Clover Corner

Lindsey Mueting
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development

It is hard to believe cold weather and a busy time full of Holidays will soon be here. Hopefully you have been able to spend some extra time this fall planning new 4-H projects and enjoying the outdoors. Now is a perfect time to invite a friend to see what 4-H is all about and to set goals (and write them down for your record books!) about 4-H projects! If you have ideas for the new 4-H year that you would like to see in the County, visit with Lindsey or your clubs Council Rep and have them bring it to the next meeting!

~Lindsey

4-H Enrollment

It's time to ENROLL!!! Please remember that all enrollment will be done online again this year. Please log in at http://ks.4honline.com to your family account. You will be able to re-enroll each 4-H member and adult volunteer as well as add youth to your account. Remember that the Kansas 4-H Program Fee payment is required. This must be paid by credit card immediately or a check sent to the State 4-H Office within 7 days of enrollment. If you are in need of a fee waiver please indicate upon enrollment. Let Lindsey know what questions you have and try to complete this process ASAP so we can update all of our 2018-19 lists! If you do not have access to the internet or need help with this process you are welcome to visit us in the Extension Office!

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Closed for the Holiday

The McPherson County Extension Office will be closed November 22-23 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

We will also be closed December 24-January 1!
4-H Council

The next 4-H Council meeting will be on December 6, 2018. Note that 4-H Council will be meeting on the 1st Thursday of December, February, April, June, August and October. Leaders - please turn in your council representatives ASAP if you haven’t already! Congratulations to the 2019 Council Officers:

Rachel Harman - President
Rachel Yenni - Vice President
Reiley Wells - Secretary
Mason OBrien- Treasurer
Matthew Seeger & Addison Wedel - Hosts

Thank you to your dedication to McPherson County 4-H!

County-Wide Events

Officer’s Training, 4-H Day, Fun Nights… the list goes on! McPherson County 4-H needs YOU to help plan these events! What do you want to see done, what would be an exciting activity to add? Each county activity has a committee to help plan and run the event. EVERYONE is invited to participate on at least one committee; you do not need to be a 4-H Council member. Please talk to your club leader or the Extension Office for more information.

It’s NOT a Life Sentence!

McPherson County is in need of more county-wide project meetings! Do you have a skill you could share with other 4-H’ers or are willing to learn alongside them? I would love to see volunteers step-up to help teach projects county-wide as many clubs have trouble finding club leaders for each and every project. Let’s encourage our 4-H’ers to learn and grow as a group! Maybe you are already hosting meetings for a club and could open them up to any 4-H’er, or maybe you have a certain project or activity you would like to share with others. No matter if you would like to host one meeting or be willing to take on the entire year, please talk with Lindsey!

November Dates

* November 4 - Achievement Night (4:30 pm)
* November 8 - Livestock Planning Meeting
* November 12 - Office Closed
* November 17-18 - KYLF, Rock Springs
* November 22-23 - Office Closed

4-H Fair Theme

Time to take ownership in our 4-H Fair Theme! There will again be a contest to determine the theme for 2019. Here are the details:

— Each club will submit one theme to the Extension Office by February 1.
--- 4-H Council will decide on the top 3 themes
--- Each 4-H member can vote on their favorite theme at 4-H Club Day!
Loaves and Fishes

February is the month that 4-H Club’s serve Loaves and Fishes. We still need clubs to sign up for the following dates:

- February 3
- February 10
- February 17
- February 24

Please contact Lindsey with what date your club would like to volunteer! Clubs can work together and double up on weeks!

Newsletter Deadline

Please get Lindsey all of your information (happenings, news, project meeting opportunities) to be published in the December/January Clover Corner Newsletter no later than Nov. 20. Email information to LMueting@ksu.edu or bring to the office.

