

AGRICULTURE FOCUS

May/June 2018 CONTACT INFORMATION

**Ford County
Extension Office
100 Gunsmoke
Dodge City, KS 67801**

Agent:

Andrea Burns,
County Extension Agent,
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Hours:

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 (Noon)
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Phone:

620-227-4542

Fax:

620-227-4586

E-Mail:

aburns@ksu.edu

Web:

www.ford.ksu.edu

K-State Research and Extension is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision or hearing disability, or a dietary restriction please contact Andrea Burns at 620-227-4542 or e-mail aburns@ksu.edu.



K-STATE
Research and Extension

THE NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK...



Happy spring! Although it seems like we might have skipped winter and went straight to summer!

This newsletter also contains

information about some upcoming area meetings and the Ford County Fair Market Wheat Show. I hope you will be able to attend or participate.

Keep doing those rain dances and washing your cars! We have begun to prime the pump and I hope and pray that the much needed moisture will continue. I wish you a safe and productive spring planting season and a safe wheat harvest!

If you have any questions or ideas for meetings, please do not hesitate to contact me at aburns@ksu.edu or contact the office at (620-227-4542).

Andrea

Insect Diagnostic Lab Closing Until Further Notice

On May 14, 2018, the Ford County Extension Office received the following notice:

We will be closing the Insect Diagnostics Lab at Kansas State University effective 16 June, 2018. We ask that all samples that need identification by this service be submitted no later than 11 June to allow time for processing by the diagnostician prior to closure. The “Gotbugs” email address also will cease to be monitored after 16 June. Users of “Gotbugs” after that date will receive a message indicating that the service is no longer available, and that they should contact their county or district extension office with their request.

Our entomology specialists will continue to support identification requests submitted by county and district agricultural and horticultural agents, and we ask that these requests be directed to specific specialists. Please be aware that our specialists will do their best to handle the increased workload, but sample processing will be slowed, and in some cases may not be possible, due to time constraints. Looking forward, insect identification will eventually evolve into a fee-based service to help offset costs for sample processing.

We apologize for the inconvenience. It is our hope that we can restore the service in the future when our budget is able to sustain it. - John Ruberson, Head, Department of Entomology

We hope this will be a temporary, short-term closure. While this will definitely be an inconvenience, Ford County K-State Research and Extension will still try their best to provide insect identification to the patrons of Ford County. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by calling the office or e-mail me at aburns@ksu.edu.



Market Wheat Show

\$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 13, 2018.

2018 Ford County Fair Market Wheat Show

Classes:

Class 6170 – KSU HRW Varieties

Class 6171 – Other Public HRW Varieties (TX, OK, etc.)

Class 6172 – HRW Blends

Class 6173 – All Westbred HRW Varieties

Class 6174 – All Hard White Varieties

Class 6175 – All Other Varieties

1. Crop Data Forms are to be turned into the Extension Office no later than 4:30 p.m., July 13. 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 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.

SAMPLES WILL BE JUDGED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

Protein	225 points
Test Weight	200 points
Dockage	200 points
Shrunken or Broken	100 points
Variety Selection	250 points
Completeness of Crop Data Card	25 points
Total	1,000 points

*** Rules & Guidelines are subject to change. ***



GRASS RECOVERY

**TUESDAY,
MAY 22, 2018**

Discussion on the day will include plant succession, long-term range health after a traumatic event, and strategies that can help with recovery. Dr. KC Olson, Range Beef Cattle Nutrition and Management, will discuss short and long-term outlooks on grass management. Jess Crockford will be on hand to talk about his new position with Comanche Pool and Kansas Prescribed Fire Council.



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K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION IS COMMITTED TO MAKING ITS SERVICES, ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS. IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS DUE TO A PHYSICAL, VISION OR HEARING DISABILITY, OR A DIETARY RESTRICTION PLEASE CONTACT AARON AT 620-582-2811

