2018 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 Promotional Video!
The challenge of collecting a representative soil sample
(Issue 652 Extension Agronomy eUpdate from K-State Extension Agronomy and Kathy Gehl, Agronomy e-Update Editor)

At first glance, soil sampling would seem to be a relatively easy task. However, when you consider the variability that likely exists within a field because of inherent soil formation factors and past production practices, the collection of a representative soil sample becomes more of a challenge.

Before heading to the field to collect your samples, be sure you have your objective clearly in mind. For instance, if all you want to learn is the average fertility level of a field to make a uniform maintenance application of P or K, then the sampling approach would be different than sampling for pH when establishing a new alfalfa seeding or sampling to develop a variable rate P application map.

In some cases, sampling procedures are predetermined and simply must be followed. For example, soil tests may be required for compliance with a nutrient management plan or environmental regulations associated with confined animal feeding operations. Sampling procedures for regulatory compliance are set by the regulatory agency and their sampling instructions must be followed exactly. Likewise, when collecting grid samples to use with a spatial statistics package for drawing nutrient maps, sampling procedures specific to that program should be followed. Regardless of the sampling objectives or requirements, there are some sampling practices that should be followed:

- A soil sample should be a composite of many cores to minimize the effects of soil variability. A minimum of 10 to 15 cores should be taken from a relatively small area (two to four acres). Taking 20-30 cores will provide more accurate results. A greater number of cores should be taken on larger fields than smaller fields, but not necessarily in direct proportion to the greater acreage. A single core is not an acceptable sample.

- A consistent sampling depth for all cores should be used because pH, organic matter, and nutrient levels often change with depth. Sampling depth should be matched to sampling objectives. K-State recommendations call for a sampling depth of two feet for the mobile nutrients – nitrogen, sulfur, and chloride. A six-inch depth is suggested for routine tests of pH, organic matter, phosphorus (P), potassium (K), and zinc (Zn).

- When sampling a specific area, a zigzag pattern across the field is better than following planting/tillage pattern to minimize any past non-uniform fertilizer application/tillage effects. With a GPS system available, georeferencing of core locations is possible. This allows future samples to be taken from the same locations in the field.

- When sampling grid points for making variable rate nutrient application maps, collecting cores in a 5-10 foot radius around the center point of the grid is preferred for many spatial statistical software packages.

- Unusual spots obvious by plant growth and/or visual soil color/texture differences should be avoided. If information on these unusual areas is wanted, collect a separate composite sample from these spots.

- If banded fertilizer has been used on the previous crop (such as strip till), then it is suggested that the number of cores taken should be increased to minimize the effect of an individual core on the composite sample results, and to obtain a better estimate of the average fertility for the field.
WHAT PRODUCERS SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT IN NOVEMBER......

BEEF -- Tips by Dale Blasi, Extension Beef Specialist

Spring Calving Cows

Cowherd Management

♦ Pregnancy check (if not already completed)
♦ If candidates for culling were not selected in September or October, it should be completed now.
♦ Consider feeding cull cows to increase body weight, value, and utilize cheap feedstuffs. Value of gain is equal to the difference between the ending value and beginning values divided by the gain. Compare this to cost of gain figures. When cost of gain is less than value of gain, profit will be realized.
♦ Body Condition Score - Provide thin cows (body condition score 3s and 4s) extra feed now. Take advantage of weather, stage of pregnancy, lower nutrient requirements and quality feedstuffs.
♦ In late fall and early winter, start feeding supplement to mature cows using these guidelines:
  
  Dry grass: 1½ - 2 lb supplement/day of a 40% CP supplement
  Dry grass: 3 - 4 lb supplement/day of a 20% supplement
  Dry grass: 10 lb good nonlegume hay, no supplement needed
  
  (Compare supplements on a cost per pound of nutrient basis.)
♦ Utilize crop residues.
  
  Average body condition cows can be grazed at 1 to 2 acres/cow for 30 days assuming normal weather. Available forage is directly related to the grain production levels.
  Limiting nutrients are usually protein, phosphorus, and vitamin A.
  Strip graze or rotate fields to improve grazing efficiency.
♦ Discontinue feeding tetracycline if used for anaplasmosis control.

