2018 Chemical Weed Control Guide Available

The new KSU 2018 Chemical Weed Control for Field Crops, Pastures, Rangeland, and Noncropland guide, SRP 1139, is now available. Hard copies will be available soon at selected K-State Extension meetings and in County/District Extension offices. A PDF version can be found at: https://www.bookstore.ksre.k-state.edu/pubs/CHMWEEDGUIDE.pdf

2018 Cattle Recordkeeping Books

The 2018 IRM recordkeeping books, “Redbooks” for cow/calf producers are available at the Howard and Sedan Extension Offices. Only a limited supply is available, so if you would like one, stop by the Extension Offices now. There are still a few left, so get yours today.

The primary use of the IRM Redbook is to record calving information and daily production activities. The book provides over 100 pages to record calving activity, herd health, pasture usage and cattle inventory, plus a calendar and note/address section.

Also available are Body Condition Record Books. These are very useful in keeping track of body condition scores of your herd.

Agriculture Lease Law

It is estimated that more than 50 percent of Kansas farmland and pastureland is rented. In some areas of the state, this figure is higher. Many producers cannot maintain a viable business without operating through lease arrangements. Leases are growing in prominence and will play an increasingly important role in production agriculture as fewer and fewer producers manage and operate our state’s agricultural resources. Some leases are simple oral arrangements, while others are complex, lengthy written documents. An oral agreement may be legally enforceable,
but it is much more desirable to spell out the agreement’s details in writing.

By definition, a lease is a contract for the exclusive use of land for a specific period. There are at least two parties to any lease: 1) the landowner who owns the land, also known as the lessor; and 2) the tenant who farms or operates the land, also known as the lessee. Certain rights and obligations binding both parties arise from the relationship. When land is leased, the lease is equivalent to a sale of the premises for the length of the lease. The tenant essentially becomes the owner for a time and has the responsibilities of one who is in possession of the land.

Parties to a lease are presumed to know of laws existing at the time the lease is entered. Provisions of statutes, ordinances, and regulations are read into and become a part of the contract by implication as though they were expressly written into the contract, except where the parties have shown a contrary intention. For example, if a written lease says the lease will terminate December 31 and Kansas law states oral leases on farm and pastureland will terminate March 1, the lease will terminate December 31 under the written agreement.

A written lease does not have to be a detailed contract. A memorandum or note concerning the lease may be sufficient if the party against whom it will be enforced signs it. A written lease is a contract and should be approached with the same careful and thorough consideration given when entering into any binding contractual agreement. Though an oral lease is unenforceable if it cannot be performed within one year, a written lease may cover any period of time. Thus, any beginning and ending dates may be used in the lease. For all leases, except written leases signed by the parties that provide otherwise, Kansas law provides that notice to terminate farm and pastureland leases must be given as follows:

1. in writing
2. at least 30 days prior to March 1, and
3. must fix March 1 as the termination date of the tenancy.

Any notice to terminate which does not comply with the above requirements is inadequate and the tenancy will continue. The law previously applied to “farm” leases which includes cropland and pastureland.

A lease is a contract for the exclusive possession of land for a definite period, and the landowner cannot use the land for his own purposes while it is leased. For example, the landowner cannot hunt on the leased ground without the permission of the tenant unless the landowner retained these rights in a written lease. A landowner, however, may enter the premises to: 1) make reasonable inspection; 2) make repairs and/or installations; 3) show the premises to prospective buyers; 4) collect rent; and 5) deliver a notice to terminate the tenancy.

### Preparing for Calving Season

The checklist below is designed to help you plan and prepare to improve the success of your calving season and weaned calf crop.