**"COWBOY" GRASS
RECOVERY**

—
KC OLSON
—

—
JESS CROCKFORD
—

REGISTRATION 11:30 A.M.
LUNCH/MEETING AT
12:00 P.M.
PROTECTION LIBRARY
PROTECTION KS

—
**WHAT WE
KNOW/WHAT WE
DON'T KNOW,
ABOUT GRASS
RECOVERY.**

**COMANCHE COUNTY
EXTENSION**

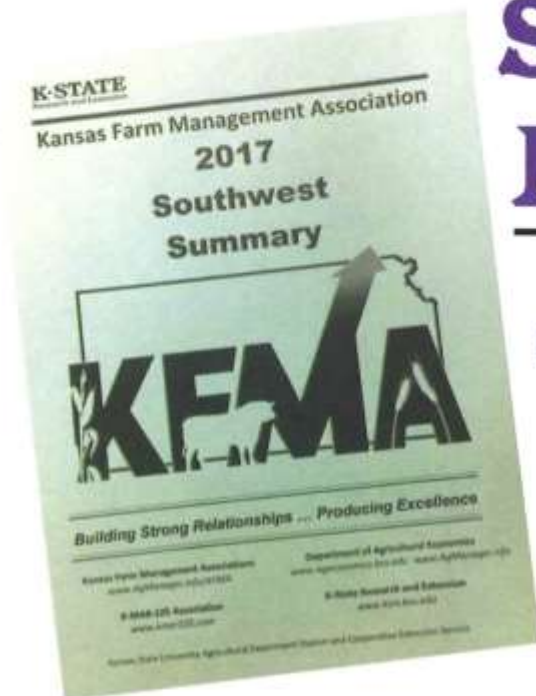
201 South New York
Coldwater, KS 67029

Please RSVP by May 18
for meal count.

620-582-2411
asawyers@ksu.edu

KFMA-SW 2017

SUMMARY MEETING



Everyone is welcome!

***No Cost to Attend**

***Pick up a copy of the 2017 Summary Book**

***SW Area plus Ford County, Gray County, & Hodgeman County explained**

***Farmers, ranchers, lenders and more benefit from attending!**

***Area averages for Whole Farm Summary, Family Living, Enterprise specific data (Wheat, Corn, Milo, Soybean, Cow-Calf, Feeder) included plus 7 counties**

Thursday, June 7th, 2018 6:00pm

FORD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, 901 W PARK ST

DODGE CITY, KS



KANSAS FARM MANAGEMENT ASSOC, SW
Sandy Myers, Extension Economist
1409 E. Trail St, Dodge City KS 67801
620-225-5600 | slm4333@ksu.edu



K-STATE
Research and Extension

AG Events

K-State Ranching Summit

August 15, 2018

Alumni Center, Manhattan, KS

The KSU Beef Team is pleased to invite you to the 2018 K-State Ranching Summit on August 15, 2018, at the Alumni Center in Manhattan, KS. The theme of the program is “Beef 2030 – Pursuing Technology, Transparency and Profitability.”

A tentative agenda is below:

8:30 am	Registration
9:00 am	Welcome, Goals
9:15 am	Pursuing, Adopting and Leveraging Technology – Mark Gardiner, Gardiner Angus, Ashland, KS
10:00 am	What Can We Learn from Consumer Trends (TBD)
10:45 am	Break
11:15 am	Managerial Accounting: Key Numbers for Ranch Managers – Tyson Johnson, Sooner Land and Cattle, Pawhuska, OK
12:00 pm	Response to Morning Session Followed by Q & A – Matt Perrier, Dalebanks Angus, Eureka, KS
12:15 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Disruptive Technologies in Beef Industry – Tom Field, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE
1:45 pm	A Look at Specific Disruptive Technologies
2:30 pm	Break
3:00 pm	A Vision of the Beef Industry in 2030 – John Butler, Innovative Livestock Services, Manhattan, KS
3:45 pm	Response to Afternoon Session followed by Q & A – Dale Blasi, K-State, Manhattan, KS
4:00 pm	Adjourn

Early registration (by August 8) is \$40 for individuals or \$70 for two attendees from same operation. Students are \$20. Registration August 9 and later, including at the door, is \$70, no discount offered for second attendee from same operation. Pre-registration is encouraged to accommodate catering.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn at the Campus under “K-State Ranching Summit.” Reservations must be made by July 20 to receive the rate \$99.95 plus tax. Participants may make reservations directly with the hotel at 785-593-7531 or online at www.holidayinn.com/universityks, using the group code RAN. For registration and schedule updates, visit www.KSUbeef.org. For more information contact Bob Weaber (785-532-1460; bweaber@ksu.edu).

For Your Information

CodeRED – Ford County Emergency Communication System

Uses The CodRED® system will be used to send critical communications, from evacuation notices to missing child alerts.

Caller ID When you see the following displayed, you will know the call is from us. If you would like to hear the last message delivered to your phone, simply dial the number back.

- Emergency Notifications:
1-866-419-5000 or Emergency Comm
- General Notifications:
1-855-969-4636 or General Comm

Privacy Your contact information remains private and will only be used for community notifications.

