect Spray) and carbaryl (Sevin). For more information, see the K-State Research and Extension publication titled, "Chiggers" at:
<http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/MF2107.PDF>
(Ward Upham, KSRE Rapid Response Specialist)

Pesticide Effectiveness

We sometimes receive complaints from homeowners regarding the lack of effectiveness of various pesticides. There can be a number of reasons for this lack of efficacy. Here are some of the common ones:

1. Lack of good foliage penetration. This often is a problem when spraying for bagworms on junipers. The spray must penetrate the foliage and reach the bagworms toward the inside of the plant. High-pressure commercial sprayers are able to get the spray to the insects but homeowner models are much more problematic. With pump-up sprayers, you may have to push the wand through the outer layer of foliage to reach insects toward the inside of the plant.

2. Not spraying where the insect is. Many of our insects and mites feed on the underside of leaves. If the plants are sprayed over the top, little to no pesticide reaches the pests. This problem is often seen with spider mites on broadleaf plants and cabbage worms on cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower.

3. Maturity of pest. Insects become much more difficult to control when they become adults. For example, Sevin does a good job of controlling young, early instar grasshoppers but is much less effective on adults.

4. Level of disease pressure. Most fungicides are better used as preventatives than as curatives. If a disease gets firmly established, it may be difficult to bring it back under control. For example, chlorothalonil is effective in controlling early blight and Septoria leaf spot on tomato if used as a preventative. However, chlorothalonil will not control these diseases on badly infested plants.

5. Choosing the wrong product. Homeowners often use a product they have on hand. However, products differ markedly in how well they control specific pests. Make sure the pest you wish to control is on the label. Unfortunately, even labeled products may vary in effectiveness. Check K-State Research and Extension recommendations for products.

6. Using the wrong rate. Using less than recommended rate can reduce effectiveness but using

more can also cause problems. For example, using a systemic herbicide such as Roundup at higher than recommended rates can burn off the top of the plant before the herbicide is translocated to the roots, thereby reducing effectiveness.

7. High pH spray water. Certain pesticides are not stable in high or low pH water. Following are some examples.

* Captan has a half-life of 3 hours at a pH of 7.0, but only 10 minutes at a pH of 8.0.

* Carbaryl (Sevin) has a half-life of 24 days at pH 7.0, but only 1 day at pH 9.

The half-life of a product is the amount of time it takes for half of the product to be neutralized. For example, if you apply 3 ounces of a product to a gallon of water and the half-life is 8 hours, only half of the product is still active at 8 hours, one-fourth of the product is active 16 hours and 1/8 of the product is still active at 24 hours. (Ward Upham, KSRE Rapid Response Specialist)

Updating Mailing List

We are updating our Extension Connection mailing list. If you would like to be removed from the Extension Connection mailing list, please call the Finney County Extension office (620-272-3670) or email (fi@listserv.ksu.edu).

Upcoming Events

August:

15th: Fair Ribbon Premium Checks available for pick up @ Finney County Extension Office

23rd: Silage Safety Meeting @ SW Area Office

25th: SW Area Field Day @ SW Area Office

September:

5th: Office Closed for Labor Day

6th: Master Gardener Training Applications due

8th - Oct 20th: Master Gardener Training

9th- 18th: Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson