



K-STATE Research and Extension

Finney County

# Extension Connection

AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

By: Katelyn Barthol

August 2017

## Topics

**Aug. 24 is date for SW Research-Extension Center Field Day**

**“You can lead your cow to water but is there anything to drink?” / “You can plant seeds but is there any moisture to make them grow?”**

**Water technology farms expanded and field days scheduled**

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## Aug. 24 is date for SW Research-Extension Center Field Day

*Weed and insect control and cover crops take center stage*



GARDEN CITY, Kan. – Weed and insect control and cover crops come into focus at the K-State Southwest Research-Extension Center when it hosts its annual field day on Thursday, Aug. 24 at 4500 E. Mary St. in Garden City.

The day includes field tours, seminars and commercial exhibitor displays, plus a sponsored lunch.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the program starting at 9:15 a.m.

One credit hour and one core hour will be available for commercial pesticide applicator licensing.

Field tour and seminar topics include:

- ! Corn and Sorghum Insect Control Update
- ! Weed Control in Irrigated Corn
- ! Weed Control in Dryland Sorghum
- ! The Effect of Humic Products on Sorghum Yield and Nitrogen Use Efficiency
- ! Integrating Cover Crops and Annual Forages into Wheat-Sorghum-Fallow Cropping Systems
- ! Wheat Health Management
- ! Core Hour for Commercial Pesticide License

More information is available by contacting Randall Currie at [rscurrie@ksu.edu](mailto:rscurrie@ksu.edu) or by calling the center at 620-276-8286.

**“You can lead your cow to water but is there anything to drink?” / “You can plant seeds but is there any moisture to make them grow?”**

*Informative Water Meeting, August 29*

Come listen, learn and ask questions about Water Laws and ways to help preserve our water resources. Our Town Hall meeting will feature:

- ! Kent Askren - KFB Director of Public Policy/Water Law
- ! The Franklins - Personal WCA in Sherman County
- ! Matt Long - Wichita County WCA
- ! Brent Beckman - Sheridan 6 WCA

This meeting will take place Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at the Garden City Community College in the

Kinney Room #1103 at the Student Center. Meeting will start at 10 a.m. and refreshments will be provided.

## **Water technology farms expanded and field days scheduled**

*Water conservation techniques being demonstrated on established farms*



MANHATTAN, Kan. — The Kansas Water Office (KWO) and Kansas State University are providing an opportunity to see firsthand what is taking place on water technology demonstration farms by hosting a series of field days in August. Each location will showcase the technology that has been implemented on that site and the results to date.

Last year, three water technology demonstration farms: Roth/Garden City Company, T & O Farms, LLC and WaterPACK/ ILS, were created in response to public input and identified in the Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas (Water Vision). These farms were initiated in southwest and south central Kansas and are three-year pilot projects featuring the installation and testing of the latest irrigation technologies on a whole field scale with a primary focus on water conservation.

“We greatly appreciate the leadership and innovation from these stakeholders who are willing to participate in these demonstration farms and the partners who also believe in these projects,” said Kansas Water Office Director Tracy Streeter. “While we need to evaluate the performance of these farms for multiple years from a water savings and economic standpoint, the preliminary results of these demonstration farms are encouraging. There is growing evidence that water use reductions coupled with irrigation technology adoption and water management will result in positive effects on the aquifer and the producer’s bottom line.”

In addition to these existing farms, 10 more Water Tech Farms via partnerships have been established in western Kansas. Throughout August each farm will host a Field Day.

- ! Monday Aug. 7 - Circle C Farms, 10 a.m., Healy - (RSVPs are required by Aug. 5) - Owned and operated by: Steve Compton
- ! Friday, Aug. 11 – Hatcher Land and Cattle, 2 p.m., Liberal - Owned and operated by Nick Hatcher
- ! Monday, Aug. 14 – WaterPACK/ILS, 2 p.m., Larned - Owned by ILS Inc. and operated by Richard Wenstrom
- ! Tuesday, Aug. 15 – T& O Farms, LLC 10 a.m., Garden City - Owned and operated by Tom Willis
- ! Thursday, Aug. 24 – Northwest Technical College, 10 a.m., Goodland - Owned by Northwest Technical College and operated by tech students
- ! Thursday, Aug. 31 – Big D Farms, 9 a.m., Holcomb - Owned by Garden City Company and operated by Dwane Roth

In addition to an understanding of how the technologies work, the field days are opportunities to learn from local producers, irrigation companies, soil water sensor dealers and others about options and experiences toward improving irrigation water use. In 2016 alone, the first three such field days drew a collective attendance of 375 people wanting to learn something new as well as wanting to share their experience with fellow producers.

