Wheat Plot Tour
Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Doug Shoup, Southeast Area Agronomist

Breakfast at 7 a.m.  Plot Tour at 8 a.m.
CG&S Fertilizer Plant  Plot Field Inspection of
121 Santa Fe, Hillsboro  Kanza & Hwy. 56
(East of fertilizer plant
about 3/8 of a mile)

Sponsored by: Cooperative Grain & Supply
K-State Research & Extension—Marion County
RSVP CG&S Fertilizer Plant 620-947-3799

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
**Is there any value to starter fertilizer on soybeans?**

Soybean is a crop that can remove significant amounts of nutrients per bushel of grain harvested. Because of this, soybeans can respond to starter fertilizer applications on low-testing soils, particularly phosphorus. In many cases, corn shows a greater response to starter fertilizer than soybean. Part of the reason for that is that soils are generally warmer when soybeans are planted than when corn is planted. The typical response in early growth observed in corn is usually not observed in soybeans. However, yield response to direct soybean fertilization with phosphorus and other nutrients can be expected in low-testing soils.

The most consistent response to starter fertilizer with soybeans would be on soils very deficient in one of the nutrients listed above, or in very high-yield-potential situations where soils have low or medium fertility levels. Furthermore, starter fertilizer in soybeans can be a good way to complement nutrients that may have been removed by high-yielding crops in the rotation, such as corn and help maintain optimum soil test levels.

Banding fertilizer to the side and below the seed at planting is an efficient application method for soybeans. This method is especially useful in reduced-till or no-till soybeans because P and K have only limited mobility into the soil from surface broadcast applications. However, with narrow row soybeans, it may not be possible to install fertilizer units for deep banding. In that situation, producers can surface-apply the fertilizer. Fertilizer should not be placed in-furrow in direct seed contact with soybeans because the seed is very sensitive to salt injury.

K-State guidelines for soybeans include taking a soil test for phosphorus (P), potassium (K), sulfur (S), zinc (Zn), and boron (B). If fertilizer is recommended by soil test results, then fertilizer should either be applied directly to the soybeans or indirectly by increasing fertilizer rates to another crop in the rotation by the amount needed for the soybeans.
Help for New Vegetable Gardeners

Kansans that are new to vegetable gardening often don’t know how much of each crop to plant. K-State Research and Extension has a publication that can help. The “Vegetable Garden Planning Guide” gives information on the size of planting needed per person and the average crop expected per 100 feet. Also included is a garden calendar highlighting suggested planting dates and expected harvest dates. Crop specific information is detailed including days to germinate, plants or seeds needed per 100 feet of row, depth of planting, spacing within the row and spacing between rows. You can find the publication at your local county extension office. Another, more in-depth publication titled the “Kansas Garden Guide” is also available. This 77-page booklet has sections on planning a garden, composting, improving soil, seeding and planting, garden care, watering, planting gardens for fall production, insect and disease control, container gardening, season extension and harvesting and storing. This is followed by an extensive section on how to grow specific vegetables and herbs. You can also find this publication at the extension office.

Fertilize Irrigated Cool-Season Lawns in May

May is an excellent time to fertilize cool-season lawns such as tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass if they will be irrigated throughout the summer. Non-irrigated lawns often go through a period of summer dormancy because of drought and do not need this fertilization.

May is a good time to fertilize because the springtime flush of growth characteristic of these grasses has tapered off, so the fertilizer you apply will be less likely to cause excessive shoot growth than if you fertilized at full rate in April. Slow-release nitrogen sources are ideal. These nitrogen sources promote controlled growth, which is desirable as the stressful summer weather approaches.

Relatively few fertilizers available to the homeowner supply ALL of the nitrogen in the slowly available form. But one such product that is widely available is Milorganite. Other such products available in the retail market include cottonseed meal, alfalfa-based fertilizers, and any other products derived from plants or animals. (Bloodmeal is an exception, and contrary to popular belief, the nitrogen it supplies is quickly available.) These products are all examples of natural organic fertilizers. They typically contain less than 10 percent nitrogen by weight, so compared to most synthetic fertilizers, more product must be applied to get the same amount of nitrogen. Translation: they are more expensive! Apply enough to give the lawn one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. For example, if the fertilizer is 6 percent nitrogen by weight, you will need to apply almost 17 pounds of fertilizer product per 1,000 square feet. Summer lawn fertilizers that contain at least a portion of the nitrogen as slow-release are fine to use as well. Be sure to follow label directions. If cost is prohibitive, you can use the less expensive quick-release (i.e., soluble) sources, but split the application into two doses as follows: apply enough to give the lawn 0.5 lb nitrogen per 1,000 square feet in May and again in early June. (Ward Upham)

