

Fenceline  
by Jody G. Holthaus  
Meadowlark Extension District Agent  
Livestock-Natural Resources

## YUCKY WATER

It's that time of year when ponds and stock tanks are looking pretty gross! If you think the pool water in Rio is bad, look around. There are some tricks to aiding in the abolishment of algae.

In stock watering tanks you can add some goldfish, the cheap kind. You can add 4-6 goldfish per 100 gallons of tank capacity. Water temperature should be at least 60 degrees for the fish survival. If they are just small this fall, you can take them inside and overwinter. Larger fish can survive the winter. I like to provide a piece of PVC pipe or milk crate for them to hide in from predators.

Chlorine bleach can work if you add 2-3 ounces of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite use the unscented laundry bleach per 100 gallons of water. Once you start this, it will need to be continued each week. The chlorine will dissipate quicker in really hot weather. Do not use the chlorine sanitizer made for swimming pools. Copper sulfate has been a cure forever, use at the rate of 1/8 teaspoon per 100 gallons. Remove the dead plant material. Shading the tank can slow algae growth.

Zinc sulfate can be used at the rate of 1 cup in 1 gallon of warm water, then put ½ cup of this solution in your tank per 100 gallons, you can do this as often as necessary.

Control in ponds and lakes is tricky. The first thought is to not feed the algae, so if you fertilize the surrounding land, stay back at least 100 feet. Try to keep a grass buffer around the pond to catch runoff. Excluding animals from the water, will also aid in the algae control, but might defeat the whole purpose of the pond. There are plans for limited access points for watering. I have those available if you are interested, give me a call.

Copper sulfate crystals can be added at a rate of 2-3 pounds per acre foot of water. An acre foot is 43,560 square feet in area X 1 foot deep. Put the crystals in a porous bag, tie the bag to an empty milk jug as a float to keep the bag near the surface, drag this through the water until the crystals dissolve. Avoid treating when the water temperature is above 80 degrees, treat only ¼ or 1/3 of the vegetation at a time, to avoid a possible fish kill.

Barley straw is touted on the internet as a solution, good luck finding any of this, in a large enough quantity. We have a publication entitled "Aquatic Weeds and Their Control" it will help you determine the type of algae or weeds you are fighting. It also has some guidelines are how to determine the acre feet of your pond. It can be downloaded from the KSRE website.

David G. Hallauer  
Meadowlark Extension District Agent  
Crops & Soils/Horticulture  
Demonstration Plot Tour – August 23, 2016

Yield monitors and data management will be the program for this year's Meadowlark Extension District Demonstration Plot Tour. This year's tour will be Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Domann Farms shop located one and a half miles north of Winchester on Saline Road.

Breakfast will be served starting at 8:00 a.m. courtesy of Murrfield Farms Supply, Inc. of McLouth, J.B. Pearl Sales & Service, St. Marys and Perry, and Dailey Ag, Inc., of Oskaloosa.

The program will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a discussion of the corn row spacing plot and results. We'll also share information on last year's N loss plots.

The morning's featured speakers will be KSU Precision Agriculture Specialist Dr. Ajay Sharda and Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti, KSU Cropping Systems Specialist. Dr. Sharda will discuss best management practices for yield monitor calibration for collection of usable data on your farm. Dr. Ciampitti will share information about using your data and how yield monitor data is being used in on farm research trials in Kansas.

Plan to attend for a cup of coffee, breakfast, and a rapid fire discussion about collecting and using your farm's data – all before 10:00 a.m.!

RSVP for breakfast is requested - but not required! Call (785) 863-2212 or e-mail [dhallaue@ksu.edu](mailto:dhallaue@ksu.edu) to RSVP or for further information! Special thanks to our sponsors for making this meeting possible. Hope to see you there!

## Tall Fescue Cultivar Recommendations

Because of it is so well adapted to our area, tall fescue is the turf of choice for most northeast Kansas lawns. For years, cultivar K-31 has been the 'standard'. It held up well to summer heat and drought stress and even our less than stellar mowing practices! Now, it has some competition! In the past decade, research has been conducted on a myriad of newer cultivars that feature improved color, density and a finer leaf texture. In other words, we can get a nicer look, with many of the same features K-31 offered!

