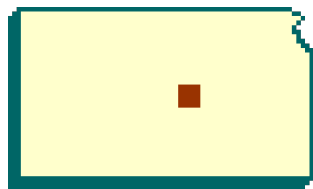


# McPherson County



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**SEPTEMBER 2017**



## Clover Corner

**Lindsey Friesen**  
**County Extension Agent**  
**4-H Youth Development**



The last month of the 4-H year... hard to believe it went by so quickly. Time to be looking at those record books, encouraging friends to try out 4-H and start looking towards a new year of goals! What would you like to see happen in McPherson 4-H? What could be improved? I encourage you to think outside the box and share your ideas! There are many opportunities for leadership in the county including County 4-H Council (2 youth and 2 adult reps from each club), Leadership Challenge, 4-H Fairboard, Jr Leaders, County-wide Committees and Project Leaders. I hope you are all having a great start to the new school year and as always, let me know if you have any questions!

~Lindsey

### Newsletter Deadline

Any information you would like included in the October edition of the 4-H Clover Corner needs to be emailed or given to Lindsey by September 15, 2017.

### Calendar of Events

#### September

- 1 Leadership Challenge Plan Evaluation Due
- 4 Labor Day, Office Closed
- 7 Bring State Fair Items to Office
- 8-17 Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson
- 25 Organizational (Club) Leader Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 29-1 Kansas Junior Livestock Show- Hutch

#### October

- 2 Records Book Due Into Office, Must Be Screened At Club Level First
- 2 Club Seal Due, Along with other Various Club Forms and Awards to Office
- 2 Ambassador Applications Due
- 1-7 National 4-H Week
- 4-15 Tractor Supply Paper Clover Event
- 7 Jr Leaders Worlds of Fun Trip
- 12 4-H Council- 7 PM Extension Office

### Goodbye from Christina

Hey there! As I wrap up my summer break I wanted to take time to thank you, and your families for making me feel so at home here in McPherson county. I have enjoyed this summer of getting to know the youth, and work with the different 4-Her's throughout the county. The highlights of my summer included getting to attend 4-H camp with the kids, participating in and watching barnyard Olympics, taking a group of the Jr. Leaders to the challenge course in Manhattan, and being able to host a Leadership Lock-in after fair. I would like to thank you all for your support throughout the summer and I hope to see you again soon!

Clover love always,  
Christina Hoffman  
McPherson County Intern

## Importance of Thank You's!

The Fair is complete and we are looking towards another 4-H year, but have all fair responsibilities been taken care of?! What about those Thank You notes?! Spending a few minutes to write a thank you note to your award sponsors, leaders and volunteers is a very important responsibility as a 4-H'er! Please watch your email for a list compiled of individuals and businesses who donated items, money or time to make our fair a success. Please remember this is not all inclusive and there will be many others you can think of that have helped you in some way. Please take time to write 3-4 sentences about your time at the fair and thanking the sponsors for their support!

## Fairboard Members Needed

Are you interested in the fair, how decisions are made and what goes on during fair week? Then consider applying to be a member of the fairboard. There are several spots open for youth and adults. Please consider applying and help make the fair even better. You can find the application online [www.mcpherson.ksu.edu](http://www.mcpherson.ksu.edu) or at the Extension Office. Members do NOT need to be current 4-H parents or volunteers, just have an interest in being active in supporting the 4-H Fair! We do encourage at least one person affiliated with each club to apply for a fairboard position so we achieve a balanced group! Spread the word! Applications due October 2.

**\*\*\* Remember- the 4-H Fair will be July 27-30, 2018! \*\*\***

## 484H

What is 484H?!? 48 Hours for 4-H'ers to serve our communities and make an impact on the state!

According to The 4-H study of Positive Youth Development, 4-Hers are nearly 4 times more likely to make contributions to their communities. But just how much can they do? In one weekend this fall, 48-Hours of 4-H will challenge club members, adult leaders and 4-H alumni to explore their service capabilities and inspire the community around them by taking part in some type of service project during the weekend of October 7-8, 2017.