Pests

Skip the Detergent. Do not use dish soaps or detergents to control insect or mite pests. Dishwashing liquids and laundry detergents such as Palmolive, Dawn, Ivory, Joy, Tide, and Dove are primarily designed to dissolve grease from dishes and clean clothes; not kill insect and mite pests. Furthermore, these materials contain coloring agents, perfumes, and degreasers that may cause plant injury (=phytotoxicity) by dissolving the waxy cuticle on leaf surfaces. What is most important is that these materials are not registered pesticides as they do not have an EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) number. So, it is illegal to use them as pesticides
Foods Judging Training

Hooray! Spring is here again! In addition to all the great nature events happening—warmer weather, grasses and plants growing, etc., some use this time to do a deep cleaning in their house. First things first though. How about decluttering?

The advice of Denise Dias, FCS Agent, Sedgwick County, is to do one room at a time. Use the five box method...keep, storage, give away/sell, throw away and a maybe box. After each room is done, go through the maybe box one more time and see where it can be sorted to. As you are purging, ask yourself these questions:

Have I worn or used this in the past year?
What value does it add to my life?
What is the worst thing that would happen if I get rid of it?

To read Denise’s fact sheet go to KSRE bookstore, publication MF2879 or contact our office.

Happy Organizing!

Spring Cleaning

Are you interested in helping educate 4-H youth through judging foods and/or food preservation at the fair? This training is for you! Whether you are new or a returning judge, come learn about judging a variety of foods entered by talented 4-Hers.

Instructor: Karen Blakeslee, M.S. Rapid Response Center Coordinator

K-STATE

National Festival of Breads
June 13, 2015 | Manhattan, KS | Hilton Garden Inn

- Bread baking workshops 8 am- 3 pm
- Door prizes
- Bread Sampling
- BBQ workshops with Rod Cray of Pellet Envy
- Watch as 8 contestants bake off to find the best bread in America!

Admission Free with donation of canned good at the door.

May 21, 2015
Hillsboro City Building
118 E. Grand St., Hillsboro
5:30 pm
$10 fee & a homemade food item
Supper provided
Contact Renae @ 620-382-2325 to register.
Registration & fee due by May 13.
Dining on a Dime’s Cooks’ Corner

Chocolate Chip Peanut Butter Cereal Bars
(Makes 8 bars)

This quick and easy recipe makes a great-tasting, inexpensive and more healthful alternative to store-bought bars. Freeze some for future use! (From Dining on A Dime Newsletter, May 2015, KSU Website)

Ingredients

1 lightly beaten egg OR 1/4 cup egg substitute
2 tablespoons peanut butter, any kind
2 tablespoons water
3 tablespoons granulated white sugar
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup nonfat dry milk powder
1/4 cup wheat germ
1 cup each of: rolled oats AND crispy rice cereal
2 tablespoons each of: raisins AND mini chocolate chips

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.  
2. In a large bowl, mix ingredients, stirring after each addition, until all eleven ingredients are mixed in and are evenly moistened.  
3. Spray an 8 x 8 inch baking pan with non-stick cooking spray. Press mixture firmly into the pan.  
4. Bake for 18 minutes.  
5. Let cool. Cut into eight bars.  
6. Store bars in a sealed container up to one week. Or, wrap and freeze bars.

Nutrition Facts:
Each bar provides
160 calories, 5g fat, 1.5g saturated fat, 0g trans fat, 25g carbohydrate, 6g protein, 25mg cholesterol, 160mg sodium and 2g dietary fiber. 
Daily Values: 2% vitamin A, 4% vitamin C, 2% calcium,

In an e-mail I received on 4/29/15 from the U.S. Dept. of Education, President Obama’s story about an important teacher in his life resonated. As school is winding down, take a moment and talk with your children about their teachers. Is there a special thanks that should be delivered? Thoughts to ponder...

Earlier today, President Obama sent the following email to the White House email list. In the email, he talks about the lasting influence of Ms. Hefty, his fifth-grade teacher. We thought we’d pass it along.

I credit my education to Ms. Mabel Hefty just as much as I would any institution of higher learning.

