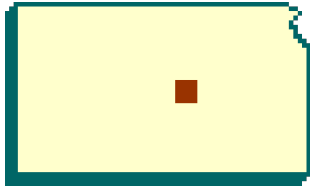


McPherson County



K-State Research & Extension
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JULY - AUGUST 2018



Clover Corner

Lindsey Muetting
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development



K-STATE
Research and Extension



Discovery Days, Oz-Some 4-H Camp and Campference are all complete and were loads of fun! How does summer go by so fast? It is July which means... FAIR TIME! I hope each of you are having a good time learning about your projects.

Thank you to everyone who supported the American Legion Family Night Fundraiser. We earned more than \$1000 and fed hundreds of people dinner because of your efforts! These funds make the 4-H program possible, so thank you for participating!

Don't forget to invite family, friends and supporters to the 4-H Fair... July 27-30!!! Fair books are complete! Be sure to read the general rules and each project department carefully for updates and continue to watch your email inbox for reminders about upcoming events! The fair is a HUGE task, but with the help of everyone we get it done and have a lot of fun! As always, please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions!

~Lindsey

McPherson 4-H Fair- July 27-30

The Fairbook is done, plans are made and judges are hired! Remember to study each Department's rules for specific entry information. An electronic copy of the fairbook can be found on our website: www.mcpherson.ksu.edu, 4-H Youth Development, 4-H Fair. Plan to stick around the fairgrounds that weekend and participate or support your friends in all the activities planned!

Fair T-Shirts

Don't miss out on ordering your 2018 McPherson 4-H Fair T-Shirt! Orders must be placed by July 6 and shirts will be \$12 each. Plan on picking up orders at Fair Set-Up Day on July 24! Order forms were emailed to families and are available at the Extension Office.

Concert for a Cause

4-H Youth Development will again be hosting a Concert for a Cause event. Mark your calendars for Thursday, July 12 from 7-9 PM where Smoky Valley Bluegrass Band will be performing at Hopp's SnoShack. 4-H will be selling popcorn and water, have a prize raffle and all SnoCone proceeds will be donated to our organization. Invite everyone you know to come have a good time outside with your 4-H friends and supporters! We still need a few helpers to sell water & popcorn!



Fair Reminders!

Concession Stand - Club leaders will be receiving more information on shift times. Please stay tuned and be willing to help with this! Each club is asked to provide \$10 to help cover the cost of some items. This replaces bringing buns, pop or desserts.

Club Responsibilities – Each Club has been assigned tasks to help with during the 4-H Fair. The fair is a HUGE task, but if everyone works together it can run very smoothly! Please ask your leader what your club is assigned and sign-up for where you can help. You will have a concession stand shift and additional activity assignments!

Silent Auction - Each club is asked to bring at least a \$25 donation for each 15 members enrolled in your club! This is another excellent fundraiser to help us put on the fair and other 4-H events!

Booths and Banners - Each club is strongly encouraged to enter either a booth (6'x6' area) or banner in the McPherson 4-H Fair. These are great advertisement and a welcome to visitors as they come to our fair. If you need ideas for these items, contact Lindsey. Prizes will be awarded!

McPherson County Fair- July 18-22

You should have received a copy of the McPherson County Fair book in the mail - if you have not - we have some at the Extension Office! Be sure to look at it closely and plan to enter! Entries are checked in on July 19 and there are lots of events throughout the weekend. This is an “extra” fair that we have in our county. Any 4-H member in the state is invited to participate. It is a great opportunity for our members to go through the judging process before our 4-H fair.

Record Books (KAP)

Record books will be DUE to the office by September 28. More information on what is included in a complete record book and forms and information can be found on our website.

Only record books that have been screened by your leader or record book committee will be accepted at the office. *We will not accept books in the office that have not gone through your club! PLEASE CHECK with your clubs to see when your club's deadline is for record books being due.*

Lindsey is more than happy to meet with any family or club wanting to learn more about completing or improving record books. We also have many very talented 4-H'ers who have gone on to be State project winners for their KAP. The resources are plenty and the task is not nearly as bad as it seems! Plan to complete at least one KAP this year!

