THE NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK...

What season is today?

We have experienced many different seasons in the last month. I am having a tough time acclimating myself for the changes in weather from day to day.

I hope you are enjoying the recent rains. Though we never want to wish away a good rain in Kansas, there have been moments recently, such as baseball practice, track meets, planting time, etc…

This newsletter contains lots of information concerning the 2017 wheat crop. Be sure to be out scouting your wheat crop!

I wish you a safe and productive spring planting season and a safe and bountiful wheat harvest. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at aburns@ksu.edu or contact the office at (620-227-4542).

What is in a Name?

There is a new product on the market for homeowners to add to their arsenal of products to control lawn weeds. However, every homeowner needs to know the difference between Roundup and Roundup for Lawns!

Confusion between these two products could cause a dead lawn and a lot of heartache. These is a difference in the active ingredients in Roundup compared to Roundup for Lawns. That is why it is so important to know what you’re applying.

Dr. Kevin Frank at Michigan State University recently posted a great article about the difference between Roundup and Roundup for Lawns. The article is available at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/difference_between_roundup_and_roundup_for_lawns%20.

I am going to try to provide you with the cliff notes version of the article so that you will know and understand the difference between these two products. The confusion originates from the name Roundup itself and that for most consumers, they don’t recognize Roundup is a product name such as Coke or Tylenol. It turns out there is a lot in a name!

(Continued on Page 10)
K-State to Host Southwest Research-Extension Spring Field Day

**Thursday, May 25, 2017 from 4:30-7:00 p.m.**

Southwest Research-Extension Center
4500 E. Mary St., Garden City, KS

Kansas State University’s Southwest Research-Extension Center will host its Spring Field Day on Thursday, May 25 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the center, located at 4500 E. Mary St. in Garden City.

The Spring Field Day is an annual event hosted at the research center for more than a decade. It provides an opportunity for K-State researchers to engage local producers, to provide updates and to receive feedback on the status of current research programs.

Producers attending the field day will learn about wheat and canola varieties and agronomy management practices to maximize productivity.

“This field day provides a platform to keep producers up to date on new research and technology and a medium for dialogue between researchers and producers,” said A.J. Foster, K-State agronomist at the Southwest Research-Extension Center. “Producers should consider this conference as an opportunity to refresh basic principles and to learn new principles that they can apply to their own situation.”

Supper will be provided courtesy of industry supporters. Continuing education credits have been applied for and should be available at this meeting.

Contact Ashlee Wood at 620-276-8286 or e-mail awood22@ksu.edu by 5:00 p.m. on May 17 to register. Prior registration is important to ensure supper will be available for all attendees. For more information on the program, contact A.J. Foster at 620-640-1259 or e-mail anserdj@ksu.edu.

Canola Field Tours Scheduled for Southwest Kansas

**Thursday, May 25, 2017 – Garden City**

**Friday, May 26, 2017 - Montezuma**

K-State Research and Extension will host two opportunities in May to learn more about winter canola varieties and crop production practices, said Mike Stamm, K-State canola breeder.

“Having field tours at this time gives us a great opportunity to evaluate yield potential of the winter canola crop. As producers gear up for harvest, there are a number of questions we can address to help with those important decisions. We’ll also talk about new varieties, variety development, and how well the crop has fared over the growing season,” Stamm said.

- The first field will be May 25 at the Southwest Research-Extension Center, 4500 E. Mary Street, Garden City, in conjunction with the center’s Spring Field Day. The field day starts at 4:30 p.m. and a meal will be provided. Attendees will hear about canola variety development, production practices, and the National Winter Canola Variety Trial.
- The second field day will be May 26 starting at 10 a.m. near Montezuma. The first stop will be 1 mile north of town on the Ingalls blacktop (12th Road) on the west side of the road. Attendees will learn about canola growth and development, harvest options and variety development. Lunch will be sponsored by Helena Chemical and Monsanto.