Multi-County 4-H Club Day

This event is for everyone!! It is a great way to get out to try new things, learn and meet others from the county and beyond! The event will again be held in Newton at Chisholm Middle School on March 23 with McPherson, Marion and Harvey counties. There will be local and area awards during this day! Plan on judging beginning at 8:45 with the goal of starting the Champion Run-Offs at 12:30 PM. This is a fantastic event that everyone can participate in! There are divisions for talks and demonstrations, public speaking, drama, music, readings and more! Maybe your club would even like to try their hand at Gavel Games! Look for registration info the first of the year which will be done at an online link!

Junior Leaders

If you are 12 and older- watch your emails as we will be planning more activities soon!

We are working on finalizing a Jr Leaders Activity for December, we are trying to coordinate an ice skating and service project opportunity into one day. Please watch your emails for information as that date is finalized!

There will also be information by then on signing up and paying a deposit for the Jr Leaders Ski Trip which will take place March 11-14, 2019.

Remember - any 4-H'er 12 and older (4-H age) is invited to participate with this awesome group!

4-H Day with the Wildcat Women’s Basketball

Let’s Jam the Gym!! The goal is to have more than 1000 4-H’ers to Jam the Gym at the Wildcat Women’s Basketball Game on January 13 against the University of Kansas. The annual 4-H with the Wildcat Women Basketball day is set for January 13, 2019 with a tip-off at 12:00 PM. We are very excited to attend this game as a 4-H group! Tickets to the event will be $22 which includes a game ticket, T-shirt, and $10 to use at an arena concession stand. Registration will be completed online and more information will soon be available at our website, www.mcpherson.ksu.edu. Consider this event with your family or entire club, it is always A LOT of fun! Registration will be due by December 20!
Please - if you have medications you would like to dispose of help properly, the McPherson County Extension Office has Deterra disposal bags. They are free. We need to eliminate the Opioids that are not needed. You play an important role in that process!

Key Facts

- Opioids are a class of drugs that include powerful prescription pain relievers — such as oxycodone, codeine, morphine, and fentanyl — and the illegal drug heroin.
- Opioids work by binding to opioid receptors in your body to relieve pain.
- Prescription opioids can be an important part of treatment but carry significant risks for addiction and overdose because of the addictive euphoria they create and the tolerance that occurs after repetitive dosing.
- Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, of which a large majority is due to prescription and illegal opioids. Seven drug related deaths occur every hour in the United States.
- There are effective treatment options for opioid dependence, yet only 10 percent of people who need such treatment are receiving it.
- Naloxone, also called Narcan® or Evzio®, can completely reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and prevent death.
- If you or someone you know is abusing opioids, seek help NOW. If you suspect someone is experiencing an overdose, CALL 911.
The Holidays are Coming!

It’s here once again! The Holiday season is gearing up to help family and friends celebrate. Make your holiday meals safe with good food handling practices. Making a plan ahead of time can reduce the stress that typically accompanies the season.

To help survive multiple holiday parties, here are some tips:

- Think first – “Do I really like this?” “Is this on my list of favorites?”
- Taste next – Ask yourself, “Is it as good as I thought it would be?” If not, don’t eat it.
- Eat a small meal before the party to curb hunger.
- Don’t forget to exercise to reduce stress and burn calories.
- Practice moderation, not deprivation.
- Concentrate on the non-food features of the party, like music and conversation.
- Be realistic and work to maintain weight, not weight loss.

Thrifty Thanksgiving

This holiday season, almost everyone is looking for ways to save money. How can you skimp on expenses while enjoying quality time with your family and friends? Read on for some penny-pinchning tips for hosting this year’s feast!

$$ Get a good estimate on how many guests you’ll be feeding. If you were left with loads of leftovers last year, reduce the amount of food you make this season. Consider making just enough, with a little extra of a few of your own family favorites that will freeze well in case they are left over. You’ll save time and money!

$$ Make your shopping list now. You can begin to watch for sales, clip coupons, and shop for those items that you can buy ahead for the big day. If you start early enough, you may not have to pay full price for a single item on your Thanksgiving day list! When you shop ahead a little at a time, it’s also not such a big hit to your budget.

