

# Across the County

Soybean Stubble for Cows and Thistle Control

By  
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As soybeans are combined, cows sometimes are put out on the residues to graze. Some bean residues are even baled. But how good is this feed?

We're all familiar with the usefulness of grazing corn stalks, but more and more residue from soybean fields are being grazed every year. Cows seem to like licking up what's left behind after combining. But some folks may think their cows are getting more from those bean residues than what truly is there. When most of us think of soybeans, we think high protein. So we expect bean residues will be a high protein feed, too. Unfortunately, the opposite is true; soybean residue is very low in protein. Soybean stems and pods contain only about 4 to 6 percent crude protein, well below the 7 to 8 percent needed for minimum support of a dry beef cow. And even though leaves can be up to 12 percent protein, it's only around one-third digestible, so that's not much help. In fact, protein digestibility is low in all bean residues.

Energy is even worse. TDN averages between 35 and 45 percent for leaves, stems, and pods. This is even lower than wheat straw. Unless cows fed soybean residues also find and eat quite a few beans, cows fed only bean residue can lose weight and condition very quickly. Now, this doesn't mean soybean residues are worthless for grazing or even baled. They can be a good extender of much higher quality hay or silage. But, cattle must be fed quite a bit of higher energy and protein feeds to make up for these deficiencies in soybean residues.

### Thistle Control During October

It's thistle time again. Even if they are hard to see, this is the time to control them. Timing is everything. That's particularly true with thistle control. And October to early November is one of the best times to use herbicides. Did you have thistles this year? If so, walk out in those infested areas this week. Most thistle seedlings this fall will be small, in a flat, rosette growth form, and they are very sensitive now to certain herbicides. So spray this fall and thistles will not be a big problem next year.

Several herbicides are effective and

recommended for thistle control. Maybe the most effective is a newer herbicide called Milestone, or a combination of Milestone and 2,4-D called Forefront. Two other very effective herbicides are Tordon 22K and Grazon. But be careful with Tordon and Grazon since they also can kill woody plants, including trees you might want to keep. 2,4-D also works well while it's warm, but you will get better thistle control by using a little less 2,4-D and adding a small amount of Banvel or dicamba to the mix.

Other herbicides also can control thistles in pastures - like Redeem, Cimarron, and Curtail. No matter which weed killer you use, though, be sure to read and follow label instructions, and be sure to spray on time. Next year, avoid overgrazing your pastures so your grass stands get thicker and compete with any new thistle seedlings.

For more information contact the extension office at 785-332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu. Till next week - Marty

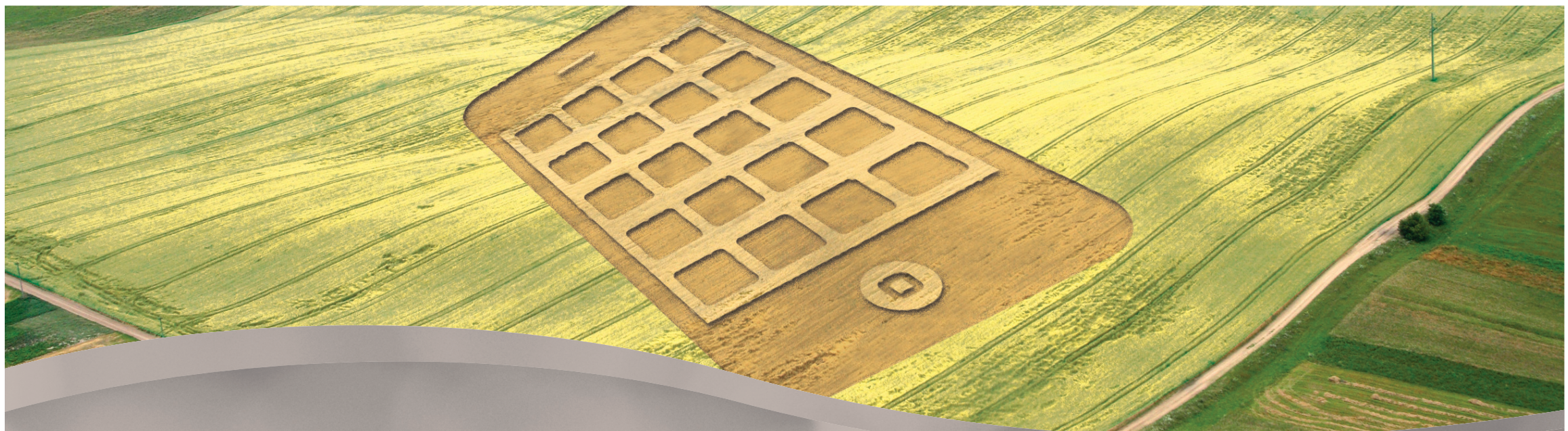


KASH ZIMMERMAN takes in some junior high volleyball while sitting on his grandmother, Virginia Cooper, right, and his great-aunt Linda Elfers, left. He is joined by his great-Melissa Zwegardt's lap. Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

## Harvest progresses



STAN WAHRMAN pulls onto the scale after dumping a load of Dwen DeGood's corn at the Equity elevator in St. Francis. Herald staff photo by Tim Burr



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