- Balance cow rations for adequate protein and energy for increased third trimester and subsequent lactation requirements. Group and feed cows by body condition and age to the degree possible. Target body condition for first calf heifers at calving of 5.5 to 6 and 5 to 5.5 for mature cows.
- Develop sound vaccination program to prepare the cow to produce high quality colostrum.
- Control lice and internal parasites.
- Plan for recording calving data and consider ways to backup records.
- Make sure calving facilities are clean and in good repair.
- Plan for ear tags, tattoos, scale or weight tape, banding or castration.
- Check flashlights and other quality portable light sources.
- Check-list for calving assistance.
  - OB chains, calf puller, OB gloves, OB lube (non-detergent soap & water is one option), non-irritant antiseptic (Betadine or Nolvasan), flank rope to lay cow down.
  - A cooler can be used to keep warm water in calving barn if no other source available.
  - Old towels or similar.
- Review basic treatment plans with local veterinarian for retained placenta, calf scour, colostrum supplements and ensure necessary treatments and supplies are on hand or readily available. Include a functional thermometer.
- Have on hand at least 2 clean and functional esophageal tube feeders, clearly marked, one for healthy calves, one only used for sick calves.
- Plan and watch for opportunities to collect colostrum from within the herd. Date and freeze in quart sized plastic bags for future use.
- If replacement calves are obtained from outside the herd, plan for their isolation and testing before exposing to entire herd.
- Plan for severe weather; wind, freezing rain and blizzards are not uncommon. Plan for correcting calf hypothermia. Calf shelters should be in good repair, bedding on hand. Plans for portable windbreaks and calf shelters are available from the Extension Office.
- Shift feeding to dusk or later to promote daytime calving one week before anticipated start of calving season.

Develop standard operation procedures for calving and providing assistance. Include list and contact information for individuals who can provide more expertise or assistance as required. The following are suggestions on when to intervene.

- You suspect cow has been in Stage 1 over 8 hours. Stage 1 characteristics; restlessness, pain, lies down and gets up frequently, seeks isolation (signs more apparent in first-calf heifers than mature cows).

Stage 2
- Water sack visible for 2 hours and cow is not trying
- Cow trying for over 30 minutes and no progress is being made
- Cow has quit trying for over 15-20 minutes after a period of progress
- Cow or calf showing excessive fatigue or stress (swollen tongue or excessive bleeding)
- You can observe the calf presentation is other than two front feet and head first.

When Calves Arrive
- Calves should have colostrum within first 2 hours of life, if calf can’t get colostrum from dam, take steps to give colostrum within 4-6 hrs of birth.
- Colostrum intake should be 10% of calf’s body weight, 0.5 – 1 gallon. If supplementing colostrum, don’t over feed to encourage calf to nurse on its own. A 1.5 quart dose is a good starting point.
- Handle healthy calves before sick calves and avoid exposing newborns to contaminants on clothing or materials used on sick calves.
- If a cow is brought in for any amount of calving assistance, make sure she leaves with a clean udder.

Work towards developing a notebook that has all the standard operating procedures for your operation. Include things like yearly vaccination plans, treatment protocols, calving and calving assistance protocols, euthanasia protocols, drought management plans and weather emergency plans. This will be a valuable resource when communicating with employees new and old, when reviewing what needs to be improved for the next year or if a health emergency forces someone else to take care of the herd.
The Impact of Cattle Lice During the Winter Months

Cattle lice infections can affect the health and performance of our cows and stocker cattle during the winter months. This time period generally ranges from December through March. The USDA has estimated that livestock producers lose up to $125 million per year due to effects of lice infestations. Not only can they be the cause of direct animal performance losses, but they also increase wear and tear on our facilities and fences. The direct losses to cattle come in forms of decreased average daily gains (documented 0.25 pounds per day reduction in growing calves), skin infections, and potentially blood loss and anemia.

There are two different types of lice that infect cattle. Biting lice feed on the skin and secretions on the outside of the animal. The other type is known as sucking lice. These species are blood feeders and pierce the skin. Both types of lice spend their entire lifecycle on the cattle hosts. Off of cattle they survive very poorly and generally only last a few days. Lice are very species specific. So cattle lice cannot affect people, horses, or any other species.