Share Your Information

The next edition of the Clover Corner Newsletter will be September. Deadline to get your news, dates and fun information printed is August 15. Please type up and email or bring in your news and articles to Lindsey!

4-H Council

The 4-H Council year will soon be coming to a close. We will meet on Thursday, August 2 at 7 pm at the Extension Office.

Family Of The Year

Each year every club has the opportunity to nominate a family for the “Family of the Year” award. We have lots of deserving families that volunteer a lot of time and energy to the McPherson County 4-H program and to their club. So it is time to recognize those efforts. So at your next club meeting consider which family you would like to nominate for this award. Award nominations for clubs are due on August 1 to the Extension Office. At the August Meeting of 4-H Council, we will announce the nominations and then council members will take it back to their clubs for a vote before voting as a 4-H Council. So get your nominations ready, nomination forms are available at www.mcpherson.ksu.edu. Remember there are other awards nominations as well later in the fall as we get ready for Achievement Banquet.

Jr Leaders Events

SERVICE DAY JULY 11th: The Jr. Leaders will be doing a Service day at Save and Share. We will leave the extension office at 9:10am. We will be done, and back to the extension office at 10:45am. If you participate in the service day activity, it will count for \$5 of your total cost for the adventure day.

ADVENTURE DAY JULY 13th: Join us for a fun filled day of Zip-lining in Manhattan and touring the Hildebrand Dairy Farm and Store outside of Junction City. Participants will meet at the Extension Office at 9:00 a.m. and we will plan to return around 4:30p.m. 4-Her's will be asked to provide \$25 for partial payment of the zip-lining course, and dairy tour. However, if they participate in the service day they only have to provide \$20. Lunch will be provided. RSVP's are due to the extension office by July 6th, and there will be a waiver form that every participant will need to fill out by July 13th.

HORTICULTURE - The State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest will be held Saturday, August 18, 2018 on the campus of Kansas State University, Manhattan. Registration deadline is due August 15, 2018 to the State 4-H Office. For more information go to the following link www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/contests/horticulture-judging/index.html

SWINE - There will be no quality assurance requirement for the 2018 McPherson County 4-H Fair. Requirements for the 2019 year for livestock exhibitors will be changing with details announced in the coming months.

If you are a swine exhibitor planning to show at KJLS or the Kansas State Fair you will need to have a current PQA or YQCA certificate. PQA has been discontinued as of May 31, so if your certificate is not current, you must complete YQCA prior to entry in the state shows for 2018. Contact the Extension Office for help with this certification.

4-H Calendar

July

- 4 Office Closed, Independence Day
- 10 District Horse Show- Hutchinson
- 15 Deadline for Livestock part of Kansas State Fair
- 18-22 McPherson County Fair - CANTON
- 24 4-H Set-Up, Space Reservations DUE
- 27-30 McPherson County 4-H Fair
- 31 4-H Fair Clean-Up, Lunch Party and Celebration

August

- 1 Family of the Year Nominations DUE
- 1 Entry Deadline for Horse at Kansas State Fair
- 2 4-H Council, 7:00 p.m.
- 6 State Fair Entries DUE
- 15 Entry Deadline for Kansas Junior Livestock Show

State Livestock Entries

Entries for 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine for the Kansas State Fair are due July 15, 2017! Forms are available online at kansasstatefair.com. Livestock must have been nominated by the May 1 or June 15 deadlines. Don't delay! Get them in early!



Kansas Junior Livestock Show is October 5-7, 2018 in Hutchinson. Premium book and schedule information will be available online at www.kjls.org. This is for Beef, Sheep, Swine and Meat Goats.

