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Crops & Soils/Horticulture

Cut Stump Herbicide Applications

Even as leaves fade from summer green to fall colors, the job of controlling woody species encroaching on grazing lands likely isn't done. Fortunately, there are options to consider for use now and in to winter. One of the more common options is cut-stump treatments.

As the name implies, cut-stump treatments are those where the woody plant is cut at ground level and the stump treated with a herbicide mixture. There are lots of options available, including active ingredients like triclopyr, aminopyralid, picloram, and even dicamba or glyphosate. Always make sure you are reading the product label for directions. Some are mixed in diesel fuel as a carrier. Others use water. Each has a different mix concentration as well. Efficacy varies among species. For example, cut stump applications of aminopyralid or picloram tend to be more effective on locust species than will triclopyr containing products.

After you've identified the species you are after and have an appropriate cut stump treatment mix for them, you are ready to cut. Following cutting at ground level, treat the surface area of the stump (the cambium and light-colored sapwood layers near the outside edge of the trunk are the most important) within 30 to 60 minutes before sap seals off the exposed area. With any luck, the herbicide will be absorbed and prevent stump (and hopefully root) sprouting.

NOTE: red cedar sprouts do not need a stump treatment if cut below the lowest green branch.

For products and mix rates, check out the *2022 KSU Chemical Weed Control Guide* at <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/SRP1169.pdf>. Sections of the guide are also available upon request from any District Office or via e-mail to dhallaue@ksu.edu. Next up: basal bark options.

Tall in the Fall? Turf Mowing Height BMP's

You fertilized at the appropriate rate. You mowed at the appropriate height. You have a plan for winter annual weed control. Now it's time to think about that last mowing of the season.

Contrary to what may seem logical, continuing to mow at your turf's typical mowing height is probably the best thing you can do. Mowing too high likely doesn't do a lot to protect plant crowns from extreme winter temperatures and too much canopy may lay over and get matted down, potentially leading to disease issues.

If you really want to help the turf with cold tolerance, simply keep it healthy. Combined with all the things you did above to help with turf health, mowing at our typically recommended heights (two and a half to three and a half inches for tall fescue and two to three inches for Kentucky bluegrass) is the best thing you can do. If you want to make any height adjustments, simply raise the mowing height to the upper end of those recommended for the rest of the season.

Ross Mosteller
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Bovine Anaplasmosis

Late summer and fall is the time of year when Anaplasmosis can rear its ugly head in beef cattle herds. At the Ranch Management Field days in August, Dr. Kathryn Reif, Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology, K-State College of Veterinary Medicine, gave an update on the prevalence, impact and control of Bovine Anaplasmosis. A survey of Kansas herds showed about 50 percent of herds in Kansas are infected with *Anaplasma marginale*. In our corner of the state the incidence rate goes up to closer to 75 percent. Knowledge of this disease can help with herd management and hopefully reduce the impact of Anaplasmosis to the beef cattle industry.

Anaplasmosis is a substantial drain to profitability in beef production. Industry estimates conservatively place this value at \$300 million per year. Production losses stem from; death, weight loss, abortions and input cost associated with treatment and prevention. This is not a human health concern and generally is considered to be a chronic disease in most infected herds, in animals over two years of age.

Anaplasma marginale is a bacterium which lives in the red blood cells of infected animals. Once an animal becomes infected, the body's immune system recognizes the abnormal red blood cells and removes the infected cells from the body. When the normal creation of new red blood cells can't keep up with the loss of the infected ones, the animal becomes anemic. The loss of red blood cells leads to a decrease oxygen carrying ability, which results in clinical signs of disease. It takes about a month from time of infection to clinical disease but the range is 6-70 days.

Ticks are the primary vector, as the bacteria can replicate in ticks and as they bite cattle, transmit the disease. Biting flies and blood-contaminated instruments can also transfer *A. marginale* infected blood. Thus, proper insect control measures, good equipment sanitation and changing needles between animals, all aid in suppressing the spread of Anaplasmosis. Managing the external parasites mentioned, should always be a top priority for control measures.

The clinical signs include; depression, anorexia, unusual aggression, loss of coordination or pale/yellow mucous membranes. Proper handling of a clinical animal is critical, because the loss of oxygen in the blood cause animals to become agitated, aggressive and even die if forced to overexert. Early detection is key to successful treatment protocols. Unfortunately, especially true in older animals, the first indication of an Anaplasmosis outbreak is dead cows. Testing options are available, especially to find carrier animals with antibodies that are not yet clinical.

As with any animal disease issue, my recommendation is to visit with your herd veterinarian for treatment and control measures. Enrofloxacin (Baytril 100-CA1) is a prescription medication that can be used with FDA conditional approval for use. Many veterinarians recommend the use of feed-based chlortetracycline to help control this disease. Feed-based use of antimicrobials falls under the Veterinary Feed Directive, as discussed last week. There is not a fully USDA licensed vaccine on the market, but experimental vaccines are being developed and tested.