Please report your activity to the Extension Office if your family or club participates in a service event!

## The New Kansas 4-H License Plate!

Sign up at [www.kansas4hfoundation.org/myclovertag](http://www.kansas4hfoundation.org/myclovertag) and you will be one of the first to know when plates are available. Once available, \$10 of every plate purchased will go to the county/district 4-H program (where purchased). Thank you to our 4-H clubs for the important role they played in choosing the winning design!



## Officer Training and Family Event Saturday, November 4, 2017

This event will be in conjunction with Central Kansas District again this year, location TBA. We will be looking for leaders to help teach sessions! This event will be open to all family members, cloverbud age to adult! Fun and informative sessions will be available for all ages, with lots of friends from surrounding counties to learn with, so plan to attend! Final plans and registration will be available soon, watch your email and October Clover Corner!

## Kansas Youth Leadership Forum... November 17-19

Come and build your leadership skills and potential through workshops, consulting groups, inspirational speakers and more. Check out the available class sessions online now!  
<http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/kansas-youth-leadership-forum/>  
In addition, the 2018 State 4-H Youth Leadership Council will be elected at KYLF. Registration and info is online and will be due by October 16, 2017. KYLF is for all youth 14-18 years old before Jan 1, 2018.

## Year End Information

It is that time of year.... Record Book Time!!! To conclude each 4-H year it is my hope that each 4-H member completes a record book. This allows for another great skill to be practiced as well as the chance for scholarships, prizes, awards and recognition for the 4-H year. Please take a look at the record information and work on completing at least one record! Don't let lack of experience or information to include scare you away! Dive into the forms and as you are going make goals for how to grow and improve next year. It will get easier with each completed record!!!

All record books, pin applications, special award applications and club summaries are due to the office on October 2. Club leaders must review and sign books and forms prior to this date, so check with them for their deadline!

All forms can be found online! [www.mcpherson.ksu.edu](http://www.mcpherson.ksu.edu), 4-H Youth Development, Awards and Recognition, Record Books. You can choose to complete the applications on the computer (copy to another folder on your computer) or print out the applications and fill in by hand.

**STORY TIPS:** The first paragraph should be facts about you, your family, where you live and a list of your projects. The next portion (largest section) should discuss your involvement in the project for which you are applying. Next briefly discuss work in each of your other projects. Then discuss other leadership or community service and club activities you have done. Finally evaluate your year and mention your future plans. The majority of your KAP story should be focused on the project you are filling it out for!

As each of you are working hard on finishing up your yearly record books, don't forget to save the date for Achievement Night! We will celebrate all your accomplishments on Sunday, November 5 at 4:30 PM. Check out the October Clover Corner for more information.

## Summer Fun

Begin planning for summer 2018! OzSome 4-H Camp will be held June 13-16 at Rock Springs 4-H Center.

## Community Club Leaders

There will be a kick-off the year informational meeting for all organizational (club) leaders at the 4-H Building on September 25 at 7 PM. Please plan to have at least one leader representing your club, but the more the merrier!

## Time to Celebrate!

The annual McPherson County 4-H Achievement Banquet will be held on November 5, 2017. This will be at St. Joseph's Catholic Church beginning at 4:30 pm. Dinner will follow the awards ceremony. Look for more info about purchasing tickets in the October Clover Corner! Remember- everyone who returns a record book (KAP) will get a discounted ticket!

## Looking Towards a New 4-H Year Investing in the Future of Kansas 4-H: The Kansas 4-H Program Fee

Beginning with the 2017-2018 4-H year, Kansas 4-H will implement a \$15 per member program fee for all community club 4-H members. The program fee will be paid at the time of enrollment within 4HOnline. Please read *Investing in the Future of Kansas 4-H: A Guide to the 4-H Program Fee*, a detailed explanation of the fee with Frequently Asked Questions. [Http://tinyurl.com/ks4hprogramfee](http://tinyurl.com/ks4hprogramfee) It will answer many of your questions about the payment process. As we receive more info we will share through emails and newsletters.

