Volume 4, Issue 1

Twin Creeks Newsletter via Email

Twin Creeks Extension District wishes to offer this newsletter delivered to your email address instead of a printed copy delivered by mail. Please contact your local Extension office listed to the left to indicate your preference of a hard copy by mail or email delivery for the newsletter.

Navigating A Struggling Farm Economy

February 8, 2017
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
City Limits Convention Center - Colby

K-State Research and Extension economists and industry leaders will discuss how farmers and ranchers can evaluate options to strengthen their farms during these tough economic times. Cost is $15 if registered by January 31st at www.thomas.k-state.edu or $20 at the door.

Tri-State Cow/Calf Symposium

February 10, 2017
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (MST)
Goodland Elks Lodge
Goodland, KS

Join K-State Research and Extension, Nebraska Extension, and Colorado State University Extension to discuss ways to succeed in a challenging beef industry. Cost is $30 if registered by February 3rd at www.sunflower.k-state.edu or $35 at the door.

Soil Fertility School

February 16, 2017 - Hoxie Area - TBD

General concepts discussion regarding soil fertility, new research with products or cropping systems and general question and answer sessions.

Kansas 4-H Day with Wildcat Women’s Basketball

Saturday
February 11, 2017

K-State vs. Iowa State

$20/person Tickets Include: Basketball Game Ticket, Game Day T-Shirt, $7 Concession Stand Meal Voucher

4-H and Non 4-H Families Welcome

Online Registration Only
Paid With Credit Card
Due January 17, 2017
Register at:
http://tinyurl.com/2017kae4ha

Exciting campus tours will again be scheduled this year. Watch for details via Facebook, radio, newspaper and email. Contact Patsy at pmaddy@ksu.edu or 785-877-5755 for more details.

Rocketry Workshop

January 21, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.
Golden Age Center - Oberlin

Open to All Youth Ages 7 - 18. $7 cost covers rocket, supplies & lunch. Register by January 13th by calling an Extension office listed to the left.

Winter Ranch Management

February 21, 2017 - 5 pm to 8:30 pm
Rawlins County Fair Building - Atwood

The Winter Ranch Management seminar series highlights successful strategies for enhancing beef cattle profits. KSRE specialists will answer producer questions on topics such as animal health, nutrition, and reproduction during the Town Hall Q & A.
Late-Season Update on the Sugarcane Aphid in Kansas.

The sugarcane aphid is slowly making its way northward. The feeding causes excess honeydew to collect on dead aphids and dirt and plant material and causes harvest problems. The sugarcane aphid (SCA) has been causing a range of harvesting problems in central Kansas. Sticky honeydew has been gumming up combines, sometimes bringing harvest to a hold or slowing combine speeds. Fortunately, provided the grain has hardened, you can wait for a week or so and this honeydew will be weathered by the elements (and sooty mold) so that it is no longer sticking. However, palatability and nutritional value of the stubble may be somewhat reduced if aphid infestations have been heavy.

A more widespread problem is that aphid infestations in maturing panicles have caused uneven ripening of the grain, which in turn has caused uneven drying. Harvest has been delayed in some cases because grain moisture measurements in a field can be so variable that a decision to harvest is difficult to make.

As daylight shortens and temperatures get gradually cooler in the fall, the aphids transition to a “winter phenotype” with biology quite different from the pale yellow forms we see in summer. The aphids become much darker in color, slower to grow and reproduce, longer lived, and much more cold tolerant.

It is possible that aphids lower down within the crop canopy were buffered somewhat from the extreme lows. However, even though all the leaves are killed by the freeze, many aphids remained alive on the stems and in the leaf axils, with freeze-killed aphids appearing black and shriveled.

The winter phenotype of SCA is clearly adapted to survive short, sub-tropical winters by remaining alive on any green plant tissues or vegetative regrowth, as they have been doing in south Texas. Of course, this will not happen in Kansas, so all the aphids will disappear once the plants are completely dead.

