



River Valley District

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K-State Research and Extension News

*Knowledge
for Life*

**December 2016
Volume 11 #12**

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Extension District



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Women in Agriculture Farm Management Educational Series



Thursdays

Feb. 2nd—Mar. 9th, 2017

3:30 pm—8:30 pm

KSDS Meeting Room, 124 W 7th Street, Washington, KS

- Who:** Women in the agriculture industry who would like to advance their business and management skills to become more involved in a farming or ranching operation.
- What:** Women in Agriculture is a six-session course with participation limited to 25 people.
- When:** Classes are held each Thursday afternoon February 2nd to March 9th from 3:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Dinner will be provided each session.
- Where:** KSDS Meeting Room, 124 W 7th Street, Washington, KS
- Cost:** \$50.00

Contact the River Valley Extension District Office

Phone: 785-825-2121



Sign-up starts December 1st!

River Valley Extension District Women in
Agriculture is brought to you by the following sponsors:



Session One - February 2nd

- True Colors (personality profile)
- Telling Your Ag Story

Session Two - February 9th

- Crop Insurance
- Ag. Marketing and Risk Management
- Global Ag Economy

Session Three - February 16th

- Livestock Management
- Horticulture Production
- FSA and NRCS programs

Session Four - February 23rd

- Quick Books for Farm Record-keeping
- Farm Safety

Session Five - March 2nd

- Kansas Lease Law
- Developing Equitable Farm Leases
- Financial Management and Taxes

Session Six - March 9th

- Family Communication
- Farm Succession and Estate Planning

Family is invited to attend this last session!

Like us on facebook Search: Women in Ag

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact John Forshoe, Director, River Valley Extension District #4, 322 Grant Avenue, Clay Center, KS 67432. Phone 785-632-5335. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Veterinary Feed Directive

December 12th, 6:30 PM
Good Shepherd Church
200 W. 4th St.
Washington, KS

RSVP Due: December 5th
Katelyn Brockus
River Valley Livestock Agent
785-325-2121
Reg. Cost: \$5 Meal Provided

Come Join Us!

The VFD has raised many questions for veterinarians, feed mills, and producers. Come join us to see the steps that our local feed mills and veterinarians will be taking in complying with the upcoming VFD that goes into action on January 1, 2017.

Extension Veterinarian,
AJ Tarpoff to speak

AJ joined the KSU Research and Extension team in 2016 as the Beef Extension Veterinarian. AJ grew up operating a beef processing plant and a steakhouse. After earning his DVM, he accepted an associate feedlot veterinarian position at Alberta Beef Health Solutions in Southern Alberta, Canada. His focus in practice was herd based cattle production medicine, research field trials, hands on feedlot employee training, disease surveillance and mitigation, and federal import/export duties.

FQA Surrounding the VFD

- Will I need a new VFD for each pen of cattle on my operation?
- How can I prepare for the VFD?
- How long must the VFD prescription be kept?
- Which drugs are affected by the VFD?
- What will the VFD cost me?
- How will this affect my prevention plan for Anaplasmosis?

Veterinarian and Feed Mill Panel

Local veterinarians will be present to answer any questions that might surround the VFD. Local Feed Mill operators will also be present to answer questions on how the VFD will affect feed mill processing. Please prepare your questions in advance for Extension Veterinarian, AJ Tarpoff, local veterinarian experts, and feed mill operators.



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Farmland Lease Meeting

January 9th
7:00 pm

Location: The Branch
SE corner of Washington and Chestnut St
Clyde, KS

About the Presenter:

Dr. Mykel Taylor

Joined the Department of Agricultural Economics as an Assistant Professor in 2011. Her research and extension programs are focused in the areas of crop marketing and farm management. She grew up on a cattle ranch in Montana and attended Montana State University majoring in Agribusiness Management. Her PhD in Economics is from North Carolina State University. Some of her current research areas include measuring basis risk for commodity grains, understanding the implications of food safety and country of origin labeling on meat demand, and estimating land values for crop and pasture land in Kansas.

