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River Valley District

K-State Research and Extension News

Knowledge for Life

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K-STATE Research and Extension

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K-STATE Research and Extension
River Valley Extension District
Knowledge for Life

River Valley Extension District 2016 Wheat Plot Tours

Featuring K-State Agronomy Specialists: Romulo Lollato, Stu Duncan, Erick DeWolf, and Wendy Johnson. *And Company Reps*

Wednesday, June 1st

7:30 a.m. North Central KSU Experiment Field Wheat Variety Trial Plots
Location: 2 miles west of Belleville on Highway 36

10:00 a.m. Christian Tipton 4-H Plot
Location: 2 miles East of Munden and 3/4th mile South on 240 Road

1:00 p.m. RVED Variety Plot, Cooperator: Kurt Kocher
Location: South of Concordia on Hawk Road ½ mile west of Hwy 81

5:30 p.m. Ohlde Seed Wheat Plot
Location: Just East of Ohlde Seed Farms: 1577 4th Rd, Palmer
Dinner provided by: Ohlde Seed following the tour

Thursday, June 2nd

7:30 a.m. RVED Variety Plot, Cooperator: Gary Hatesohl
Location: South side of Hwy 9, one and a half miles East of the Greenleaf turnoff

12:00 noon Wheat Nitrogen Sensor Study Plot, Cooperator: Walter Lenhart
Location: East of Clifton on Hwy 9 then South 1 mile on Hackberry Road and East on 30th Road
Lunch provided by: LeClair Seeds

Wednesday, June 8th

7:30 a.m. Zoe Auld 4-H Plot
Location: 3rd and Utah Road, South of Wakefield

9:30 a.m. Hayden Heigele 4-H Plot
Location: 12th and Kiowa Road, South of Clay Center

12:00 noon Republic County High School FFA Plot
Location: 1.25 mile west of Cuba on Penn Road
Lunch provided by: Astra Bank at the plot site

6:00 p.m. Polansky Seed Wheat Plot
Location: Polansky East Location on Hwy 36, East of Belleville
Dinner provided by: Polansky Seed following the tour

Mark your calendars!
Those in attendance will be placed in a drawing for a Polaris Ace ATV from KWA

Refreshments provided at each tour stop *thanks* to our RVED wheat tour sponsors.

Kansas Wheat Alliance · Chamber & Main Street · American AgCredit · AG MARK · ASTRA BANK · Ag Risk Solutions · LeClair Seeds · Polansky Seed · Ohlde Seed Farms

For additional information or questions contact KIM LARSON, Agent, at the Concordia Office: 785-243-8185 or kclarson@ksu.edu

K-STATE Research and Extension

THE PERFECT WEATHER FOR FUSARIUM HEAD BLIGHT

Fusarium head blight, commonly known as head scab may be showing up in your wheat fields. Yes, with our lower grain prices, the last thing you want to hear is another disease is robbing you of higher yields. Rains and high relative humidity at flowering are the perfect conditions for head scab infection. Which is exactly what we had around the district. You may see head scab showing up more prevalently in wheat planted into corn stubble. This is because the scab fungus infects corn, oats, barley, sorghum, and other grasses besides wheat. However, corn residue is the major carrier for overwintering the fungus. Despite this, the fungus is easily carried by wind. Even where you have planted wheat after a broadleaf crop, head scab may show up.

The symptoms of head scab include large tan or white lesions that encompass one or more spikelets. Heads infected by scab will often have a brown discoloration of the rachis (central stem of the wheat head) and the developing kernels will have a white chalky appearance. The base of diseased spikelets may also have a small pink mass that is produced by the fungus that causes head scab. The diseased grain may have a reduced test weight and some of the kernels will likely be light colored and shriveled. These kernels are often referred to as "tombstones."

When you harvest fields that have been infected with head scab, you can reduce the percentage of scabby kernels by turning up the air speed on the combine to blow the lightweight infected kernels out the back. Yield loss is related to the percent of heads which are infected and the severity of the infection. Scab often causes reduction in test weight and are counted as "damaged" in the grading process. If you plan to save wheat seed for planting next year that has had some head scab present, clean the seed well and be sure to apply a fungicide seed treatment to prevent seedling blight. I would also encourage taking a germination test prior to use.

