

D's Notes
01/11/21

Western KS Sheep and Goat Conference

The Western Kansas Sheep and Goat Conference is exploring new options this year. The conference will be held totally virtually on Zoom.

We will be holding three sessions on Wednesday, January 13, at 6:30 pm; Wednesday, January 20, at 6:30 pm; and Saturday, January 23, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

First night topics include: Club Goats and Lambs and Wool Sheep.

Second night's topics include: Meat Goats and Hair Sheep.

The Saturday's topics include; vaccine handling, forage testing, nutrition, pregnancy testing, difference between goats and sheep, a panel discussion and more.

Go to the Hodgeman County Extension website (<https://www.hodgeman.k-state.edu>) to register. To get the zoom link you must register the noon before the session. There will be a different link for each session.

2021 calving school

On Thursday, Jan. 21, at 5:30 at the Fairgrounds in Dodge City, Ford County Extension will be hosting a Calving School.

In anticipation of calving season, beef cattle experts from the Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and K-State Research and Extension are planning a series of calving schools beginning in early January.

A.J. Tarpoff, an extension beef veterinarian, said calving schools aim to increase producers' knowledge, practical skills and the number of live calves born. Each day-long program outlines overall calving management, including stages of the normal calving process and tips to handle difficult calving situations.

"Our goal is for producers to leave better prepared for calving season," Tarpoff said. "We will discuss timelines on when to examine cows for calving problems, and when to call your vet for help if things are not going well. It's an excellent program regardless of experience level."

Speakers presentations will include: Long Nights, Little Sleep During Calving Season; Calving Management; Vaccination Storage & Handling.

Due to Covid *Limited Attendance Permitted*.

For those in attendance, **Please** RSVP for meal by January 15 to the Ford County Extension Office, 620-227-4542.

COVID-19 Policy: Social distancing and masks will be required. Contact Ford County Extension Office for details. 620-227-4542 or aburns@ksu.edu.

This is sponsored by: Purina Livestock Feed, Dodge City Veterinary Clinic and Ripple & Liebl.

2021 Kansas training information for paraquat and dicamba

This article provides answers to frequently asked questions associated with paraquat and dicamba trainings (detailed below in separate sections) in Kansas for 2021.

Paraquat

Do all paraquat dichloride product labels require the additional training?

All products featuring the new labeling with the active ingredient paraquat dichloride, such as Gramoxone®, Firestorm®, Helmquat, and Parazone® will require the additional training in order to apply these products. Remember if the new training requirement is listed on the label of the product you are using, then you **MUST** complete the training.

Who is required to take this training?

Any person who intends to use paraquat must be a certified applicator and is required to take this training. In addition, the new labeling requires anyone handling (mixing, loading) paraquat to complete the training.

How often am I required to receive the training?

The training is required every three years. Check to make sure your training is current!

Do I need to be certified to use products containing paraquat dichloride?

The newly labeled products state that “Product may ONLY be mixed, loaded or applied by a certified applicator who has successfully completed the paraquat-specific training before use. Application “under direct supervision” of a certified applicator is NO LONGER allowed. In the state of Kansas, this means that everyone purchasing and using these products has to either obtain a private applicator license (application to agricultural lands owned or operated by individual) or a commercial applicator license (applicators applying to other people’s land for compensation). If you have been applying under someone else’s license in the past you will need to get your own license before using these products.

How can I complete the training requirements?

The only training that meets the requirements is housed on the eXtension website and can be found by going to: <http://usparaquattraining.com>. If you don’t currently have an account, you will need to create one before it will allow you to take the training.

Dicamba

Do all dicamba product labels require the additional training?

You are required to have additional label-required dicamba training when applying the restricted use dicamba products (Engenia®, XtendiMax®, or Tavium® with Vaporgrip) applied over-the-top to soybean and cotton.

Where can I get the training for 2021?

Virtual and face to face options are available at:

<https://www.engeniastewardship.com/#/training>

<https://www.roundupreadyxtend.com/stewardship/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.syngenta-us.com/herbicides/tavium-application-stewardship>

Do I need to attend training if I already did in 2019 or 2020?

The labels of these products state that prior to applying this product in the 2021 growing season, all applicators must complete dicamba or auxin-specific training on an annual basis, so even if you attended in 2019 or 2020 you will need to attend a training in 2021 prior to applying these products.

Do I need to be certified to use these products?

The new labels state that these formulations are for retail sale to and use only by certified applicators. In the state of Kansas, this means that everyone purchasing and using these products has to either obtain a private applicator license (application to agricultural lands owned or operated by individual) or a commercial applicator license (applicators applying to other people's land for compensation). If you have been applying under someone else's license in the past you will need to get your own license if you are applying these products.