Join Our Database To make sure you receive notifications, please register at: <http://www.ford.county.net/> At the top click the services drop down menu and click on Sign Up for Emergency Notifications.

Upcoming Events:

- **Ford County Fair - Dodge City - July 19-23, 2018**

For more information: visit

<https://www.fordcountyfairassn.org/> or call 620-227-4542.

AG UPDATE

Extreme Drought Conditions and Available Resources

There is a drought declaration covering every county in Kansas. As of May 8, 2018, Ford County is considered in a D3 (extreme) level drought (follow the drought monitor at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap.aspx>).

Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer on March 13 issued a drought declaration for all 105 counties in Kansas due to persistent dry conditions. Currently, all counties are at least in watch status, with many of the southwest, central and south-central counties in emergency status.

The Kansas Water Office serves as the coordinating agency for drought response in Kansas. More information on these and other resources and activities can be found on their web page: www.kwo.ks.gov.

There are many drought resources available for producers, you can visit the K-State Research and Extension Drought Resources page at to access numerous K-State Research and Extension resources to help all Kansans cope with an array of issues caused by dry conditions.

K-State's Kansas Climate website offers weekly maps and drought reports. This is a tough situation for all, help out your neighbor where you can and continue to pray for rain.

Water Office Works with Farmers to Create Network of Water Technology Farms

Since a move to western Kansas from Idaho 14 years ago, Tom Willis has worked to figure out the best crops, planting and tillage practices and the most efficient ways to use water in his farming operations. He's owned T&O Farms near Garden City, Kansas, since 2013.

With diminishing water in the Ogallala Aquifer in western Kansas and portions of the state often in dry and sometimes drought conditions, farmers such as Willis are continually searching for ways to grow their crops, conserve water, be profitable and leave resources for future generations.

He and other farmers have teamed with K-State and the Kansas Water Office to establish a network of Water Technology Farms, where irrigation technology is demonstrated, research is conducted and water conservation is supported. New technologies, management techniques and cropping patterns can be tested on a larger scale on the privately-owned farms than can typically be done on university property.

"I wish all the wells out here were 1,000 gallon-per-acre wells, but they're not," Willis said. "I'm excited that I'm not just sitting back and just allowing whatever happens, happens. We're being proactive. And so whatever happens, I can look myself in the mirror and say I did everything I knew how to do."

Willis and other farm owners work with K-State Research and Extension agricultural engineer Jonathan Aguilar and his research colleagues to conduct irrigation and water management research on some of the farms.

"(Jonathan) helps me pull the data together, interpreting what it means. I can't say enough about the State of Kansas and the extension agency and the things they've been as a resource. They've been great," Willis said.

The farms have hosted educational events for the public to show how different technologies work. "The hope is that by demonstrating what we're demonstrating, that we can get more farmers to say, 'hey, the risk isn't as high as you think it is,'" Willis said.

Sudden Flush of Plant Growth has Ticks Flourishing

Almost overnight, we went from the drab, brown tones of winter to lush, green vegetation across much of the Plains. And the plants aren't the only living things that are thriving. "In my experience this is the earliest we've had tick issues," said Kansas State University entomology professor, Raymond Cloyd, who said he fielded more calls and emails about ticks earlier than usual this spring.

While it's hard to know for sure if there are more ticks than normal, Cloyd, a veteran specialist with K-State Research and Extension, said the cool, rainy weather in parts of Kansas and other states, followed by a quick profusion of plant growth may have boosted the tick population.

Ticks tend to flourish when vegetation flourishes, especially in weeds and unmanaged areas. To minimize the number of ticks on your property, he said it's best to keep lawns mowed and generally reduce unmanaged areas where weeds can flourish.

"I am not a proponent of blanket (insecticide) sprays in the yard," Cloyd said. Other steps he recommends:

- When outdoors, wear repellents based on DEET or permethrin. Permethrin-based products, however, must not be applied directly to the skin.
- Tuck your pant legs into your socks. White socks are best because it's easier to see ticks on them.

(Ticks Flourishing Continued...)

- After coming in from potentially tick-infested areas, inspect your or your children's skin and remove ticks immediately. Also, check pets that were outdoors.
- Take a shower as soon as possible after coming indoors.

