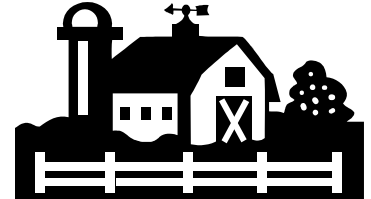




Kingfisher County Agricultural Newsletter



OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE * DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND
NATURAL RESOURCES * OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

February/March, 2004

Inside this issue:

Alfalfa and Hay Meeting	1
Colostrum for the Newborn Calf	1
Scholarships	1
Wheat First Hollow Stem	1-2
Peach Leaf Curl	2
Pecan Enthusiast	2
Landscape Maintenance Schedule	2-3
Fall Forage Production Of Wheat	3
Musk Thistle Control	3

ALFALFA HAY & SEED ASS'N MEETING

Feb. 26, 2004
Canadian County Fairgrounds, El Reno

8:30 Registration
9:00 Grid Sampling
9:30 Yield Monitoring
10:00 Break
10:30 Surf the Net Efficiently
11:00 Business Meeting

12:00 Lunch - \$10 for non-members

12:45 New and Old Chemicals for Alfalfa
1:45 Gene Insertion in Alfalfa for New Traits
1:45 Locating and Building a 700 Head Local Dairy in Your Area

How Much Colostrum to Feed the Newborn Calf

Calves born after a long difficult delivery are at a high risk of failing to receive adequate passive immunity by natural suckling because of greatly decreased antibody absorption. Calves that are born to a prolonged stage II of parturition very often suffer from severe respiratory acidosis. Stage II is defined as the time from the first appearance of the water bag until a live calf is completely expelled onto the ground. Calves weakened by a prolonged delivery often are sluggish and do not get up and seek the teats rapidly. Early timing of colostrum consumption is important because the intestine undergoes changes known as "intestinal closure" which limits the absorptive capability of the gut after the first 6 to 12 hours of life. Plus, acidotic calves are less efficient at absorbing colostrum antibodies even if they are artificially fed colostrum. Therefore effort should be made to provide weak newborn calves with the best source of colostrum available via bottle suckling or tube feeding.

The amount of antibody (in colostrum) ingested is also a major determinant of final blood antibody concentration. A practical rule of thumb is to feed 5 to 6% of the calf's body weight within the first 6 hours and repeat the feeding when the calf is about 12 hours old. For an 80 pound calf, this will equate to approximately 2 quarts of colostrum per feeding. Read more about these important topics in OSU Fact Sheet F-3558, Disease Protection for Baby Calves. The fact sheet is available at the OSU Extension Office.

Scholarships Available From the Extension Office

The Kingfisher County Cattleman's Association and the Kingfisher County HCE

Association sponsor a scholarship for a graduating senior who has a parent who is a member of the Cattleman's Association or HCE.

The Cattleman's is \$250 divided between semesters and the HCE scholarship is \$500 divided between the spring and fall semester.

Don't forget the Neufeld's Knoll Dairy Goat Award in the amount of \$100. In order to qualify for the award, the individual needs to be a 4-H or FFA member in Kingfisher County.

Deadline for all 3 of these programs is March 22, 2004. Applications are available at the OSU Extension Office.

Wheat First Hollow Stem

Many producers have stocker calves out on wheat and rye pasture. Cattle prices have rebounded since Christmas. Wheat prices are higher than they have been in several years and supplies are fairly small. The price of wheat has potential to increase up through harvest time.

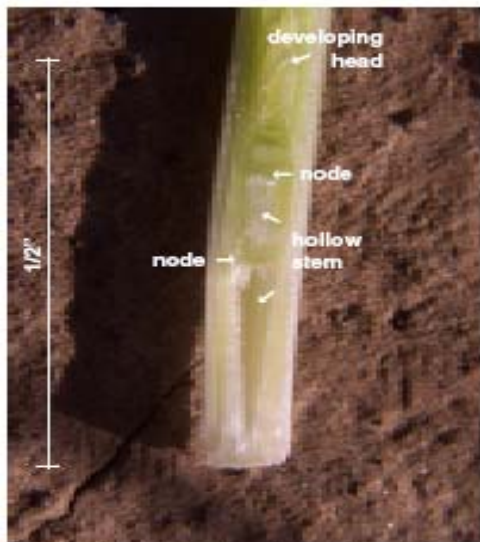
What do good prices have to do with first hollow stem? Knowing what it is and when it happens will effect the profitability of your wheat crop.

Removing cattle after wheat has reached first hollow stem will reduce your yield. You ask, how much? Research has shown for each day cattle are left on wheat after it has reached first hollow stem will reduce the wheat yield by 1.25 bushels per day.

The yield reduction multiplied by \$3.60 equals \$4.50 per acre to be harvested. Even if you subtract harvesting and hauling costs of 35 cents per bushel, a 40 acre field loses \$166.00 per day. The value of gain on cattle is very good right now, but cattle aren't going to make up for that kind of difference.

(Continued on page 2)

First hollow stem is the plant development stage when "jointing" first begins. To identify first hollow stem, producers need to go into a field that is **ungrazed** and dig up a plant. Select the oldest tillers on a few plants and cut them off just above the root crown. Then cut vertically through the center of the stem. You should be able to find the immature wheat head and a couple of dark green bands that are stem joints. Look for hollow stem below the dark green bands. This can be within 1/2 inch of the stem cut or longer.