$$ Save room in your freezer for a good deal on a turkey. If you have room in your freezer, you may even be able to take advantage of getting your turkey for free! Some grocery stores offer them free to customers who spend a certain amount of money during a promotional period several weeks before the holiday.

$$ When guests ask if they can bring anything, say “yes!” You could even make a point to ask your family and friends to bring a specific type of food to the meal. This way, no one bears all of the burden for feeding a large meal to a crowd. Arrange for out-of-town guests to bring non-perishable foods. Even if you want to cook all of the main dishes yourself, you could ask your guests to bring the bread, vegetable and fruit trays, beverages and dessert. These can often be as expensive as the rest of the meal.

The New Kansas Wheat Commission Bread Recipe books have arrived! You will LOVE the shapes and creativity featured in this book!

Entries for the 2019 National Festival of Breads™, sponsored by Red Star® Yeast, King Arthur® Flour and the Kansas Wheat Commission, are being accepted through January 1, 2019. The competition seeks the best yeast bread recipes from home bakers and food bloggers throughout the United States.
Affordable Care Act – Open Season

The 2019 Open Enrollment Period runs from Thursday, November 1, 2018, to Saturday, December 15, 2018. If you don’t act by December 15, you can’t get 2019 coverage unless you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. Plans sold during Open Enrollment start January 1, 2019.

Kansas Tobacco Quitline
www.QuitNow.net/Kansas

1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669)
7 days a week, 24 hours a day

Quitting tobacco use is one of the best things you can do for your health. And, it’s never too late! The Great American Smoke Out is in November.

Peanut Butter Safety

Remember to spread peanut butter thinly on bread to avoid choking. It’s best not to give toddlers peanut butter from a spoon or finger. Instead, apply the peanut butter to something else such as a cracker or banana. If peanut butter gets stuck in the child’s throat, he may have trouble breathing and the hemlich may not help dislodge it.

Peanuts are one of the most common allergens in children. Take children seriously if they say they have a food allergy, and make food substitutions so they don’t feel left out.

Assemble Car Safety Kit for Winter

Now is a good time to assemble a car safety kit for winter.

The kit should include an ice scraper and snow brush; flashlight with extra batteries; empty coffee can with candles and matches (for warmth); sleeping bag or blankets; reflective emergency blinker; bright tie that can be attached to an antenna; small shovel; rain gear and extra clothes (such as mittens, socks and warm cap); bag of sand, cat box litter or traction mats (in case you get stuck); tow rope or cables; pair of jumper cables; basic first aid kit; pocket knife; small tools (including a screwdriver, plier, hammer and wrenches); and non-perishable food (like cereal bars or a jar of peanut butter and some crackers).

A good idea for travelers is to bring along water, or easy-to-open canned fruit or vegetable juices to help keep the body hydrated.

‘Budget’ Time To Reduce Stress

Learning how to budget time is similar to learning how to budget money. With the holiday season rapidly approaching, activities increasing.....Here are some tips to develop a personal time management plan.

* Keep a written log to show where time goes. Keep an honest and detailed record of every half hour for a day or two.
* List your activities. Include flexible activities (tasks done at any time) and inflexible tasks.
* Estimate the time needed to complete each task.
* Consider available time. Decide where changes can be made if the time needed is greater than the time available.
* Rank importance of tasks. Include your long- and short-term goals.
* Decide when and where to begin. Write down a to-do list for the day, leaving some catch-up periods. Check off each task with completion.
Renter’s Insurance – It’s Needed!!

When disaster strikes, it doesn’t differentiate between rented buildings and owned homes. Renters face the same risk as homeowners. Your landlord may have insurance, but it only protects the building structure, not the personal items inside. Renters insurance can protect your belongings in case of disaster.