## National 4-H Week

**4-H...AWESOME!** National 4-H Week is coming up, October 1-7. What will YOU do to celebrate? Maybe wear green for 4-H, hand out 4-H bookmarks, do a community service project or invite a friend to your 4-H meeting! Start thinking now of how you can show everyone how great 4-H is!

To celebrate National 4-H Week, think about entering the window display or poster contest! These are open to everyone. Contact Lindsey with questions or if you need space ideas.



### WAYS TO PROMOTE!!!

There will be two contests for National 4-H Week this year!

1. Clubs or groups can enter a Window Display promoting 4-H. Think of where these might be located... store fronts, school entry way or display case, libraries, etc. These do not HAVE to be in a store window! Displays can be located in any public space within the county. Remember to get permission!
2. Individual Poster Contest. 4-H members can create a standard size poster promoting 4-H. Posters can have any theme the entrant would like. These need to be hung in a public place for the week!

Both contests will be judged for top awards! **NEW THIS YEAR...** Entries will need to have short video (or picture for posters if you choose) that is posted to the McPherson County 4-H Facebook page or emailed to Lindsey. The video can be a simple phone capture, but should show the display/poster well and can include any other info you would like the judge to know. Videos must be under 2 minutes. Entries need to be in place with videos completed by October 2. Let us know what type of entry you have and where it is located when you email/post the video! Have fun and think outside the box... time to tell people how awesome 4-H is! Awards will be announced at Achievement Night!

## Leadership Opportunities

### JR LEADERS

If you are between the ages of 12 and 18 please consider being a part of Jr. Leaders. EVERYONE is invited!!! This is a super fun group whose members are leaders in 4-H and the community. We have fun, learn a lot, help others and grow together as a group through activities and trips.

Also, if you submitted a Leadership Challenge form this year, make sure to have your Evaluation complete and to the Extension Office no later than September 1. If you have any questions on this process, let Lindsey know!

**October 7-** Year Transitional event to Worlds of Fun! Letters were mailed the end of August with details on how to be involved with taking your leadership to new heights! This will be a fun day for everyone to get to know each other better and be ready to kick off a brand new 4-H year!

### BE AN AMBASSADOR!

Do you think 4-H is awesome?! Want to help spread the word to others and plan fun events? Think about applying to join a fun group of 4-H teens, the McPherson County 4-H Ambassadors! All Ambassadors are expected to help at a variety of county events, and present about the McPherson County 4-H program at local elementary schools and other venues. Ambassadors should be prepared to devote their time and talents to promote the 4-H program and be “the face of 4-H in McPherson County.” More information and the application form is available on the county website. Applications for 2018 are due by October 2. Interviews will be scheduled in October with new Ambassadors beginning at the Achievement Banquet!

### STATE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are several opportunities to serve as a leader for Kansas 4-H. Applications for all of these groups and events can be found on the Kansas 4-H website, or contact Lindsey for more information.

*4-H Youth Leadership Council-* Apply to be on the group that helps run 4-H in Kansas. This group also plans awesome events such as: *CIA, KYLF, 484H and Campference!* – Due October 2

*Discovery Days Task Force-* Help plan and run Discovery Days 2018! – Due October 1

*National 4-H Conference-* Apply to attend this conference in Atlanta and come back to be a leader in Kansas 4-H! – Due October 2



# Living Well

**Jana McKinney**  
**County Extension Agent**  
**Family & Consumer Science**



## Medicare

**Open Season – Part D – October 15 - December 7**

It's just about time to start shopping for Medicare Part D plans. Each year, Medicare beneficiaries are encouraged to shop Part D plan offerings to make sure you are getting the best drug insurance you can at a reasonable price. You will be receiving Annual Notice of Change letters from your prescription drug company that tells you what the premium will be for 2018 and if your drugs that you have been taking are on the formulary list and what tier level they will be.