When I entered Ms. Hefty’s fifth-grade class at Puna-hou School in the fall of 1971, I was just a kid with a funny name in a new school, feeling a little out of place, hoping to fit in like anyone else.

The first time she called on me, I wished she hadn’t. In fact, I wished I were just about anywhere else but at that desk, in that room of children staring at me.

But over the course of that year, Ms. Hefty taught me that I had something to say -- not in spite of my differences, but because of them. She made every single student in that class feel special.

And she reinforced that essential value of empathy that my mother and my grandparents had taught me. That is something that I carry with me every day as President.

This is the simple and undeniable power of a good teacher. This is a story that every single kid in this country, regardless of background or station in life, should be able to tell.

Contact your local library for information on summer reading programs!!! Keep your children engaged in learning!
You are invited to a Summer Leadership event hosted by McPherson County and Central Kansas District 4-H. The 4-H Summer Leadership Academy will be held at K-State, Salina on Saturday, June 13, from 12:30 – 6:30 p.m. This day is for 4-Hers 12 and older as well as adults. I am extremely excited to announce that Ron Drum from National 4-H Council will be joining us to provide sessions for both youth and adults.

The event will focus around the theme of “Making Your Dreams Come True” and include leadership development and capacity building training for youth and adult leaders in Kansas 4-H. Other sessions for the day led by area and state 4-H specialists, master volunteers, local youth and 4-H professionals might include:

**Volunteer Sessions:**

* What is Your True Color?

* Club Leaders

* Project Leaders

* Expanding Your Volunteering (i.e., Master 4-H Volunteer, etc.)

**Teen Leader Sessions:**

* What is Your True Color?

* Making the Most out of Your 4-H Experiences (i.e., state events, etc.)

* Strengthening Your Leadership & Citizenship

* Day Camp Activities

The cost for this leadership opportunity is $15 and registration for the event will open no later than May 1 and will be due June 1. Registration will be taken at: [http://tinyurl.com/4HLeadershipAcademy](http://tinyurl.com/4HLeadershipAcademy). We will be collecting the money in the Marion County office. Please make your checks out to Mc Pherson County.
Next month’s newsletter will have county fair changes listed. Many changes locally are to be consistent with state fair changes for 2015, but not all. For example, banners will no longer have a class at the state level, but will continue locally.

Livestock Nominations for KJLS & Kansas State Fair Due JUNE 15!
This is for goats, swine, sheep and commercial heifers. We have DNA envelopes, and all other forms, etc. will be found at www.youthlivestock.ksu.edu

State Geology Field Trip
June 12-14 — SE area headquarters in Girard or SC in Fredonia
This is an excellent opportunity for youth in the project to learn more about the geology of Kansas, interact with geologist and geology trainers, go on collecting trips, participate in quiz bowl and judging contests and attend workshops. All attendee (adults and youth) must register separately by May 22. Please go to http://www.kansas4-h.org/?tabid=431 (the geology page) for more details.

Make sure you are taking project photos to be used during the premium sale at the county fair.

OzSome 4-H Campers:
So glad you have signed up to attend camp this summer. Please double check to make sure your health profile page on CampDoc is complete and any updates are made to medications, etc. All campers will receive a letter in the mail regarding camp details! Looking forward to OzSome Camp!

ATTENTION FOODS LEADERS:
PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US FOR THE FOODS JUDGING TRAINING WITH KAREN BLAKESLEE OF KSU. THOUGH YOU MAY NOT WISH TO JUDGE, I THINK THIS WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROCESS. KAREN WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR YOU TOASK QUESTIONS AFTER THE TRAINING AS WELL. SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFO.

SIMPLE CPR & FIRST AID
May 14, 2015
5:30-6:30 pm
Extension Office
One of the four H’s in 4-H is Health. Please join us for a quick demonstration and practice for CPR/First Aid. County EMS Director Brandy and FCS Agent Renae will be hosting this event. Poison and choking hazards will be covered. Come and go!
Upcoming Events:

May 8       Swine, Sheep & Goat Tagging
May 14      Simple CPR & First Aid
May 18      4-H Council, Hillsboro City Building, 7:00 p.m.
May 19      Wheat Plot Tour
May 21      Foods Judging Training
May 25      Memorial Day, Office Closed
May 26-29   Discovery Days
June 2-6    4-H Camp (Agents will be out of office)