There are several types of residential insurance policies. The policy is designed for renters covers losses to your personal property from 16 types of perils: Fire or lightning, Windstorm or hail, Explosion, Damage caused by aircraft, vehicles; Smoke, Vandalism, Theft, Weight of ice, snow or sleet; Water damage – basically almost anything. Except, Floods and Earthquakes which require a separate rider.

**Actual cash value vs. replacement cost:** Always tell your agent about the valuable items you own. One thing to consider is whether the insurance company will offer "actual cash value" (ACV) or "replacement cost coverage" for your belongings. As the name implies, ACV coverage will pay only for what your property was worth at the time it was damaged or stolen. So, if you bought a television five years ago for $500, it would be worth significantly less today. While you'd still need to spend about $500 for a new TV, your insurance company will pay only for what the old one is worth, minus your deductible.

Replacement cost coverage, on the other hand, will pay what it actually costs to replace the items you lost (minus the deductible). In some regions, most insurers write ACV coverage. In others, they'll quote you replacement cost coverage by default. Replacement cost coverage will cost you more in premiums, but it will also pay out more if you ever need to file a claim. Let your agent know about any particularly valuable items you have. Jewelry, antiques and electronics might be covered only up to an amount that won't pay for their replacement.

**Keeping your premium low.** Just like any other type of homeowners insurance policy, your renters insurance premium depends on a number of factors: where you live, your deductible, your insurance company and whether you need any additional coverage. But, it is very affordable! Please, if you rent, purchase Renter's Insurance so you are covered.

"The National Festival of Breads™ builds upon a rich tradition of grassroots support and is the only baking competition of its kind in the country," says Cindy Falk, co-chairperson of the event and nutrition educator for the Kansas Wheat Commission. "This contest is a way for bakers to be recognized for their baking skills and creativity."

The 2019 contest will have two divisions: home bakers and food bloggers. Individuals who are avid amateur home bread bakers and do not make the major portion of their income by baking bread may enter the Home Baker Division. Individuals who currently maintain an active food blog and include wheat foods and yeast bread recipes as part of their content may enter the Food Blogger Division. Adult bakers, ages 18 and up, can self-identify their division and submit original recipes online at nationalfestivalofbreads.com. Submissions, which require photos of the entered bread, will only be accepted through the online form.

Judges will evaluate all entries and select eight adult finalists, four from each division, each of whom will receive airfare and accommodations to participate in the national competition on June 8, 2019, in Manhattan, Kansas. In addition, each finalist will receive a $500 cash award, participate in a wheat harvest tour to a working Kansas wheat farm and flour mill and learn about wheat research at the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center.

Two Grand Prize Winners will be awarded, one from each division. These Grand Prize winners will receive a trip to attend a baking class of their choice at the King Arthur® Flour Baking Education Center in Norwich, Vermont or Skagit Valley, Washington State, and a one-year supply of Red Star® Yeast. Complete rules are available at nationalfestivalofbreads.com.

Ag News
Shad Marston
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Important Dates

Calving School
December 13th — 6:30pm
McPherson County 4-H Building
Steak Supper — RSVP by Friday, December 7

Speakers:
Dr. AJ Tarpoff, DVM
Dr. Twig Marston

Soil Health Day
November 15th
10:00 a.m.
Brian Crowther’s Farm
1613 Pawnee Rd., McPherson KS

Tire Tank/Solar Pump Demo,
Utilizing Cover Crops for Grazing
Electric Fence Options

Lunch provided. RSVP by Friday, November 9
by calling Karen Borcherding (785) 825-8269 ext. 337

Save The Dates!
The Department of Agronomy and K-State Research and Extension, in partnership with Kansas Corn, are planning to host a Corn School and a Pre-Plant Corn Schools in 2019. Details on speakers and topics will be coming soon. From more information please call the extension office.