Some management tactics to help reduce the occurrence of head scab in future years is to avoid planting wheat into corn stubble and selecting a wheat variety with some resistance to head scab. Farmers also can help reduce the risk of Fusarium head blight in their fields with fungicide applications. Choosing the right fungicide is important; much more so than with stripe rust or leaf rust. Products such as Prosaro, and Caramba are the best options because these products offer about 50% suppression of the disease. Folicur or generic tebuconazole can also offer about 35% suppression of the disease. All of these fungicides must be applied after the heads have fully emerged to be effective. These fungicides can be applied through flowering and into the grain filling stages of growth but producers must stay within the 30-day pre-harvest interval on the label.

For more information on wheat diseases and their control, feel free to contact Kim Larson, RVD Crop Agent at 785-243 -8185.

CORN LEAF DISEASES IN KANSAS

There are several leaf diseases that can infect corn in Kansas in any given year. They can all be controlled with some combination of hybrid selection, tillage management, crop rotation, planting dates, or foliar fungicides.

The primary corn leaf diseases of concern in Kansas are:

Anthracnose leaf blight—Symptoms are tan, irregular-shaped lesions on the lower leaves as early as V3 to V4. Lesions may reach a half-inch in length, with a red, reddish brown, or yellow orange border. Anthracnose is most common in fields with old corn debris present. High temperatures and cloudy, rainy weather favor infection. Resistant hybrids can be used to control this disease, but producers should be sure that the hybrid is resistant to anthracnose leaf blight, not just anthracnose stalk rot, since the two types of resistance are different. Producers can also help reduce this disease by using rotation or tillage to eliminate crop debris. Use of foliar fungicides to control early anthracnose has not been demonstrated to be profitable.

Common rust—This disease is typically less serious in Kansas than the other leaf diseases. Symptoms include small, round to elongated pustules that start out golden brown then turn darker later in the season. Common rust pustules commonly form on both sides of the leaf and are sparser than those of southern rust. This disease can occur wherever corn is grown. Infection is favored by moderate temperatures (60 to 77 degrees) and high relative humidity (greater than 95 percent for at least six hours). Common rust is easily controlled by using resistant hybrids. Fungicides are not recommended for this disease alone since common rust causes only minimal yield loss.

Goss's bacterial wilt—This disease is caused by a bacterial, not a fungal, infection. Symptoms show up as gray to light yellow stripes with wavy margins that follow the leaf veins. Within these lesions, dark green to black, water-soaked spots that take on the appearance of freckles usually appear and are an excellent diagnostic symptom. This disease occurs primarily in northwest Kansas, northeast Colorado, and southwest Nebraska. It can be controlled with resistant hybrids and crop rotation.

Gray leaf spot—Gray leaf spot was common in the district last year and can cause the most severe yield loss. Symptoms develop on the lowest leaves first and progress upward. The first symptoms are tiny lesions surrounded by a yellow halo. These eventually elongate into pale brown or gray rectangular lesions ranging from less than an inch to two inches in size. The entire leaves may become blighted. Gray leaf spot survives in infested plant debris on the soil surface. In Kansas, initial infections occur in late June and early July. Cloudy weather accompanied by prolonged periods of leaf wetness and high humidity favor disease development. Severe damage often occurs in low spots or in fields bordered by trees or streams where air circulation is poor.

To control gray leaf spot, producers can use a crop rotation that is long enough to eliminate corn debris. Producers can also till under the old corn debris. There are many hybrids available with at least partial resistance. Producers can also use foliar fungicides when the economic threshold is exceeded. Application of a fungicide prior to full tasseling is not recommended as crop damage can occur prior to this stage of development.

Northern corn leaf blight—Symptoms appear as gray, elongated lesions 1 to 6 inches long. They show up on the oldest leaves first, and progress upward. Lesions may become tan as they mature. Northern corn leaf blight is most common in continuous corn where crop debris remains on the surface. Conditions that favor infection are temperatures of 65 to 80 degrees with extended periods of dew. There are several hybrids with resistance to northern corn leaf blight. Producers can also help reduce this disease by using rotation or tillage to eliminate crop debris.