Kansas State Fair Entries

Entries for the Kansas State Fair are due:

- 4-H/FFA Beef, Sheep, Swine - July 15
- Horse - August 1
- All others - August 6

If you have an exhibit qualify for the State Fair (from 4-H Fair only - The County Fair in Canton is NOT a state fair qualifying fair with the exception of certain animal projects that can qualify at multiple shows), **it is your responsibility to fill out the entry form at the Extension Office before August 4.**

To qualify for the State Fair:

1. 4-H member must be 9 years of age before January 1, 2018. **AND**
2. Your 4-H Fair Exhibit* must have received a purple ribbon.

**Not all projects are eligible for the State Fair. See your 4-H Fair book for details.* The Extension Office has a copy of the Kansas State Fair 4-H Rules as well, or they can be found online at <http://www.kansas4-h.org/p.aspx?tabid=46>

Kansas State Fair Gate Tickets

Youth participant (ages 5-18) gate tickets for the Kansas State Fair can be purchased through the Extension Office. *Free tickets will not be given out from our office.* If you will be participating in the state fair - you will need to purchase a gate ticket. These tickets must be ordered and paid for by **Friday, August 3!** Other advanced tickets are also available. If you are volunteering at the state fair - you will receive a free gate admission ticket from the State 4-H Office that you will pick up from our office closer to the state fair time.



Living Well



Jana McKinney
County Extension Agent
Family & Consumer Science

When Should I Take Social Security? SAVE THE DATE!!!

Save the Date of **Thursday, October 18** for this educational meeting that will discuss the things to consider when taking social security benefits. This will be a free program, starting at 6:30 p.m. and held on the top floor of the bank building. More information will be coming. This will be educational in nature, providing basic information for things to consider. Everyone's financial situation is different -- but this program will help you decide if you want to start your social security benefits at 62, or wait until you're 70; or somewhere in between.

New Medicare Cards – Make the Change

If you are enrolled in Medicare, you should be receiving your new Medicare Card. Kansas, and the middle states were in the June wave of mailings. The new card will still be paper, should not be laminated, is more credit card sized and replaces your medicare card with the red, white and blue stripes at the top. You can use both cards; but ideally, you will destroy the Medicare card that has your social security number and carry the one that has an alpha numerical number without your signature or gender indication.



If you are turning 65 soon, or retiring and need help with Medicare, Jana is a SHICK (Sr. Health Insurance Counselor of Kansas) and willing to help you. This service is free, unbiased and confidential. As you turn 65, you have a 7 month Initial Enrollment Period (IEP) which is the three months before your birthday, your birth month, and the three months after your birthday. If you make decisions during this time frame, you have guaranteed coverage. However, if you delay making decisions, you may face penalties, and will not have guaranteed coverage.

If you have questions, please feel free to call 620-241-1523 to set up an appointment to help answer your questions and get information that will help you as you make decisions.

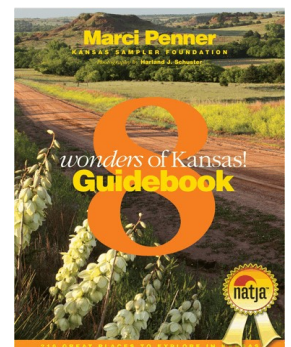


The 8 Wonders of Kansas Guidebook winners from Walk Kansas 2018 go to:

Maureen Ensminger and Bo Koehn

Please stop by and pick up your books at the Extension Office. Thank you to all that participated! Your suggestions for improvement are always welcome.

March 17 - May 11, 2019 – Mark your calendars!



Food Preservation

The practice of preserving food has existed for thousands of years. Because food starts to spoil as soon as it is harvested, preservation methods helped keep the food for longer periods of time. This allowed ancient people to live in one place for longer periods of time.

Today, food preservation has transformed from a rural practice of being self-sufficient to a practice of preserving for fun. Gardening is a popular activity and farmer's markets are sprouting in many communities. Abundant fresh vegetables and fruits motivate consumers to save summer tastes for other times of the year.

Water boils at lower temperature as altitude increases. In Kansas, the altitude changes from around 700 feet above sea level in eastern Kansas to just over 4,000 feet in western Kansas. McPherson County is about 1250 feet – so if you are preserving food, you will need to make a slight adjustment.