Corn School
January 7 – Saline County

Pre-Plant Corn School
February 13 – Harvey\Marion\McPherson County

November News
Moving into the winter always presents challenges for farmers and ranchers in our area. Nobody can predict what will happen in the future and we probably can’t be prepared for all the different situations that can come about in agriculture. With that said and knowing all the situations that can effect ag production, weather can be the most unpredictable. The producers that have a sound plan of action, with sound goals in mind and can adapt to each of the different struggles seem to survive the best in the field agriculture. Hopefully, each producer can finish up this fall and start to work on getting thru the winter months.

With the nice weather we are experiencing, fall harvest and the planting of hard red winter wheat should soon be over. To our livestock producers, November means weaning calves and getting ready for the winter feeding of the livestock. Utilizing all the different crop residues should be a goal that can save on our feed bill and extend our hay reserves. Working and vaccinating all the different age groups of livestock should be on everyone mind. Winterizing and preparing now for the cold temperatures is a lot easier then waiting for the bad things to happen when it does get cold. November is also a month to be thankful, so please keep that in mind before we start the hustle and bustle of the coming holiday season.
Replanting Decisions For Winter Wheat

Many Kansas wheat fields that have already been planted might end up with poor stands due to the prolonged wet and cool period observed in the first few weeks of October. These cool and damp conditions can influence seed viability and have delayed emergence in many fields. Unfortunately, there is not much that can be done at this time. Right now, the best thing we can do is wait to see what proportion of the plants emerge, and critically evaluate whether the plant population is sufficient to meet our yield goals.

In many cases, the emergence is “spotty” with lower areas in the field presenting worst stand establishment. These low-lying areas are typically not as well drained as other areas in the field. These areas can become saturated quickly resulting in a low oxygen soil environment that suppresses seed germination and seedling growth. In other fields, the upper portions of the soil were hardened by heavy rains. This “soil crusting” can prevent the coleoptile from breaking through the soil surface. If the coleoptile has not been able to break through to the soil surface within 7-10 days, the health of the young plants will decline rapidly. At that point, the producer will need to consider replanting.

Factors to consider when making replant decisions in wheat include: stand uniformity, actual stand compared to the target stand, replanting date, weed control, and insurance cutoff date.

Stand uniformity. As in same fields, easily recognizable patterns occur in the field based on soil water drainage and accumulation when excessively moist soils cause poor wheat emergence. In this case, stands might be relatively uniform in better-drained areas but non-existent in poorer-drained areas, leading to a high within-field variability. Producers should have as top-priority replanting those large areas with poor emergence once conditions for fieldwork allow. If stand is patchy in areas that already emerged, producers should also consider replanting at lower seeding rates to bring final population closer to the desired stand, as discussed below.

Actual stand compared to the target stand. In areas that already emerged despite the excessive moisture, stands might also be suboptimal and thinner than desired. In these situations, it is often helpful to compare the actual stand with what desired plant populations was to meet our yield goals. Table 1 shows the number of target plants per row foot depending on seeding rate, seed size (provided with certified seed), and row spacing, and considering 80% emergence. If seed size is not known, 14,000 to 16,000 seeds per pound can be used for most wheat varieties in Kansas, except those with rather large or small kernels. To determine the average number of plants per foot of row, several random plant counts across the field should be taken, given a uniform emergence throughout the field. If the average number of plants is about 50 percent or more of normal and the stand is evenly distributed, the recommendation is to keep the stand. Wheat’s tillering ability can greatly compensate for poor stand provided soil fertility is adequate and the weather is favorable. With less than 40 percent of normal stand, the recommendation is to replant the field. If possible, replanting should be done at a 45-degree angle to the original stand to minimize damage to the existing stand.

Recent K-State research indicates that approximately 900,000 emerged plants per acre are needed for most varieties to maximize yields under normal fertility conditions in Kansas. Thus, if producers are not aware of their target plants per row foot, the above threshold might be a good goal for central Kansas producers.

Table 1. Target plants per row foot (80% emergence) based on seeding rate, seed size, and row spacing.