First hollow stem stage of growth.

Controlling Peach Leaf Curl

Each spring, I get calls from homeowners wanting to know what is wrong with their peach tree. The symptoms are the leaves are puckered, deformed, yellow and reddish-brown. Unfortunately, by that time, when symptoms are most evident, it is too late to spray anything. Leaf Curl is the culprit and now is the time to spray to control it. You want to pick a day that the temperature is above 40 degrees. You must spray before the buds swell and open. To prevent leaf curl the fungicides recommended are Bordeaux mixtures, Daconil 2787, Kodide, lime sulfur and copper flowable sprays.

Pecan Enthusiast

Have you ever wanted to take a Pecan Management Short Course but didn't want to drive?

You can now take the course over the internet at <http://pecan.okstate.edu/>.

The course is organized into 7 phases:

1. Instruction
2. Native Pecan Management
3. Improved Variety Management
4. Pest Management
5. Storage, Food and Sanitation
6. Economics and Marketing
7. Equipment

Log onto the web site for instructions and a course outline. Cost for the course is \$75 and easy to follow instructions are on the website.

Landscape Maintenance Schedule

- Control cedar apple rust. When the orange jelly galls are visible on juniper (cedar), following a rain, begin treating apple and crabapple trees with a fungicide. F-6235 F-7611
- Control of powdery mildew disease can be done with early detection and regular treatment.
- Proper watering of newly planted shrubs and trees often means the difference between success and replacement.
- Most bedding plants, summer flowering bulbs, and annual flower seeds can be planted after danger of frost. Sometime after mid-April. Hold off mulching these crops until spring rains subside and soil temperatures warm up.
- Watch for cutworm damage as you are in the garden.
- Don't spray insecticides during fruit bloom or pollination may be effected.
- Hummingbirds arrive in Oklahoma in early April. Get your feeders ready using 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. Do not use red food coloring, honey or artificial sweeteners.

(Continued on page 3)

The Kingfisher County Agricultural Newsletter is published by the Kingfisher County Cooperative Extension Center, 101 South Main, Room 13, Kingfisher, OK 73750, phone 405/375-3822. This newsletter is one way of communicating educational information to the citizens of Kingfisher County. For subscription, please contact the office above.

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- Warm season grasses can be fertilized four times per season using one pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet in each of four applications. Apply one pound in April, May, June, and September.
- Lace bugs, aphids, spider mites, bagworms, etc. can start popping up in the landscape and garden. Keep a close eye on all plants and use mechanical, cultural, and biological control options first.
- Let spring flowering bulb foliage remain as long as possible before removing it.

Fall Forage (lb/a) 2003 Wheat Variety Trial

SOURCE	ENTRY	CHEROKEE	MARSHALL	PERKINS	WALTERS	4 LOCATION AVERAGE
Kansas	2145	1680	2610	3370	1610	2320
Kansas	Jagger	1840	2330	3510	1600	2320
Oklahoma	2174	1720	2550	3350	1650	2310
Oklahoma	Intrada (W)	1660	2340	3330	1900	2310
Kansas	2137	1670	2390	3480	1530	2270
AgriPro	Fannin	1550	2470	3300	1650	2240
Kansas	Trego (W)	1550	2460	3390	1510	2230
AgriPro	Jagalene	1490	2320	3160	1800	2190
Westbred	Cossack	1550	2490	2940	1630	2160
Oklahoma	Ok101	1400	2400	3430	1330	2140
Kansas	Overly	1500	2320	3270	1450	2140
Oklahoma	ok102	1280	2320	3150	1790	2130
AgriPro	Cutter	1580	2300	3400	1260	2130
Oklahoma	Custer	1380	2550	2800	1530	2060
AgriPro	AP502 CL	1420	2040	2990	1460	1980
AgriPro	Thunderbolt	1400	2140	3190	1140	1970

Musk Thistle Control

Now is the time to spray for the musk thistle before it starts to bolt and send up the elongated stem. While the thistle is still in the rosette stage is the easiest time to kill it. A number of products are available including 2,4-D Amine, Ally, Grazon P+D, Weedmaster, Ally+2,4-D Amine, Ally+Grazon P+D, and Ally+Weedmaster.

Publication L-308 has a complete list of chemicals and rates to help determine the chemical of choice.

For musk thistle in an area that is difficult to get a sprayer to, producers may want to consider the biological control using the musk thistle weevil. While this method is slower to control the musk thistle (5 to 7 years) it is low cost and non target organisms are unaffected. To acquire some of these weevils contact the Extension Office and you can attend a weevil roundup; or if I am able to go, I can get a container of the weevils for you.

Kingfisher County Wheat Growers Annual Meeting

April 13, 2004 7:00 pm
Kingfisher County Fairgrounds
More details will be out later.

Fumigation Practical Workshop

March 23, 2004 8:15 am
Stillwater, OK
Stored Products Research and Education Center-located just north of the Beef Nutrition Center
Cost - \$175 Registration deadline: March 10
This workshop is for producers that have taken the fumigation test and need to take the practical workshop. Registration forms and schedule are available in the Extension Office.

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