

# Are treated seeds the way to go?

As we approach planting time, farmers can buy seed treated with an insecticide, intended to protect the seed and new plant from feeding insects.

Now if everyone had lots of feeding insects in the field, they would be more inclined to buy treated seed. However, what happens when there are very few insects present? Does it still pay to buy seed treatments?

Research was conducted on corn and grain sorghum at the Harvey County Experiment Field near Hesston. The results from a three-year study indicate yields tend to be boosted by seed treatments even when insect populations are low. According to Mark Claassen, agronomist-in-charge, "A likely explanation for this is that the seed treatment allows plants to stay healthier by minimizing damage caused by minor pests that 'nibble away' at yields. While we encountered mainly flea beetles or chinch bugs, it is possible for growers to encounter low levels of these or other insects, such as wireworms, that can affect stands, seedling vigor and, ultimately, yield."

The study evaluated crops planted in different rotational sequences each year. Corn followed wheat, sorghum, and soybean, while sorghum followed wheat, corn, and sorghum in successive years. The study involved two corn hybrids, two sorghum hybrids and several seed treatment options, including no treatment, Gaucho, Cruiser and Prescribe.

The corn was planted in mid-April at 20,000 to 23,000 seeds per acre, and the grain sorghum was planted in late April or early May at 46,000 to 47,000 seeds per acre. There were only light to moderate

## About ag

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infestations of flea beetles and/or chinch bugs over the study period.

In two of the years, corn yields were depressed by hot, dry conditions. Over the three-year study period, yields ranged from 30 to 93 bushels per acre. The three-year average corn yield for the "no treatment" (check) site was 51 bushels per acre, while the average for crops grown from treated seed was 61 bushels per acre, a 10 bushel difference.

The average grain sorghum yields over the three years ranged from 48 to 107 bushels per acre. The three-year average grain sorghum yield for the no-treatment (check) area was 63 bushels per acre, while the average for the treated seed area was 71.5 bushels per acre, an 8.5 bushel difference.

For more information, look at "Insecticide Seed Treatments" which can be downloaded at the Web site: [www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2/](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2/) by clicking on the Production and Pest icon, or pick up a copy at the county local extension office.

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## Norton drafting students pick up seventh place

The Norton Community High School drafting team competed in the Goodland drafting tournament on April 14 at the Northwest Kansas Technical School.

"We placed seven in the top ten in the beginning mechanical pencil category," said Instructor Jim Myers. "I thought the kids did a nice job on their drawing. They put a lot of time and effort into these projects."

"First year student Keesha Holste entered an advanced category, architecture floor plan, and took second place. That was a pleasant surprise. I think her outstanding skills in art helped her achieve success in drafting."

Placing for Norton were: Beginning mechanical — Jared Mindrup, junior, first place and grand champion; Jeremy Bradford, junior, fourth; Nick Evans, junior, fifth; Gena Myers, freshman, sixth; Ashley Wegener, senior, seventh; Blake VanEaton, freshman, ninth; Chris Davis, freshmen, 10th;

Shanea Wyatt, senior, 11th; Mindrup, 13th; Aaron Daniels, freshman, 14th and 17th; Logan Keiswetter, freshmen, 19th; and Lance Roe, sophomore, 21st.

Advanced mechanical — Zach Murnahan, sophomore, fourth place; John Horesky, junior, fifth; and Sarah McDiffett, sophomore, sixth.

Architectural floor plan, hand drawn — Keesha Holste, junior, second place; Bruce Rushton, senior, third; Mike Crowder, senior, fourth; and McDiffett, seventh.

Architectural elevation, hand drawn — Rushton, second place. Pictorial — Dane Krizek, sophomore, fifth place; and Murnahan, sixth.

Architectural floor plan, computer automated drafting — Ian Conkey, senior, fourth and fifth; and Crowder, 12th.

Architectural Elevation, computer automated drafting — Rushton, fourth; Conkey, fifth; Crowder, seventh and 10th.

## Youth injured in accident

A roll-over accident occurred on April 14 when Kent Mann, 15, Norton, swerved to miss a sign that had blown out in front of his vehicle.

Mr. Mann said that he lost control of the 1986 Ford Bronco that he was driving on U.S. 36 when

high winds caused a highway sign to land upon the roadway. Kent swerved to miss the sign, and rolled into the south ditch.

Kent was wearing his seat belt, but still was injured.

The Bronco sustained over \$500 in damages.



## Making music for spring

Northern Valley freshman Kelli Cole (above) performed her saxophone solo at the spring recital at the Almena Congregational Church on Wednesday. She was accompanied by Sara Nelson and sophomore Emily Zillinger.

Senior Mandi Redeker (left) sang her vocal solo. The recital gives vocal and band students a chance to practice their pieces in front of the public, before they take them to the state music competition held in Wichita.

## Artists of the Month chosen at high school

Faculty at Norton Community High School made their choices for the March/April Artist of the Month award handing first-place honors to Britany Johnson, Anna Berry, Keesha Holste and Chelsea Cox.

Taking second were Roger Bausch, Kylee Witt and Naomi Streck.

Jered Sloan, Sarah Kimbrell and Annette Becker were selected for third place by the faculty.

Student choices were first, Anna Berry; second, Sarah Kimbrell and Kylee Witt; and third, Kayla

Fahrenbruch and Jered Sloan.

Artist of the Year competition will be held Saturday, May 8, and announced at the Wednesday, May 12, Spring Exhibit Night.

The judge for this year's competition is Brandi Withington, a Norton Community High School graduate who was Artist of the Year, two years in a row. Ms. Withington attended Fort Hays State University, participated in the art department and was part of several independent art shows. She is working in Kansas City.

## Artists receive recognition

Norton Community High School art students of Peggy Stull competed in the annual Fort Hays High School Art Exhibit on April 14.

Ashton Lofgreen, Kayla Fahrenbruch and Kylee Witt received four certificates of recognition each.

Roger Bausch received three.

Anna Berry, Jered Sloan, Keesha Holste, Britany Johnson, Sarah Kimbrell and Naomi Streck each received two.

Tosha Lyon, Brandon Otter, Jeremy Brafford, Bill Hadley, Austin Jakubowski, Gabe Vittitow, Travis Chandler and Jaclyn Krueger each received a certificate, also.

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