Part D Open Season is October 15 - December 7, 2017. Last year, 543 beneficiaries shopped with Jana at the Extension Office and collectively, saved \$327,000. It is worth shopping! It doesn't take long and any SHICK Counselor is happy to help you.

You can shop for yourself at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) after October 15, or call the Extension Office at 620-241-1523 to make an appointment with Jana, a SHICK (Sr Health Insurance Counselor of Kansas) Counselor. This is a free service offered to you.

The SHICK goal is to: Educate the public and assists consumers on topics related to Medicare and health insurance so they can make informed decisions. This service is free, unbiased, and confidential.

If you are becoming eligible for Medicare and need help understanding the benefits, please feel free to contact me at 620-241-1523 to make an appointment. We can talk about the options open to you.

## Social Security Basics Presentation

McPherson County Extension Office – September 20 at 2 p.m.

A representative from the Hutchinson Social Security Office will present an informational program on September 20 at 2 p.m. at the McPherson County Extension Office. Please call, 620-241-1523 to let us know that you are interested. This is a free program to answer questions you may have about Social Security. It's a rare opportunity to be able to get a representative to come in person – please, take the time to come.

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**Welcome** to Tamme Lackey! She is joining the McPherson County Extension Office as our new SNAP Ed Nutrition Program Assistant! Kansas SNAP-Ed, formerly known as the Family Nutrition Program, is a nutrition education program provided at no cost to Kansas families with limited resources. Our goal is to provide nutrition education to individuals and families who receive food assistance or who are eligible to receive food assistance.

The strength and reach of Kansas SNAP-Ed is due, in large part, to the collaborative efforts of Extension and local community agencies and organizations that share a common concern for the welfare of limited resource Kansans. If you are interested in partnering with us, please call us at 620-241-1523!

**Peaches** are perfect this time of year! Savor the flavor now, and save it for later by preserving them in a variety of ways. Kick up the flavor of peaches by making a jam with peaches and jalapeno peppers. Try this recipe from Colorado State University





## Peach Jalapeno Jam

3 cups crushed peaches (about 2 lbs, or 4 large peaches)

1/2 cup jalapeno peppers, finely chopped (about 1/4 pound, or 4-5 peppers)

1 cup water

3/4 cup cider vinegar

3/4 cup lemon juice

1 - 1 3/4 oz. package powdered pectin

4 cups sugar



Wash, pit, and crush peaches. Wash peppers, remove stems and seeds, and chop finely. Combine peaches, peppers, water, vinegar, and lemon juice in a 5-6 quart pot. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes, stirring often to prevent scorching. Add pectin to the peach/pepper mixture. Bring to a boil over high heat, stirring constantly. Add sugar, stirring well to dissolve completely. Bring to a full rolling boil, stirring constantly. Boil hard for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and skim foam, if needed. Ladle into sterile, hot, half-pint jars, leaving 1/4-inch headspace. Wipe jar rims with a dampened clean paper towel. Adjust two-piece lids. Process in a boiling water bath for 10 minutes at 1000-6000 feet above sea level. Yield: 4-5 half-pint jars

K-State Research & Extension has free publications to help you with recommended recipes and helpful tips! Check our [www.ksre.ksu.edu](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu) and search for preservation or stop by our office! We would love to help you.

## Make a date for dinner.....

Good food, great conversations and loads of laughs—that's what family dinners are made of. If busy schedules are making it hard for your family to pencil in regular family meals, take a "time out" to consider all the benefits of gathering around the dinner table because family dinners are about more than just sharing a meal.

**Did you know that eating dinner frequently with your children reduces their risk of substance abuse?** Research by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA)\* at Columbia University consistently finds that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use drugs. The conversations that go hand-in-hand with dinner will help you learn more about your children's lives and better understand the challenges they face.

**CASA created *Family Day — A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children*** in 2001, as a national effort to promote family dinners as an effective way to reduce substance abuse among children and teens. *Family Day* is celebrated on the fourth Monday in September, the 26<sup>th</sup> in 2017.