If you need more information on Food Preservation there are some choices for you:

www.rrc.ksu.edu - click on Food Science and Home Preservation

www.ksre.ksu.edu - put in Food Preservation

www.mcpherson.ksu.edu - look for the Food Preservation in the Hot Topics

We have lots of free publications that will give you the most recent recommendations. *If you are going to go to the work to preserve the food, please make sure it will be the correct way!*

Critical Conversations about Health — It's Time!

Why? We live in a time when we no longer expect that American children will live a longer life than their parents. – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- Between 2013 and 2015 opioid addiction increased by 28% and heroin deaths by 71%. Both continue to rise
- Farmers now have higher suicide rates than veterans – both are too high
- Obesity is 31% in all age groups over age 10
- Nearly 20% of our children are food insecure
- Yet, nearly 40% of the food is wasted
- More than 12% of our population is in poverty.
- And, sadly, the list goes on....

K-State Research & Extension is ready to address the grand challenge of Health! We need you to join us in making a difference. In the next several months, we will be offering community conversations using World Café:

Question 1:

What are the biggest health concerns in our community today? How do we know this?

Question 2

What resources does our community currently have to address these needs?

Question 3

What resources, programs, and initiatives does our community need to help address our biggest health concerns

We plan to show the movie **Feast on Facts: Food Evolution** to kick-off our Critical Conversation Effort. Date, time and location are currently being finalized. But watch – in September, your chance to attend this showing to start our conversation. Our effort will about your input, education (research-backed), and developing a plan to make McPherson County a healthier place to live! Interested in learning more? Feel free to contact me at jmckinne@ksu.edu, or call 620.241.1523.

Here is more information regarding the movie. Amongst all the conflict and confusion around food, how do we make the best decisions about how we feed ourselves? The movie, Food Evolution, is set amidst a brutally polarized debate marked by fear, distrust and confusion: the controversy surrounding GMOs and food. Traveling from Hawaiian papaya groves, to banana farms in Uganda to the cornfields of Iowa, Food Evolution wrestles with the emotions and the evidence driving one of the most heated arguments of our time. This bold and necessary documentary separates the hype from the science to unravel the debate around food.

The Hot Spot of Peppers

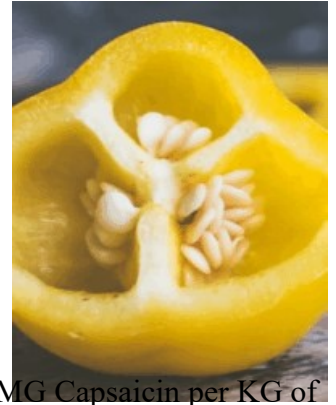
If you eat foods with hot peppers, you likely know the spiciness, or heat, can vary a lot.

The heat comes from a group of compounds called capsaicinoids, including the well known capsaicin. This fiery compound causes “chemesthesis” in which the receptors inside the mouth react to pain, touch, and heat. Some may call it pain, others call it pleasure.

Chile pepper varieties have a varying amount of heat and can also be quite different within the same variety. Growing conditions will also determine heat in peppers. If the plant is stressed, the peppers will produce more capsaicin.

The pith, or white membrane, contains a majority of the heat from capsaicin. Simply cut out the pith, as well as the seeds, to cool down the heat. Save these to add back to a recipe if more heat is desired. The size of pepper makes little difference in heat pungency.

Source: The Science of Good Cooking, Cook’s Illustrated, K-State Rapid Response Center



MG Capsaicin per KG of
Jalapeno Pepper Outside
flesh—5 mg Seeds—73 mg
Pith/membrane—512 mg

It’s Melon Season! Serve them Safe!

Summer and fresh, juicy melons are a perfect match! Whether you grow them or buy from somewhere else, handling and prepping them safely at home is important.

It is easy to forget that melons grow on the ground. They are exposed to pests and microorganisms from the soil. Here are some tips to safely prepare your melon.

Select a melon with no imperfections. Damage to rinds can cause mold growth or other bacteria to travel to the inside of the melon.