My employees and I both hold private applicators licenses. They will be doing all my spraying. I am taking the dicamba training, but do they also have to take the dicamba training?

Yes, anyone who applies one of the RUP dicamba products must complete an approved dicamba training and hold either a private or commercial applicator license.

Do other states accept Kansas's state-approved RUP dicamba training?

Oklahoma and Colorado will accept Kansas's state approved training. Nebraska and Missouri are accepting other states' training, but applicators need to note they apply in MO and NE so the training can be turned into that state (NDA and MDA are keeping a database of all applicators who have received the training).

This information is made available by the K-State Pesticide Safety and IPM Program. Contact your local Extension Office if you need additional information.

Frannie Miller, Pesticide Safety and IPM Coordinator, fmiller@ksu.edu and Sarah Lancaster, Extension Weed Science Specialist, slancaster@ksu.edu

Cover Your Acres Winter Conference goes virtual, January 19

K-State Research and Extension will host the 18th annual Cover Your Acres Winter Conference for crop producers and consultants on January 19 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm (CST) in an online format.

Cover Your Acres is a producer-driven meeting focused on new ideas and research-based updates in crop production in northwest Kansas and the central High Plains region.

The conference, which typically draws more than 400 attendees from Kansas and other states, highlights the latest technology, methods, and conservation practices to improve crop production in the region. This year it will feature a shorter, half-day format with university specialists discussing the following topics:

- **Water Use of Weeds in Dryland Systems**, Jourdan Bell, Texas A&M Panhandle Agronomist, Amarillo

- **Current Weed Control Research in Western Kansas**, Vipin Kumar, Weed Scientist, K-State Ag Research Center, Hays
- **Managing the Highs and Lows of Soil pH**, Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, Soil Fertility Specialist, K-State Dept. of Agronomy, Manhattan
- **Economics of Dryland Rotations and Tillage Systems**, Lucas Haag, Area Agronomist, K-State Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby
- **New Frontiers in Sorghum Weed Control**, Sarah Lancaster, Weed Management Specialist, K-State Dept. of Agronomy, Manhattan

The sessions will be streamed live via Zoom and YouTube from 1:00 to 5:00 pm CST. Attendees will be able to submit questions on those platforms and via email. Additionally, locations have been established where attendees can participate in the conference while taking appropriate COVID precautions:

- Finney County – Fairgrounds, Grandstands Meeting Room
- Scott County – Fairgrounds, Wm. Carpenter 4-H Building

Additional locations are likely to be added, please check the conference website for updates.

There is no charge for the conference thanks to our sponsors, however **attendees do need to register** regardless if they are participating at the own home/office or at one of the watch locations.

To view the conference details and for online registration, visit www.northwest.ksu.edu/coveryouracres. For questions, call 785-462-6281.

Premier sponsors of this year's conference include American Ag Labs, Hoxie Implement, Bayer Crop Science, Lang Diesel, National Sunflower Association, AKRS Equipment Solutions, and SureFire Ag Systems. CCA credits have been applied for. Lucas Haag, Area Agronomist, Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby, lhaag@ksu.edu

K-State's Winter Ranch Management series set for late January, February

Kansas State University officials have announced that the annual Winter Ranch Management series, slated to begin in late January, will highlight several topics important to beef cattle producers.

Hosted by three areas across the state of Kansas, the meetings feature presentations and comments by K-State Research and Extension educators and faculty in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry to enhance management strategies employed by cow-calf producers.

“Our extension team has a breadth of experience in beef cattle management, reproduction, genetics, animal health and nutrition,” said beef cattle specialist Dale Blasi. “We’re here to help solve and prevent production problems with reliable information.”

Planned topics of discussion include bull management, nutrition and vaccine storage. The meetings will also feature a “town hall” style question-and-answer session between Kansas cattle producers and extension specialists.

“The series has a history of being a successful stretch of meetings, which are hosted throughout the state of Kansas,” Blasi said.

The closest meeting which is also virtual is scheduled on **Thursday, Jan. 28 (Hays)** – Virtual meeting, 6-9 p.m. Hosted by the Cottonwood Extension District, Walnut Creek District, Phillips Rooks District, Midway District, Post Rock District. Register by sending email to bwalton@ksu.edu or aboor@ksu.edu.

The topics of discussion vary per location, with options including bull management considerations, explanation of the Management Minder tool, and cow and replacement heifer nutrition programs for a successful breeding season. All three sessions will conclude with the town hall session.

Blasi said state, district and local extension staff will take part in the series to help answer producers’ questions. “The Winter Ranch Management series provides another great opportunity for state and local specialists to take our expertise out in the country for a series of impactful meetings,” he said.