***Family Day*** is not just for families. It is a day for all to celebrate, including businesses, unions, religious organizations and community groups. The symbolic act of regular family meals should be promoted and celebrated inside and outside the home throughout the year.

Be a part of Family Day this year – 2017! Start a new tradition. Mark your calendar for September 26, 2017 to eat supper together.



## September is Food Safety Month!

We assume our food is safe, but there are ways that we make our foods unsafe. Please think about how you are preparing food, purchasing food, storing food and cooking food! Your actions make a difference!

Safety Tips for handling and preparing common foods			
	Type of FOOD	AVOID	Better CHOICE
	MEAT & POULTRY	Raw or undercooked meat or poultry	Meat or poultry cooked to a safe internal temperature. Use a food thermometer to check. <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/guidance/blue-bands/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/guidance/blue-bands/index.html</a>
	SEAFOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raw or undercooked fish, shellfish, or food containing raw or undercooked seafood, such as sashimi, some sushi, and ceviche.</li> <li>Refrigerated smoked fish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leftover seafood heated to 165°F</li> <li>Canned fish and seafood</li> <li>Seafood cooked to 145°F</li> </ul>
	DAIRY	Unpasteurized (raw) milk	Pasteurized milk
	EGGS	Foods that contain raw or undercooked eggs, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Homemade Caesar salad dressing</li> <li>Raw cookie dough</li> <li>Egg nog</li> </ul>	Use pasteurized eggs and egg products when preparing recipes that call for raw or undercooked eggs.
	SPROUTS	Raw or undercooked sprouts, such as alfalfa, bean, or any other sprout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooked sprouts</li> <li>No sprouts</li> </ul>
	VEGETABLES	Unwashed fresh vegetables, including lettuce/salads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Washed fresh vegetables, including salads</li> <li>Cooked vegetables</li> </ul>
	CHEESE	Soft cheeses made from unpasteurized (raw) milk, such as queso fresco, blue-veined, feta, Brie, and Camembert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soft cheeses that are clearly labeled "made from pasteurized milk"</li> <li>Processed cheeses, cream cheese, mozzarella, hard cheeses</li> </ul>

## Healthy Snacks

Many schools are encouraging (or requiring) parents to bring healthy snacks to school for classroom parties, birthday celebrations and special occasions. Cupcakes, cookies, even candy comes to mind as easy to purchase treats – but these items are the most healthy, nutritious ideas. They are just easy. How about trying one of these items which are more nutritious, lower in fat and sugar, and tasty too.

### Grains

Kellogg's Nutri Grain Cereal, Granola & Yogurt Bars  
 Nature Valley Chewy Trail Mix Bars and Crunchy Granola Bars  
 Quaker Oats Chewy Granola Bars  
 Animal Crackers  
 Graham Crackers  
 Rice Krispy Treats (original)  
 Baked Chips & Sun Chips  
 Pretzels  
 Popcorn (light and fat free)  
 Mini bagel and reduced-fat cream cheese

### Protein & Dairy

Nuts (all variety – however, be careful of allergy concerns)  
 Nature Valley Trail Mix  
 Cheese  
 Puddings  
 Dannon D'animals Drinkable Yogurt  
 Yogurt  
 Yoplait Go-Gurts  
 1% or non-fat milk (plain or flavored)

### Fruits & Vegetables

Dole or Del Monte fruit cups in juice or light syrup  
 Raisins and unsweetened dried fruit  
 Fresh fruits and veggies  
 Juices that are 50 to 100% real fruit juice with no added sugars (*read the label carefully*)