Great variation in hybrid susceptibility to SCA has been evident in a number of grain sorghum performance tests this year. With many seed companies identifying one or more lines with substantial resistance and/or tolerance to these aphids. Farmers should seek advice from seed company representatives to find which hybrids are able to fight off the aphid.

Cover Your Acres

Winter Conference

The Gateway in Oberlin , KS
7:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 17, 2016
Wednesday, January 18, 2016

Early-Bird Registrations
January 17th: $40
January 18th: $35
Both Days: $50
After January 11th: $50 per day

To register online visit:
www.northwest.ksu.edu/CoverYourAcres. Or mail registrations to Kansas State University, NW Area Extension Office, PO Box 786, Colby, KS 67701

Preserving the Family with Estate Planning

February 21st / Hays, KS / 5:30 pm
February 27th / Atwood, KS / 5:30 pm

Register by February 13th! Pre-Registration $20/person. Event cost at the door $30/person. Discounts for family registrations. ** Meal Included.

Workshop Includes:
• Farm/Small Business Succession Planning
• Estate Planning Basics: Do’s and Don’ts
• Q & A with attorneys and experts

To register online go to www.northwest.ksu.edu under events or call 785-626-3192 (Atwood)

Weed Management School
March 1, 2017
Hoxie Area — TBD
Discussion on general weed identification, cropping issues with new products available, and seasonal updates on weed controls. Bring your questions!

Walk Kansas
March 19 - May 13, 2017
Start gathering your teams and dusting off your walking shoes!

January: National Radon Action Month

Radon is known to be the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers, therefore, home testing is recommended for your health and safety.

Contact your local Extension office in Norton, Decatur or Sheridan counties for more information and to purchase a radon kit for $5 each to ensure your home is safe.
5 Insights on Generation Z

A new generation is rising to prominence—Generation Z (those born since 2001).

Generation Z is anxious and depressed. One theme that keeps showing up in research about Gen Z is the amount of diagnosed anxiety and depression they deal with at a very young age. This year, Andrew McPeak personally met middle schoolers who are on medication for depression and anxiety. Leaders of this generation will have to always keep emotional health in mind when they are working with Gen Z students.

How will this change our leadership? “Old school” tactics like yelling from the sidelines or stressful tests are not going to be as effective. We will need new teaching methods that will allow Gen Z to own their growth.

Generation Z experiences FOMO. Have you heard of FOMO (fear of missing out)? Our research show that Gen Z is always worried that something awesome is happening and they might miss it. Middle schoolers told Andrew that, when they forget their phone at home, they have hundreds of messages waiting for them.

How this will change our leadership? We will need to challenge our students to think about what they are trying to achieve with their online personas. We can’t just say, “No”. We will have to provide a “why” when we tell them what we think they should do.

Generation Z builds their identity online. No matter what level of influence you think you have over a student in Generation Z, the internet has more impact than you will ever have. Today’s students think of social media as a constant picture of their social status.

How this will change our leadership? In 2017 we will need to think about how we can focus on giving interpretation rather than information. Students will need us to help them process the information they are getting online.

Generation Z thinks the adults in their life are oblivious. Every generation of young people thinks their parents are clueless, but this is the first generation that actually has the ability to hide large parts of their social life from their parents and other adults. Your students likely think you have no idea what they are doing on their phones and tablets—and maybe they’re right.

How this will change our leadership? You may be leading your students without knowing exactly what they know and don’t know. Show them you care first, and they will be more likely to listen to you and share what’s going on in their lives.

Generation Z has a bright future. Lots of people seem worried about this generation, but Andrew isn’t. Every generation experiences obstacles and challenges. Just because we are in a new day doesn’t mean these students don’t have what it takes to thrive. Our research shows that this generation although worried about the world, is optimistic about what they have to offer.