All field days are co-sponsored by K-State Research and Extension and the Great Plains Canola Association. Financial support for these field days was made available through the Great Plains Canola Association’s Promote Canola Acres Program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture Supplemental and Alternative Crops Competitive Grant Programs.
2017 Ford County Wheat Plot Tour

Wednesday, May 24
Starting at 6:00 p.m.
Location: Highway 50 Bypass & 116 Road
Across from Koch Nitrogen Plant

Wheat Plot Speakers:
Erick DeWolf
K-State Professor, Plant Pathology
AJ Foster,
KSRE Specialist, Crops & Soils
Rumulo Lolaito,
K-State Professor, Agronomy
Sarah Zukoff
KSRE Specialist, Entomology

2017 Varieties
- Avery
- Byrd
- Denali
- KanMark
- T-158
- TAM 204
- Tatanka
- WB 4303
- WB 4458
- WB 4462
- Winterhawk

Participants are invited to a meal at DCCC Tech Building following the tour.
After The Fire: Range Management

May 18, 2017
9:00 A.M.
Snake Creek Ranch
2622 CR GG, Ashland, KS

On March 6th and 7th, the states of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Colorado battled historic wild fires. We lost hundreds of thousands of acres of grassland, miles of fence, and thousands of head of cattle. Now it is time for us to repair and rebuild. In cooperation with Oklahoma State University Extension, Kansas State Research and Extension will be conducting a multi-state pasture and range management meeting.

Speakers

Walt Fick
Associate Professor - Range Management
Kansas State University

Laura Goodman, PhD
Range Extension Specialist
Assistant Professor
Natural Resource Ecology and Management
Oklahoma State University

County Agent Panel

Please call Brice Gibson at the K-State Research and Extension Clark County Office, 620 635 2811, to RSVP by May 15 for meal.
AG WOMEN OF THE HEARTLAND 2017

AG WOMEN CONFERENCE
“HUMOR, HOPE, HELPFUL IDEAS”
JUNE 2-3, 2017
CLARION INN
GARDEN CITY, KS

Friday June 2, 2017
4:00-4:30 pm  Registration
4:30-6:00 pm  Social Hour/Crafts
              Create your own Garden Décor or Book Folding
6:10-8:00 pm  “Empower and Encourage”
              Debbie Lyons-Blythe and Chef Alli
              (Dinner will be provided)

Saturday June 3, 2017
8:00-9:00 am  Registration
9:00-9:10 am  Welcome
9:10-10:30 am Debunking Food Myths
10:45-11:00 am Break-Draw
11:00-12:30 pm “The Other Side of the Plate—Helping Ag Women Live Healthy Lifestyles”
12:30-1:30 pm Lunch
1:30-3:00 pm  Envisioning your Farm
3:00-3:15 pm  Closing

Featuring
“Empower and Encourage”
A presentation that combines cooking and ag advocacy
Presented by:
Debbie Lyons-Blythe and Chef Alli

Debunking Food Myths (Professional Panel)
Envisioning your Farm
Electric Pressure Cooker Demo & Dinner (Friday Evening)

Lunch provided Saturday

K-State Research & Extension and Finney County Conservation District
Are equal opportunity providers and employers.
DEBBIE LYONSBLYTHE
A Kansas wife, mother of 5, cattle rancher, blogger and Ag Advocate. She enjoys writing about the day-to-day activities of a cattle rancher.

CHEF ALLI
For more than a decade, Chef Alli has been stirring up a love of farm fresh cooking across Kansas. Chef Alli seeks to connect with the home cook, teaching savvy cooking strategies and effective culinary techniques to make time spent in the kitchen a positive and rewarding experience.

Kansas State Research & Extension and Finney County Conservation District is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact the Finney County Extension, 501 S. 9th, Garden City, KS 67846, Phone 620-272-3670 or email fi@latserv.ksu.edu or FCCD, 2106 E. Spruce Street, Garden City, KS 67846, Phone 620-272-0211 Ext. 3 or email carmen.rhodes@ks.nacdnnet.net. Kansas State University Agriculture Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Organized and supported by:
Finney County Extension Council and the
Finney County Conservation District

AG WOMEN CONFERENCE
JUNE 2-3, 2017
Clarion Inn
Garden City, KS 67846
Registration

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________
E-Mail ____________________________
Contact Phone ____________________________

Meal Choice:
1: Cobb Salad
2: Chicken Wrap with Roasted Sweet Potato Fries

Conference Registration Fee $20.00

REGISTRATION RECEIVED BY MAY 26, 2017

Online registration at www.finney.ksu.edu

Please make checks payable to
Finney County Extension Council

And mail or deliver to
501 S. 9th St., Garden City, KS 67846 OR
Call 620-272-3670 to pay by Credit Card

You will not be considered registered until payment is received.