Southern rust—Southern rust pustules look similar to common rust, but there are usually a lot more of them and they occur only on the upper leaf surfaces. This often gives the upper leaves a dusty appearance. Southern rust does not overwinter in Kansas. Spores blow up from southern production areas in mid- to late-July. Warm, humid weather favors infection. Resistant hybrids are the best choice for management. If susceptible hybrids are planted late, and disease conditions are favorable, applications of a systemic foliar fungicide may be warranted. Doug Jardine, Extension Plant Pathologist

MAKE SAFETY A PRIORITY IN AG

The agriculture industry has been named one of the most dangerous industries by the United States Department of Labor. In fact, the fatality rate for agricultural workers in 2011 was seven times higher than that of all workers in private industry. What makes agriculture such a hazardous occupation? You may come up with many reasons, including large machinery, use of chemicals, livestock handling, the rushing of tasks during the critical busy times, etc. If you work on a farm, I know many if not all of you have either experienced some sort of injury on the job or know of someone close to you that has. It seems we cannot get through the year without reading a heartbreaking story of a farm accident that takes, or nearly takes someone's life. The little voice in our heads that says, "it won't happen to me" may be one of the most dangerous attitudes all too common in farm workers. The results of our carelessness can be permanent. Accidents happen. It is important to do our best at avoiding them by taking the time to be safe. Common causes of machinery accidents are our attitude, children near operating machines, loose fitting clothing getting caught in moving parts, poor communication, fatigue, improper maintenance of machinery, rushing, weather, and lack of or misuse of safety devices. As we wrap up planting of spring crops and enter into harvest season, please take the extra time to be safe and take short, frequent breaks to avoid fatigue. A little extra time to do farm activities safely now can help assure you and your family will be well to continue to farm in the future.

CALL 811 FOR AG PROJECTS TOO!

Many farming operations, such as digging post holes, repairing terraces, trenching water lines, or building that new livestock shed, require digging or excavating of some sort.

Our best management practice is to call 811 for Kansas One-Call Utility locating services at least three business days (excludes weekends and holidays) before excavation. Kansas One-Call (811) accepts calls 24/7. (Example: Call on Monday—OK to dig on Thursday. Call on Friday then you cannot dig until the following Wednesday. The locate is good for 15 calendar days after the start date. If the project will exceed the 15 days then be sure to call and renew the ticket. If the 15 days have passed without renewal then call for a new locate.

Keep in mind this service includes all member utilities. Some local utilities may not participate and therefore you may need to call those directly. An example might be to call the city to locate a city water line the runs through your property.

Anyone excavating is responsible for calling 811 to protect yourself against underground utility damage and the associated liability. It is free, it is easy, and it is the law!

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
BARBECUE 101

Barbecue 101 is a one day workshop focusing on teaching the basics of grilling and smoking to consumers of all ages and experience levels.

The topic areas will provide a unique perspective on the science of barbecuing as well as give insight to selecting meat, wood, rubs, spices and sauces to use at your next barbecue.

This workshop is conducted by the Kansas State University Department of Animal Science and Industry and K-State Research and Extension.

For questions: Dr. Travis O'Quinn; travisoquinn@ksu.edu

To register: Lois Schreiner; lschrein@ksu.edu

2nd Annual BBQ 101 Workshop—Schedule of Events

8:00 Welcome
8:15 Meat Cutting Basics
9:15 All About Rubs & Spices
9:45 Break
10:00 BBQ Food Safety
10:30 Science of Smoking

K-STATE Research and Extension

11:30 Lunch
12:30-2:30 Afternoon Station Rotations
- Selecting the Right Smoker for You
- BBQ Regionality: A Difference in Sauce
- Meat Cuts to Stretch the BBQ Dollar
- Taste the Difference: It's All in the Wood

3:00 Competition BBQ Expert Roundtable
3:30 Closing & Evaluations

Registration Information

Registration is $50 for an individual or $80 for a couple. Registration closes one week prior to each scheduled event. Registration fee includes lunch, apron and Barbecue 101 Course Book containing cooking guides, recipes and barbecue tips and tricks. Space is limited at each location.