Before cutting the melon, wash your hands. Be sure equipment and utensils are clean and sanitized, including your sink.

Place the melon under running water and scrub the outside rind with a produce brush.

Cut the melon and rinse the pieces as you go. Serve immediately. Store any cut melon leftovers in the refrigerator.

How to Prepare a Melon—video by Iowa State University at <https://youtu.be/gQNai8ASBEs>

Evaluating Artisan Breads

Artisan, or hearth, breads have some characteristics that make them unique. Here are some tips to evaluate these breads.

Aspect—Feel the weight, it should be appropriate for its size. Are the cuts on top open to allow expansion? Scoring will dictate the interior structure and visual appearance. The color should be golden, and darkly burnished is not always best.

Crumb Structure—Baguettes will have some marble-sized holes along with smaller holes. The cell walls will look translucent.

Flavor—This is a combination of the crust flavor and interior flavor. One should not overpower the other.

Balance—Sour flavor notes from fermentation should balance with malty notes. Browning from Maillard reactions should be balanced with interior flavors and added ingredients.

Texture—This varies by bread type and is the contrast of the crust and interior. It may be chewy, tender, tender, crispy, moist or dry.

Source: <https://bit.ly/2t0IBM7>





Ag News

Shad Marston
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources

2018 Kansas State Fair Market Wheat Show

As wheat harvest and all our other fun summer activities will quickly be upon us or past, so is the **2018 Kansas State Fair Market Wheat Show**.

All entries must be combine run. Hand picking and/or screening is not allowed. A maximum of three entries can be made per class per farm unit. Classes include: all hard white wheat varieties, HRW blends, all other private HRW varieties or hybrids, all WestBred/Monsanto HRW varieties, KSU HRW varieties, other public HRW varieties. Data cards can be obtained from your local Extension Office and must be completed for a sample to be judged.

You need to be entered by August 15, 2018, and delivered to the state fairgrounds by Wednesday, August 29 at 10:00 am. Call the extension office for entry forms for you to use for the State Fair Market Wheat Show.

Also samples are to be tested by a Kansas Grain Inspection Lab, not just your local Co-op.

Farmers Market

Remember, the Farmers Market will be open from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, located on the 4H Fairgrounds in the round top, on W. Woodside here in McPherson. You can check them out on Face book at McPherson County Farmer's Market to get all the details. Come get your local produce with a variety of fruits and vegetables, eggs, meats, flowers, as well as several homemade bakery items and much more. Be sure to stop by and see what they have to offer.

Annual Rural Appreciation Picnic

The McPherson County Ag Chamber will like you to mark down on your calendar July 27, as we will be hosting our Annual Rural Appreciation Picnic. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a free, family picnic meal and visit the opening day of the McPherson County 4H Fair. The Picnic will start at 5:30 and we will be serving food till 7:00, so plan to come on over to the 4H fairgrounds on July 27 for the Annual Rural Appreciation Picnic.

Pre-Plant Wheat Meeting

The Pre-Plant Wheat Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 21st at 6:30 p.m. It will take place again at the Free Methodist Church, 1200 E. Kansas, McPherson. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will consist of Dr. Romulo Lollato, Dr. Stu Duncan and Dr. Allen Fritz covering yield results and wheat traits of the various varieties and our county wheat plot yields.

Manage Volunteer Wheat

Now is a good time to plan for controlling volunteer wheat. Volunteer wheat within a half-mile of a field that will be planted to wheat should be completely dead at least two weeks before wheat planting. This will help control wheat curl mites, Hessian fly, and greenbugs in the fall. Planting wheat later in the fall also helps in the control of these problems. The most important reason to control volunteer wheat is the control of Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus. Unfortunately, there is no cure for WSMV, so prevention is the key. Please be a good neighbor and destroy all volunteer wheat at least 2 weeks before wheat planting time.