Producers should be aware of symptoms of anaplasmosis to identify the issue as soon as possible if it occurs. If anaplasmosis is confirmed in a herd, your veterinarian can help develop a plan appropriate to the situation within your herd. More information can be found in the K-State Beef Tips article: <https://enewsletters.k-state.edu/beeftips/2020/09/01/dealing-with-anaplasmosis/>

Teresa Hatfield
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Family and Community Wellness

Medicare Open Enrollment is Just Around the Corner

Medicare Open Enrollment is just around the corner, October 15- December 7, 2022. What does this mean for Medicare beneficiaries? Open Enrollment is when you can enroll in or change your Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage plan. Medicare beneficiaries are highly encouraged to review their current plan coverage and shop to see if a more cost-effective option is available. Each year plans can change the monthly premium, annual deductible, co-pays, co-insurance, and list of medications they cover.

Beneficiaries should have received their current plan's annual notice of change letter by September 30th. This letter will include information about your plan changes for next year. You should compare plans even if you are happy with your current choice.

Many things can impact how much you pay for your medication. Your choice of pharmacy can make a difference in the amount you pay for your medications. A preferred pharmacy will cost less than a standard pharmacy. If a pharmacy is out of the network, you would have to pay the total cost of the medication. Mail-order pharmacies may be another option to explore. The cost of generic medications generally costs less than brand-name medication, but not always. Plans can also place restrictions on medication, such as prior authorization, quantity limits, and step therapy.

Medicare Part D plans for 2023 include monthly premiums ranging from \$2.80 to \$112.60 per month. The maximum Part D deductible for 2023 will increase to \$505 annually. In 2023 the cost of insulin will be capped at a \$35 per month co-pay. There will be improved cost coverage for adult vaccines. In 2023 Part B Medicare coverage will start the month after a person signs up for Medicare during the last three months of their initial Enrollment or general Enrollment.

In 2023 you will also see a reduction in your Part B premium for most people to 164.90, down from 170.10 in 2022. People with higher incomes may pay more for their Part B premium. There is also a reduction in the Part B deductible to \$226 per year, down from \$233 in 2022. Other Part A and Part B costs will increase, including the Part A deductible to \$1600 per benefit period. The skilled nursing co-pay will increase to \$200 per day after the first 20 days.

Plan comparisons can be made on the Medicare website at www.medicare.gov. You can also contact the Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) program to explore your plan options. If you wish to make an appointment with a SHICK counselor, call the Meadowlark Extension District at 785-364-4125 to schedule a time to review your plan.

Cindy Williams
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Family & Community Wellness

Buying Prescription Medicines Online: A Consumer Safety Guide

The Internet is rapidly changing the way we live, including how we shop. Internet growth in recent years has enabled consumers to purchase medicines online. There are online pharmacies that provide legitimate prescription services. Unfortunately, there are also questionable sites that make purchasing medicines online risky. Potential risks include:

- * Fake, unapproved, outdated, or substandard products
- * Little or no quality control (packaging, purity of ingredients, storage)
- * Possibility of an incorrect diagnosis (i.e, those sites that inappropriately diagnose and prescribe online)
- * Obtaining an inappropriate medicine (e.g. inappropriate for condition, interaction with other drugs)
- * Lack of assurance of confidentiality and security issues

To purchase medicines online safely, here are some do's and don'ts:

Meet with your doctor to obtain any new prescriptions

- * Take only medications that have been prescribed by your doctor or other authorized health care provider.
- * Consult with your doctor on whether you need to take any special steps in filling your prescription.
- * Don't buy online from sites that offer to prescribe a medicine for the first time without a physical exam by your doctor or that sell a prescription medicine without a prescription.

Ensure that you are dealing with a legitimate pharmacy

- * Buy only from sites that require prescriptions from a physician or other authorized Health care provider and that also verify each prescription before dispensing the Medication. A written verification policy is usually posted on the site.
- * Use sites that provide convenient access to a licensed pharmacist who can answer your questions.
- * Use a site that is a licensed pharmacy in good standing in your state. Check your state Board of pharmacy or the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) at www.nabp.net. Some sites display the NABP Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites seal, an assurance that such sites are meeting all state and federal requirements.
- * Don't buy from sites that sell prescription medications without a prescription.
- * Don't buy from sites that sell medicines not approved by FDA.

Know from whom you are buying

- * Buy only from U.S. based sites.
- * Don't buy from sites without posted customer service policies.

Safeguard your privacy and security

- * Look for easy-to-find and understand privacy and security policies.
- * Don't provide any personally identifiable information (social security number, credit card, and health history) unless you are confident that the site will protect

them. Make sure, the site does not share your information with others without your permission.

Trust your instincts

- * Use common sense when purchasing prescription medications online. Apply the same Standards you'd use for any place of business when looking for a reputable pharmacy site.
- * Don't buy from sites that include undocumented case histories claiming amazing medical results.

Take action to protect yourself and other consumers

- * Report problems. If you suspect a site is not a licensed pharmacy, do not buy from it. Report the site and any complaints to FDA at www.fda.gov using a online complaint form. Buying medications online may be beneficial option for you. Know all the facts before making a purchase.