Thanks To Our Sponsors
Brooker Land Enterprises

Final listing of sponsors at a later date.
$300 total prize money provided by Ford County Fair Association. Traveling plaque provided by Pride Ag Resources. Samples will be collected at the following elevators in Ford County, off the truck, during harvest: Pride Ag Resources – Dodge City, Howell, Ensign, Ford/Kingsdown, & Saddle Road Elevators; Alliance Ag – Wright, Spearville and Wilroads elevators; Offerle Co-op – Bellefont, Bucklin & Offerle Elevators; and Minneola Co-op – Bloom & Minneola Elevator. **All entries must have been grown in Ford County.** Information cards will be filled out that day with the producer’s name, field I.D., and variety on it. After harvest, Official Crop Data Forms will be sent to each intended participant and are to be filled out and returned to the Ford County Extension Office no later than July 14, 2016.

1. Crop Data Forms are to be turned into the Extension Office no later than 4:30 p.m., July 14. Varieties without Data Cards will not be judged.

2. All wheat exhibits shall be produced during the current year in Ford County.

3. All exhibits shall be of COMBINE RUNS ONLY, samples shall consist of approximately 3 pounds of wheat collected at the cooperating elevators.

4. **ANY ENTRY WHICH HAS BEEN HAND PICKED OR SCREENED WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

5. Limitation of entries: Each operator is limited to one (1) for each variety of wheat grown on exhibitor’s farm. Landlord may enter if tenant DOES NOT.

6. The decision of the judges will be final – no appeals will be considered.

7. Premiums and ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 3rd places for each class. In case of a tie, premiums will be added together.

8. A plaque of the overall winner will be presented on Monday before the Premium Sale during the Ford County Fair. This plaque will be provided by Pride Ag Resources and will be displayed with winner’s name and variety for each year. The plaque will be displayed at the co-op where the winning variety was delivered.

9. Top 3 entries in each class will be transported to the Kansas State Fair in September. The Grand Champion will represent Ford County in the Kansas State Fair Market Wheat Show Sweepstakes.

*** Rules & Guidelines are subject to change. ***
Wildfires and Rain

Andrea Burns, Ford County Extension Agent

Ford County Extension is working with Pride Ag Resources, BTI-Bucklin and the Kansas Livestock Association and still accepting donations for the Fire Fencing Relief Fund. All donations collected will go to help those affected in Ford County. Donations can be made to Pride Ag-Ford Co. Fencing Fund and dropped off at Pride Ag’s main office at 710 West Trail Street in Dodge City or at the Ford County Extension Office, 100 Gunsmoke, also in Dodge City.

March 6th changed much of the landscape in Southwest Kansas, especially those of the farming and ranching community, forever. Wildfires swept through parts of Texas, Oklahoma and several counties in western Kansas: Meade, Clark, Comanche, Ford, Hodgeman, Ness and Rush Counties. When the dust settled, more than 21 counties in Kansas suffered fire damage that day. Almost 7,000 head of cattle we lost, along with other livestock and wildlife. Over 40 homes were lost and approximately 12,000 people were displaced.

Ford County had many families and livestock producers affected by the wildfires. Seven homes, approximately $20,000 worth of livestock and miles of fences were destroyed. The recovery process will be long and hard. However, Mother Nature helped when she brought the rain!

If you have questions, know someone who needs wildfire relief assistance or want to donate to the fencing materials fund, contact Andrea at the Ford County Extension Office at aburns@ksu.edu or 620-227-4542.

The Wheat Report

K-State Research and Extension Agronomy, eUpdate Issue 632 May 5, 2017

This week brought some mixed reports on the wheat disease situation in Kansas. We continue to find stripe rust and leaf rust at low levels in many fields. The distribution of these diseases in the state changed slightly this week, with a few more counties in the central region of the state reporting low levels of both stripe rust and leaf rust in the middle canopy. Rust moved to the upper levels in a few counties in this region.

Stripe rust is developing more slowly than expected, but expanding distribution and a few reports of higher incidence still suggests we are at a moderate risk of problems with stripe rust.

The additional reports of leaf rust are also noteworthy. Leaf rust can also cause more than 20% yield loss when it becomes established on the upper leaves prior to flowering.

Growers with wheat that is between boot and flowering should be scouting their wheat for signs of stripe rust, leaf rust or other diseases. Fields with good yield potential and seed production fields, where the value of the grain is higher, would be priorities for fungicide application. Growers with fields that were damaged by freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall should carefully evaluate yield potential before applying fungicides.
The 2017 Wheat Quality Tour took place during May 1 – May 4. More than 70 people actively scouted hundreds of Kansas wheat fields in six routes, leaving Manhattan and heading to Colby on day 1, from Colby to Wichita on day 2, and finally from Wichita to Manhattan on day 3. The overall 2017 production estimate for Kansas resulting from the tour was 282 million bushels of wheat.