# Ag News

**Shad Marston**  
**County Extension Agent**  
**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

## Weaning Calves

As the days seem to be getting shorter, nights are cooler and fall is approaching our thoughts of a cow/calf producer change. Weaning spring born calves is just around the corner and we need to start preparing and planning our operation for this big event. Some of us might even need to explore about the benefits of early weaning this year. Still weaning, without a doubt, is one of the most stressful events in the life of a calf. Anytime we, as producers, can remove stress from weaning, it can be very beneficial to the cow/calf operator and beyond. Most overlook that fact that weaning is also our opportunity as cattle producers to prepare calves for the next phase of the beef production cycle. “We are trying to make a productive member of our feedlot society or a reproductive heifer coming back into our herd,” says Dr. AJ Tarpoff, Beef Extension veterinarian at Kansas State University. Everyone’s goal of weaning should be to have calves that can make it without their mothers, consume feed and successfully acclimate to a new environment. To do this calves need go thru the separation process, learn a new environment, get acclimated to new feedstuffs and stay healthy all at the same time. Improving on these steps can add value to your animals.

Important steps to follow.

- Establish a herd health program. “The solution for starting cattle does not start with a syringe and a needle” says Dr. Mark Handlin of Heartland Veterinary Clinic. When bringing in cattle, cattle source and handling, feed, water and environment (both weather and pen condition) have a great effect. I cannot stress this enough, Producers should consult with their local veterinarians and develop a herd health plan that meets a sound vaccination program as well as a treatment plan for calves if they do become sick. Planning ahead of time can save lots of money when ordering supplies and cuts back on wasted time running for this or that.
- Don’t add stress during weaning. Castration, dehorning, and branding can all add stress. Plan to complete these tasks well in advance of weaning, (minimum of 3 weeks) or a month after.
- Prepare weaning pen with proper placement of feed bunks and a good water source. Clean pens to try to minimize dust and allow pens to drain during wet weather. Providing access to the weaning pens prior to weaning helps the calves adapt to their new environment. Provide fence line contact, if you can, to soften and reduce behavioral stress and minimize post-weaning weight loss of the weaned calf.
- Help calves adjust to the new feedstuffs. At the K-State Research Center in Hays, a feeding protocol for weaning calves has been developed that works well for transitioning weaned calves to a total mixed ration. It starts with high-quality grass hay and the weaning ration being offered each at 0.5% of the calves’ current body weight, dry basis, on the day of weaning. The weaning ration should be placed on the bottom of the bunk and the hay over the top. Each day the weaning ration is increased while hay remains the same. On day 4, place the hay on the bottom of the bunk. Over a period of 7-10 days, the dry intake should be reached at approximately 2.2-2.5% of the calves’ body weight.

Simply by pre-conditioning, producers are trying to maximize health and well-being of the animals prior to and at weaning, not just post-weaning. This all plays an important part when it comes time in preparation for weaning. More will come on vaccinations, injection sites and proper equipment to be used on livestock in my next month’s newsletter.



# State Officials Urging Farmers to Control Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus Now

## *Disease caused more than \$76M in losses in 2017 wheat crop*

Kansas State University officials are joining in on a group effort to help Kansas farmers stop the spread of a destructive wheat disease that took a strong foothold in the state's fields this year.

In early August, the Kansas Wheat Commission reported that wheat streak mosaic virus caused a conservative \$76.8 million in direct losses to Kansas wheat farmers. That amounts to 19.2 million bushels of wheat, and a 5.7 percent yield loss – well above the average 1.5 percent yield loss.

Kansas State University wheat disease specialist Erick DeWolf said the virus was particularly harsh in areas of west-central Kansas.

Wheat streak mosaic is a plant pathogen carried by the wheat curl mite. The virus stunts the growth of wheat and related plants, causing streaks of yellow, non-uniform discoloration on the leaves. The mites often live on volunteer wheat, or the wheat that grows or is left in a field after the year's harvest.

In some parts of Kansas, wheat streak mosaic virus caused farmers to completely abandon their 2017 wheat crop.

"I remember in some of those areas, they would have been 50-60 bushel wheat pretty easily, and to go from that level of yield potential to zero is a big loss," DeWolf said. The Kansas Wheat Commission and the Kansas Department of Agriculture are among the groups leading a statewide effort to combat the disease for the 2018 season. An education campaign titled 'Stop the Streak' aims to prevent the conditions that led to the above-normal levels of the virus this year.