Check out some helpful lawn care videos at http://kansashealthyyards.org/
Health Insurance—Need Help?

Marion County’s Department on Aging has trained staff and volunteers 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.

The More You Know

Fish oil supplements have been touted as beneficial for the heart and eyes. But, a meta-analysis of 10 clinical trials with almost 78,000 participants showed that the fish oil caplets are of little benefit to patients with heart disease.

Another study, regarding dry eye disease, also concluded that fish oil supplements are not beneficial. This study compared fish oil supplements with olive oil supplements.

Evidence still supports the benefits of eating eight ounces of fish per week to reduce cardiovascular disease risks.


MARION COMMUNITY GARDEN

2018 Gardening Year

This year the Marion Community Garden raised over 4,400 pounds of fresh produce to donate to the Marion County Food Bank!

This could not have been accomplished without the Garden Volunteers and Partners working together for the better of Marion County! Thank you to all who helped to make the Community Garden a success!
Fire Prevention Awareness Week

October 7th-13th

While children under 5 and adults over 65 are at the highest risk for injury or death in a fire, people of all ages are vulnerable. In fact, the risk of a nonfatal fire injury is highest for those between 20 and 49, showing that fire safety education is essential for everyone. Additional risk factors include race, socio-economic status, education level, and geographic location.

The purpose of Fire Prevention Week is to bring awareness to the risk of death in case of a fire and provide educational resources to people of all ages, races, and socioeconomic status in order to keep everyone safe. This year’s campaign places the importance on, “Look, Listen, and Learn” to be aware of Fire Safety.

**LOOK**

Look for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

**LISTEN**

Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.

**LEARN**

Learn two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

For more information and resources, please visit:

*The National Fire Protection Association*
**4-H Focus**

4-H is a **community of young people across America** who are learning **leadership, citizenship and life skills.**

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**4-H Officer Training and 4-H Council Meeting**

Monday, October 15th

Officer Training: 6:30 PM  
4-H Council: 7:30 PM

Hillsboro United Methodist Church

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**JOIN THE CLUB**

Enrollment OPENS Oct 1

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](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 have to reenroll. We would like to have this process completed by December 1.

**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 at: [www.marion.ksu.edu](http://www.marion.ksu.edu)

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**You’re Invited!**

48 Hours of 4-H Service

Date: Sunday, Oct. 14

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: 4-H Fairgrounds

RSVP By: Oct 12

Wear some old clothes! We are painting the arena this year! Plan to work on projects until 5:00 PM. After, we will roast hot dogs and enjoy a potluck meal. 4-H Council will provide hot dogs, drinks & paper ware. Families are asked to bring side dishes.
4-H Family Fun with Officer Training
Join us for a Multi-County 4-H Event on October 27th, 2018 from 8:00-11:30 AM at the Sedgwick County Extension Office!
Sessions for Officers, 4-Hers, Younger Siblings, 4-H Parents, and 4-H Leaders!
More info to come!

2018 Achievement Banquet
Date: Sunday, November 4
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Marion Community Building
Help us celebrate the many achievements of our 4-H Youth and Leaders!
More info to come!

Upcoming Events
Geology Fair at the Topeka Gem & Mineral Show
Saturday, October 13 - Sunday, October 14

Kansas 4-H Dog Conference & Quiz Bowl at Rock Springs 4-H Center
Saturday, October 20 - Sunday, October 21

Kansas 4-H Robotics SpaceTech Experience in Hutchinson
Friday, November 16 - Saturday, November 17

Kansas 4-H Leadership Weekend (KYLF & KVF) at Rock Springs 4-H Center
Saturday, November 17 - Sunday, November 18

Check out our website for registration information!
http://www.marion.k-state.edu/4-h/4HUpdate.html
**Upcoming Events**

Oct. 1: 4-H Online Enrollment Begins
Oct. 1: KS 4-H Award Portfolio (KAP) Deadline
Oct. 7-13: National 4-H Week, National Fire Prevention Week
Oct. 14: 48 Hours of 4-H Project
Oct. 15: 4-H Officer Training & 4-H Council
Oct. 27: 4-H Family Fun Event with Officer Training