River Valley District agents will present results from our recently compiled local farmland lease and ag labor surveys.

Our lease survey publication will be available to be picked up at the meeting.

Free Event

**Pre-register by Jan. 5th
For Registration Contact
River Valley Extension District
Concordia Office 785-243-8185
John Forshee, Kim Kohls,
Katelyn Brockus - Agents**

Topics:

- Explaining the differences and similarities of various leasing arrangements: crop share, fixed cash rent, flexible leases, AUM pasture leases
- Active management of the landowner-tenant relationship through effective communication and recognition of incentives
- Calculating an equitable lease using cost of production budgets, price and yield expectations, and other market-based information



Sponsored by:



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Grain Marketing Strategies for 2017

Workshop
January 19th
9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Location:
Norway High School Gym
North side of Hwy 148
Norway, KS

This workshop is designed to help Kansas crop producers make profitable marketing decisions for their crops in 2017 – a period forecast to be one of continued large supplies, low selling prices, and limited profitability.

This workshop is developed to provide three things to participants....

First, Grain Market Situation and Outlook for the remainder of the 2016/17 marketing years for corn, grain sorghum, wheat and soybeans. The particular focus will be on available cash and forward contract grain prices, basis trends, and futures & options pricing opportunities for the December 2016 - September 2017 period.

Second, the Top Performing Grain Marketing Strategies for Kansas corn, grain sorghum, wheat and soybeans for the 1990/91 through 2015/16 marketing years will be reviewed. The focus will be on how well pre-harvest forward contracts, hedges and put options, harvest cash sales, and post-harvest on-farm and commercial storage, storage hedges, and call options performed over time for Kansas crop producers.

Third, as a group, workshop participants will "Test Drive" 2017 Grain Marketing Strategies, working through probable 2017 Kansas grain price outcomes and trends as well as the marketing choices that are likely to be available for major grains during the December 2016 through September 2017 period. Both a post-harvest corn storage scenario, and a pre-harvest to harvest wheat sales scenario will be examined.

Program Schedule

- 9:30 Registration
- 10:00 Outlook for grain prices
- 11:20 Marketing Strategies over the last 20 years... *What has worked?*
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:30 Marketing strategies for 2017
- 1:00 Hands on scenarios

Speakers

Daniel M. O'Brien
Extension Ag Economist
Kansas State University

Carrie Williams
Grain Merchandiser
AgMark LLC

Free Event With Lunch Provided
Pre-register by Jan. 16th
For Registration Contact
River Valley Extension District
Concordia Office 785-243-8185
Kim Kohls- Agent

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THE ECONOMIC RETURN TO SOIL TEST INFORMATION

Fall after harvest is an excellent time for soil sampling and testing. This year, with lower grain prices, many producers may be looking for places to cut costs. However, cutting back on soil testing could result in lowering profits.

Having accurate soil test information is critical to making the right decisions regarding fertilizer input. Fertilizer costs have remained steady while grain prices have dropped, making good use of fertilizer inputs is critical to maximizing profits.

Previous research by former K-State agricultural economists Terry Kastens and Kevin Dhuyvetter simulated 10,000 observations from farm production fields to evaluate the economic value of accurate soil test information. Each field was assigned a random value for soil test P (STP) and soil test N (STN), and different scenarios for expected yields and prices for grain and fertilizer. The random values represent what a producer might guess the soil N or soil P level is without having results of a soil test for confirmation.

The resulting yields from nutrient rates applied based on the guesses made without accurate soil test information were compared with the yields obtained when applied nutrient rates were based on actual soil test levels of N and P. Results showed that when the guess on soil N and P levels were exactly correct, and equal to the actual levels, there was no effect on profit from having the actual soil test information – except for the cost of taking and analyzing the soil tests.

However, if the guess is not correct, and the actual soil N or P level is much lower or much higher than the initial guess, the producer would have lost a significant amount of money per acre. In other words, the overall return to accurate information on soil nutrient levels can be significant.

Considering other variables such as fertilizer and grain price, results show that returns to soil sampling are generally greater when grain prices are lower. This is because potential returns to inputs are tighter at lower crop prices.