Register Now: www.asi.k-state.edu/barbecue101workshop.html

BARBECUE 101

June 4, 2016, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
First National Bank,
101 C Street Washington, KS
Registration closes on June 1
Sign up online to participate in this unique workshop!
Contact Katelyn Brockus at 785-325-2121 for information

BREEDING SEASON IN FULL SWING

It is that time of the year again. Cows are getting moved to grass and all of the concentration begins to shift to spraying and planting crops. While this might be true, it is always important to remember that cattle still need attention and management throughout the breeding season. With the breeding season in full swing, it is time to start thinking about various reproductive strategies and the importance of having reproductive pressure in your cow herd.

One management tip that should already be happening or is definitely in the works to begin is the breeding season. With the current reproductive technologies, many producers are synchronizing their cows for artificial insemination (AI) as well as setting cows up for embryo transfer. These practices for many producers are economically feasible and will increase the genetic merit of their cow herd. With the market being so volatile over the last few months, producers must remember the value they are putting into their cattle by using these various reproductive technologies.

Although using synchronization protocols and the use of artificial insemination is advantageous, producers must remember that not all heifers and cows will conceive. A common practice is to breed once or twice with AI, then turn out clean up bulls for the balance of a 65 day breeding season. A 42 day AI season with estrus synchronization at the front end, gives most females three chances to conceive by AI. By imposing reproductive pressure on yearling heifers, no late calving 2 year olds will result. This will increase the longevity in your cow herd and will have a positive overall impact on your pocket book. This is a great tool to keep reproductive heritability at its best. This reproductive pressure will pay dividends in the end for your operation. It will be a great selling point if you are in the market for selling replacement heifers as their dams will have reproductive genetic pressure. This will give your buyers more confidence in your cattle and in some cases will offer to pay a premium.

If your cattle did not conceive to AI, then it is important to closely manage your clean up bulls. Hopefully by this point, the bulls have went through a breeding soundness exam and passed. Although this a good management practice, it is still important to monitor your cows and bulls for abnormal activity. Bulls can get aggressive this time of the year, so be sure to monitor them for any injuries that might occur during the breeding season. This can decrease their libido and result in less cattle being bred at the end of the breeding season.

One of the most overlooked management tasks is keeping good records. Good records during the breeding season are imperative. This task begins at the time of synchronization. Be sure to think ahead on your calendar. Synchronizing cattle properly is of upmost importance. If cattle are given the wrong shot at the wrong time, synchronization will not work properly. It is imperative to write down the breeding date as well as the sire she was bred to. If this information is not accurately recorded, a situation could arise to where you are unsure of the sire of the calf when it is born.

A great resource that I have found to be helpful is the Management Minder Calendar. This is a web based tool that is user friendly and easy to set up for your operation. If you are needing a good record keeping program, take a look at this program as it is user friendly and a great way to keep your synchronization and breeding times organized.

Reproductive efficiency is one of my favorite topics to discuss. I have only highlighted a few of the reproductive technologies that are available and at your fingertips to begin using on your operation. I would love to discuss your operations breeding options and how to improve them in the future. Contact Katelyn Brockus in the Washington office for more information.

KDA TO HOST EGG GRADING WORKSHOPS

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) will host three egg grading workshops in Kansas this June, to train the state's poultry producers in egg grading and share other important poultry care information. Grading eggs provides additional market opportunities for poultry farmers. The workshops will take place in Hays, Lawrence and Wichita, and are available to all Kansas egg producers at no charge.

The workshops are funded through the Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) Grant which the KDA received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The grant award totals nearly $25,000 and in addition to the egg grading workshops will make available for poultry producers an egg grading resource manual, egg cell gauges, and an egg candling unit cost-share program.

Producers can choose from among three egg grading workshops: in Hays at the Ellis County extension office on Tuesday, June 7; in Lawrence at the Douglas County extension office on Tuesday, June 14; or Wichita at the Sedgwick County extension office on Tuesday, June 21. All workshops run from 5:30–7:30 p.m. and are free, but participants are encouraged to RSVP to events@kda.ks.gov.