In general, every herd has some level of lice infestation. Lice are carried from season to season by a small percentage of the herd that act as reservoir hosts. Adults lay eggs on the hair of infected animals. The overall lifecycle for an egg to mature into an adult, and lay eggs is roughly 28 days. Most females lay 1 egg per day. Clinical signs of lice infected cattle generally begin with constant rubbing and scratching within the herd. Fences, posts, water troughs, trees and any other stationary object could be subject to damage from this rubbing. As the infection and irritation continues, large hairless patches will become evident on animals.

Further diagnosing the issue beyond the clinical signs requires seeing the adult lice on the skin. Parting the hair will reveal the lice. They are very small but can still be seen. They are roughly the size of a grain of sand. The economic threshold for treatment is roughly 10 lice per square inch.

There are several options when it comes to treatment of lice in our cowherds. One option is the avermectin endectocides. These products come in pour-on formulations and injectable formulations. Avermectins treat internal intestinal nematodes, but also treat external parasites such as lice. It is important to note that the injectable formulations do not work on biting lice since they do not blood feed. The other options are topical treatments that are non-systemic. These products are typically pyrethroid products similar to what is commonly used to control horn flies during the summer months. These products are very effective against the adult lice, but do not affect the larvae or eggs. Retreatment is often indicated 14 days after initial treatment. There is a product available that is a pyrethroid in combination with an IGR (insect growth regulator) that not only works very well against the adults, but also works against the eggs and larvae. Use of this particular product eliminates the need to retreat in 14 days.

When treating cattle, it is important to treat the entire group. Missing one animal could allow it to serve as the reservoir for reinfecting the entire herd. The same thought should be given to new additions to the herd from an outside source. Basic biosecurity such as treating and segregating new additions for 30 days is not only good to reduce risk of lice, it is also a great tool in decreasing introduction of other diseases.

Census of Agriculture

Kansas farmers and ranchers have the opportunity to make a positive impact on their communities by participating in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census of Agriculture is a complete count of all U.S. farms and ranches as well as those who operate them.
The Census is the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation. It is a critical tool that gives producers a voice to influence decisions shaping the future of their community, industry and operation. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income, expenditures, and other topics. This information is used by all who serve farmers and rural communities from federal, state and local governments to agribusinesses and trade associations. Answers to the Census impact farm programs and rural services that support Kansas communities. So whether you’re rural or urban, working thousands of acres or just a few plots, your information matters.

Census forms will be mailed to producers in December. Completed forms are due by February 5, 2018. Producers may complete the Census online via a secure website, or return their forms by mail.

"The updated online questionnaire is very user-friendly – it can now be used on any electronic device, and can be saved and revisited as the producer's schedule allows," said NASS Census and Survey Division Director Barbara Rater. "Responding online saves time and protects data quality. That's our mission at NASS – to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. Better data mean informed decisions, and that's why it is so important that every producer respond and be represented."

Federal law requires all agricultural producers to participate in the Census and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential. Remember, the Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, your opportunity. Respond when you receive your census in December.

For more information about the process, including a list of frequently asked questions, please visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Donuts with Doug

Wednesday, March 7 – 9:00 a.m.
@Edwin Bowman’s

Spring is right around the corner, we hope you can join us for an Informal Coffee Style Meeting with Doug Shoup, Southeast Area Agronomist. He will be giving an agronomy update. The majority of the meeting will be an informal question and answer session.

Dicamba Training Required for 2018

As we embark on the 2018 growing season, producers should be aware that dicamba herbicides Engenia, FeXapan, and XtendiMax are classified as Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs). In order to be able to purchase these herbicides, you must possess either a private applicator license or a 1A (Agriculture Plant) commercial applicator license.

