

Marion County

*Knowledge
for Life*

April 2017

Marion County Wheat Variety Plot Tours

Monday, May 8

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**7:30 a.m. — Tampa Community Hall - Breakfast
Sponsored by Agri Trails Coop**

**8:15 a.m. — John Hajek, Tampa KS
The plot is located on 330th on the N edge of Tampa**

Speaker : Romulo Lollato, Ext. Wheat Specialist

May 12, 2017

**7:00 a.m. — Complimentary Breakfast
CG& S Fertilizer Plant**

**8:00 a.m. — CG& S Wheat Plot - Plot is located
on Hwy 56 just east of the plant**

Speaker : Doug Shoup, KSU SE Area Agronomist

**All interested persons are encouraged to attend either or both
tours. No RSVP is necessary. For more information contact
Rickey Roberts at 620-382-2325.**



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Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Considerations for ground vs. aerial applications of fungicide on wheat

As producers evaluate their options between ground vs. aerial application of fungicides they should keep several points in mind. The IF and WHEN decisions of fungicide application are much more important considerations than the application method. Both methods, when performed correctly under good conditions, provide effective application of fungicides. Always use the surfactants and solution rates as described on the product label for the chosen application method. A common question from those considering ground rig application is the potential yield loss from wheel tracks. The table below shows the percent of field area that will be trafficked for various boom and tire widths.

Tire Track Width (inches)

Boom width (feet)	12"	18"	24"
	Tracked portion of field (percent)		
60	3.3	5.0	6.7
90	2.2	3.3	4.4
100	2.0	3.0	4.0
100	1.7	2.5	3.3

It's important to realize, however, that percent of area trafficked is not necessarily equal to yield loss. There is still significant yield component flexibility in wheat plants. In other words, the wheat plants next to the wheel track will most likely have increased kernel weight and potentially increased number of kernels per head. Due to the increased resource availability, these plants next to the track will somewhat compensate for the lost plants in the trafficked area. Additionally, some of the plants that are trafficked may still contribute to grain yield.

When evaluating the economics of the decision, too often a producer may assign no cost to the operation of his own sprayer. A decision should revolve around the economics of aerial application vs. the true cost of the producer's ground rig. A likely range of machinery related cost (labor not included) for self-propelled sprayers is from \$2.50 to 3.50/acre or \$135 - \$180/engine hour. This variability in cost is mostly a factor of the number of acres covered per engine hour (in other words, field capacity). Variability in fuel cost is a relatively minor factor. Field capacity is affected by field size and shape, whether the sprayer is tendered at the field, time required to tender, and whether the sprayer is transported or driven between fields. Obviously, a true evaluation of cost should also include a labor charge for the operator and any labor associated with the tendering and transporting of the sprayer.

Setting Stocking Rates

This time of year questions about stocking rates typically arise. Below are the steps I take to assist producers pick stocking rates for their pastures.

First of all, how much do your cows weigh? Many folks think their cows weigh 1000-1100 pounds even after years of selecting for growth genetics and heavy weights. Check cull cow receipts or record cow weights during spring workings to find an accurate number. Cows utilize about 3% of their body weight in dry matter a day. No, they don't eat that much, but they lay on, urinate on, and defecate on that much. Calves do contribute to this number as well, although studies don't show calves consuming significant amounts of forage until the end of a standard 180 grazing season. So, 3% of body weight is the number I use.

1400 pound cows utilize about 42 pounds of forage per day while 1500 pounders use about 45 pounds of forage a day ($1400 \times .03 = 42$). Now that we know consumption, multiply by the length of your grazing season, I used 180 days. 1400 pound cows use 7560 pounds of forage and 1500 pound cows use 8100 pounds of forage over a 180 grazing season ($42 \times 180 = 7560$). This math is simple and straightforward.

The next step is one of the most difficult: estimating forage production. How much will your pasture(s) produce? It depends on rainfall, timing of rainfall, how much rainfall actually percolates into the ground, soil fertility, plant community, how often plants are grazed, and whole host of other factors. The best tool I'm aware of to provide forage production estimates is Web Soil Survey, WebSoilSurvey.nrcs.usda.gov. The web-based USDA tool allows customized mapping and generates a wealth of data based off soils. Here in Central Kansas my default assumption is that a pasture will produce 4000 pounds of forage per acre. This has been a conservative guess four years in a row. In a drought or on marginal soils, it may be a vast over-estimation though. Plus, loafing areas, trees, brush,

ponds, and holding pens eat into the "grazable acres" pastures actually contain. Adjust accordingly.

After you have a figure for expected production accurately choosing a utilization rate is the critical next step. The sage old advice is "take half, leave half." While this is a good statement and scientifically supported, grazing cattle aren't fully taking half. In continuous stocking systems, cattle are in one pasture for the full grazing season, forage utilization rates are about 25%. With rotational grazing as rotations become more elaborate and we manage stock density more effectively forage utilization rates move up to 35% or more. Again, being conservative, I use the 25% utilization rate for my calculations.