Workshops will provide training on egg grading and other important information for poultry producers. Dr. Scott Beyer, associate professor in the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, will offer training on proper egg grading and poultry disease screening for maintaining healthy flocks. Adam Inman, assistant program manager for Food Safety and Lodging at KDA, will review Kansas rules and regulations for grading and selling eggs in Kansas.

The poultry industry contributes $112 million annually to the Kansas economy. These workshops will help fulfill KDA's mission of providing educational resources and support to help expand markets for agricultural products while encouraging economic growth of the agriculture industry.

For more information about the egg grading workshops and how to obtain egg cell gauges or the egg candling unit cost-share provided by the KDA, contact Julie Roller at 785-564-6755 or Julie.Roller@kda.ks.gov or go to the KDA website at agriculture.ks.gov/egg-grading

PRUNING STORM DAMAGED TREES

With storm season upon us, storms can cause serious damage to your trees. Most of the time you will need to decide whether a tree can be saved or if it needs to be taken down. Here is a simple checklist you can follow to help take care of your storm-damaged landscape.

First, you need to be safe when first checking on your landscape. Check for downed power lines or hanging branches. Don't venture under the tree until you know it is safe. If large limbs are hanging from the tree, be sure to take extra precautions. If the limb is too large for you to handle safely or is in a spot that can cause damage to a surrounding building, you can call an arborist that has the tools, training, and knowledge to remove the limb safely.

Secondly, you need to clean up and remove any debris so you don't trip over any of it.

Third, decide whether it is feasible to save the tree. If the bark has been split, exposing the cambium, or the main trunk of the tree is split then the tree probably will not survive and should be removed. If there are too many broken limbs on the tree, destroying the form of the tree, the best option is to take down the tree and replace it. When pruning the tree, the topping method which is done by removing all the main branches and only leaving stubs on the tree, is not a recommended pruning procedure. New branches will normally arise from the stubs, but they will not be as firmly attached as the original branches and are more likely to break in subsequent storms. Also, the tree will use a lot of energy into developing new branches, leaving less energy to fight off diseases and insect attacks. Often the topped tree's life is shortened, causing you to remove the tree later anyway.

Fourth, prune off the broken branches to the next larger branch or to the trunk, depending on which limb is broken. If you are removing the limb back to the trunk, do not cut flush with the trunk but rather at the collar area, which is between the branch and the trunk of the tree. Cutting flush with the trunk leaves a much larger wound than cutting at the collar and takes longer for the tree to heal the cut. Middle-aged or younger vigorous trees can handle having up to one-third of the crown removed and still make a surprisingly swift comeback. Older trees can take longer to recover from a vigorous pruning.

Fifth, remove the larger limbs in stages. If you try to take off a large limb in one cut, if will often break off before you are finished cutting and will strip the bark off the trunk. Instead, make a cut about 15 inches from the trunk on the limb you are removing. Start from the bottom and cut one-third of the way up through the limb. Make the second cut from the top down but start 2 inches further away from the trunk than the first top cut. The branch will break away as you make the second cut. The third and final cut, made at the collar area, will remove the stub that is left from the tree.

Those are just a few ways to help with summer storm cleanup of trees. If you happen to have damage from any storms and want help deciding what needs to be done with your trees, please give me a call and I'll come out and walk you through what needs to be done. Kelsey Hatesohl, Horticulture Agent

DIVIDING IRIS—WAIT!

Irises are a well-adapted plant in Kansas and can multiply quickly. After several years, the centers of the clumps tend to lose vigor, and flowering occurs toward the outside. Dividing iris every three to five years will help rejuvenate the plant and increase flowering.

I have received a few calls recently asking when is the best time to divide and move iris. I know I'm I bit early with this information but I want to let you all know the proper time so you will be ready to divide and conquer your iris beds. The best time for iris to be divided is between late July and early August.

Gardeners have a really compelling reason to want to divide at this time. As the plants are in full bloom it is easy to identify the flower for building new beds or for sharing with friends and neighbors. Instead of digging now, however, one should simply identify each particular clump by name, if known, or by color pattern so that when that optimum window for dividing comes around one can easily identify that favorite iris. Most garden supply stores and catalogs have a variety of plant marker stakes in a wide range of prices to use for this task. Another very simple method is to use a permanent marker and write directly on a fan of each clump.