How this will change our leadership? This generation needs you to constantly remind them that you believe in their capability. How often are you telling them what you think about their future?

Credits for this research information go to Andrew McPeak who is a writer, curriculum designer, and speaker who now serves on the team at Growing Leaders.

Dr. Tim Elmore is the founder of Growing Leaders and Habitudes. Elmore is a best-selling author and international speaker who uses his expertise on Generations Y and Z to equip educators, coaches, leaders, parents, and other adults to impact practical life and leadership skills to young adults that will help them navigate through life. He is an authority on preparing Generation Y & Z to serve as leaders in their schools, places of work, and communities.

Alyssa Rippe

Livestock & Horticulture

The Chute… “Grazing Crop Residues”

Are your cattle grazing milo or corn stalks? Grazing crop residues is a great way to prolong your grazing season and reduce winter feeding costs while keeping good condition on your cattle. According to the University of Nebraska (UNL), if cattle are stocked and moved appropriately, they will select a diet with an average of 5.5% crude protein and 55% total digested nutrients in a corn or milo residue field with some grain, husks, and leaves available. That’s enough to meet a dry, gestating cow’s requirements and first calf heifers in gestation will need additional supplementation to meet their increased nutrient requirements. Just make sure to take into account your cattle’s average body condition score and stage of gestation when setting your stocking rates and making supplementation decisions.

So, if crop residues help you to get decent gains on your cattle while keeping feed costs low and reducing supplementation needs, then how much is an acre of that residue worth? K-State Research and Extension is hoping to find out with your help. The K-State Beef Team has compiled a short survey for farmers and ranchers to complete that will help estimate average crop residue rental rates. The survey, which should take only about 10 minutes to complete, asks for anonymous information about the crop’s inputs and the animals being grazed.

An optional second step for producers is to take part in a crop residue compaction study. You’ve probably heard and thought about the effects of compaction from grazing cattle on your soil and your subsequent crop yields. Well, research from UNL shows you probably shouldn’t be worrying about that in fall and winter grazing situations.

Multiple UNL studies completed for up to 16 years have shown that in corn and soybean rotations, no decreases occurred in subsequent yields if cattle were allowed to graze in the fall and winter. Soil bulk density, an indicator of soil compaction and health, did increase in the top 3 inches of soil following grazing during muddy conditions and in cattle paths. However, subsequent three-year yield averages showed no differences. Want to see data from your own operation about soil compaction in relation to cattle grazing? Then, take that second step in our K-State Beef Team study.

I will visit your field and take bulk density samples at three dates, immediately before grazing, after grazing, and about two months later. We will set up exclusion areas in your field that will serve as a baseline or ungrazed treatment. Then, we will be able to compare the bulk density measurements from the grazed versus ungrazed areas of your field and estimate if your soils are having compaction issues. If you’re interested in completing the survey and/or taking data from your operation, contact me, Alyssa Rippe, at (785) 475-8121 or email alyssar@ksu.edu. The survey can be completed online or on paper depending on your needs.

Calendar of Events

January
11th: Cover Your Acres Early Bird Registration Deadline
13th: Rocketry Workshop Registration Deadline for All Youth
17th: Kansas 4-H Day with the Wildcat Women Registration Deadline
17th: Cover Your Acres Winter Conference
18th: Cover Your Acres Winter Conference
21st: Rocketry Workshop for All Youth

February
3rd: Tri-State Cow/Calf Symposium Early Bird Registration
8th: Top 10 Considerations To Navigate A Struggling Farm Economy
10th: Tri-State Cow/Calf Symposium
11th: Kansas 4-H Day with the Wildcat Women
13th: Preserving the Family with Estate Planning Deadline
16th: Soil Fertility School - TBD - Hoxie Area
21st: Winter Series on Ranch Management
21st: Estate Planning Workshop, Hays
27th: Estate Planning Workshop, Atwood

March
1st: Weed Management School
19th: Walk Kansas Starts