

EXTENSION CONNECTION

# Agriculture & Horticulture

February 2019

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

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## In This Edition...

### Agriculture Topics:

So You Want to Grow Hemp? . . . . .Page 2  
Tally Time - Resolve to get a Personal Assistant for  
your Cow/Calf Operation in 2019 . . . . .Page 2

### Horticulture Topics:

Check for Scale Insects . . . . .Page 3  
Plants Recommended for Kansas . . . . .Page 3  
Buffalograss Lawns Increase in Popularity . . . . Page 3

### Upcoming Events:

Agriculture Programs . . . . .Page 4  
Horticulture Programs . . . . .Page 4

## Newsletter

The agriculture and horticulture newsletter is back! It will be available on a bimonthly basis. If it is an even month, look forward to a new newsletter. If you want to receive the newsletter or have questions, email [jstoss@ksu.edu](mailto:jstoss@ksu.edu)

## Sorghum School Success

The Sorghum School held on February 5th in Garden City, was a success. Around 125 people were in attendance. Thank you to all who came out and attended and helped host this event!

# So You Want to Grow Hemp?

In 2019, Kansas residents who have acquired a license from the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) will be allowed to grow, handle, and/or process Industrial Hemp. Kansas State University will be conducting research to gain information valuable to growers across the state. Extension professionals can consult and offer advice, but KSU and its affiliates do not have seed or plants for sale.

Industrial Hemp is grown for fiber, grain, or resin with a  $\Delta$ -9-tetrahydrocannabinol (TCH) content  $\leq 0.3\%$ . The program is a pilot research program and all applications must have a research component—only residents who have obtained a license from KDA can participate in the pilot research program. There are separate licenses (and fees) to grow (\$1,000), distribute (\$2,000), and process (\$3,000 fiber & grain, \$6,000 floral).

Applications will be available through the KDA website beginning early February and are due on March 1st for the 2019 growing season. Fingerprinting and background checks are required for anyone applying for a license. Every person who touches the crop in any capacity must be listed on the application, and therefore must be fingerprinted and undergo a background check, as well.

It is limited to 80 acres per license. You can have multiple licenses, each requiring the fee. Only certified varieties of Industrial Hemp will be allowed—the list is available on the KDA website. KDA will sample and test all hemp fields prior to harvest. If THC content exceeds 0.3% of dry matter, the crop must be destroyed at the owners expense.

Currently, no herbicides, insecticides, or fungicides are currently labeled for use on Industrial Hemp, and specialized or modified equipment is required for harvest. Seed is expensive, and there is no data on how the crop will produce in Kansas.

**Haskell County Extension Office will host an Industrial Hemp Informational Meeting on 2/21. Call 620-675-2261 for more information!**

## Tally Time - Resolve to get a Personal Assistant for your Cow/Calf Operation in 2019

Most of our farming and ranching enterprises would welcome a little more help from time to time. That additional help can be hard to find or find with the skills desired. In other cases, hiring help may put too much strain on the budget.

One-way cow/calf producers can make the time they do have go a bit further is by using an electronic personal assistant called the Management Minder. It keeps track of key dates and activities as they relate to managing the herd and shows them to you on an electronic calendar. Reminders automatically pop-up on your smart phone based on your inputs. There is some investment of time initially to set it up, but from that point on, it's on the job working for you. You can find the Management Minder at:

[www.KSUSBeef.org/managementminder](http://www.KSUSBeef.org/managementminder)



# Check for Scale Insects



Obscure Scale

The dormant season is a good time to check woody plants for scale insect infestations. This time of year, deciduous plants do not have leaves, so scale is more easily seen.

If infestation is detected, make plans to apply a dormant oil for control by March 1. Be sure the temperature is 40 degrees or above before spraying. Scale insects are easily overlooked because they are small and immobile most of their lives and they do not resemble most other insects.

Many resemble small shells that are oval or circular, but some have more unusual shapes like oyster shells. Coloring varies, but can include white, tan, and brown.