The National Turfgrass Evaluation Trials annually rate tall fescue varieties for color, greenup, quality and texture on a monthly basis from March through October. An average of the 2013 and 2014 ratings shows a couple of things. First: there are some really nice fescue turfgrass varieties available! Second: K-31 consistently rates towards the bottom.

The following cultivars all averaged a rating of 6.0 or higher in the trials: Thor, Michelangelo, GTO, Traverse 2, Technique, Maestro, Firebird 2, 4th Millennium SRP, Reflection, Black Tail, Avenger II, Falcon V, Terrano, Rowdy, Rockwell, Rhambler 2, Hot Rod, Firewall, Bizem, Titanium 2LS, Hemi, Firecracker, Leonardo and Grande 3. For more information on these cultivars as well as others that maybe didn't make the list but should perform well here as well, check out [http://www.ntep.org/states/ks2/ks2\\_tf.htm](http://www.ntep.org/states/ks2/ks2_tf.htm).

Remember – you don't have to settle for just one! Blends or mixes allow you to take advantage of differing strengths. Remember as well that a mix that contains a variety not listed above doesn't mean it's a bad mix. Just try and select one that has one or two of those above in it for best results. K-31 still has its place (large, open areas come to mind...), but new cultivars will give better performance if you desire a higher-quality turf.

Cindy Williams  
Meadowlark Extension District Agent  
Food & Nutrition, FNP

## Handling Dough Safely

A recent recall of flour has prompted concerns about eating raw dough products such as raw cookie dough, raw bread dough, and homemade craft dough. Any type of flour is a raw food product. At least one person has been sickened with Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) due to eating raw pizza dough a restaurant gave to the consumer. HUS develops from E. coli contamination and can be deadly. Here is advice to consumers:

- \*Flour or raw eggs used to make raw dough or batter might be contaminated.
- \*Bake items made with raw dough or batter before eating them. Follow the recipe or instructions on the package.
- \*Do not taste raw dough or batter. Even tasting a small amount can make you sick.
- \*Wash any bowls, utensils, and other surfaces that were used when baking with hot water and soap.
- \*Wash your hands with water and soap after handling dough or batter.
- \*Restaurants should not give consumers raw dough to play with or eat.

## Is A Cooler Corn@ Safe to Eat?

This sounds like an easy way to cook corn for a crowd. But it could be risky to make A cooler corn.@ This method is described as washing the cooler with soap and water. Place peeled corn in the cooker and pour boiling water completely over the corn. Close the lid and let stand 30 minutes. Then, eat at your own risk!

Coolers are not designed to be used for cooking. Boiling water can damage the plastic. Coolers can also harbor millions of germs from other foods such as raw meat.

The best advice is to cook corn in a large stock pot for the safest results.

Nancy C. Nelson  
Meadowlark District Agent  
Family Life

## Laundry 101

So you're excited about starting college. Well, here's the American Cleaning Institute's easy guide to college laundry: Sort ... Analyze ... Take charge!

The care labels on your garments are the key to basic care. Anything labeled "dry clean only" is a laundry no-no! Put anything labeled "delicate" in its own pile. Lingerie and sweaters are likely candidates for this group.

Sort by Color. Sort what remains into four piles: 1) whites, 2) color-fast pastels, medium and bright colors, 3) darks, 4) "fuzzies" – mostly towels, but include anything else that might shed lint onto other items.

Analyze. While you're sorting, empty the pockets, turn down pant and shirt cuffs, close zippers, snaps and hooks. Tie strings and sashes, so they won't get tangled. Remove belts, pins, and other non-washables. Turn jeans inside out if you want to slow down the fading process.

Must-have Laundry Products. Here are the basic products:

1) Prewash stain remover for treating spots and stains before you drop them into the washing machine. These come in convenient stick, gel, or spray formulas. 2) Laundry detergent. Try liquids, powders, or the pre-measured tablets that take the guesswork out of how much to add. 3) Bleach. Check the garment care label to see if bleach is safe for the fabric and whether chlorine or non-chlorine (oxygen) bleach is recommended.

Take Charge. Choose the water temperature that's best for the clothes. Read the garment's care label for the recommended temperature that's safe for the fabric.

Wash delicates on their own "delicate" setting. The longer soaking time and shorter agitation cycle puts less strain on the clothes.