Despite the high production estimate resulting from the tour, the Kansas wheat crop is currently facing many challenges, as described below, and will have to be exposed to near perfect weather conditions to be able to produce the 282 million bushels estimated.

**Snow Cover**

As we moved into western portions of Kansas, into Graham Co. and surrounding region, it was hard to estimate wheat yields due to a heavy layer of snow covering the crop. This snow had fallen during the period April 29 – May 1, and was still covering the crop in the evening of May 2 and morning of May 3. For more details on the snowfall event, please read the eUpdate article “Effects of snowfall April 29 and May 1, 2017 on Kansas Wheat” [https://webapp.agron.ksu.edu/agr_social/eu_article.throck?article_id=1357](https://webapp.agron.ksu.edu/agr_social/eu_article.throck?article_id=1357).

The snow was covering the majority of the fields, with a few isolated pockets of plants not covered by it. The thick layer of snow cover likely protected the wheat from the damaging effects of 40-60 mph winds observed during the period and from colder temperatures than the 30-32 F generally observed under the snow. Still, the wheat laying underneath the snow had anywhere from 20 to 50% broken stems, depending on fields and portions within each field. Thus, yield losses from this event are still uncertain and represent the largest unknown within the production estimate from the 2017 Wheat Quality Tour. The area affected by snow represents roughly 40% of the wheat area grown in Kansas and depending on how the wheat recovers from snow, the final actual production numbers might have a great range. The two major consequences of the snow to the wheat crop were:

1. Mechanical damage resulting from the snow weight breaking stems.
2. Possible cold damage from long exposure to temperatures at or below freezing.

**Wheat Streak Mosaic**

The majority of the fields visited west of Mitchell / Osborne counties had some level of wheat streak mosaic. In some fields, disease levels were minor and chances are that the crop will succeed in producing a decent yield despite the infection. As the tour moved into southwest Kansas, however, the extent of the damage by wheat streak mosaic virus was worsened, especially in Greeley, Hamilton, Wichita, Kearney, and Lane counties. Yield losses by wheat streak mosaic can be severe; which might result in greater area abandonment than the historical average.

**Stripe Rust & Leaf Rust**

While the 2017 tour encountered stripe and leaf rusts much less frequently than in previous years, it was present in many fields sampled in the central portion of the state. The greatest concern observed in the tour were cases in which the crop is already past the fungicide application window, and the disease is now at the flag leaf. In these cases, producers don’t have the option to control the disease anymore. This situation occurred more frequently in the southern tier of counties, where the crop is further along in development. Northern counties are mostly within the application window for foliar fungicides.

**Water Logging**

South central Kansas is also facing an additional problem, which is water logging. Many fields in Sumner and Sedgwick counties are now showing symptoms of water logging, which often consist of portions of the field where the entire wheat plant is dead due to anaerobic conditions. These portions of the field are often white and will not produce grain yield. The high incidence of water logged fields is the result of high total growing season precipitation coupled with poor drainage capacity of soils in the region.

The above factors are challenges that the 2017 Kansas wheat crop is currently facing. While all should contribute to restricted wheat yields to a certain extent, the largest uncertainty when estimating wheat production at the state level is whether the crop in western Kansas will be able to recover from the snowfall and still produce a decent yield.
Controlling Grassy Sandburs
Andrea Burns, Ford County Extension Agent

“How do I kill my stickers?” is one of the most popular questions asked by homeowners. Once it is established as to what type of sticker, then we can work on ways to control them. Always determine the type of weed (sticker) you are trying to control so that proper herbicides can be applied and corrective measures can be taken to ensure that the problem does not reoccur.

Many times it is the grassy sandbur (*Cenchrus sapp*) that is the culprit of many of these questions. Sandburs have small, needle-like seeds with hooks or barbs that allow them to stick to shoestrings, clothing and pet hair. Grassy sandburs are classified as an annual grassy weed and can be somewhat difficult to control in these situations.

Late in the season (late summer, early fall) homeowners do not have many choices for control as the plants are already mature. Mature plants are difficult to control with products that will not hurt or damage the lawn. Glyphosate (Roundup, Killzall and others) work well for sandbur control, but kill whatever it comes in contact with.

The best control for any weed is a good thick lawn. Overseeding (refers to a maintenance process in which grass seed is spread on top of the existing grass to promote new growth) a thin lawn this fall can prevent grassy sandbur next year as it must come from seed. If overseeding, use a glyphosate product to kill the grassy sandbur. Wait two weeks after spraying to allow the grassy sandbur to die before overseeding.

