

Dry soil conditions real concern for wheat's future

By Jeanne Falk

Multi-County Agronomist

Dry soil conditions are a concern for the wheat's future. Here is weather data for the wheat's growing season.

Wheat can root to a depth of 4 to 6 feet. However, 80 percent of its roots are located in the top 2 feet of the soil profile. Currently, there is moisture in the soil profile, however, not extremely close to the soil surface. Wheat that was planted early likely has roots in this moisture. There is moisture to meet the wheat's needs for a while, but it will really need moisture when it begins heading (when the plant's needs are highest). Wheat needs 10 inches of moisture (both rainfall and water located in the soil) to make the first bushel of wheat. After that, it makes 4.6 to 6 bushels for each additional inch of water.

First hollow stem

This is a critical stage of growth, when wheat switches from vegetative growth to reproductive growth. At this stage, leaves become strongly erect and the growing point begins to develop a wheat head. This seems early this year because of warmer temperatures bringing the wheat out of dormancy earlier than normal.

First hollow stem can be determined by digging up some wheat plants and cutting off the roots at the base of the stem. Then carefully slice the stem open from the bottom up. Be sure to look for the developing head, which is very small.

To determine if your wheat is at the first hollow stem stage, look for a space between the head and the base of the stem. If this space is between 1/2 and 3/4 inch, wheat is at first hollow stem.

This growth stage is important because the maximum number of spikelets (mesh) are determined. Also at this growth stage, nitrogen should be in the root zone to maximize the number of seeds per head. This growth stage is also important if cattle are grazing wheat. If cattle eat the head of

the primary tiller, yield can be severely impacted; as much as 1.25 bushels per day after the first hollow stem.

New herbicides registered for corn

Two new herbicides were recently approved for use: Balance Flexx and Corvus. Both products are from Bayer CropScience.

Balance Flexx essentially consists of Balance Pro plus a crop safener for corn. It can be used as a pre-plant, preemergence, or early postemergence application. Balance Flexx can be applied up to the V2 (two leaf collar) stage of corn. In K-State tests, it has given excellent control of pigweeds, Kochia, Russian thistle, velvetleaf, and some grasses. It will control weeds that are ALS-resistant, triazine-resistant, and glyphosate-resistant. Balance Flexx provides residual control. Duration of this residual will depend on the amount of rainfall received after application.

Often nearly three weeks of residual control can be expected. When applied preplant or preemer-

gence, it can be tank mixed with a chloracetamide/atrazine herbicide (such as Bicep II Magnum or Harness Extra) for added grass control. When treating corn post-emergence, do not include crop oil concentrate (COC), methylated seed oil (MSO), or any herbicide other than atrazine.

Corvus is essentially Balance Flexx with an added grass herbicide. The grass herbicide in this product is an ALS-inhibitor. Corvus has many of the same characteristics as Balance Flexx, with stronger grass control – including shattercane. Application information is the same as discussed with Balance Flexx.

Producers in some counties cannot use these because of risk of an herbicide metabolite leaching through soil into shallow groundwater. If the water table (level of saturation) is less than 25-feet below the soil surface, do not use on sandy loam, loamy sand or sand surface or subsurface soils with organic matter less than 2.0 percent.



WILDLIFE BANQUET— left Audrey Meyer gets excited when her number is called. Above: Clay Keller fills out the paperwork for one of the guns he won.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Book Reviews

Book review from St. Francis Public Library

The Lucky One

By Nicholas Sparks

After U.S. Marine Logan Thibault finds a photograph of a smiling young woman buried in the dirt during his tour of duty in Iraq, he experiences a sudden streak of luck, winning poker games and even surviving deadly combat. Only his best friend, Victor, seems to have an explanation for his good fortune; the photography...his lucky charm.

Back home in Colorado, Thibault can't seem to get the woman in the photograph out of his mind and he sets out on a journey across the country to find her. But Thibault is caught off guard by the strong attraction he feels for the woman

he encounters in North Carolina... Elizabeth, a divorced mother...and he keeps the story of the photo and his luck, a secret. As he and Elizabeth embark upon a passionate love affair, his secret soon threatens to tear them apart...destroying not only their love, but also their lives.

Filled with tender romance and terrific suspense, *The Lucky One* is an unforgettable story about the surprising paths our lives often take and the power of fate to guide us to true and everlasting love.

Book review from St. Francis Public Library

Tomorrow's Promise

By Sandra Brown

It happened the way attraction happens best: suddenly, passion-

ately, uncontrollably and unforgettably.

Thousands of feet above the ground on a crowded flight to Washington, D.C., radio personality Keely Williams felt the irresistible pull of handsome congressman Dax Devereaux. They were speaking at the same congressional hearing about Vietnam soldiers listed as MIA. Tragically, Keely's husband was among the missing soldiers. He had been her childhood sweetheart, her future, her love...and then the unanswered question Keely dedicated her life to solving.

Until there was Dax. and the possibility of a new future. But could Keely allow herself to love again, and still honor the man of her past?

-St. Francis News-

Milton and Betty Lampe attended a Heartland Community Theatre production and dinner at the Fox Pavilion called "Singin' In The Spring" in Hays on Saturday. Their grandson, Travis Grizzell, had a leading role.

Kirk and Debbie Grizzell of Macksville joined the Lampe's.



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