KWO provides financial assistance to Kansas State University’s efforts to give technical support to each technology farm. K-State became deeply involved in establishing and monitoring the farms to help answer producers’ specific questions and concerns about the new technology.

“K-State is working with partners to help address questions and concerns about the new irrigation technologies so in the future, farmers will fully embrace the technology appropriate for their operation and situation,” said Jonathan Aguilar, water resource engineer with K-State Research and Extension, based in Garden City, Kansas. “Each farm is set up slightly different, depending on the primary concern the producer has. For example, one farm has three adjacent spans with different modes of application for comparison purposes. In all fields, soil moisture sensors are installed and tested for accuracy as feedback or for its performance in the different soil types.”

The farms are supported by: Kansas Water Office; K-State Research and Extension; Kansas

Corn Commission; Servi-Tech Expanded Premium Services, LLC; United Sorghum Check-Off Program; Seaman Crop Consulting; SW Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3; Kansas Department of Agriculture; Conestoga Energy Partners; Teeter Irrigation; Dragon-Line; Helena; Kansas Geological Survey; Ogallala Aquifer Program; Syngenta; Hortau; Kansas Farm Bureau; K-State Mesonet; AquaSpy; Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission; Crop Metrics; Netafim; Valley Irrigation; and Presley Solutions; American Irrigation; WaterPACK; Pioneer Hi-Bred International; Western Irrigation Supply House and Ag Systems, Inc.; Tri-State; John Payne; TerrAvion; and Phytech.

### **New grain transportation classes coming this fall**

*The IGP Institute is offering two new workshops for individuals interested in grain transportation*



MANHATTAN, Kan. — One goal of those who work in grain transportation is to ensure that grain products arrive to customers in exceptional condition. To help share knowledge about the most effective ways to accomplish this task, the IGP Institute at Kansas State University has joined up with the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission to offer grain transportation courses free of charge.

The first offering geared for farmers and other invited guests who are interested in grain transportation will be Sept. 6 in Garden City, Kansas.

This training will cover discussion topics including Kansas rail and container transportation systems, Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway transportation overviews and the future outlook. Speakers from the IGP Institute, UPRR and BNSF will present during the half-day program.

A second class is planned for Sept. 7–8 at the IGP Institute in Manhattan. The training will feature topics covering Kansas rail and container transportation systems; container logistics; export documents and counter party risk; and non-vessel operating common carriers. In addition to classroom discussions and

presentations, a tour at the DeLong Co., Inc. container facility in Edgerton, Kansas is included.

"Both of these educational sessions will allow farmers to better understand transportation, and then to see any opportunities they could have in their own operations," said Jay O'Neil, senior agricultural economist at the IGP Institute.

To register and learn more about both programs, visit

[www.grains.k-state.edu/igp/TransportationWorkshop.html](http://www.grains.k-state.edu/igp/TransportationWorkshop.html)

In addition to specialized workshops, the IGP Institute offers courses in grain processing and flour milling, grain marketing and risk management, and feed manufacturing and grain quality management.

To learn more about these other training opportunities, visit the IGP Institute website at [www.ksu.edu/igp](http://www.ksu.edu/igp).

### **K-State Beef Stocker Field Day scheduled for September 21**

*Presentations include utilizing cover crops, stocking strategies, and the beef cattle outlook*



MANHATTAN, Kan. – The beef cattle outlook, early stocking strategies for optimized marketing and a panel discussion on how cover crops have helped producers improve their operations are among topics planned for the 2017 Kansas State University Beef Stocker Field Day on Thursday, Sept. 21.

The day is designed to provide the latest practical information for producers to aid decision-making in the current dynamic beef industry environment.

"There will be applied information presented that attendees can apply to their operation," said Dale Blasi, K-State Animal Sciences and Industry professor and extension specialist.

Hosted at the K-State Beef Stocker Unit (4330 Marlatt Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas), the event starts with registration and coffee at 9:30 a.m. and the program at 10:15 a.m. A barbecue lunch is provided

and the day ends with an evening social, the “Cutting Bull’s Lament 2017” at 5:30 p.m.