If you find a tick that's already embedded, gently pull it out with tweezers, including the head. A tick head broken off and left in the skin can potentially lead to an infection. The most common ticks found in Kansas include the American dog tick, Lone star tick, the Brown dog tick and the black-legged tick. Because some ticks carry pathogens such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever or Lyme disease, it's a good idea to have them identified if they were embedded in the skin. The resources to do that, however, will soon shrink in Kansas

Predicting Forage Growth *Sandy Johnson, K-State Research & Extension, Beef Specialist*

The current drought monitor has much of the southern part of KS in severe or extreme drought, with exceptional drought along the western Oklahoma boarder. It is hard to know how this will change in the coming months but preparation and planning can help us adapt and minimize the impact if dry conditions continue.

Keith Harmony, range scientist at Hays has studied a 36-year data set to look at the impacts of precipitation on season long forage production of shortgrass rangeland (<http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/historicpublications/pubs/SRP1086.pdf>). The strongest relationship between precipitation and year-end forage yield was the rainfall from October the prior year through September. However, the October prior year through April precipitation had little to no relationship to the end of year forage yield. Notably in that data set, precipitation from May to June had nearly as good of a relationship with forage yield as the October prior year to September time period.

Therefore, as that May to June period of precipitation plays out, it can be used to help adjust this year's grazing plans. A good drought management plan will include critical dates for de-stocking based on rainfall received and what is observed in range production and utilization. A written plan with dates and numbers developed ahead of time can greatly reduce the stress many experience during drought. History tells us that Western Kansas experiences a drought 1 out of every 5 years. Establishing a practice of moderate stocking rates helps maintain greater plant vigor and soil cover regardless of the amount of precipitation. It is also optimizes returns per acre. Without adequate soil cover, precipitation that does come is largely runoff and not captured in the soil.

Our schools have fire drills to prepare for possible problems. Preparing a drought management plan is like a fire drill so we are prepared if it should happen. If you don't already have a drought management plan, now is the time to get started. Producers can find many helpful resources for managing drought risk on the ranch at <http://drought.unl.edu/ranchplan/Overview.aspx> including example drought management plans.

Poison Ivy Identification and Control

Learning to identify poison ivy is vital if you wish to avoid the rash that accompanies exposure. Unfortunately, poison ivy can make identification difficult because it occurs in three forms: an erect woody shrub, a groundcover that creeps along the ground, and a woody vine that will climb trees.

When poison ivy climbs, it forms numerous aerial roots that give the vine the appearance of a fuzzy rope. The leaves of poison ivy also vary. Though the compound leaf always has three leaflets, the leaf margins may be toothed, incised, lobed or smooth. The size of the leaves also can vary, although usually the middle leaflet is larger than the other two. Also, the middle leaflet is the only one with a long stalk; the other two are closely attached to the petiole (leaf stem). The number of leaves gives rise to the saying: "Leaves of three, let it be!" Poison ivy is often confused with Virginia creeper or Woodbine. Each of these vines, however, has five leaflets rather than three.

There are three methods commonly used to eradicate poison ivy. These include pulling or grubbing out the plants by hand, cutting off the vine, and then treating the cut stump or the regrowth, and spraying the plants directly. The method used depends somewhat on the plant's growth form.

If the plant is growing as a groundcover, direct spray or grubbing the plant out is often used. If grubbing, wear gloves and a long-sleeved shirt. The soil must be moist for grubbing to work well. Wash the clothes and yourself immediately after you finish. It might also be a good idea to rinse the washing machine.

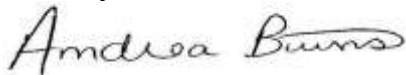
If the plant is in the shrub form, direct spray is the most common control method. If the plant is a woody vine that has climbed a tree, the preferred method is to cut the plant off at the base and treat the sprouts after they emerge. Some triclopyr herbicides also have instructions on treating a freshly cut stump directly. Triclopyr (Brush-B-Gon Poison Ivy Killer, Brush Killer Stump Killer) is most often used for poison ivy control. Other Herbicides that can be used include glyphosate (Roundup, Killzall Weed and Grass Killer, Nutgrass, Poison Ivy and VineKiller) or dicamba. Poison ivy is tough. Repeat applications may be necessary.

Ford County K-State Research & Extension
100 Gunsmoke
Dodge City, KS 67801

May/June 2018

This newsletter contains information about several upcoming events that might be of interest to you. I hope you will be able to attend or participate. Please contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Andrea Burns
Ford County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources



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*K-State, County Extension Councils,
Extension Districts and U.S. Department
of Agriculture Cooperating.*

*K-State Research & Extension is an equal
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*“Knowledge
for Life”*