Benefits of Zeriscaping

- Beautify your urban spaces-space with more than just lawn are more attractive.
- Spend less time maintaining your yard and more time enjoying it.
- Protects our environment - overwatering causes erosion of slopes and river banks.
- Municipalities can treat less water, saving money and chemical use.
- Conserve water-share this limited resource with others and leave some for fish and wildlife.
- Use less pesticides and fertilizers, thereby reducing the risk of polluting storm water and saving money.



Management Options for Stressed Corn

High temperatures can cause problems in corn even when soil moisture is adequate -- and will compound problems in drought-stressed corn. Hot, dry conditions are particularly damaging during pollination (VT-tassel through R1-silk). Much of the corn crop in Kansas is just now entering this critical period for determining grain yield. While many areas of Kansas received much needed rainfall recently, extreme temperatures are returning this week and drought conditions are still present in many locations.

Effects of stress at pollination time

There are several reasons why the four weeks centered around pollination are so critical for determining grain yield. During the last couple of weeks before tassels emerge, the potential ear length is being determined. Extreme stress at this time can reduce the number of kernels per row -- affecting potential ear size. Extremely high temperatures prior to and during pollen shed can reduce pollen viability.

Drought stress can slow silk elongation so much that the pollen may be shed before the silks emerge. Lack of water can also result in poor tassel exertion. Combined with the leaf rolling associated with drought stress, the pollen may be shed before the tassel has emerged. Even if pollination does occur successfully, kernels may abort during the first several days of development under severe heat/drought stress. All of these factors can reduce successful pollination, kernel set, and kernel development, reducing the number of kernels per acre -- the greatest determinant of grain yield.

Management options for stressed corn

Where dryland corn has been under severe drought stress, you'll have to decide whether to let it go and hope for some kind of grain yield, salvage the crop for silage or hay, or leave the crop in the field for its residue value. It likely will pay to wait until after pollination is complete before making this decision to get some idea of kernel set. If kernel set is good, the ears at least have the potential to produce grain. If kernel set is severely reduced, the first step is to estimate potential grain yield based on kernel numbers per acre and average to slightly below average kernel size. This can help you make the grain vs. forage decision.

Economically, should you leave the corn, cut it for silage or hay, or leave it for residue? The value of the residue for moisture retention, soil quality, and future crop productivity will vary depending on the situation, and can be hard to quantify -- but it is considerable. As for the silage/hay vs. grain decision, if the yield potential is less than 25 bushels per acre, it's probably best to cut it for silage or hay. If the yield potential is 50 bushels or more, it's probably best to harvest it for grain. If the yield potential is between 25 and 50, the decision will depend on the price of corn, the quality of the silage, and on a producer's ability to use or sell the silage.

Of the two options for dryland corn that has limited yield potential -- silage or hay -- silage is normally the preferred option. However, you need the facilities to make silage (or sell it to someone who does), and there must be enough moisture in the plants to properly ensile. And where there's no ear at all, silage may not be a good option. Where the ear is very small, or has poor seed set, the silage will have lower energy value (TDN) and lower overall forage quality than normal. Even at normal yield levels, silage quality begins to decline when grain yield drops below roughly 150 bushels per acre, and continues to decrease as grain yields keep going down.

To cut corn for silage, you need 65 to 75 percent moisture in the plant. If plants are suffering from drought, they may have lost some of the bottom leaves. The top leaves may have browned off or turned white. In that case, the plants probably do not have 65 percent moisture, depending on how much moisture is in the stalk. Where that's the case, your only option is probably to chop and graze, or hay the crop like a summer annual forage. The pasture/hay shortage that exists in some areas of the state may make haying the failing corn crop a more desirable option this year.

When chopping or cutting for hay, stalks should be cut at least six to eight inches off the ground to avoid nitrate toxicity that may result when feeding forage made from drought-stressed corn. Under drought conditions, the plant does not grow normally and high levels of nitrate can accumulate, especially in the lower portions of the stalk. You should also have corn hay (or stubble if you plan to graze) tested for nitrates. A forage nitrate test costs only \$5-15 and it's the only sure way to make sure the hay is okay to feed to cattle. Ensiling the corn, if possible, is preferred to chopping or grazing because of that potential for nitrate toxicity. For more information on nitrate toxicity please read the companion article, "nitrate toxicity in drought stressed corn" available in this eUpdate issue.

