

Extension Notes



CHEYLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL Lady Cougar basketball player, Stephanie Busse, is ready to catch the rebound. Stephanie had the game high-score of 27 points for the against the Triplains Vikings at the home game in McDonald.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Ag Talk With Jeanne

Timing of Nitrogen Topdressing on Wheat

By Jeanne Falk
K-State Multi-County
Agronomist

The time is now for topdressing the winter wheat crop. The nitrogen (N) in top-dress applications must be moved into the root zone with precipitation before jointing next spring in order to be most efficiently utilized by wheat.

According to Dale Leikam, K-State soil fertility specialist, if sufficient precipitation is not received

to move the applied nitrogen into the root zone, wheat plants may be unable to utilize it when they need it most. Since about one-third of total nitrogen utilized by wheat is in the plant by jointing, it is best to apply topdressed nitrogen early — preferably December through February — in order to maximize the probability of receiving enough moisture to move the nitrogen into the root zone.

In some areas like northwest

Kansas, there has been no significant moisture since wheat planting. Where nitrogen has already been topdressed on wheat this winter in those areas, there may not have been enough moisture to move the nitrogen into the root zone. While some may worry about nitrogen volatilization loss or immobilization, the bigger concerns are the effect of dry soils on wheat growth and the fact that the applied nitrogen has not yet reached the root zone.

Generally, the most important factor in getting a good return on topdress nitrogen is usually timing. It is critical to get the nitrogen on early enough to have the maximum potential impact on yield. While some producers often wait until spring just prior to jointing, this can be too late in some years. For well-drained medium-fine textured soils that dominate wheat acres, the odds of losing much of the nitrogen that is topdress-applied in the fall or winter is low since we typically don't get enough precipitation over the winter to cause significant denitrification or leaching. For these soils, topdressing can begin anytime now, and usually the earlier the better.

A popular practice with topdressing nitrogen is to tank-mix the fertilizer with a herbicide. This affects application timing. These products are best applied in either fall or early spring, when the ground is not frozen and the weeds are actively growing. According to Dallas Peterson, K-State weed scientist, residual sulfonylurea herbicides (such as Finesse, Glean, Amber, and Rave) that provide both foliar and residual broadleaf weed control are the best candidates to apply with topdress nitrogen applications.

Watch out for nitrate levels in forages

Will you be feeding cane, millet, or oat hay to your cows this winter? If so, don't let high nitrate levels kill your cows or cause abortions. We here about nitrates every year and may become complacent. Yet almost every year, we here a story of someone who lost animals or income due to high nitrate levels in forage that they fed.

Nitrates occur naturally in all forages. At low levels, nitrates either are converted into microbial protein by bacteria in the rumen or they are excreted. But when nitrate concentrations get too high, they can kill cows and maybe abort calves.

Some plants are much more likely to be high in nitrates than others. Annual grasses like cane, millet, and oats often have elevated nitrate levels, along with certain weeds like pigweed, kochia, and lambsquarter. If your hay has lots of these weeds or is an annual grass, be alert to the potential for high nitrates. That doesn't mean these feeds always are toxic, nor does it mean that high-nitrate hay can't be fed safely. But always test these feeds for nitrates in a lab to determine how to feed them safely. Remember, there are many ways to feed high nitrate hay safely. Diluting with grain or low nitrate forages is most common. Frequent,

small meals that slowly increase the amount of nitrate fed helps cattle adapt to high nitrate hay. And make sure cattle have plenty of clean, low nitrate water at all times.

Nitrates cause deaths most often after a snow storm has prevented animals from eating naturally for a day or more. Avoid feeding high or even marginally high nitrate hay at this time because cattle will eat an extra large meal when very hungry. This could create an overload of nitrates to their system, leading to death. Please contact the office if you need more information.

Dormant seeding of turfgrass I know you're probably thinking why is he writing about seeding a lawn in December?

Yes, it does sound crazy, but dormant seeding is possible even though fall is the best time to seed cool-season grasses. This seeding is done during the winter when low temperatures prevent the seed from germinating until spring. Normally in Kansas this is from about mid-November on. One advantage of this procedure is to be able to seed during a less busy time of year. Also, spring weather can be so wet that early spring seeding may be delayed. Delayed plantings are more prone to weed invasion and less able to withstand the stresses of summer weather.

Researchers at K-State conducted a study to compare tall fescue plantings done monthly from December through March. Each seeding was planted on the 15th of the month. A November planting was not done due to the abnormally warm weather.