Because iris clumps are fairly shallow, and it is easier to dig up the entire clump. The root system of the plant consists of thick rhizomes and smaller feeder roots. Using a sharp knife, cut the rhizomes apart so each division consists of a fan of leaves and a section of rhizome. You should end up with either single or double fans. A double fan consists of two small rhizomes attached to a larger one, which forms a Y-shaped division, and a single rhizome that does not split. The double fans are preferred because they will produce more flowers the first year after replanting. The single fans will be just fine; they will just take an extra year to build up strength to produce a flower.

Rhizomes that show signs of damage from iris borers or soft rot should be discarded, especially if you have a large group you are dividing. You also need to cut the leaves back by two-thirds before you replant the new rhizome. Before you replant your iris it is always a good idea to prepare the soil by trying to remove all the weeds and work the ground up a bit, making it easier for the roots to get reestablished into the soil.

If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call. Have fun dividing your iris and enjoying this beautiful, hardy flower for years to come. Kelsey Hatesohl, Horticulture Agent

County Fair Poultry Testing

July 12 - Fairgrounds, Washington - 5:30 to 6:30 pm

July 14 - Fairgrounds, Belleville 8:00 to 10:00 am

All open class and 4-H poultry must be tested prior to entry into the county fairs. KDA will be on-site on the dates above to test poultry for exhibition at any of the four River Valley District fairs.

Untested poultry will not be allowed to exhibit and no other testing will be available in the district. Don't miss it!

WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP

In agriculture we are faced with times of lower grain and livestock prices which in turn are putting downward pressure on land prices. These situations may result in financial stress for some producers and it may bring about a situation where it is time for someone to exit the farming operation. In these times we want to remind everyone of the services offered not only by the local River Valley Extension District but also by K-State Research and Extension. In particular, the Kansas Agriculture Mediation Service, (KAMS) has a variety of services for local producers and/or lenders.

KAMS is a service available to Kansas residents who would like assistance in resolving all types of agricultural related issues. KAMS has been providing Kansas producers with legal, financial, and mediation services for over 25 years. Agricultural producers, their lenders and others receiving an adverse decision from any of the USDA agencies including the Farm Services Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Rural Development are encouraged to utilize these services.

KAMS is the USDA Certified State Agricultural Mediation provider for Kansas, helping Kansans resolve a wide variety of issues affecting their daily lives. These could include agricultural credit issues, farm foreclosures, USDA Farm program and Farm Loan Program decisions, USDA Rural Housing loan issues, USDA Risk Management issues and USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service decisions. The KAMS staff attorney is available to visit with callers, confidentially and at no cost, regarding any agricultural legal or financial issue, including such topics as answering questions regarding USDA denial letters, clarifying confusing paperwork, understanding appeal options available, agricultural credit situations, property rights issues, farm foreclosures and landlord/tenant disputes.

KAMS specialists provide initial information and guidance at no cost through a **toll-free hotline, 1-800-321-3276**. The state-wide network of cooperating agencies and programs includes a pool of trained agricultural mediators, K-State Research and Extension financial consultants and Kansas Legal Services (KLS). To find out more about mediation and KAMS, continue to explore the KAMS website or call.

The following are some of the services available:

Farm Analyst Program - KAMS provides financial counseling through referrals to the Farm Analyst Program and other support services. The funding for KAMS supports the KSRE Farm Analyst Program so the services of the Farm Analysts are provided to KAMS's clients at a low cost.

The Farm Analyst Program is an educational service to facilitate business planning for farm families. The KSRE Farm Analyst Program has provided intensive one-on-one consultation and assistance to more than 1,000 Kansas farm families. Analysts are experienced farmers and ranchers with extensive training in business analysis. Their ag background provides a strong element of empathy with the families they assist. The Analyst travels to the farm home to work with the client privately and confidentially. The role of the Farm Analyst is centered on the use of a computer program called FinPack™.

Legal Counseling & Assistance - KAMS has an agreement with Kansas Legal Services, Inc., (KLS) to provide direct legal representation to Kansas farmers and ranchers on a reduced-fee basis, depending on that person's level of income. KLS has regional offices throughout the state. Attorneys help clients understand the laws and regulations governing the issue Involved in the mediation, as well as their rights and options.