If the lawn is still thin next spring, use a preemergent herbicide before the sandbur comes up. However, not all preemergent herbicides are effective. The three products that can help minimize grassy sandbur are oryzalin, pendimethalin and prodiamine. A sandbur behaves similar to crabgrass and can be treated the same way.

On lawns planted with tall fescue and warm-season grasses (bermudagrass, buffalograss and zoysia), use oryzalin (sold under the trade names of Surflan and Weed Impeded). Apply around April 15th when redbud trees approach full bloom. Pendimethalin is sold commercially as Pendulum as well as under several other names. On the homeowner side, it is sold as Scotts Halts. Pendimethalin is best applied as a split application, with the first half applied around April 15th and the second around June 1st, or six weeks from the first.

Prodiamine is sold under the commercial name of Barricade. It is also the active ingredient in a number of homeowner products. It can be used on all of our common lawn grasses. Apply as is done for oryzalin, about April 15th or when redbud trees approach full bloom. Only one application is needed per year.

(Continued on Page 11)
Quinclorac (Drive) can provide some postemergence control especially if the sandbur is in the seedling stage. Quinclorac is also found in a number of combination products that control both broadleaf weeds and crabgrass, such as one of the following:

- Ortho Weed-B-Gon Max + Crabgrass Control
- Bayer All-in-One Lawn Weed Killer & Crabgrass Killer
- Drive found in Monterey Lawn and Garden
- Fertilome Weed Out with Q
- Trimec Crabgrass Plus Lawn Weed Killer
- Bonide Weed Beater Plus Crabgrass & Broadleaf Weed Killer
- Spectracide Weed Stop for Lawns Plus Crabgrass Killer

As with any product, be sure to read and follow all label directions. With lawn herbicide it is a good practice to apply ½ of the recommended rate one direction (ex. East to West) and then apply the other ½ of the rate walking in the opposite direction (ex. North to South). This results in a more even application. Watering in the herbicide application thoroughly if listed on the label’s direction is also important for effectiveness.

Brand names appearing in this publication are for identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned. Persons using such products assume responsibility for their use in accordance with current label directions of the manufacturer.

New Wheat Appears Well Suited for Dryland Farms in Western Kansas
Mary Lou Peter, K-State Research and Extension

One might say its pedigree includes royalty – a new hard red winter wheat variety that will be available for growers to plant for the fall 2017 season. Through several years of testing, Tatanka performed well across Kansas, particularly in dryland fields in western Kansas. The new variety was developed by Hays-based Kansas State University wheat breeder Guorong Zhang.

Wheat breeding is not for the impatient. The new variety took nine years to develop, Zhang said. The lineage of Tatanka’s one parent (a hard white breeding line) includes Jagger, a hard red winter wheat which for many years was a favorite of Kansas growers, and Trego, a hard white wheat developed by the K-State wheat breeding program in Hays. Tatanka’s other parent is T-151, a hard red winter wheat developed by Trio Research Inc. Through cross breeding, the goal was to develop a variety that incorporated some of the best traits from each.

“Farmers will like its high yield, good drought tolerance, winter-hardiness and its good resistance to stripe rust and soil-borne mosaic virus,” Zhang said. It has above-average test weight and good milling and baking quality.

This new variety has high yield potential, Zhang said. It could yield 100 bushels per acre or more under the right conditions. The new wheat’s straw is not particularly strong, so too much grain yield could cause some lodging. Therefore, it is not suitable for irrigation production.

The new wheat variety honors another species that at one time thrived on the U.S. High Plains – the name Tatanka comes from the Lakota Indian word for buffalo, also known as American bison.

Two other new hard red winter wheat varieties developed by K-State are Larry and Zenda. The latter is better suited for central and eastern Kansas while the former is broadly adapted for planting across much of the state. Larry is named after a longtime member of the K-State wheat breeding team, Larry Patton, and Zenda is named for a town in Kingman County, Kansas.

More information is about Tatanka is available in a new K-State publication online at [http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/L939.pdf](http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/L939.pdf) or by e-mailing Zhang at gzhang@ksu.edu.
May/June 2017

This newsletter contains information on the 2017 Ford County wheat crop and Wheat Plot Tour. Many diseases are present in Ford County, as well as freeze damage is starting to appear.

Please scout your fields regularly.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the wheat crop. Do not hesitate to contact me at 620-227-4542 or e-mail me at aburns@ksu.edu.

Sincerely,

Andrea Burns
Ford County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources