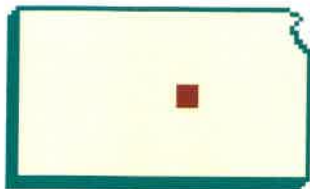


McPherson County



K-State Research & Extension
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www.mcpherson.ksu.edu

DECEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021



Ag News

Shad Marston
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources



SMALL ACRES AGRICULTURE SERIES

The last 2 months we hold our 1st 3 programs of our 10-part zoom series for Landowners with Small Acreage in Agriculture. The next series program will be Dec 3rd and Dec. 17th at 7:00pm. covering Horses and cattle. Our series runs every other Thursday ending in March. K-State Research and Extension agents and specialists will cover most issues that small acre landowners deal with including pasture improvements, growing small fruits, all forms of raising different livestock, specialty projects and so much more. Please watch our e-mails and social media posts for more information. If you have any questions about it, you can call my office at 620.241.1523.



Poultry: October 15
<http://bit.ly/PltryVid>



Pasture/Hay Field Care: January 7
<http://bit.ly/0107PstHay>



Ag Lease: October 29
<http://bit.ly/1029AgLs>



Sheep & Goat - January 21
<http://bit.ly/0121ShpGt>



Getting the most out of your
acreage for livestock: November 12
<http://bit.ly/1112Ac4Liv>



Small Fruit: February 4
<http://bit.ly/0204Fruit>



Horses: December 3
<http://bit.ly/1203Horse>



Opportunities with Specialty Crops: March 4
<http://bit.ly/0304SpCrp>



Cattle: December 17
<http://bit.ly/1217Cattle>



Sedgwick Co. Extension
316-660-0144

Harvey Co. Extension
316-284-6930

McPherson Co. Extension
620-241-1523

Using Crop Residue as a Beef Cattle Feed Source

K-State experts say grazing cattle on crop residue is a great option for winter feeding

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Most cattle producers will agree that hauling feed and delivering hay to the cattle in the winter can be labor intensive and expensive. Experts at the Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute point to grazing crop residues as one option to reduce feed expenses and minimize daily labor with proper planning and regular monitoring.

“Many producers have made grazing crop residues part of their management strategy because of the low winter feed costs associated with it,” said veterinarian Bob Larson. In Kansas, these residues are typically corn and sorghum.

To be successful, Larson said producers must plan for a water source, which may take extra labor to deliver it to the field where cattle are grazing. “A lot of times there isn’t a pond on the crop field, so you have to haul out a tank in a way that doesn’t tear up the field,” Larson said, adding that producers need to plan for the cattle congregating around the water source and potentially damaging the ground.

Another step in preparing the field for grazing is making sure there is adequate fence to keep the cattle contained, said Bob Weaber, beef cattle specialist and head of the Northeast Kansas Research and Extension Center.

“Many of these fields are leased ground and they don’t always have good perimeter fencing on them,” Weaber said. “It isn’t uncommon to see cattle out grazing on stalks with a single-wire strand of electric fence surrounding them.” Weaber said it is especially important to check electric fence often so cows don’t get out, and he stressed the importance of having a reliable fence charger.

Nutritionally speaking, Larson and Weaber agreed that cattle often select plant leaves and fallen corn ears when they first arrive on the field. “The leaves and fallen ears hold a higher quality energy content as compared to the stalks,” Larson said.

To manage the crop residue resource, Weaber advised producers follow strip grazing protocols. “Strip grazing allows producers to monitor how much of the field has been grazed and forces the cows to clean up a section before moving them off,” Weaber said, noting that it also allows producers to assess the body condition of the animals in the herd to make sure their nutritional needs are being met. If strip grazing isn’t an option, Larson said cattle producers may need to consider additional supplementation as the winter months pass by.

“The longer you leave cattle on crop residues, the quality of what they are consuming decreases while at the same time the nutritional demands for gestating, spring-calving cows goes up,” Larson said. “In that case, you may need to increase the protein supplementation as the season progresses.”

Service Power Equipment Before Putting It Away For Winter

The workhorses of the yard and garden – lawnmowers, tillers, garden tractors and such – are about ready for a rest. But before you put them away for the winter, they will need a little tender, loving care. “It’s important to run the equipment out of gas, or treat the existing gas with a stabilizer because untreated gas can deteriorate over time. If you’re using a stabilizer, run the engine long enough for untreated gas in the carburetor bowl to be burned and replaced.

Other time-of-year chores include:

- ✘ Replace the oil (and filter, if present).
- ✘ Check and replace the spark plug, if needed.
- ✘ Check and clean air filters.

Then, sharpen blades, clean tines, tighten screws, replace broken parts and do all the things needed to keep equipment in good shape. Though such maintenance takes some time and effort, it pays for itself by reducing frustration and lost time due to poorly performing during a hectic spring.



Master Gardeners Spring Events

January 28	Ariel Whitely-Noll	House Plants
February 25	Tom Buller	Beginning Gardening
March 25	Cassie Homan	Container Gardens

Please plan to attend the first three Master Gardener & Friends programs at the Extension Office each one starting at 7:00 at the Extension Office Meeting Room. Bring your questions and hope to see you there.



World of Weeds: Downy Brome

Fall is a good time to control weedy brome species, such as downy brome. This article will discuss some identifying characteristics of downy brome, as well as control measures.

Ecology of downy brome

Downy brome (*Bromus tectorum*) is native to the Mediterranean area and was introduced to New York and Pennsylvania during the late 1800's. It can be found throughout Kansas in upland settings, often in over-grazed pastures. Downy brome is a winter annual grass that typically emerges in the fall, but can also emerge in early spring (Figure 1). It produces seeds in late spring and is typically the first of the common weedy bromes to flower in spring.



Figure 1. Downy brome fall growth habit. Photo by Sarah Lancaster, K-State Research and Extension.

Identification

Key identifying features of downy brome and other weedy brome species are shown in Table 1. Seedling leaves have a clockwise twist and are covered with soft hairs (Figure 2). The closed sheath is also covered with soft hairs. The ligule is a fringed membrane (Figure 3). Mature plants can reach up to 2 feet tall with leaves up to 5 inches long. Mature leaves also have long short hairs on both surfaces. Downy brome produces an extensive root system that reaches up to 4 feet deep and is very efficient at withdrawing water from the soil.

Table 1. Identifying features that distinguish among downy brome, Japanese brome, and cheat.

	Downy Brome	Japanese Brome	Cheat
Leaf surface	Soft, short hairs on both surfaces	Soft hairs on both surfaces	Occasional hairs
Sheath	Hairy	Hairy	Hairless to occasional hairs
Ligule	Fringed membrane	Fringed membrane, slightly pointed	Fringed membrane
Spikelet	Long awns (0.75 inches)	Awns slightly bent	Short awns (.4 inches)



Figure 2. Downy brome leaf – note the clockwise twist and hairs. Photo by Sarah Lancaster, K-State Research and Extension.



Figure 3. Downy brome ligule. Photo by Sarah Lancaster, K-State Research and Extension.

The inflorescence is an open, droopy panicle about 7 inches long. Each spikelet contains 4-8 seeds. Spikelets are tipped with an awn approximately 0.75 inches long. The awns facilitate seed dispersal by attaching to animals' coats and may cause injury to the mouths and eyes of grazing animals.

Management

There is some evidence that once established in a native area, downy brome cannot be dislodged. However, it is possible to control downy brome in winter annual crops such as wheat or canola. Control in wheat is critical, as data suggest that downy brome infestations of approximately 9 plants per square foot can reduce wheat yields 20 to 40%.

Few herbicides labeled for winter wheat will provide excellent control of downy brome. However, fall applications of herbicides such as Olympus, Outrider, or PowerFlex generally provide greater suppression than spring applications. Acceptable control of downy brome can be achieved by planting Clearfield or CoAxiom varieties and applying Beyond or Aggressor, respectively.

Controlling downy brome in rotational crops is an excellent integrated management strategy. For example, grass weeds are more easily controlled in winter canola or with fall or early spring applications of glyphosate before planting a summer crop.

