

Colby to host subsurface drip irrigation field day next week

Using a leaking pipe as a method to conserve water may seem a bit unusual, but it's catching the attention of a growing number of farmers in Kansas.

In fact, the interest in subsurface drip irrigation (SDI) is strong enough that Kansas State University officials say an estimated 12,000 to 15,000 acres of the state's farmland are dedicated to the technology.

K-State researchers and others will discuss developments Tuesday, Aug. 10 during an SDI Technology Field Day in Colby. The field day is free, and an evening meal will be served. Interested persons are asked to pre-register to help organizers with the meal count.

Those wanting to register can call Vicki Brown at (785) 462-6281, or

send email to vbrown@ksu.edu. Further information also is available on the SDI Web site at www.oz-net.ksu.edu/sdi.

Freddie Lamm, an agricultural engineer with K-State Research and Extension, said the university began studying SDI 15 years ago.

That year researchers installed the first SDI system on a three-acre research plot in Colby, hoping to learn more about a technology that potentially offered higher yields for field crops and less burden on the Ogallala Aquifer, the major source of water for western Kansas.

Today, that same underground system in Colby is still operating efficiently and pumping water to farm crops in research trials.

The research site has expanded to nearly 20 acres at the KSU North-

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Freddie Lamm,
agricultural engineer at K-State

west Research-Extension Center.

“But, just as important,” Lamm said, “is that the university has a lot of answers for the growing number of farmers now trying SDI on their own farms.”

The Aug. 10 field day includes afternoon and evening tours of the

research site, as well as a series of informal, 10-minute talks designed to answer frequently asked questions; the evening meal; and a producers' panel discussion. The tour's main topics are:

- Limited irrigation of corn using SDI;

- SDI nutrient management for efficient water use;
- Livestock wastewater utilization with SDI.

“We selected the theme, *Strategies for Water Conservation* (for the field day) because the extended drought and the declining Ogallala aquifer are placing renewed focus on making wise use of our irrigation water,” Lamm said. “Our main tour topics include methods where good managers can directly conserve water and methods where they can make best use of the water they do pump. Both water strategies are important to the long-term interests of the state and its people.”

Additional field day topics include system design, installation, operation and economics.

In 1999, K-State economists es-

timated that SDI systems must last 12- 15 years for the irrigator to break even. Lamm said there are commercial systems in the western United States that have lasted as long as 20 years.

K-State's first SDI system “has been in place for 15 years now with little or no degradation,” he added. “That indicates to me that these systems can last and still have good water application uniformity.”

SDI uses underground plastic lines (drip tapes) that run the length and breadth of a field. Emitters - holes spaced along the pipe - precisely drip water into the crop root zone.

“No irrigation system in itself can save water. It takes a capable and willing irrigator to appropriately manage the system,” Lamm said.

“The irrigator must do this within the many constraints that affect his situation - such as crop, soil, field size, shape, topography, climate, water flow rate and total water availability.”

Arizona family returns to area for a reunion in Colby

Harold and Carolyn Herring of Mesa, Ariz. spent several days visiting Carol's mother and brother, Dorothy and Lynn Moulden. They all attended the Holsapple family reunion held over the weekend in Colby. Sunday morning guests of Dorothy and Lynn in Winona were Harold and Carolyn Herring, Kalyn Schneider, Nichole and Ryan, Kalie Anderson, Halie and Katrina and Daron and Traci Trent. Kalyn, Kalie and Traci are granddaughters of Dorothy Moulden.

Tina Latham, Kathy Dirks and Tammy Fulton hosted a baby shower for mother-to-be Terrell (Radnor) Rohr of Wichita in Oakley Saturday. Weekend guests of Pauline Smith were Velma Irish and Tom and Melissa Sparks, Dalton and Dillon of Olathe.

Karen Baxter and Linda of Garden City were recent overnight guests of LaVonne Baxter.

Tom and Michelle Kirk, Gavin, Ellie and Caroline of Lawrence were Friday and Saturday guests of



Jean Lowe

• Winona
Correspondent

Michelle's grandmother, Jean Lowe. They were enroute to Frazier, Colo. for a Kirk family vacation. They will return via Colorado Springs for a visit with Chris and Dara Lowe and Cameron.

Congratulations to Coach Lamar Bergsten and helpers Kent and Dennis Gfeller on a second place finish in the Oakley Summer Recreation program.

Team members included Gibson Palmer, Logan Hinkle, Ethan Plummer, Brett Gfeller, Kyle Gfeller, Zac Schwartz, Clayton Applehans, Kalib Hinkle, Clay Rogge and Lane Ochs.

Shauna Garner, Steven and Jerris of Lawrence spent from Saturday to Wednesday visiting Shauna's mo-

ther, Doneta Gates.

The Winona United Methodist Church Choir and their families met in Dunlap Hall Thursday evening for a potluck dinner. Former choir members and others who have assisted the choir as narrators or hostesses for receptions held after performances were also present. It was a bittersweet occasion as we bid adieu to long-time members, Deb Beougher and Aaron Homburg. Following dinner the honored guests were toasted after being “roasted.”

Pam Lewallen read an original poetic compositions which brought both laughter and tears. Their robes were “retired.” Reminiscent of Miss Beougher's and Mr. Homburg's coaching careers at Triplains, Columbia blue and white streamers embellished the room. The tables were decorated with basketballs, footballs and tennis shoes. Actors Art Koster and Pat Koster presented a duet reading entitled “The Game Plan.” A few favorite

songs of praise were sung as a declaration of many fun times and great memories. Deb and Aaron each responded with a “pep talk.” Those attending and all reporting a wondrously good time were Deb Beougher of Wellington, Julia, who was an exchange student of Miss Beougher's several years ago, and a friend of Julia's.

Both girls are from Germany. The other honored guest present was Aaron Homburg and his family, Nichol, KaiLee, Augie and Terran from Natoma, Aaron's parents, Allaire and Arla Homburg of Quinter, Art and Pat Koster, Mark and Pam Lewallen, Erma Latham, Donita Goyen, Warren and Lois Starns, Marshall and Tammy Fulton, LaVonne Baxter, Dianne Schertz, Norma Lee Plummer, Lucille Bruns, Joyce Eurit, Alex, Colin and Sarah of Oakley, Bert and Wanda Summers of Oakley and Jean Lowe.

Jana Gfeller and children enjoyed a few days of fun and sun visiting

Jana's sister and brother-in-law at Milford Lake near Junction City. Accompanying Jana was Marsha Johnson from Sharon Springs. Joining the group at the lake was Jana's sister and three nieces. On the way home, they toured the Eisenhower Center in Abilene.

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