If you plan to have cattle graze the corn field after it has been chopped or cut for hay or silage, watch for any shattercane or Johnsongrass that comes up after a rain. New regrowth from these sorghum-type plants after a drought can be dangerously high in prussic acid.

How much silage can producers get from drought-stressed corn?

A publication from the University of Wisconsin estimates that for corn that has been stressed, with limited grain yield potential, producers can expect about one ton of silage per acre for every five bushels of grain yield. For corn that is not stressed, producers can get about one ton of silage for each six to seven bushels of grain yield. If little or no grain is expected, a very, very rough pre-harvest estimate of yield can be made by assuming that one ton of silage can be obtained for each foot of plant height, excluding the tassel.

Ignacio Ciampitti, *Cropping Systems and Crop Production Specialist*
Ciampitti@ksu.edu
Stu Duncan, *Northeast Area Crops and Soil Specialist*
sduncan@ksu.edu

Nitrate Toxicity in Drought-Stressed Corn

During times of drought, plants such as corn and grain sorghum tend to accumulate high levels of nitrate in the lower leaves and stalk. The accumulation is because the plant assimilation of these nitrates into amino acids is slowed because of the lack of water, a crucial component to numerous plant processes. Nitrate toxicity in livestock is because of its absorption into the bloodstream and binding to hemoglobin, rendering it unable to carry oxygen throughout the body. The result is eventual asphyxiation and death.

It is wise for producers to test their drought-stricken forage prior to harvest. Nitrate testing can be done through several labs including the K-State Soil Testing Laboratory. Harvesting the forage 8 to 12 inches above the ground to avoid the highest concentrations of nitrate in the plant is a good practice. Producers should collect a good representative forage sample above this cutting height to get an accurate determination of what the nitrate level could be.

Depending on the planned feeding method, a producer may wish to harvest different parts of the plant. If wrapping the forage into a bale and feeding it directly to livestock, a producer may want to test the lowest part of the stalk to determine the greatest risk of nitrate forage that could be ingested by the animal. If a producer was planning on grinding the bale, a whole plant sample above what will be left in the field may be a more accurate representation of what will be eaten.

If a harvested forage is high in nitrate, blending the feed with another forage such as prairie hay or brome will dilute the total nitrates in the animal's diet and could potentially reduce the risk of poisoning.

High-nitrate forages chopped for silage and properly ensiled are a safer option for livestock feeding. During the ensile process, potentially 50 percent of the nitrates in the forage will be metabolized by the microbes and can vastly reduce the risk of poisoning. It is still not a bad idea to leave 6 inches of stubble in the field. That is the portion of the stem with the highest concentration of nitrates.

Grazing high nitrate forages is a dangerous practice. Although animals tend to consume the leaves and the top portions of the plant, which contain less nitrates, the risk of consuming a high-nitrate portion of the plant still exists. In addition, the longer the animal is left on a field and the more that animal is forced to eat the remaining forage at the lower portions of the plant, the greater risk of nitrate poisoning.

For more information, see K-State Research and Extension publication MF3029, "Nitrate Toxicity" at your local county Extension office, or at <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3029.pdf>

Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, Nutrient Management Specialist ruizdiaz@ksu.edu

McPherson County FSA Updates

2018 Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in McPherson County are eligible to apply for 2018 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on small grain, native pasture, improved pasture, annual ryegrass and crabgrass.

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire.

Eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2019 for 2018 losses.

Additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, is available at the McPherson FSA office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov

From the FSA office: Remember to report your corn, milo, soybeans, double-crop and cover crops by July 15th. Please call the FSA office at 620-241-1836 to setup

Pasture Management Tip

Use your livestock mineral as a means of getting your cows to graze all areas of your pastures. It does not need to be placed next to water, and they will travel to get to it. It is a very easy way to help promote even grazing distribution. Give it a try!