If actual soil test levels of N or P are higher than what you expect, producers can realize a significant savings by reducing or eliminating unnecessary nutrient applications. This situation is not uncommon for N, where some fields may have high levels of residual N from previous crops.

On the other hand, if producers overestimate how much N or P is in the soil and actual soil test levels are much lower than expected, yields and income could be increased by applying the higher, correct amount of nutrients needed. In this case, the difference in final income per acre will depend on the cost of the needed nutrients, the yield response from applying the needed nutrients, and crop prices.

If producers are applying a “farm-wide” uniform rate, they may be missing the opportunity to maximize profits for each field. Furthermore, by sampling and fertilizing based on management zones within a field, or based on historical yield map data, producers can further increase the return per area.

Please contact the Extension Office if you have questions on how to properly take a soil sample. We can also submit your samples to the K-State Soils Testing Lab for you.

EXTENSION FARM MANAGEMENT MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

The North Central Kansas Farm Management Association (KFMA) serves eighteen counties in north central Kansas. With the recent downturn in the farm economy, the assistance and analysis provided by a Farm Management Economist could provide producers with the decision tools to successfully navigate these trying times in agriculture.

The association board has decided to continue a **\$500 first year discount in membership fees** for all new members that sign up this year. This will allow new members to experience how the program works and to get fully acclimated on a trial basis. Membership will fill up fast and with a history of less than 2% membership turnover, now is the time for potential new members to get into the program.

The association economists work with farms of all shapes and sizes. Large and small, experienced operators and new, crop only, combination with livestock, & livestock only; all kinds of operations can be members of farm management. So no matter the enterprise make up or legal configuration of your farming operation, KFMA has a program to fit your needs.

Here are some benefits of membership:

- ◇ Standardized Record Keeping System
- ◇ On-Farm Economist Visits (Twice a Year)
- ◇ Annual Farm Profitability Analysis Report
- ◇ Enterprise Profitability Analysis
- ◇ Summary Meetings
- ◇ In-Office Recordkeeping (If Needed)
- ◇ Tax Management Meetings
- ◇ Business and Economic Consulting

If you have questions about any of the Kansas Farm Management Association program, please call either the Abilene Office at 785-263-3421 or the Beloit office at 785-738-6418 for additional clarification. The K-State Extension Farm Management Economists Bob Kohman, Will Feldkamp, Trenton Hargrave, and Dave Rempe, along with the office staff, are committed to serving the members and look forward to the opportunity to work with new members throughout the North Central KFMA region.

Farmer's Tax Guide

IRS Publication 225

These Farmer's Tax Guides are written by the IRS for use in preparing the 2016 Income Tax Returns for Agricultural Producers.

Guides are available at any K-State Research and Extension, River Valley District Office.

KFS TAKING SPRING 2017 CONSERVATION TREE ORDERS

The Kansas Forest Service is now taking orders for the Kansas Conservation Tree Planting Program. The program was established decades ago as a means to provide low-cost trees, shrubs, and planting supplies for specific conservation uses.

These bare-root or container-grown trees and shrubs may be used for the following conservation purposes: farmstead windbreaks, livestock windbreaks, field windbreaks, woodlot, wildlife, riparian areas, Christmas tree plantations, or educational demonstrations. The plants cannot be used for landscaping or resale purposes.

The bare-root seedlings come in units of 25 plants for a cost of \$20 per unit. The container grown specimens are sold 25 to a unit as well at a cost of \$50 per unit.

Bare-root shrubs available include: American Plum, Button Bush, Chokecherry, Common Ninebark, Elderberry, False Indigo, Fragrant Sumac, Golden Current, Lilac, Sand Hill Plum, and Service Berry.

Bare-root evergreen trees include: Easter Redcedar, Eastern White Pine, Oriental Arborvitae, Ponderosa Pine, and Rocky Mountain Juniper. Container-grown evergreens trees include: Eastern Redcedar, Ponderosa Pine, and Southwestern White Pine.