Topics on this year’s agenda include:

- ! Beef Cattle Outlook
- ! Producer Panel: Implementing Cover Crops: How They Have Helped My Operation
- ! Setting Up Calves for Success This Fall
- ! A Different Intensive Early Stocking Strategy for Optimized Marketing Opportunities
- ! Proper Dosing at the Chute
- ! Why Vaccines Sometimes “Seem” to Fail
- ! Stocker and Backgrounding Budgets
- ! Cover Crop Decision Tool

The pre-registration fee for the Beef Stocker Field Day is \$25 if paid by Sept. 15. More information and online registration is available at [KSUbeef.org](http://KSUbeef.org). After Sept. 15, attendees must pay at the event.

For more information, contact Lois Schreiner at 785-532-1267 or [lschrein@ksu.edu](mailto:lschrein@ksu.edu).

### Spotlight on flowers, veggies, soils and water in Hays on Sept. 19

*Annual Horticulture Night includes a new Backyard Garden*



HAYS, Kan. – The K-State Agricultural Research Center in Hays will host its annual fall Horticulture Night for the public on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Daylight in the autumn evenings is short, so presentations will be brief.

The cooler days of September provide a chance to step back and enjoy the results of the university’s and research center’s labors in the flower beds and vegetable gardens, plus it’s an opportunity to evaluate what prospered or did not perform so well.

This is the 20th and final year for the Prairie Star Flower bedding plant trials at the center in Hays. More than 1,800 varieties have been trialed at the Hays site with only 421 selected as worthy of being on the

Prairie Star list of annual flowers that have performed well in the state. The Prairie Star list includes flower varieties available on the market and that perform well throughout Kansas. The aim is to find varieties that thrive with low maintenance, insect and disease tolerance, and are appealing in appearance. The weather this summer has thrown a challenge for some in the Hays location. The varietal additions to the 2018 Prairie Star List will be announced at the evening event. Come see how they have performed –you’ll be the first to know the best bedding plant cultivars for the Hays area coming on the 2018 market.

Augustine Obour, soils scientist based at the center will present a segment on collecting a representative soil sample of your garden will be presented by. He will discuss the interpretation of test results and what soil amendments may be needed.

Holly Dickman, the new water conservationist for the City of Hays will address water-smart landscaping. She will provide information sources for grass, tree, and shrub varieties recommended for both home and business property owners in Hays.

During the evening you can compare the different varieties of low-water use turf grass in a demonstration plot developed and maintained in conjunction with the Turf Conversion Program promoted by the City of Hays. The program encourages homeowners to convert their full-sun exposure lawns currently planted to a cool-season turf to a low-water use turfgrass. The advantages of established warm-season grasses are water conservation and less maintenance.

The Ellis County Extension Master Gardeners will report preliminary harvest results of their performance vegetable trials, including 11 tomato, 24 pepper, and 5 zucchini-squash varieties. Terry Pfeifer and Pat Phillips will be the presenters. Sampling tables will be available so participants can taste the varietal differences to help determine what to include in their home garden.

This is the first year for the Extension Master Gardener Backyard Demonstration Garden. Ellis County Master Gardener, Mary Lou Mastin, will share the experience of establishing and maintaining a sustainable garden. She will discuss how even a small garden can provide year-round production.

Participants are encouraged to bring friends and neighbors. Property and homeowners are encouraged to attend. Questions about flowers, vegetable

gardening and soil tests will be addressed but are not limited to these topics. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. with the program starting at 6:00 p.m. The K-State Agricultural Research Center is located south of Hays at 1232 240th Ave. For more information call 785-625-3425 or check Facebook or Twitter.

## Calender

### **August**

**15<sup>th</sup>: T & O Water Technology Field Day**

**24<sup>th</sup>: SW Research-Extension Center Field Day**

**29<sup>th</sup>: “You can lead your cow to water but  
is there anything to drink?”**

**Water Meeting @ GCCC Kenney  
Room 1103 at the Student Center**

**31<sup>st</sup>: Big D Farms Water Technology Field  
Day**

### **September:**

**4<sup>th</sup>: Office Closed for Labor Day**

**8<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>: Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson**

**19<sup>th</sup>: Horticulture Night @ Hays Research  
Center**

**21<sup>st</sup>: K-State Beef Stocker Field Day @  
Manhattan**