2019 Kansas State Fair

Congratulations to all who exhibited at the State Fair! You deserve all the recognition for your hard-work!

Have more State Fair images? Send them to Jana or Tristen for a chance to be featured in the Marion County 4-H Video!
Every so often we have “one of those years” when it comes to thistles. 2019 proved to be an exceptionally bad year for this noxious weed and I heard numerous reports of people (myself included) finding them in places they never had before. Needless to say, Musk thistle continues to be a common and widespread noxious weed in the county.

Musk thistle is primarily a biennial or winter annual species. Biennials take two growing seasons to complete their life cycle. Thistles that germinate in the spring will spend the entire summer as a rosette, live through the winter, and bolt the next year in May and June. Winter annual plants will germinate with moisture and warm temperatures in the fall, live through the winter, and bolt the following year.

Most people recognize musk thistle during the early summer when the plants are actively blooming. However, musk thistle is most easily controlled as a rosette. Fall (October to early November) is an excellent time to spray musk thistle as all are in the rosette stage of growth. Another advantage for treatment in the fall is reduced risk of off-target drift. Waiting until most deciduous trees have lost their leaves and most crops are harvested will greatly reduce the likelihood of damage from herbicide drift. A wider window of opportunity for treating musk thistle also exists in the fall. The spraying window in the fall probably extends until the ground is frozen and the musk thistle plants have shut down activity until warmer temperatures in the spring. Freezing temperatures will start to damage musk thistle plants, with some yellowing and curling of leaves. However, the plants are susceptible to herbicides as long as green tissue exists.

While it’s still warm-ish, a fall application of 2,4-D LVE is almost twice as effective than a similar rate of 2,4-D amine and even a tad better yet when a little less 2,4-D is used and shot of dicamba is added to the mix.

While these options don’t provide much residual control, there are several others that can be applied this fall and last long enough to kill almost all of the rosettes that germinate next spring. Several newer ones like ForeFront, Milestone, and Chaparral work very well. Two other very effective herbicides are Tordon 22K and Grazon. Others that can also control thistles in pastures include Redeem, Cimarron, and Curtail. No matter which weed killer you use, though, be sure to read and follow label instructions and be sure to spray on time. If you plan to treat musk thistle this fall, select a warm, sunny day, if possible, when spraying musk thistle in the next couple of months.

Give some thought now to thistle control during October and November. Your pastures can be cleaner next spring.
Fall soil sampling:
Sample collection and submission to K-State Soil Testing Lab

Soil testing provides producers and homeowners important information concerning the fertility status of the soil. This information can help produce better crops and reduce costs by guiding management decisions like the type and amount of fertilizers to apply. If you plan to do your own soil sampling and use the K-State Soil Testing Laboratory, click here to view specific information on methods for collecting soil samples and mailing instructions.

Fall control of bindweed

Field bindweed is a deep-rooted perennial weed that severely reduces crop yields and land value. This noxious weed infests just under 2 million acres and is found in every county in Kansas. Bindweed is notoriously difficult to control, especially with a single herbicide application. During the fall, but prior to a killing freeze, can be an excellent time to treat field bindweed -- especially in a year when good fall moisture has been received. This perennial weed is moving carbohydrate deep into its root system during this period, which can assist the movement of herbicide into the root system. Continue reading here.

Control woody plants on rangeland:
Basal bark and cut-stump herbicide applications

Late summer and fall can be an excellent time to treat unwanted stands of woody plants. Scattered stands of individual trees should either be treated individually using the basal bark method (for labeled plants less than 4-6 inches in diameter) or the cut stump treatment method. The basal bark and cut stump treatments will not be effective if the plants cannot be treated down to the soil line. Avoid conditions where water (or snow later in the season) prevents spraying to the ground line. Continue reading here.

Video of the Month: Reseeding a Patch of Lawn
Health Insurance Assistance
Marion County’s Department on Aging has trained staff to help you with Medicare questions as well as buying health insurance if you are ineligible for Medicare or Medicaid through the government’s marketplace. Open enrollment will begin in October for these programs.
Contact Gayla, Department on Aging Coordinator, at 620-382-3580 to schedule your appointment.

Healthy Drinks, Healthy Kids
Learn the drinks and serving sizes that are recommended for kids as they grow from ages 0 to 5 by clicking the video below. Teaching kids to love healthy drinks now will have a lasting impact!
More information can be found here.

National Fire Prevention Week
October 6-12
Today’s homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds.
Make your family escape plan today!
Need a smoke alarm? Contact the Health Department at 620-382-2550.

EZ Does It Video Recipe of the Month:
Fish Tacos
Preserve It Fresh, Preserve It Safe

This newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of K-State Research and Extension and University of Missouri Extension to provide information on safe food preservation. 

September/October Newsletter

You Asked It!

This is a monthly newsletter published by K-State Research and Extension's Rapid Response Center with news articles based on questions received, current food safety issues, or information based on the time of the year.

October Newsletter

Walktober 2019

Marion County Residents are challenged to walk 150 minutes each week during Walktober. Record your physical activity in minutes and have the chance to win one of three prizes! Calendar is due back to the Extension Office by Nov. 4th to be eligible for prizes.

How does Walktober work?
1. Register at https://memo1.com/MarionWalktober.
2. Track your physical activity in minutes.
3. Report your physical activity at the end of the month for a chance to win healthy incentives.
4. Start slow and work your way up to 5 days per week with the goal of 150 minutes per week.

Reasons to Walk
- Walking reduces the risk of stroke, diabetes, and other chronic diseases.
- Walking enhances mental well-being and mood.
- Spending time outside in nature has been proven to improve overall wellness.

WALKtober

Join Us… Gather your family and join us for a Walking School Bus to the Hillsboro Elementary School on October 2nd, and Marion Elementary School on October 7th! Refreshments and goodies will be provided by the Marion County Health Department.

Click here for more information.

K-State Newsletters

You Asked It!
Tips From the Rapid Response Center
Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
KAPs and Pin Apps are due in the Extension Office by 5:00 p.m. on October 4th!

Pin Applications and KAP forms can be found on our website.

Enrollment for the 2019-2020 4-H Year is now OPEN!

Online enrollment system opens up for the new 4-H year on October 1st. 4-H’ers can re-enroll and new members can enroll at this time. Go to: https://ks.4honline.com

If you are re-enrolling, login with your user name and password from last year. (Please do NOT set up a new profile.) If you forgot your password, complete the “I forgot my password” process. Community leaders and project leaders will also have to reenroll. We would like to have this process completed by December 1.

Visit our website for 4-H Online Instructions!
Club Leaders & Project Leaders!

Returning project and club leaders need to complete the Volunteer Service Renewal form and turn it in to our office by November 15. New project leaders need to complete the Volunteer Service application.

These forms can be found here.

Marion Community Building

6:00 PM Help us celebrate the many achievements of our 4-H Youth and Leaders!

INSPIRE KIDS TO DO! Show your clover pride by wearing a 4-H t-shirt to school or work!

Be sure to check out the Marion County 4-H Update and the Kansas 4-H website for upcoming events!
Upcoming Events

Oct 1 — WALKtober Begins
  4-H Online Enrollment opens
Oct 2 — Hillsboro Walking School Bus
Oct 4 — KAP Award Portfolio and Pin Apps Due to Extension Office
October 6-12 — National 4-H Week
Oct 7 — Marion Walking School Bus
Oct 13 — 48 Hours of 4-H Service Event, 4-H Officers Training, 4-H Council
Oct 31 — SSSH Ends
Nov 3 — 4-H Achievement Banquet
Nov 4 — WALKtober Calendar Due Back to Office