Calling All Barn Quilters.....

A new special barn quilt class is coming to the Marion County Fair in preparation for the Kansas State Fair competition. Please see page 5 of this newsletter for the state fair rules.

In This Issue:

* Wheat and cold temps  * 4-H Deadlines/events  * FCS Judging
* Preservation workshop  * Producer meeting
Potential for injury to wheat in Kansas from below-freezing temperatures.

How long were these cold temperatures sustained?

The risk of damage to wheat is a function of the minimum temperature and duration of time spent at potentially damaging temperatures. In this case, the number of hours below 24°F between March 18th and March 21st varied according to geographical location within Kansas. Counties along the western border, neighboring Colorado, were exposed to as many as 27 hours below 24°F over the course of the last four nights. In general, the western half of the state had at least 11.4 hours of temperatures below 24°F. The number of hours sustained below 24°F decreased in the east, and many counties in the eastern fifth of the state did not have a single hour below 24°F.

The coldest night in the period was on March 19-20. Temperatures were below 24°F in that night for as much as 12.3 consecutive hours. The western third of the state, where about 40% of the wheat is grown, experienced colder temperatures for longer durations than other areas of the state. While the temperatures this cold are not uncommon for this time of the year, the wheat crop is well advanced throughout the state this year due to a relatively warm winter, and producers who have jointed wheat might be concerned with possible damage to their crop.

Wheat growth stage

Different stages of wheat development vary in their sensitivity to cold temperatures. In stages in which the developing head is already above ground (jointing or later stages), cold temperatures can damage the developing wheat head. The threshold below which economic damage can occur when wheat is jointed is approximately 24°F. Additionally, temperatures need to be sustained at levels below 24°F for a minimum of two-to-three hours to be potentially damaging to the developing head.
Soil Temperatures

The extent of a possible freeze damage to the developing wheat crop will depend on several variables, including canopy density, soil moisture, crop residue, and wind speed. As a result of so many interacting variables, evaluating only air temperatures may not completely reflect the conditions experienced by the wheat crop. In this situation, soil temperatures can help in determining the extent of the cold stress at crown and lower canopy levels, especially for crops in which the growing point is still below ground or just starting to elongate.

While air temperatures reached critical levels for damage to the developing wheat head, soil temperatures at 2” depth were above 32°F all across western Kansas, and in most cases above 40° in other regions of the state. Higher soil temperatures may have helped buffering the cold air temperatures experienced, minimizing possible injury to the wheat crop especially for crops still in developmental stages where the developing head is below ground and therefore insulated (Feekes 3, 4, or 5). For wheat that has already jointed or more advanced, producers will be able to assess damage in the next few days.

What to look for?

Leaf tissue. The extreme low temperatures measured over the weekend will give the crop a rough look for a few weeks. The first apparent sign of freeze injury will be leaf dieback and senescence, which should occur across most of the state regardless of damage to the actual growing point Existing leaves will almost always turn bluish-black after a hard freeze, and give off a silage odor Those leaves are burned back and dead, but that in itself is not a problem as long as newly emerging leaves are green. Provided that the growing point is not damaged, the wheat will recover from this damage with possibly little yield loss. If newly emerging leaves are nice and green, that probably indicates the tiller is alive. If newly emerging leaves are yellow, that probably indicates the tiller is dead.

Developing head. After a few warm days, the color of the developing head or growing point in wheat that has jointed will be the most important indicator of possible freeze damage. As long as heads are light green, crisp, and turgid, the head in that tiller is fine. If the head is whitish, flaccid, and mushy, it has died.

Stem integrity. If the wheat lodged immediately after the freeze, that indicates stem damage. Later tillers may eventually cover the damaged tillers. Even if there is no immediate lodging, look for lesions or crimps anywhere on the stems. If these symptoms are present, it usually means the wheat will lodge at some point during the season. If the stems look undamaged, that’s a good sign.

New tillers. Where stems and/or growing-points were killed by the freeze, new tiller growth (coming from the crown area) will occur. In many cases, new tiller growth can be observed even when the stems do not show any symptoms of freeze damage for some time. In those cases, the first sign that the tillers are dead is the sudden growth of new tillers at the base of the plant. If secondary tillers may begin growing normally and fill out the stand, the wheat may look ragged because the main tillers are absent. Enough tillers may survive to produce good yields if spring growing conditions are favorable. If both the main and secondary tillers are injured, the field may eventually have large areas that have a yellowish case and reduced yield potential.

Potential future problems? If the primary tillers have been affected and yield will rely on secondary tillers, current pest and disease problems may be of greater concern because the newly emerging tillers will be exposed to them from the start. Producers should scout for leaf and stripe rust, which have already been reported in the state, as well as for bird cherry oat aphids.
Spring is in the air! And gardeners are itching to get their plants in the ground. It’s also time to plan what will be done with the bountiful harvest.

Food preservation classes with Karen Blakeslee, KSU Associate, are now scheduled for the following dates/locations. Contact the host county for details and registration:

June 13—Abilene, contact Chelsi Myer, chel-sim@ksu.edu, 785-263-2001
June 16 or 17—Salina, contact Leah Robinson, lmrobins@ksu.edu, 785-392-2147
June 30—Hutchinson, contact Jennifer Schroeder, jenj@ksu.edu, 620-662-2371
July 12–13—Wichita, contact Denise Dias, ddi-as@ksu.edu, 316-660-0116
2016 County Fair Contest: Barn Quilts
(State Fair Info)

Requirements:

- Must be a 2' x 2' square. Display cannot be on point (diamond shaped) - due to display limitations.