Control of Mustards in Wheat - Timely Treatment is Important

Too often producers do not notice mustard weeds in their wheat fields until the mustards start to bloom in the spring. As a result, producers often do not think about control until that time. Although it is still possible to get some control at that time with herbicides, mustards are much more difficult to control at that stage and often have already reduced wheat yields by then.

To minimize yield losses, mustards should be controlled by late winter or very early spring, before the stems begin to elongate (bolt; Figure 1). If mustards are present in the fall, they can be controlled with ALS-inhibiting herbicides such as Ally, Amber, Finesse, Affinity, Rave, Olympus, or PowerFlex. Huskie, Talinor, Quelex, 2,4-D, and MCPA can also provide good control of most mustards if the weeds are at the right stage of growth and actively growing, and if the wheat is at the correct growth stage. However, wheat should be fully tillered before applying 2,4-D or tillering will be inhibited. Dicamba and Starane are not very effective for mustard control.

In the late winter or early spring, blue mustard is perhaps the most difficult of the winter annual broadleaf weeds to control because it bolts very early. To be effective on blue mustard, herbicides typically need to be applied in late February or early March. Blue mustard is more difficult to control than tansy mustard with 2,4-D because blue mustard has often already bolted by the time 2,4-D can be safely applied to wheat. Thus, 2,4-D often is applied too late to be effective on blue mustard.

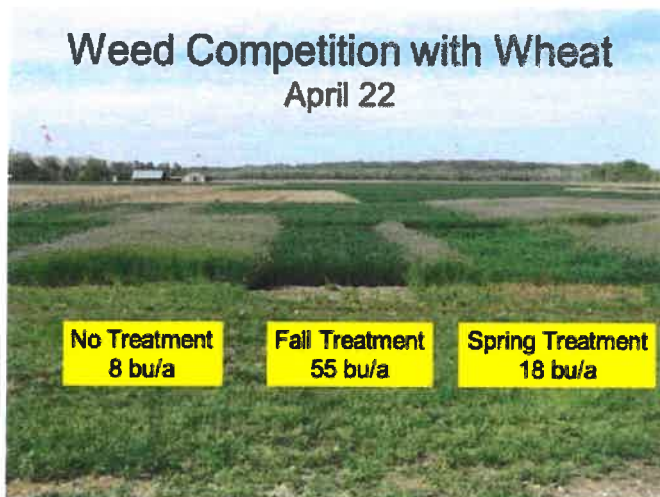


Figure 1. Effect of timing of blue mustard control in wheat: K-State research, 2014. Photos by Dallas Peterson, K-State Research and Extension.

Flixweed and tansy mustard should be treated when they are no larger than two to three inches across and two to three inches tall. As these plants become larger, the control decreases dramatically. Ester formulations of 2,4-D and MCPA are more effective on tansy mustard and flixweed than amine formulations. Field pennycress is easier to control than tansy mustard or flixweed. Herbicide applications made before the pennycress bolts are usually effective.

Most ALS-inhibiting herbicides control winter annual mustards very well, although there are populations of bushy wall flower (treacle mustard) and flixweed in Kansas that are ALS-resistant and cannot be controlled by these products. Alternative measures will be needed to control these populations. The best approach to control ALS-resistant broadleaf weeds is to use other herbicides or tank-mixes with 2,4-D, MCPA, Huskie, or Talinor. None of these herbicides have much residual control, so the majority of weeds need to be emerged and actively growing at the time of treatment.

Some producers commonly apply ALS herbicides with fertilizer in January or February. Unfortunately, MCPA, 2,4-D, and Huskie are most effective when applied to actively growing weeds, so application when weeds are dormant may not provide good control. As a result, if an ALS-inhibitor tank-mix with one of these herbicides is applied to dormant ALS-resistant mustards in the winter, poor control could occur.

Crop rotation with corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, cotton, or sunflowers is a good way of managing mustards as long as they are controlled in the spring prior to producing seed. Crop rotation will usually result in a gradual reduction of mustard populations in the future as the seedbank in the soil decreases.