Bare-root trees available include: Baldcypress, Black Cherry, Black Oak, Black Walnut, Bur Oak, Cherrybark Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Cottonwood, Hackberry, Lacebark Elm, Northern Red Oak, Pawpaw, Pecan, Persimmon, Redbud, Red Mulberry, Shellbark Hickory, Shumard Oak, Silver Maple, Swamp White Oak, and Sycamore. Stratified seeds are available for Black Walnut and Pecan.

Bundles available are the Songbird Bundle, Quail Bundle, and Pheasant Bundle. These bundles contain a variety of trees and shrubs that are attractive to these specific species of birds and come with suggested planting plans.

In addition to all of these plants, planting supplies are available that include: marking flags, rabbit protective tubes, root protective slurry, four and five foot tree tubes, and weed barrier fabric squares and pins.

Stop by any River Valley Extension Office to pick up an order form, a full-color tree brochure, or one of the many conservation tree planting educational bulletins. In addition, clients can order by phone by calling 1-888-740-8733 or by going online to www.kansasforest.org.

Be sure to order early as supplies are limited.

WHAT IS KANSAS PRIDE?



You may have been driving through a community in Kansas and noticed a sign at the edge of town “A Kansas PRIDE Community.” So what does that mean?

The Kansas PRIDE Program is a partnership of K-State Research and Extension, the Kansas Department of Commerce, and Kansas PRIDE, Inc.

Kansas PRIDE is dedicated to serving communities across the state to encourage and assist local government and volunteers in making their community a better place to live and work.

Through the Kansas PRIDE program, local communities identify what they would like to preserve, create, or improve for their future. Working with the resources of K-State Research & Extension and the Kansas Department of Commerce, community volunteers pull together to create their ideal community future.

To become a PRIDE Community, a grassroots group organizes and then enrolls in the PRIDE program through K-State Research and Extension. The governing body of the community will then pass a resolution in support of the community’s PRIDE program. Once these initial steps are completed the PRIDE group will carry out locally determined projects that preserve the past, create opportunities, or improve the future of their community. The PRIDE group reports into Kansas PRIDE on a quarterly basis. Kansas PRIDE offers opportunities for funding, recognition, education, and sponsorship.

For more information on Kansas PRIDE contact John Forshie or visit the Kansas PRIDE website at <http://kansasprideprogram.k-state.edu>

**RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2016
AND
MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2017**

**Happy
Holidays!**

**RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016
FOR STAFF TRAINING**

CHOOSING AND CARING FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

It's almost that time of year again, time to choose a Christmas tree. Here are some helpful tips and tricks to help you pick out the best, longest lasting tree for your family.

When choosing an already cut Christmas tree there are a few things you should check to make sure the tree isn't too far gone, before you purchase the tree. If the needles on the tree are a dull, grayish-green color or feel stiff and brittle you shouldn't purchase that tree. The needles are telling you the tree has been cut for a while and has lost too much moisture. If the needles pull off the tree easily that is a sign of too much moisture being lost. You want to find a tree that is green and the needles hold strong when you try and pull them off. The needles on a freshly cut tree should ooze a little if you break them apart.



Once you have brought your tree home, you want to recut the trunk. Make a new cut about one inch above the original cut. Making this fresh cut will open up any clogged water-conducting tissues. Once you have made the cut place the trunk immediately in warm water. This will make sure the tree is taking up water right away to start nice and green throughout the season.

When deciding on where to place your tree, you want to place it in the coolest spot possible. I know it can be hard to find the perfect place that isn't in the middle of the room, but you want to keep it away from as much heat as possible. Avoid places near a fireplace, wood-burning stove, heat duct, and the television set. The heat put off from places like these will cause excess water loss from your tree, causing it to die quicker. To make sure your tree stays healthy you will want to make sure the water reservoir for your tree stays filled. If the reservoir loses enough water to expose the bottom of the trunk then simply recut the trunk again to expose new tissue.

I hope these tips and tricks will help you keep your Christmas tree green and healthy for the holidays.