Plants that should be inspected for scales include apples, pears, other fruit trees, bush fruits, lilac, crabapple, oak, ash, elm, lilac, maple, linden, arborvitae, juniper, pine, spruce and yew. Manhattan euonymus, a broadleaf evergreen, is especially noted for having scale problems. Plants are not harmed if only a few scales are present. But scale population can increase dramatically during the growing season. Heavy scale infestations can damage fruit crops, destroy branches and kill plants.

## Plants Recommended for Kansas

If you have had trouble finding a listing of plants recommended for Kansas, visit our web page devoted to this topic. We have links to a wide variety of plants including annual flowers, perennial flowers (including breakouts for iris and daylilies), fruit, vegetables, turfgrass, low-maintenance roses and tree recommendations that are broken out by areas of the state. We also list recommended low water use plants. Find this page at:

<http://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/recommendedplants/>

## Buffalograss Lawns Increase in Popularity

Buffalograss has become more popular in recent years due to its reputation as a low-maintenance grass. It does require less water and fertilizer than our other turfgrasses but often has problems competing with weeds. Buffalograss is an open growing grass that will not shade the soil as well as most of our other turfgrasses. Weeds are often the result. A regular mowing schedule can reduce broadleaf weed problems as most broadleaves cannot survive consistent mowing. Those that do either have a rosette growing pattern (dandelions, shepherds purse) or are “creepers” (henbit, chickweed, spurge). Annual grasses such as crabgrass or foxtail can also be a problem. A good weed preventer (prodiamine, pendimethalin or dithiopyr) may be needed prevent problems.

In March, spot treat broadleaf weeds if necessary. The most important treatment for broadleaf weeds should be in late October to early November well after the buffalograss is dormant. Treatments are much more effective then than in the spring as the weeds are smaller and the weeds are sending energy, as well as the herbicide, to the roots. Treatments in March are to take care of any “escapes” missed in the fall spraying. Spray early enough in March that the buffalograss is still dormant. Look at the base of the plants to make sure there is no green. Treat on a day that is 50 degrees F or warmer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness. Use a combination product such as Trimec, Weed-B-Gon or Weed-Out. Weed Free Zone is also good and will give quicker results under cool conditions.

For more information and a yearly calendar on Buffalograss Lawn Care, email [jstoss@ksu.edu](mailto:jstoss@ksu.edu)

# *Extension Events*

## Upcoming Agriculture Events:

February 15th- This free to attend **Corn School** will be at the Pioneer Garden City Research Station. Lunch is included, thanks to the sponsorship of Pioneer. To find out more information and REGISTER visit <https://kscorn.com/cornschool/>

February 19th- Beef cattle producers are invited to the **Winter Ranch Management Series!** We will be discussing a variety of beef topics focused on development and implementation of profit enhancing strategies. Registration fee of \$10. For more information visit, <https://www.hodgeman.k-state.edu/>

February 21st- **Industrial Hemp Informational Meeting**, contact Haskell County at 620-675-2261 for more information!

March 1st-The **Sunflower School** will be in Garden City and is free to attend. Topics covered include yield production, new innovations, weed control and industry updates. For more information visit, [finney.ksu.edu](http://finney.ksu.edu)

March 5th- Clark County will be hosting a **Cotton Basics** meeting. Contact [begibson@ksu.edu](mailto:begibson@ksu.edu) for more information.

March 20th- Kansas Department of Agriculture invites you to attend the **Livestock Mortality Workshop**. Register for the event as lunch will be provided. Information and registration is on, <https://agriculture.ks.gov/>

*Thank  
you!*

New events are added daily.  
Contact us to receive up to date  
extension news & events!

## Upcoming Horticulture Events:

April 3rd- **Irrigation in Your Lawn** is a program for the public. Learn more about watering your lawn. Topics such as when, what, how much, where and more will be discussed.

April 4th- **Irrigation & Your Business** is a program for businesses to come and learn about watering techniques for your business. This can include golf courses, school district and more!

April 9th- Dr. Sarah Zukoff, Entomology Extension Specialist will be presenting over **Identifying Common Insects in Your Garden**.



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