**Virtual COW-CALF SCHOOL coming in February...
more details in the January newsletter!**



Clover Corner

Lindsey Mueting
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development



Happy Holidays! The upcoming months will continue to be busy for all and I know there are still many unknowns and changes in our schools and communities. It is ok to feel frustrated with some of those things, but please remember how hard all program leaders, teachers, etc are working to bring you positive experiences, but also keep you safe! Thank them for their efforts! I hope that you will have some time to really think about your 4-H projects during this time as well. How can your learning and doing, maybe be a stress reliever to you? Write down your goals so that you know what to shoot for! Make sure that you are officially enrolled for the year so you get project announcements and emails. Please remember that each 4-H'er MUST be enrolled online! Head to <https://v2.4honline.com> and log into your family

profile. You will then edit individual family members to re-enroll them! If you have problems or questions, just ask! Please make sure to read this newsletter closely as your next one will not come out until February! We will be well on our way to a successful 4-H year by then! Keep learning and growing each day, through any situations! Make the Best Better!

~Lindsey

Calendar of Events

December

Dec 3 4-H Council / Ambassadors-ZOOM
Dec. 24-31 Closed

January

Jan. 1 Office Closed, HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Jan. 14 Bring Your 4-H Projects to LIFE!
Jan. 15 Club Goals Due
Jan. 19 Area KAP selections due to Office
Jan. 19 State Scholarships due to office
Jan. 21 NE Area KAP Screening
Feb 3 Club Fair Theme selections due

4-H Day with Wildcat Women

Due to the unforeseen immediate future of sporting events and community restrictions, at this point there is no 4-H Day with the Wildcat Women Basketball Day planned.

Adult Chaperones Needed!

This year may continue to look different, but we are needing a list of potential adult chaperones for area and state events! These might be virtual, in-person or overnight, please indicate your interest. Please complete the Adult Chaperone Application found at www.mcpherson.ksu.edu under 4-H Youth Development, Forms and Resources. By completing the application you have let us know that you are willing and interested in serving as a chaperone; it does not commit you to serving. Thank you for helping make these events successful for our 4-H members!

4-H Fair Theme

Don't forget about the 4-H Fair Theme Contest! Be thinking of your ideas today to present to your club!

- Each club will submit one theme to the Extension Office by February 3
- 4-H Council will decide on the top 3 themes
- Each 4-H member will then be asked to vote on their favorite theme.

Mitten Tree



4-Her's are encouraged to bring cold weather items (coats, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, or monetary gifts) to Home State Bank and Trust's Community Mitten Tree between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The tree is located in the lobby at their Main and Euclid location. Donations can also be dropped off at the Extension Office. The items will be distributed to all the elementary schools in McPherson County. Thank to you the K-State Wild Kids 4-H Club for helping set up and carry out this community service project!

Get Published

Have project news or reports of fun 4-H happenings? Get them to Lindsey to publish in the upcoming Clover Corner. The next issue will be printed for February, please email or bring in any articles to Lindsey by January 20.

Loaves and Fishes

At this time, Loaves and Fishes has been cancelled by the organizers. If opportunities for this service come about in the future, we will reach out to all clubs!

OzSome 4-H Camp

Mark your calendars!!! OzSome 4-H camp will be held June 24-27, 2021. At this time we are told there are plans to hold an in-person camp this summer, should things change or their be limits and restrictions, we will bring you that information as we are aware!

County-Wide Committees/Council Date

County-Wide Committees

4-H Day, Officer Training, Social Events, Fair Fun Events... these are some of the events and activities planned by county-wide committees! Anyone can be on a committee, or as many committees as they wish! Sign-up is found on our website www.mcpherson.ksu.edu under 4-H Youth Development, Forms and Resources or can be picked up at or emailed from the Office. Each council rep must be on at least one committee, but everyone is welcome!

County 4-H Council

The next Council Committee will be December 3 at 7:00 p.m. Due to the close proximity of Holidays and current county guidelines, the December meeting will be held in a Zoom format.

We will hope for the February 4 meeting at 7:00 p.m. to be in person, but please watch newsletters and emails.

2020 KAPs

4-H Members that were Project Champions in the Senior Division and will be submitting a KAP to the area judging, please remember that those books will be due to the Extension Office on January 19.