DeWolf said those conditions included adequate rainfall and volunteer wheat in July and August 2016 that led to increased populations of the wheat curl mite. He said mild temperatures that persisted well into November allowed the tiny mites to survive well past planting of the 2017 crop.

When we have above-normal volunteer populations and mite populations going into the fall, where they have plenty of time to move around, that definitely sets the stage for major outbreaks of wheat streak mosaic," DeWolf said. "I think it was those things that were set in motion last summer and fall that really translated into the above-normal levels of wheat streak that we saw this year."

Officials tend to agree that there are only three ways to control the spread of wheat streak mosaic virus: remove volunteer wheat and other grassy weeds; avoid early planting; and plant varieties with resistance to the virus.

"Removing volunteer wheat has got to be step one," DeWolf said. "It comes down to a lot of these communities deciding that they've had enough of this disease and doing what they need to as a community to control the volunteer wheat."

"An individual grower can do a lot of things right, but if their neighbors – the community – doesn't follow the best practices for controlling the volunteer wheat, it can really nullify a lot of their individual activities. So, wherever possible, these communities can be coming together – groups of co-ops, or other groups of growers – to try and do everything they can to make sure the volunteer wheat is controlled, that should greatly reduce the risk of a repeat performance on wheat streak mosaic."

DeWolf said that, if using a herbicide, volunteer wheat should be dead for at least two weeks before farmers plant their 2018 crop.

"If you're using an herbicide like glyphosate that needs some time to be enacted in the plants, it's those dead dry plants that are going to decrease the mite population," he said. "And that's the condition we need to be in before our new wheat crop begins to emerge."

At this point, he added, "we're probably looking at a lead time of at least three weeks, maybe four weeks, prior to the planting of our new wheat crop. The window is open here for some folks already and we're probably looking at August as the critical month of trying to get the volunteer wheat under control."

DeWolf encouraged farmers to work with seed companies to buy varieties with resistance to wheat streak mosaic, and resist planting next year's crop too early.

"Planting date does play into this," he said. "I've worked with enough growers in western Kansas to know that many times they plant wheat when they have moisture. Year in and year out, moisture is one of the major yield-limiting factors that we have in our wheat production in Kansas."

"So it's not uncommon for us to see some growers go in and start planting their wheat in late August or early September. That does elevate the risk of us having problems. Wherever possible, I would encourage them to plant their wheat toward the end of the more agronomically acceptable time, what we often refer to as the Hessian Fly-free date. That would generally reduce the risk of them having a wheat streak mosaic problem."

For more information on wheat streak mosaic virus and statewide efforts to control the problem, visit the Kansas Wheat Commission's web page, [kswheat.com/growers/wheat-streak-mosaic-virus](http://kswheat.com/growers/wheat-streak-mosaic-virus).

# Late Summer Crabgrass: Time To Let Go?

*Chemical controls must be applied at the right time to be effective*

Crabgrass is a forever foe for home lawns, mainly because control measures can be so tricky.

The best chemical controls for crabgrass are pre-emergence herbicides. This means that the herbicide must be applied to your lawn before the crabgrass seeds begin to germinate. And when exactly is that?

Generally, the best time to apply those herbicides is in the spring, so that they have time to catch all the crabgrass plants before they start growing. Pre-emergence herbicides are completely ineffective on mature crabgrass.

But in late summer, there's another point to consider: What are your plans for September? September is the optimal time for overseeding your lawn to thicken up the turf and cover bare spots (as well as a complete reseeding, if that's the choice).

What happens is we get into September and you lay down your lawn seed," said Jared Hoyle, assistant professor and turfgrass specialist with K-State Research and Extension, "but there are crabgrass plants that might have broken through the pre-emergence herbicide, or the pre-emergence herbicide just may have run out of steam. Now we need to get rid of those plants before we start seeding."

Hoyle said there are a couple different options. "You can go with quinclorac, found in name brand products like Drive, which is a *post* emergence herbicide. That will kill existing crabgrass," he said. "But quinclorac will not prevent any more crabgrass seeds from germinating."