CHAINSAW SAFETY TIPS

Winter is a time for cutting firewood & removing dead trees so it is a good time to review a few chainsaw safety tips.

- ◆ Always read the operator guide before using the saw.
- ◆ Keep the saw well maintained and the chain sharp.
- ◆ Wear the right clothes including safety glasses, hearing protection, close fitting clothes with no strings, leather gloves, steel toed boots, and chainsaw safety chaps.
- ◆ Do strengthening exercises for several weeks before big cutting jobs. Stretch well before starting the day's task.
- ◆ Never work alone and never let a child operate a saw.
- ◆ Stay low, operating the saw below waist level.
- ◆ Avoid cutting with the tip or binding to prevent kickback.

CHOOSING A PLANT SAFE ICE MELT

After an icy winter, have you ever noticed the plants around your walkways or driveways looking burnt or are patches dying out? If so, it's time to look at the deicer you are using and find a more plant safe material to use. Keep in mind deicers can damage concrete surfaces as well as the plants and grass. There are five main materials that are used as chemical deicers; calcium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, urea, and calcium magnesium acetate.

Calcium chloride is the traditional ice-melting product. Though it will melt ice to approximately -25 degrees F, it will form a slippery/slimy surface on concrete and other hard surfaces. Plants are not likely to be harmed unless excessive amounts are used.

Rock salt is sodium chloride and is the least expensive material available. It is effective to approximately 12 degrees F, but can damage soils, plants and metals.

Potassium chloride can cause serious plant injury when washed or splashed on foliage. It is effective to approximately 25 degrees F. Both calcium chloride and potassium chloride can damage roots of plants.

Urea is a fertilizer that is sometimes used to melt ice. Though it is only about 10% as corrosive as sodium chloride, it can contaminate ground and surface water with nitrates. Urea is effective to approximately 21 degrees F.



Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), a newer product, is made from dolomitic limestone and acetic acid (the principal compound of vinegar). CMA works differently than the other materials in that it does not form a brine like salt but rather helps prevent snow particles from sticking to each other or the road surface. It has little effect on plant growth or concrete surfaces, and is effective to approximately 20 degrees F.

Limiting amounts and usage of these products will decrease the chance of injury to plants. Problems can occur when they are used excessively and there isn't any rainfall to wash/leach the material away from the area. When applying deicers use them in moderation. Don't over apply to make sure all the ice and snow melts away. These products are meant to help break up the ice so it can be removed, not dissolve it completely. So when using chemical deicers remember to use them in moderation to protect your concrete and your plants.

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**RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT
“2016 /2017 UP-COMING MEETINGS & EVENTS”**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
Dec. 1	10am	Living With Aches and Pains	Belleville– Extension Office Meeting Room
Dec. 1	2pm	Living With Aches and Pains	Washington– Extension Office Meeting Room
Dec. 2	10am	Living With Aches and Pains	Clay Center– Extension Office Meeting Room
Dec. 2	2pm	Living With Aches and Pains	Concordia– Courthouse Meeting Room
Dec. 5	6:30-9:30pm	Child Care Provider Series	Concordia– Courthouse Meeting Room
Dec. 12	6:30pm	Veterinary Feed Directive	Washington– Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Dec. 14-15		Kansas Income Tax Institute	Pittsburg
Jan. 9	7pm	Farmland Lease Strategies 2017	Clyde– The Branch
Jan. 18	8:30am	Top 10 Considerations to Navigate a Struggling Farm Economy	Salina-Ambassador Hotel Conference Center
Jan. 19	9:30-1:30pm	Grain Marketing Meeting	Norway-Norway Gym
Jan. 24-Feb. 28	1:30-3pm	Powerful Tool for Caregivers (Tuesdays for 5 weeks)	Concordia– Courthouse Meeting Room
Feb. 2	8:30-3:00pm	Sorghum School	Concordia-Cloud County Community College
Feb. 2-Mar. 9	3:30-8:30pm	Women in Ag Series (Thursdays for 6 weeks)	Washington-KSDS Meeting Room
Mar. 29-May 19		Strength Training (Time & Location TBD)	Cuba

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