

8-26-2016

MEADOWLARK EXTENSION DISTRICT AGENT NEWS

Fenceline

by Jody G. Holthaus

Meadowlark Extension District Agent

Livestock-Natural Resources

Last Call!

It's last call for those wanting to register for the Grazing School in Perry on September 20th and 21st. We've toured the farms we will be visiting, and you won't want to miss this! You can call or email me to register, the event flyer and registration info is on our website; www.meadowlark.ksu.edu. As usual we have the grazing expert from Missouri, Mark Green. He's been doing rotational grazing for 25+ years, professionally and personally. He's partnering with Wesley Tucker, an Ag Economist from Missouri, then we've called in our Kansas experts, David Kraft, Doug Spencer and Dusty Schwandt. We have only the best presenting this school!

It's about last call for the goat project. Just when I think, that I've got the goats going, we hit some cloudy days and my solar energy quits me. I get that remedied, and the batteries went out on the collars and Clifford and George are at the patio door wanting in the house! Maybe I should give up on all the electronics and go old school. Barb Mattox tells me there was an article in the Sunday paper about a lady that will bring her herd of goats, two dogs and trailer and camp out in your pasture to rid it of brush and weeds. I'm not sure what she charges, but she might be on to something!

It seems that the pasture season is on its last call. We have been blessed with rain to keep the grass going. I was told the other day, from now until traditional weaning time, the cows are losing $\frac{1}{4}$ of a body condition score, every two weeks. It sure makes a case for early weaning. Even though, corn and other feed stuffs are cheaper, it is still easier to keep that weight on, then try to get it back this winter.

If you are pricing your winter feed supplement, remember that we have the BRANDS program to help you balance rations. This helps figure a least cost ration, which hay or feeds to use first and generally the feed inventory you need. There is no charge for this service. If you are interested in having some rations done, give me a call. The program works for most classes of cattle, growing, finishing, cows, replacements and bulls. The only weakness is for very light weight calves, under 300 pounds.

David G. Hallauer
Meadowlark Extension District Agent
Crops & Soils/Horticulture

Give Cool-Season Turf Grasses a Boost

For most homeowners, a good fertilization in spring is what we think our fescue and bluegrass turf grass stands really need. It can sure help, but if you could only fertilize your cool-season grasses once per year, September would actually be the best time to do it.

September is when days shorten and temperatures, particularly nighttime temperatures, moderate. That means time for cool season turf grasses to start their natural thickening process by a process known as tillering - forming new shoots at the base of existing plants (or in the case of bluegrass, spreading by underground stems called rhizomes). That's what makes a September fertilization the most important one!

For most situations, apply a pound to a pound and a half of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet (the settings recommended on lawn fertilizer bags usually result in about one pound). Try to use a quick release source during this time frame. Most fertilizers sold in stores are quick release unless they specifically say they are intended for summer use.

Fall fertilization may be a change of mindset for some, but to help thicken your turf stands, it's the most important season for fertilizer application. In fact, the second most important fertilization timing for cool-season grasses also occurs in the fall – in November! One pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet in November will help the grass green up earlier next spring and provide the nutrients needed until summer. If you thought your 2017 lawn care program wasn't going to start until a fertilizer application next spring – think again!

Foliage Feeding on Soybeans

Green cloverworm larvae feeding has really become noticeable across northeast Kansas during the last couple of weeks. Feeding on the underside of leaves has become holes in the leaves to a point that damage is visible in many fields from the road!

In some cases, feeding has reached an economic threshold requiring a fungicide application to prevent further damage. This is generally the case when densities reach 10

-12 larvae/ row ft. with about 30% defoliation, and larvae are still small (1/2 inch or less).

In addition to insecticides (which are very effective when proper coverage is achieved) there is also an entomopathogenic fungus that can help with control by rapidly cutting down the population. It typically kicks in about the time the aforementioned densities are attained, and it seems to be doing so again this year. This fungus causes the green cloverworm larvae to stop feeding after 12-24 hours of infection and causes death 24-48 hours later. Sometimes, infected larvae still look alive even in death, which is one of the characteristics of this fungus.

Scouting is still necessary even if economic thresholds for cloverworm aren't reached at this time. There will likely be at least one more generation of green cloverworms and continued scouting is also necessary for adult bean leaf beetles, stink bugs, and podworms (there will likely be one more generation of these insects as well), all of which may feed on pods and/or seeds.

For information on soybean pests please see Soybean Insect Management 2016, available via your District Office or online at <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF743.pdf>

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Cindy Williams
Meadowlark Extension District Agent
Food & Nutrition, FNP

Take the Challenge BPrepare Kansas to Start

Ice storms, tornadoes, and flooding BKansas has them all and more. Do you really know how long food will stay safe in the refrigerator if your power is out? Or what foods and supplies you should have on hand in case of emergencies?

Starting September 1, Prepare Kansas 2016 will provide tips on keeping food safe in emergency situations. This year's program will be conducted through the [K-State Research and Extension Facebook page](#). No registration is required, so Kansans and anyone interested in planning ahead for emergencies can follow on Facebook at any time during September, pick up handy information and interact with K-State extension specialists and agents.

Throughout 2015, a total of 126 tornadoes occurred across the state, which made it the fourth highest year for tornadoes since 1950, according to the Kansas Department of Emergency Management.

AKansas has its share of disasters, whether it's a homeowner's basement flooding or a fire affecting a whole block in a community. We're committed to working with people across the state to help them be prepared for anything that comes their way, @ said Kansas State University associate professor Elizabeth Kiss. AWe can't always keep disasters from happening, but we know that being as prepared as possible, whether it's making an emergency kit or having copies of your financial and personal information in a separate, safe place, aids in the recovery from disasters.

Kiss, a K-State and Extension financial management specialist produces the [Prepare Kansas](#) blog, which provides tips and resources on a range of emergency preparedness topics, including this year's focus on food safety during September.

It is very important to keep food safety in mind before, during and after emergencies such as power outages and floods, to help to reduce the likelihood of people getting sick from eating contaminated food. That would make a challenging situation even worse, @ said Londa Nwadike, consumer food safety specialist with K-State Research and Extension. ASome of the food safety practices that are important in emergency situations are good practices to help prevent people from getting sick at any time. @

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Nancy C. Nelson
Meadowlark District Agent
Family Life

Balance School, Family and Community

While parents encourage children to participate in school or community activities, sometimes it's necessary to set limits. Opportunities might be plentiful, yet setting aside time for one another can strengthen the family as a unit and each member as an individual.

Here are some tips. Post a family calendar and note scheduled activities and events. Include vacation and school in-service days.

Consider a child's age, interests and the total investment of time and money before committing to after-school or other extracurricular activities.

Share household responsibilities to free everyone's time and to practice working as a team.

Declare at least one night a week as family night. Relax, be flexible and vary activities.

Encourage children to bring friends home and ask them to stay for supper or join a family activity.

Schedule time to rest, relieve stress and renew energy.

Be ready to acknowledge when something isn't working and to make changes to balance family life with school and community.