Another advantage of quinclorac: It can still be applied just before, or soon after seeding a turfgrass area, and it will not significantly interfere with germination of those grass seeds, if you planted one of the varieties that are tolerant. As with any herbicide you use, make sure you read the label, and follow directions accordingly. "You are probably not going to have too much more germination this year," Hoyle said, "but as long as it's warm there's a possibility that crabgrass can still germinate."

The last option for dealing with late-season crabgrass: Just wait. Crabgrass is a summer annual so when it gets cold it will die off.

"The problem with waiting," said Hoyle, "is where the crabgrass is located in our lawn. If it's springing up in the spot where we want to grow new turfgrass, waiting may not be an option."

## Did you know...?

The Extension Office offers diagnostic testing for such things as:

- Soil tests (Note that we have a soil probe available)
- Insect identification Plant and Weed identification
- Tree, Plant and Weed Identification
- As well as, plant disease diagnosis
- Grain analysis reports along with germination testing
- Hay and other Forages analysis including Nitrates, Protein levels and Moisture content (Hay Probe available)

Samples are sent to K-State in Manhattan and results come back in approximately 5-10 working days.

For water testing, we have the kits available and you can mail or walk it into a credited laboratory in Hutchinson.

We sell Radon Test Kits for \$7.50 used for home and/or business detection.

Neutroleum Alpha is an agent that helps get rid of bad odors (i.e.; skunk). We offer a small bottle for \$5.00.

We have live traps for daily and/or weekly rental.

To certify or recertify for the Private Pesticide Applicator license, we have the study manual for \$10 and testing can be done at the office.

# September Garden Calendar

## *Vegetables and Fruits*

- \* Continue to harvest vegetables
- \* Pick apples and pears and store in a cool place to extend freshness
- \* Harvest pumpkins when flesh is completely orange and avoid carrying by stem
- \* Harvest winter squash when rind is hard enough to puncture with fingernail
- \* Plant lettuce, spinach and radishes
- \* Remove weeds from garden plantings before going to seed
- \* Herbs can be dug from garden and placed in pots for indoor use this winter
- \* Remove small tomatoes from their vines to increase late development of more mature fruits

## *Flowers*

- \* Plant spring flowering bulbs, tulips, daffodils, and others
- \* Dig, divide, or plant peonies
- \* Divide perennials, especially spring bloomers
- \* Remove seedheads from perennials to prevent reseeding in the garden
- \* Plant chrysanthemums for fall color
- \* Dig gladiolus as foliage begins to yellow and air dry before storing for winter
- \* Clean up garden areas to reduce insects and disease as plants dieback for winter
- \* Enrich soil by adding organic matter such as peat moss or compost

## *Lawns*

- \* Plant or sod new bluegrass or tall fescue lawns
- \* Renovate bluegrass or tall fescue lawns by verticutting
- \* Core aerate cool season turf
- \* Fertilize cool season grasses with high nitrogen sources of fertilizer
- \* Mow turf at 2 to 3 inches and sharpen blade for a clean cut

## *Trees and Shrubs*

- \* Plant trees and shrubs, deciduous and evergreen
- \* Rake up fallen leaves and compost
- \* Prune broken and dead branches from trees
- \* Avoid pruning spring flowering shrubs such as lilac and forsythia to ensure spring flowers
- \* Hand pick bagworms to reduce problem in future

## *Houseplants*

- \* Bring plants in before temperatures drop into the fifties
- \* Clean and wash before moving indoors to reduce insects
- \* Fertilize before winter conditions arrive and growth slows
- \* Poinsettias can be forced into Christmas bloom by starting dark treatment of short days

## Wheat Varieties for Kansas and the Great Plains Book Available

We currently have 2017 books available for \$7.50 (retail value \$15.00) and 2018 books are available for \$15.00 but we need to order these books so if you're interested please call the office 620.241.1523 to get your name on the ordering list.