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Replanting date and seeding rate. As of late October, most of the state is past the optimum sowing date, maybe with the exception of south-central Kansas. For portions of the field with no stand established, where the entire stand will need to be replanted, producers should plan to increase their seeding rates by 10-15% for every week past the optimum sowing date. Producers should consider replanting if a field with: partial stand (50% or less of target stand), highly variable stands, or large areas that have failed. In portions of the field where stand is below optimum, producers can cross-drill at the rate of 30-40 pounds per acre in western Kansas and 40-60 pounds per acre in central and eastern Kansas, using a double-disc opener drill if possible to minimize damage to the existing stand. If the replanting is done in November or later, increase the seeding rates to 60-75 pounds per acre in western Kansas and 75-90 pounds per acre in central Kansas. If stands are less than 30% percent of normal, increase these seeding rates by 20-30 pounds per acre. Treating the seed with a fungicide can help ensure viability in wet soil environments and reduce the risk of additional problems with stand establishment this season.

Weed control. A thin wheat stand can increase the potential for weed infestations. This was clearly a problem for many fields during the 2017-18 growing season. Therefore, we need to acknowledge that weed control needs to be part of the decision to replant the entire wheat stands. Moreover, uneven wheat stands can also influence herbicide timing because parts of the field are at development stages. Herbicides such as 2,4-D and dicamba can cause serious crop injury when misapplied. Potential problems due to improper application timing include trapped heads, missing florets, or twisted awns. Accounting for this variability in growth stage within a field can lower the risk of crop injury and loss of yield.

Insurance cut-off dates. Finally, some producers might also consider insurance cut-off dates. For insurance purposes, crops planted before these dates are insured with no reduction in coverage or adjustment to premium. The final plant date is already past which means that producers replanting after this date will have a reduction of 1% coverage per day until the end of the late-planting period. For wheat, late-planting period often occurs about 15 days after the final plant date Oct 31.

Fall Soil Testing of Hay Fields and Pasture

Soil testing can be done in either spring or fall on hay fields and pasture. Given a choice, fall would be the preferred time because it allows more time for any needed lime applications to have an effect before the main growing season begins, and it gives the producer some flexibility for planning nutrient applications.

Soil sampling on a regular basis (every 3 - 4 years) can keep you from applying excessive and unnecessary amounts of fertilizer or manure, and can increase yields by revealing exactly which soil nutrients are too low for optimum productivity. By doing this practice properly, producers can save money and reduce the environmental impacts.

To take accurate soil samples, it is best to use a soil probe. You can borrow a probe from many county extension or NRCS offices. A shovel or spade can be used, but make sure to dig a hole first and then take a nice even slice to the correct depth. A shovel or spade that angles to a point at the bottom can easily result in misleading soil test results because the sample is biased by having more soil from the surface and less from lower depths.

When taking soil samples, it is important to have a representative composite soil sample from the field by combining several soil cores and mixing thoroughly. The ideal sampling technique is to take at least one composite soil sample every 10 acres. On these 10-acre areas, take 15 to 20 cores or subsamples to make up your representative composite sample.

If the field has areas where different forages or crops have been grown, or has different soil types, then soil sampling from these areas should be done separately. Sampling depth for pastures and hayfields should be 3 to 4 inches for pH evaluation. For phosphorus and potassium, a 6-inch depth is preferred when submitting samples to the K-State Soil Testing Laboratory since that is the depth we have used to calibrate recommendations.

One important soil property for forage production, especially with legumes, is soil pH. The optimal pH level is 6 to 7, depending on the forage species. Grasses such as brome or fescue do well at a lower pH. But legumes, especially alfalfa, require a near-neutral pH (~pH 7). If the soil pH is too low or too high, nutrient uptake of macro- and micronutrients can be reduced. Especially important for legumes such as alfalfa and clover is the impact of pH on nodulation and nitrogen fixation. At low soil pH, aluminum toxicity can also be an issue.