McPherson County is able to bring up to three volunteers to the judging in Manhattan on January 21. Please contact the office as soon as possible if you are able to help.

Bring Your 4-H Projects to Life!

Thank you to all who participated in our first, Bring Your 4-H Projects to Life! November featured the Foods and Nutrition Project as we learned from K-State Department of Grain Science and Industry! If you would be interested in the recording of this session, please reach out!

A reminder that this program will be each second Thursday of the month. Watch your emails for details on December's session (Dec 10 at 7:00 PM). Remember, even if you are not currently enrolled in the months featured project- you are still welcome to participate and maybe find a new interest!

Club Goals

Each year, clubs set goals as to what they hope to accomplish for the year. These are due on January 15. Clubs decide if they want to go for a club seal and what level they would like to try to achieve. This is usually decided by a committee made up of youth and adults, but it can be discussed at a club meeting.

Once a decision is made on which seal to aim for, it is up to all members of the club to help achieve those goals. This means doing your part by participating in 4-H events, doing presentations, completing your record book, and attending club and project meetings!

KSU Junior Producer Days (Swine and Meat Goat)

The Kansas Junior Producer Days will be hosted in February and March 2021 as a virtual series over the course of a week. The Junior Swine Producer Week will be February 15-20. Presentations will be provided a couple of days during the week, with the final sessions and discussions being on Saturday morning. All of the sessions will be recorded and shared with those who register. Junior Meat Goat Producer Week will follow a similar format March 15-20.

Tentative topics include selection, nutrition, meat science, health, and showmanship. Please watch the KSU youth livestock program website and Facebook page for updated information and a link to register.

Kansas 4-H Scholarships

4-H members and current college Alumni wanting to apply must have completed applications to the Extension Office by Thursday, January 19, 2021.

ALL Scholarships submitted must be turned into the Extension Office for review and submission.

Scholarship selection is based on:

4-H Leadership- 40%
4-H Citizenship/Community Service- 30%
4-H Participation, Recognition- 20%
Non 4-H Citizenship, Leadership & Recognition- 10%
Graduating seniors and college students are encouraged to apply.

Once posted the 2021 form will be found at <http://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-library/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html>

Junior Leader Happenings

Plans are underway to continue with a Virtual Exchange Opportunity with Wisconsin. Watch your emails for more information as this is confirmed!

At this point we have not been asked to serve a meal in January for the Soil Conservation Banquet, but if an opportunity arises, we will notify all!

This year we will try to plan a mix of virtual and in person events as we await a time of less restrictions! If you are 4-H age 12 and older, please make sure to enroll in Leadership: Jr. Leaders on 4-H Online!

MULTI COUNTY 4-H

HARVEY | MCPHERSON | MARION

VIRTUAL CLUB DAYS

HOSTED ON FLIPGRID

4-H CLUB DAY IS AN EVENT WHICH GIVES PARTICIPANTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT THEIR 4-H PROJECTS AND DEMONSTRATE THEIR TALENTS AND ABILITIES. THIS YEAR CLASSES THAT WILL BE JUDGED AND AWARDED RIBBONS ARE: PROJECT TALKS, DEMONSTRATIONS/ILLUSTRATIONS, PERFORMING ARTS, NEW CLASSES: SENIOR INTERVIEW AND 4-H REELS (ALL AGES)

SITE OPENS FOR ENTRIES: MARCH 8TH AT 12:01 AM
SITE CLOSURES FOR ENTRIES: MARCH 22ND AT 11:59 PM
ENTRIES JUDGED: MARCH 23RD THROUGH 31ST.

INTERVIEW EVENT: JUDGED VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH

K-STATE
Research and Extension



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 Anne Pitts (316-284-6930)



K-State Research & Extension
McPherson County
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McPherson KS 67460

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Holiday Office Hours

Thanksgiving: Closed Thursday, November 26 &
Friday, November 27

**Christmas
& New Years:** We will be closed Thursday, December 24
through Friday, January 1



AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION

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Agriculture and Natural Resources
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Radio: Friday, 7:25 a.m.



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