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Crops & Soils/Horticulture

Nutrient Management/Soil Health Workshop

A glance at the 2020 KSU Corn Cost-Return Budget for Northeast Kansas shows total expenses - \$533.37 and total fertilizer expenses - \$77.72. Those numbers may not be identical to yours, but I would venture a guess that on a percentage basis, fertilizer cost is going to come in somewhere in the ballpark of this budget. That means that 14-15 percent of a corn budget's total expenses lie in fertilizer costs.

Helping producers manage that nutrient cost is the focus of a January 23rd workshop at the Evangel United Methodist Church (227 Pennsylvania St.) in Holton. Efficient nutrient use will be our focus, with an emphasis on managing nutrients in an economically and environmentally sound manner.

Following a few announcements at 9:45. K-State Research & Extension Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management Specialist Dr. Dorivar Ruiz-Diaz will provide an overview of soil sampling best management practices, as well as an overview of what nutrients we should focus on as well as where a soil test recommendation comes from. He'll discuss what you can do to keep nutrients from being a limiting factor for production. Dr. Ruiz-Diaz will also share manure management tips, including the values we can expect to see from our common manure products.

The morning will conclude with a discussion of how cover crops may help us address the industry's 4R Management (right source, right rate, right time, right place) approach to nutrient stewardship. Dr. Nathan Nelson, KSU Professor in Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management will share work being done by a team of researchers at Kansas State University to address how cover crops affect those strategies – and how water quality might be affected.

After a sponsored lunch compliments of the Jackson County Conservation District, KDA Division of Conservation and the Delaware and Middle Kansas WRAPS groups, we'll talk programs to assist producers. Tyler Warner, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks District Wildlife Biologist will discuss using precision analysis to identify acres that might generate more revenue under different management. He along with representatives from the Jackson County Conservation District, NRCS, and WRAPS will share information on their cost share program and funding resources. We'll conclude shortly after 2:00 p.m.

RSVP's for the sponsored lunch are requested by January 14th. Contact Brian Boeckman at the Jackson County Conservation District at 785-364-3329, extension 136 or via e-mail to brian.boeckman@ks.nacd.net.

Profitable nutrient management can yield big dividends – for both the environment and the producer's bottom line. Plan to attend and see if your nutrient management plan can be enhanced even further. If you have questions contact me at any of our District Offices or via e-mail to dhallaue@ksu.edu. A program flyer and information can be found online under the Crops and Soils tab at www.meadowlark.k-state.edu.

Horticulture Videos

If you enjoy horticulture and learn better by watching than just listening, check out the Video of the Week at kansashealthyyards.org They have numerous educational videos for you to check out. This week: Basic Care for Houseplants