When you lime a new pasture, it is important to apply the lime 6 to 12 months before planting legumes. If you want to get a more rapid response from liming, use fine-ground liming materials with a high effective calcium carbonate (ECC). Fields that will be planted to alfalfa next spring should also be evaluated for phosphorus and potassium levels and make corrections before planting.
Consider Fall Treatments for Control of Marestail and Other Annual Broadleafweeds

Herbicide effectiveness on marestail depends largely on the stage of growth and size of the plants. Marestail generally is most susceptible to herbicides when it is small and still in the rosette stage of growth. Once marestail starts to bolt and exceed 4 to 6 inches tall, it becomes very difficult to kill with most herbicides. Since marestail can germinate throughout much of the year, a single herbicide application probably will not provide season-long control, particularly in no-till.

The most effective marestail control program should start with fall treatments, especially in fields with a history of marestail problems, fields with senesced plants that have shed seed, or fields where seedlings and rosettes are already present. A number of different herbicides can be applied in the fall for marestail control ahead of soybeans, such as 2,4-D, dicamba, Sharpsh, Canopy EX, Autumn Super, or Valor XLT. The addition of glyphosate helps control grasses and other broadleaf weeds, and can even help on glyphosate-resistant marestail.

Fall applications can be effective even into December as long as applications are made to actively growing weeds during a stretch of mild temperatures. In fact, for fall applications, it may be better to wait until November to allow most of the fall-germinating winter annuals to emerge.

A residual herbicide such as metribuzin-, Valor- or Classic-containing products (unless the marestail is ALS resistant) can be added to help control marestail through winter and early spring. However, do not expect a residual herbicide applied in the fall to provide good residual weed control through the spring and summer of the next year. If a fall treatment is not made, early spring treatments in March to early April should be applied to help control fall-germinated marestail.

Now that row crop harvest is underway and fall moisture has been received, it is time to start planning your fall herbicide applications to control winter annual broadleaf weeds and grasses ahead of grain sorghum or corn.

Fall applications during late October and through November can greatly assist control of difficult winter annuals and should be considered when performance of spring-applied preplant weed control has not been adequate. Henbit and marestail frequently are some of the most troublesome weeds we try to manage with these fall herbicide applications. Fall applications have another side-benefit. While it is always important to manage herbicide drift, herbicide applications made after fall frost have less potential for drift problems onto sensitive targets.

There are several herbicide options for fall application. If residual weed control is desired, atrazine is among the lowest-priced herbicides. However, if atrazine is used, that will lock the grower into planting corn or sorghum the following spring, or leave the land fallow during the summer and come back to winter wheat in the fall. If atrazine is applied too early, warm weather and moisture will reduce the length of residual. November is often the best time for atrazine applications.

Atrazine is labeled in Kansas for fall application over wheat stubble or after row crop harvest any time before December 31, as long as the ground is not frozen. Consult the atrazine label to comply with maximum rate limits and precautionary statements when applying near wells or surface water. No more than 2.5 lbs per acre of atrazine can be applied in a calendar year on cropland.

One half to two pounds (maximum) per acre of atrazine in the fall, tank-mixed with 1 to 2 pints per acre of 2,4-D LV4 or 0.67 to 1.33 pints LV6, can give good burndown of winter annual broadleaf weeds -- such as henbit, dandelion, prickly lettuce, Virginia pepperweed, field pansy, evening primrose, and marestail -- and small, non-tillered winter annual grasses. Atrazine’s foliar activity is enhanced with crop oil concentrate, which should be included in the tank-mix. Winter annual grass control with atrazine is discussed below.

Atrazine residual should control germinating winter annual broadleaves and grasses. When higher rates of atrazine are used, there should be enough residual effect from the fall application to control early spring-germinating summer annual broadleaf weeds such as kochia, common lambsquarters, wild buckwheat, and Pennsylvania smartweed -- unless the weed population is triazine-resistant.

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