Percent cover ratings were taken at mid-April and mid-May. The April rating showed that the February planting had the highest percent cover (73 percent). The December, January and March sowings had 47, 53, and 50 percent cover respectively. The early plantings were less successful probably due to birds feeding on the turfgrass seed. The March seeding was less mature than the other plantings.

By mid-May, the February and March ratings were tied at 80 percent cover. The January seeding was at 63 percent cover and the December rating was 60 percent. The March seeding had "caught up" with the February sowing.

All of these seedings were thick enough to prevent crabgrass infestations and mature enough to survive our summer without supplemental watering. However, the later plantings (February and March) had significantly more coverage than the earlier months and would be preferred.



ONE LAST LOOK TOGETHER — Keith Dankenbring and Roger Lauer look up a part together.

Club Clips

Go-Getters 4-H Club

The Go-Getters 4-H Club held their December meeting and Christmas party on Dec. 16 in the Lutheran church basement.

The members went to the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis and caroled with the residents. Then they drove around Bird City on a trailer and caroled to whoever they saw. Afterwards they went to the church and had a short business meeting.

President Caleb Keltz called the meeting to order. Secretary Aryn Sturgeon took roll call. Nine members answered to "What Do You Want For Christmas?"

In old business, the club decided

to put the funds from their matured certificate of deposit (CD) into their savings account.

It was moved and seconded that Isaac Sturgeon will take over the position of treasurer.

In new business, County 4-H Days and the beef weigh in were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned and all the members enjoyed cheesy potato soup, chili and refreshments.

Afterward they exchanged gifts.

The date of the next meeting will be decided on at a later date.

Aryn Sturgeon, reporter

Book Review

Book review from
St. Francis Public Library

What Matters Most

By Luanne Rice

Sister Bernadette Ignatius has returned to Ireland in the company of Tom Kelly to search for the past - and the son - they left behind. For it was here that these two long-ago lovers spent a season of magic before Bernadette's calling led her to a vocation as Mother Superior at Star of the Sea Academy on the sea-tossed Connecticut shore. For Tom, Bernadette's choice meant giving up his fortune and taking the job as caretaker at Star of the Sea, where he could be close to the woman he could no longer have but whom he never stopped loving. And while one miracle drew them apart, another is about to bring them together again.

For somewhere in Dublin a young man named Seamus Sullivan is also on a search, dreaming of being reunited with his own first love, the only "family" he's ever known. They'd been inseparable growing up together at St. Augustine's Children's Home, until Kathleen Murphy's parents claimed her and she vanished across the sea to America. Now, in a Newport mansion, that very girl, grown to womanhood, works as a maid and waits with a faith that defies all reason for the miracle that will bring back the only boy she's ever loved.

That miracle is at hand - but like most miracles, it can come only after the darkest of nights

and the deepest of heartbreaks. For life can be as precarious as a walk along a cliff, and its greatest rewards reached only by those who dare to risk everything...for what matters most.



**Bumper To Bumper
will Close on Dec. 31
and open Jan. 2
under the ownership of
Andy and Mary Beikman.**

**Roger & Darlene, Keith & Cinda would like to thank all their customers for their business through the years!
And extend congratulations and best wishes to the Beikmans on their new business venture.**

Business to open with new owners

By Karen Krien

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Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts will have new owners on Jan. 1.

Roger Lauer and Keith Dankenbring recently made the announcement that, after 26 years of partnership in the business they have sold to Andy and Mary Beikman.

They said they have taken pride in giving good service.

"That's the way to build a business."

Mr. Lauer and Mr. Dankenbring have been working together in different businesses for years. Mr. Dankenbring started in the auto parts business working for John Wolfe 37 years ago. Mr. Lauer previously worked for Mr. Wolfe until he bought into the business.

They have seen several changes over the years. They remodeled, moving the office into the central area so they could be there when customers needed help. When they first started, the parts came from Denver and now they come from Wichita.

In 1986, they began selling guns and ammunition. They also would sell some larger items such as lawnmowers. Again, they were there to serve their customers and get them what they needed.

"We have had a lot of fun with our customers," Mr. Dankenbring said. "We have picked at and insulted them but it has all been in fun!"

They both said that their customers, everyone from farmers

to mechanics, have become more like family.

Mr. Dankenbring will continue working for Andy in the business and Mr. Lauer will be there when needed.

"We wish the Beikmans the best!" they concluded.



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SEASON'S GREETINGS



During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

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