KLS is a non-profit organization funded in large part by the federal Legal Services Corporation. The organization has partnered with KAMS since 1989 to provide direct legal assistance to Kansas agriculture producers. The KLS offices out of which the program operates are in Hays, Wichita, Topeka, Hutchinson, Emporia, Pittsburg, Kansas City, Manhattan, Madison, Dodge City, Seneca, Salina and Garden City.

KAMS has an agreement with KLS to provide direct legal representation to Kansas farmers and ranchers on a reduced fee basis. The program helps clients prepare for mediation to more effectively resolve disputes between ag producers and their creditors, as well as disputes involving adverse decisions of various USDA agencies (e.g. FSA, NRCS, Rural Housing, RMA). The agricultural law attorneys with KLS understand the farm situation and are experienced at helping producers.

Mediation - The mediation process is designed to assist farmers, agricultural lenders and USDA agencies resolve disputes in a confidential and non-adversarial setting outside the traditional legal process. Mediation is a voluntary, confidential process in which a neutral third party (KAMS) helps those in conflict identify issues, options, and possible solutions.

KAMS serves in an impartial, third-party role to ensure that the mediation process moves forward in a fair and orderly manner. KAMS can advise, counsel, and assist the parties in their efforts to reach a mutually agreeable solution; but KAMS cannot and will not tell the parties how they should conduct their business or personal affairs. Nor can KAMS impose any particular agreement on the parties. Instead, it is KAMS' responsibility to: insure that all participants in the mediation process are given the opportunity to speak and be heard; help define the issues; emphasize common goals; keep negotiations focused; facilitate the development and discussion of options; and reduce fault-finding.

A mediator does not make a determination nor a judgment of who is right or wrong. The mediator is there to facilitate open, frank discussion of the issues. The mediator is impartial, knowledgeable in the mediation process, and familiar with agriculture. The participants are encouraged to discuss all issues, options and possible solutions. A successful mediation is almost always based on the voluntary cooperation and participation of all the parties. If the mediator to a case is unacceptable to any of the parties, another mediator is assigned.

Farm & Ranch Succession Planning - KAMS can assist with transition concerns such as dissolution or mergers of family farm businesses, passing the farm on to new generations, division or liquidation of farm assets, and resolving conflicts between family members. Often the idea of opening conversation about future plans may be difficult but a call to KAMS can help family members start the communication process.

Trained succession planning facilitators are available to meet with families and guide them through the steps of succession planning, directing them to the resources and strategies needed to achieve their shared vision for continuing the operation.

HELPFUL RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON THE KAMS WEBSITE

KAMS has a great list of resources and services available in Kansas that might be helpful in times of any crisis on the farm or ranch at http://www.k-state.edu/kams/succession/resources/
The contact information or websites available are:
AgManager.info;
Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas;
Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Inc.;
Consumer Protection Hotline;
Farm Service Agency;
International Farm Transition Network;
Kansas AgrAbility Project;
Kanas Area Agency on Aging;
Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs;
Kansas Crisis Hotline for Domestic Violence;
Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Farmers Union;
Kansas Farm Management Association;
Kansas Insurance Department;
Kansas Legal Services;
Kansas Rural Center;
KansasWorks;
Women Managing the Farm;
Contact John Forshee or any River Valley District agent for a complete list of resources available through K-State Research and Extension.