More information about the K-State Winter Ranch Management Seminar Series is available at KSUBeef.org.

How to Tell Poison Ivy and Virginia Creeper Apart in the Winter

During the growing season, these plants are easy to tell apart as Virginia Creeper has five-leaflets per leaf and Poison Ivy has three. However, during the winter, distinguishing between the two vines can be more difficult as the leaves have dropped. The reason it is important to be able to tell the difference is that Poison Ivy causes a rash in most people but Virginia Creeper does not. First, let's cover some facts about Poison Ivy.

- Urushiol is the oil present in Poison Ivy that causes the rash.
- Urushiol is present in all parts of the plant but especially in the sap.
- Urushiol can cause a rash from 1 to 5 years after a plant has died.
- The amount of urushiol that covers the head of a pin can cause a rash in 500 people. The stuff is potent.
- Poison Ivy can grow as a ground cover, a shrub or a vine. We are concerned with the vine in this article.
- Using a chainsaw on Poison Ivy in the winter can release sap which makes a rash more likely. This is worse on warm days where there is more sap rise.

So, how do you tell the two apart? This is actually easy once you know what to check. Look at the aerial roots on the vines of Poison Ivy and Virginia Creeper. They resemble hairs on Poison Ivy but are plumper on Virginia Creeper and are about the size of a pencil lead. (Ward Upham)

Pecan Blog

Dr. William Reid, the Pecan Research and Extension Specialist for Kansas and Missouri for 37 years, has an excellent blog on growing pecans in Kansas and

neighboring states. In retirement, Dr. Reid is tending his 30 acre pecan orchard and continues to blog his observations. The blog is titled "Northern Pecans."

If you are at all interested in pecans, this is a blog you must visit. Excellent photography accompanied by Bill sharing decades worth of experience makes this a gold mine of information. The URL is <http://northernpecans.blogspot.com/> (Ward Upham)

Conservation Trees from the Kansas Forest Service

The Kansas Forest Service offers low-cost tree and shrub seedlings for use in conservation plantings. Plants are one to two years old and sizes vary from 8 to 18 inches, depending on species. Two types of seedlings are offered; bareroot and containerized. Containerized provide a higher survival rate and quicker establishment. Orders are accepted from now through May 1st, but order early to ensure receiving the items you want.

Orders are shipped beginning in mid-March. Approved uses for these plants include windbreaks, wood lots, wildlife habitat, timber plantations and educational and riparian (streambank) plantings. They may not be used for landscape (ornamental) plantings or grown for resale.

All items are sold in units. Each single species unit consists of 25 plants. For example, a unit of Eastern red cedar has 25 trees per unit. Though a single species unit is most commonly purchased, four special bundles are also available including a quail bundle, pheasant bundle, eastern pollinator bundle and western pollinator bundle.

Tree planting accessories are also available including marking flags, root protective slurry, rabbit protective tubes, weed barrier fabric and tree tubes. If there have been problems with deer browsing on young trees, the tree tubes are a must.

For details and an order form, go to: <http://kfs.mybigcommerce.com/all-items/> Note that there are three pages of items that are accessed by clickable links at both the top and bottom of the listing. Order forms are also available from local K-State Research and Extension offices. (Ward Upham)

K-State launches Finances and the Farm: An online class to enhance farm management skills

Kansas State University has launched a new self-paced online course, Finances and the Farm, now available to Kansans and others.

“It is important, especially during these challenging times, to be proactive with your farm financial management,” said LaVell Winsor, agricultural economist with the K-State Research and Extension Farm Analyst Program. “Making this training online and self-paced means individual producers or farm families can complete the six lessons at a time that works best for them and from the comfort and safety of their own homes or offices.”

The course is similar to the popular in-person Farm Financial Management classes held this time last year that drew nearly 700 participants.

“Many of the participants from our classes last winter expressed that they would like to complete this material with their spouse or other shareholders on their farm,” said Robin Reid, an extension economist with K-State’s Department of Agricultural Economics. “This online course will give them that opportunity.”

This year’s training can be taken for educational purposes only, but also has been approved to fulfill requirements for Farm Service Agency borrower’s training financial credit, Winsor said.

The six-lesson classes will delve into such topics as balance sheets, income statements and cash flow. Depending on the type of farm they operate, participants can choose either a Cattle and Crops case farm or a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) and Farmer’s Market case farm for which they can complete hands-on financial activities.

The [Finances and the Farm training](#) prepares participants to use financial management techniques and to set goals for their own operations, plus learn about making changes to avoid financial difficulties, Reid said.

Bonus content includes information on determining the costs of production, grain marketing and family communication.

There is a fee for those taking the course. To find out more information about this training and other topics go to www.agmanager.info.