- Needs to be prepared for hanging. Participant must supply hooks - one cup hooks or "j" hooks two inches from top edge of quilt. Participant is responsible for using the correct size hooks according to weight.

- Must be on 3/8" or 1/2" inch thick exterior durable material

- Champion Barn Quilt will become property of the Kansas State Fair and put on permanent display in the Pride of Kansas Building or another Fair structure with acknowledgement of the creator and year won.

Recommendations:

- Use MDO (medium density overlay) board.
- Prime board with two coats of primer.
- Use latex enamel paint.

Original designs are encouraged. If copied, credit should be given.

RULES (in addition to requirements and recommendations):

- Participants must pre-enter with the Kansas State Fair no later than August 15, 2016.

- Entries need to be delivered to the Kansas State Fair Pride of Kansas Building during receiving hours - Wednesday, Sept. 7, Noon - 9:00pm - Thursday, Sept. 8, 9:00am - 9:00pm - Friday, Sept. 9, 8:00am - Noon

- Items will NOT be received outside these stated times. *NO exceptions.

- Entries must remain on display until release times: - Sunday, Sept. 18, 6:00pm - 9:00pm - Monday, Sept. 19, 8:00am - Noon NO early releases allowed.

Please reassure participants that there will be additional classes in the Agriculture Dept. open to the general public for those not qualifying at their local county fair level.

Judging Criteria: Appearance Creativity Construction
Youth 1st: $75 2nd: $50 3rd: $25 4th: $10
Adult 1st: $75 2nd: $50 3rd: $25 4th: $10

For more information, contact the Kansas State Fair at 620-669-3600 or visit https://kansasstatefair.com/page.php?id=10. A flyer can be located at: https://kansasstatefair.com/uploaded/

Launch A Business Opportunity

The KSU Center for Entrepreneurship has opened applications for the 2016 Launch-A-Business (LAB) program. The LAB program provides entrepreneurs access to K-State faculty workshops, student research teams, and alumni mentors to help launch and grow their venture. The program is completed over a period of five days this summer. At the completion of the program, the entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to showcase their venture to more than 200 guests at the annual Launch party and compete for a share of prize money. There is no cost / equity to be a part of the program. More information on the program can be found at: http://www.k-state.edu/lab

Did You Know...

More than 40% of the sodium we get each day comes from just 10 types of food:

1. Bread and rolls
2. Cold cuts and cured meats
3. Pizza
4. Fresh and processed poultry
5. Soups
6. Sandwiches
7. Cheese
8. Pasta Dishes
9. Meat mixed dishes, such as meatloaf with tomato sauce
10. Snacks, such as chips, pretzels and popcorn

From: http://www.cdc.gov/features/sodium/index.html
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 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.

Congratulations to the 4-H’ers that were invited to participate at Regional 4-H Day. The following 4-H’ers received top blue in their categories.


2015-2016 4-H Council Committees

We are in need of 4-H’ers to sign up for the following committees.

Swim Party; Spring Beef Show; Public Style Revue; Recruitment; 4-H Sunday/48 Hours of 4-H Service

County FCS Judging Results

Jr. Division—1st —Cambry and Emily 84 pts
2nd—Olivia and Michah 81 pts
Intermediate—1st—Alyssa and Eli 83 pts
2nd— Tie
Elyse and Brooke 82 pts
Tanner and Allie 82 pts
Senior— 1st —Cassie and Katelyn
Again, I am sorry for all the confusion with the new system. I will be in contact with the families listed to talk about state competitions.
Oz-Some 4-H Camp Information

Camp Counselors Wanted

If you are currently an 8th grader or older, we need YOU! Camp counselors are 8th through 12th graders (preference given to older youth). Camp will be June 4-7. Counselor applications are available at the Extension Office and on our website. Applications will be due April 22. All counselor applicants must attend the Counselor Training on June 3 at Rock Springs and they must complete the Volunteer Screening process.

4-H Camp

Four action-packed days await 4-H’ers ready for exploring Rock Spring 4-H Center, June 4-7. 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 $198. Scholarships will be $75, which will be deducted when you register.

4-H Rookie Camp

Come one—come all 1st and 2nd graders for an overnight camp. NEW THIS YEAR—two rookie camp sessions—June 4-5 and June 6-7. Enjoy swimming, plus other Rock Springs activities. The cost of camp will be $100. 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 2, 2016. We will be sending out more camp

Beef Exhibitors

To all beef exhibitors – Marion County Spring Beef Show is April 16. I would encourage each of you to participate in this year’s show. The registration form is on our website—www.marion.ksu.edu.

SWINE, SHEEP & GOAT TAGGING

Two dates to choose from:

Wednesday, April 20 at the fairgrounds and Friday, May 6, 6:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

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 form online at:

www.youthlivestock.ksu.edu
Upcoming Events:

April 16  Beef Spring Show
April 20 or May 6  Swine, sheep and goat tagging
April 21 Ag Producer Meeting—Mc Pherson
April 22 Camp counselor apps due
MAY 1 DROP/ADD DEADLINE FOR 4-H PROJECTS
May 1 Horse ID due
May 2 Last day to register for 4-H camp
June 4-8  4-H Camp