In addition, these products have additional label restrictions when applying. An applicator must attend specific auxin inhibitor (dicamba) training in order to apply these products in the field for 2018. In Kansas, these trainings will be sponsored by K-State Research and Extension, as well as industry representatives from BASF, Dow/Dupont and Monsanto. It will be the responsibility of the applicators to obtain this training before the application of these herbicides.
The purpose of these trainings is to cover the label changes in detail and provide information on what you as an applicator need to do to meet these requirements. The labels for these herbicides now include mandatory record keeping requirements, a reduced maximum wind speed (from 15 miles per hour down to 10 miles per hour), limited times of day applications can be made (between sunrise and sunset), revised list on sensitive crops and sensitive sites, and revised tank-clean out requirements.

Here is a list of some upcoming trainings. For more information, contact the Extension Office.

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**Farm Pond Management Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 13 -- 7:00 p.m.**  
**Cox Building, Howard**

Charlie Lee, KSU Extension Wildlife Control Specialist will be here to give us an update on farm pond management. Topics include: Aquatic weed control and fish management and stocking.

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“Knowledge for Life”

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Mark Your Calendars

Elk County 4-H Fair - Longton
July 19-21

July 9 4-H Entries Due
July 18 4-H Market Weigh-In
July 19 Open Class Entries Check-In

Chautauqua County Fair
July 26-28

July 13 4-H Entries Due
July 25 4-H Market Weigh-In
July 26 Open Class Entries Check-In

Kansas State Fair
September 7-16

Upcoming 4-H Events

February 18 – Elk County 4-H Beef Weigh In – Longton Fairgrounds
March 3 – Chautauqua County 4-H Club Days – Sedan High School
March 3 – Elk County 4-H Club Days – West Elk High School
March 17 – Regional 4-H Club Days – Madison High School
March 25 – Chautauqua County 4-H Beef Weigh In – Sproul’s
March 18 - May 12, 2018

Walk Kansas is a team-based program that will help you and others lead a healthier life. Join this program and

- be more active with friends and family,
- make better nutrition choices,
- and walk away your stress.

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Did you know?

1. Less than 1/2 of Kansas adults meet minimum recommendations for physical activity.
2. Just 19% of Kansans eat enough fruits and vegetables.
3. Chronic disease, including obesity, is responsible for more than 70% of health care costs.

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Food Safety at Farmers Markets

From spring into fall, farmer's markets provide a variety of fresh produce as well as many other foods. Many people believe locally grown fruits and vegetables are completely safe.

Unfortunately, several cases of foodborne illness have been connected with fruits and vegetables. For more information on food safety at farmer's markets and roadside stands, see the links below.

To help you bring your food products to market, let the Kansas Value Added Foods Lab evaluate your food products, help you with labeling and much more!

Contact the Extension Office for more information.

2018 Farmers Market Regional Workshops

- February 1, 2018 - Colby, KS
- February 2, 2018 - Great Bend, KS
- February 3, 2018 - Wichita, KS
- February 9, 2018 - Olathe, KS
- February 10, 2018 - Chanute, KS
Spend the afternoon with Dr. KC Olson

As producers in the Flint Hills, we are aware of how detrimental Sericea Lespedeza is and how it’s taking over grassland. Costly herbicide applications have not effectively stopped the plant in many cases.

Dr. Olson has been conducting research on the affects of fall burning with regards to Sericea Lespedeza and diminishing seed production. This past year, he completed his fourth year of research. He will be sharing his results, and answering any questions producers may have in regards to burning Sericea Lespedeza.

Tuesday February 27th
1 P.M.
Severy Community Building
Rolling Prairie Extension District #8, Chautauqua and Elk Counties
130 S. Pennsylvania
PO Box 647
Howard, KS 67349-0647

Rolling Prairie Extension District on Facebook

“Like” our Facebook page to get the most up-to-date information and news about the happenings of Rolling Prairie District! Visit https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rolling-Prairie-Extension-District/146463602083477 to like our page.

K-State Research and Extension News

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