BENEFITS OF EFFECTIVE DELEGATION

I recently ran across a really nice paper from Idaho Extension 4-H on Effective Delegation for volunteers. As I read the paper it struck me as how fitting this is for not only volunteer organizations but for families and businesses as well. I wanted to share it with all our readers this month.
Delegation allows managers or leaders to share the load and increase the breadth and scope of what can be accomplished. To do this effectively, however, one must clarify the goals to be accomplished, define what successful completion must look like, and then effectively communicate these to another person to gain their understanding and develop "buy-in" for success. Several practical steps can improve delegation.
Define the assignment in terms of results. Delegation is giving someone the authority to carry out a responsibility that is agreed upon by both parties in terms of outcomes or something to accomplish. To best utilize the talents of employees or volunteers they should be defined by the end product and not necessarily the means to get there.
Define the level of control. The second step is to define how much authority your volunteer or employee has in carrying out the responsibility. Do they have complete control and just report back to the supervisor when the job is complete? Must they develop a strategy that gets approved before carrying out the task? Must they report progress in increments along the way? In any case, for effective use of their talents and effective delegation, the authority over the project should remain in the hands of the volunteer or employee.
Communicate guidelines. This probably should be the number one guideline. Whether at work or in family matters, communication breakdowns are very often at the root of problems that occur. It is vital to clearly communicate any policies to be followed, laws that must be operated within, or personal values that the business or company chooses to embrace before the project begins.
Make resources available. At the outset of any project it is important to communicate (There is that word again!) to the worker or volunteer what resources might be available to them. This could be a variety of things from books, to money, to facilities or equipment, to people. As the boss, don't forget to share that you too are a resource. Remember you are giving "advice" and not telling them step by step how to get it done!
Determine criteria for success. An employee has every right to know how their success will be judged and valued. As a manager, having this clearly defined will help you evaluate the employee or volunteer efforts as well. For the highest level of buy-in to the project involve the worker in the development of the success criteria and then make sure to share the data that indicates the level of success. When the project is successfully completed it is a great opportunity for celebration and thanking those that made the project happen.
Establish check points. The number and frequency of these check or reporting points will depend upon the level of importance of the project and the competency of the worker or volunteer. The absolute worst case scenario is to reach a deadline for project completion only to find that no work has been accomplished. Check points will allow supervisors to determine if additional resources, supervision, or personnel must be dedicated to the project for it to be successfully implemented.
The ultimate goal of effective delegation is to build in the controls of roles, responsibilities, resources, checkpoints, and deadlines so that you, as the supervisor, can let go of the control and concentrate on other tasks that need your attention.
Thanks to the Idaho Extension Service 4-H Volunteers for the Future for the development of this great set of Effective Delegation guidelines. Best of luck as you implement these in your business, farm operation, or organization.

John Forshee, District Extension Director

WRAPS FUNDS FOR LIVESTOCK

Tuttle Creek WRAPS is offering up to 60% cost share monies on best management practices in the approved Priority Area in MS and WS Counties. Eligible producers can enhance their livestock operation and improve water quality in the watershed utilizing the technical and financial assistance available through the WRAPS program.
Project ideas include:
*Install an off stream watering system,
*Develop or improve feeding sites on pasture or cropland,
*Fence ponds or streams,
*Establish a windbreak/shelterbelt,
*Create a rotational grazing fencing system,
*Plant forages to reduce sediment runoff & increase grazing,
*Plant trees, shrubs and native grasses adjoining streams.
Contact your Conservation District for details & assistance.

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RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT
"2016 UP-COMING MEETINGS & EVENTS"

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
June 1, 2, & 8		Wheat Plot Tours	(Check the plot maps at rivervalley.ksu.edu)
June 4	8am-4pm	Barbecue 101	First National Bank-Washington
June 7	5:30-7:30pm	Egg Grading Workshop	Hays, KS
June 13	7pm	Informational Meeting for Potential Childcare Providers	Astra Bank-Belleville
June 14	5:30-7:30pm	Egg Grading Workshop	Lawrence, KS
June 21	5:30-7:30pm	Egg Grading Workshop	Wichita, KS
June 28 & 30	6:30-8:30pm	Childcare Provider Class	The Branch-507 Broadway, Clyde
July 29	1:30-3pm	Unexpected Heroes	Apollo Towers Dining Rm.-Clay Center
August 2	6-8pm	Medicare Basics	Concordia Senior Center
August 4	1:30-3pm	Alzheimer's and Dementia Q & A	Courthouse Ext. Mtg. Rm.-Concordia
August 4	5:30-7pm	Alzheimer's and Dementia Q & A	Apollo Towers Dining Rm.-Clay Center
August 15	6-8pm	Medicare Basics	Extension Office Mtg. Room-Clay Center

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 Forshee, Director, River Valley Extension District # 4, 322 Grant Avenue, Clay Center, KS 67432. Phone 785-632-5335.