A pasture producing 4000 pounds of forage per acre with a 25% utilization rate yields 1000 pounds of usable forage per acre ($4000 \times .25$). 1400 pound cows would need 7.56 acres to meet their needs for 180 days ($7560 \div 1000 = 7.56$). 1500 pounders need 8.1 acres to meet their needs. A pasture producing 4750 pounds of forage per acre with a 25% utilization rate yields 1187 pounds of usable forage per acre. 1400 pound cows would require 6.36 acres per grazing season. 1500 pounders would need 6.82 acres per grazing season.

Stocking rate varies from pasture to pasture and from year to year. Our job as land managers is to match our herd to the resources available. Doing so ensures the sustainability of the resource for years to come. Set stocking rates appropriately this spring and adjust as needed.



4-H Focus

4-H is a **community** of **young people** across **America**

who are learning **leadership, citizenship** and **life skills**.



May 1 Deadline

For a lot of 4-H'ers May 1 is sort of a **red letter day** for the following items:

Deadline for Adding/Dropping Projects

This year we will be using a new Fair Management program. This program was developed by and works with 4-H Online. What this means is all of your 4-H records will transfer from 4-H Online to fair entry with the push of a button. Thus, **it is imperative that your projects are accurate in 4-H Online**. We are asking everyone to take a moment and log on to 4-H Online and double check the projects you are enrolled in by **May 1**. **If you are not enrolled in the project you will be unable to enter that project at the fair**. The community leaders and the Extension Office **WILL NOT** be able to make these changes.

If you have not yet enrolled for this year, you **MUST** enroll in 4-H Online to be official.

Horse ID's — All horse papers are due in the Extension Office to be signed by May 1. If you have a new horse, a new ID with picture is required. If you are using the same horse you did last year either bring in your papers or mail them and the ID will be signed and returned.



Discovery Days will be held May 30-June 2, 2017. Open to youth who are 13 to 18 years old by January 1, 2017. Registration is open on-line at: <http://www.Kansas4-H.org>. and deadline is April 20, 2017. Cost is \$230. Classes are filled on-line on a first come-first serve basis so do not wait until the deadline to register.

4-H Campference 2017: Leadership Under the Big Top - June 27-30, 2017— Rock Springs 4-H Center.

Begins at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday and ends Friday at 10:00 a.m.

4-H Campference is an event for youth from ages 12-14 who are ready to take 4-H to the next level. Registration information is found on www.Kansas4-H.org under the events registration button. Online registration is open until May 15 or until spots are filled.

Oz-Some 4-H Camp Information

Camp Counselors Wanted

If you are currently a 9th grader or older, we need YOU! Camp counselors are 9th through 12th grades (preference given to older youth). Camp will be June 10-13. Counselor applications are available at the Extension Office and on our website. These application are due May 1.

4-H Camp

Four action-packed days await 4-H'ers ready for exploring Rock Springs 4-H Center, June 10-13. Meet new and old friends to enjoy swimming, canoeing and horseback riding when you sign up for 4-H camp. All 4-H members and their friends who have completed 3rd-7th may attend. The cost is \$222. Scholarships will be \$100 which will be deducted when you register.

4-H Rookie Camp

Come one—come all 1st and 2nd graders for an overnight camp. There will be two rookie camp sessions—June 10-11 and June 12-13. Enjoy swimming, plus other Rock Springs activities. The cost of camp will be \$107. Scholarships will be \$50, which will be deducted when you register.

REGISTRATION NEWS—All registrations for camp will be done ONLINE this year! This will include registration information, scholarship paragraph for 4-H members, health profile and payment by credit card or electronic check.

Registration is now open. Registration website is tinyurl.com/ozsome Deadline for registration is May 1, 2017. We will be sending out more camp information. Be checking your email.

Sheep, Swine and Goat Tagging

A few changes to the small animal tagging. This year there will be only one tagging date. That date is Wednesday, May 3 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Marion County Fairgrounds. If you need to have your animals tagged before that you can bring them to me any time. **New this year, if you need me to come tag at your farm, that can be arranged, but there will be a \$75 trip charge. Please remember that if you have an animal that you intend to show at the Fair, this tagging is mandatory!** As always, any questions?? shout at Rick.

PQA—PQA is now an online process. It is for youth, ages 8-19 years old. This is still **required** for all youth who show hogs, but rather than sitting through another of my classes, simply point your web browser to:

www.pork.org — click on certification then under youth PQA plus, click on program details—then click on certify online now. If you have any questions or problems, let me know.

State Nominations

The nomination deadline for steers is May 1st and sheep, swine, goats and commercial heifers is June 15. DNA samples are required in all species. We have the envelopes at the extension office. In addition to the DNA samples you must also complete a nomination declaration as well as the species nominations form. You can get the forms online at:

www.youthlivestock.ksu.edu



K-STATE
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Upcoming
Events:**

- April 20 — Discovery Days registration deadline
- May 1 — 4-H Deadline for Adding/Dropping Projects
- May 1 — Horse ID's Due
- May 1 — Deadline Camp and Camp Counselor Registration
- May 3 — 4-H Sheep, Swine and Goat Tagging
- May 8 — Marion County Wheat Variety Plot Tour - Tampa
- May 12 — Marion County Wheat Variety Plot Tour - Hillsboro