

# Seasons are early, treat crabgrass soon

When forsythia and redbuds reach full bloom, crabgrass will be sprouting soon. "Generally, you get about two weeks between those events," said Ward Upham, horticulturist, K-State Research and Extension. "So, since spring seems determined to get an early start this year, crabgrass is likely to germinate several weeks earlier than normal. Most Kansans should think about using April 1, not April 15, as their deadline for spreading preventer on their lawn."

With few exceptions, crabgrass preventers are simple pre-emergence herbicides. They have to be in place before crabgrass seeds germinate. They require a follow-up application about eight weeks later (May 27), to pick up any late starters. Once applied to the soil, though, these preventers gradually begin to lose strength. So, applying them too early can be a time and money waster, Upham said.

"Products vary, of course. But, most are fairly ineffective after about 60 days," he said.

The major exceptions are season-long preventers: Barricade

(prodiamine) and Dimension (dithiopyr). Nowadays, both are available under their trade and/or their chemical name. (Herbicide labels list the product's active ingredients, as well as instructions for its safe use.)

Homeowners usually can apply Barricade in November to provide crabgrass control the following spring. Still, Barricade's no exception to the lawn-seeding rule: pre-emergence herbicides are hazardous until new turf has grown enough to merit mowing two to four times.

March 1 is the earliest to apply Dimension. Upham said, however, it's the better choice in two situations:

- You missed application deadlines for fall and spring. Dimension is the one preventer that also can kill young crabgrass until it exceeds the two- to three-leaf stage.
- You've seeded. Dimension is uniquely kind to young cool-season turfs. In fact, it's safe to use two weeks after tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, or Kentucky bluegrass germinates.

# April alfalfa grows well

Although most alfalfa is planted in the fall in Kansas, spring is also a good time for planting, said Jim Shroyer, K-State Research and Extension crop production specialist.

"Fall-seeded alfalfa will usually produce more first-year tonnage than spring-seeded alfalfa, but planting in April usually results in more reliable moisture conditions and less risk of poor stand establishment," Shroyer said.

Before planting, producers should have the soil tested for pH, phosphorus and potassium. There is still time to get this done before a spring planting, and the results will pay off for the life of the stand — usually five to seven years, he said.

"Past research in Kansas has shown that applying and incorporating phosphate fertilizer, if recommended by a soil test analysis, results in large increases in productivity. In a no-till situation, phosphate fertilizer can be surface-applied and still have a long-term beneficial effect on yields," he said.

Lime may be needed before planting as well, Shroyer added.

"Alfalfa does best when the soil pH ranges from 6.5 to 7.5. If the soil pH is less than 6.5, production will be reduced. At very low pH levels, the stand may be thin and weedy. Applying lime, if needed, before planting alfalfa will pay big dividends," he said.

Growers should make sure there are no weeds growing when alfalfa is planted and make sure there is no herbicide carryover from a previous crop that could injure the seedling alfalfa.

Seeding at the proper depth can help achieve good stands, Shroyer said.

"When seeding alfalfa, plant seed one-quarter to one-half inch deep. Plant about three-quarters inch deep in sandy soils, unless the field is irrigated. For dryland production, use a seeding rate of eight to 12 pounds per acre in the west, and 12 to 16 pounds per acre in central and eastern Kansas. For irrigation production, use 15 to 20 pounds of seed per acre in all soils," Shroyer said.

"It is also important to use certified, treated and inoculated seed," he said.

## On the Beat

### COLBY POLICE

#### Tuesday

5:35 a.m. — Caller reported the westbound gate blocking roadway at Country Club and I-70. Temporarily fixed. Notified Highway Patrol.

9:53 a.m. — Removed tree limbs from roadway in the 200 block of E. Fifth.

10:10 a.m. — Funeral block to Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

11:15 a.m. — Funeral block to Sacred Heart Cemetery.

1:20 p.m. — Caller loaned vehicle to subject who is overdue returning it. Civil matter; information provided.

1:35 p.m. — Caller advised her vehicle involved in hit and run in parking lot at 700 W. Horton, suspect went east on I-70. Report filed.

2:43 p.m. — Two-vehicle collision at Range and Williams.

3:09 p.m. — Caller reported vendor tied banners to stop signs and other posts. Spoke to subjects, items removed.

5:32 p.m. — Caller reported pickup in draw; possibly ran through fence. No one around vehicle, attempted owner contact. Vehicle moved.

5:45 p.m. — Caller reported two subjects holding up sign at Fourth and Franklin. Spoke to subjects, told move along.

11:29 p.m. — Checked semis.

#### Tuesday

12:54 a.m. — Closed doors.

1:09 a.m. — Security check at Meadow Lake.

1:58 a.m. — Security check at the B-Hive.

7:25 a.m. — Caller reported vehicle parked in the 600 block of N. Range. No response from owner, vehicle towed.

9:41 a.m. — Provided information.

11:36 a.m. — Caller reported dog at large at Fifth and Walker. Unable to locate.

6:36 p.m. — Accident at Fourth and Range.

### THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

#### Monday

11:40 a.m. — Collision at County Rds. Q and 23. Report filed.

12:18 p.m. — Report filed for criminal damage to property on yield signs knocked down at County Rds. Q and 23.

12:47 p.m. — Removed item from roadway at County Rds. P and 15.

1:10 p.m. — Injury accident in the 2300 block of County Rd. 20. Assisted ambulance and Highway Patrol on call.

3:19 p.m. — Subject arrested on

warrant from Colby Municipal Court by Sherman County Sheriff's Office.

9:19 p.m. — Booked Patrick Joyce.

10:02 p.m. — Booked Christina Emsley.

#### Tuesday

1:55 a.m. — Lifeline called about subject needing assistance at residence in Rexford. Officer assigned due to need for forcible entry. Ambulance paged.

9:10 a.m. — Lost trailer tag. Report filed.

10:10 a.m. — Assisted Colby Police with funeral block.

10:21 a.m. — Caller reported center pivot sprinkler spraying roadway in the 700 block of County Rd. CC. Spoke to county attorney, not criminal. Provided information to reporting party.

11:15 a.m. — Assisted Colby Police with funeral block.

11:22 a.m. — Caller concerned for safety of grandchildren that reside in another county. Report filed.

11:49 a.m. — Brought inmate arrested by Sherman County Sheriff's Office from county line to Law Enforcement Center.

12:57 p.m. — Booked Penny Blossom Lane.

12:59 p.m. — Callers reported a problem over a vehicle in Thomas County. Civil matter.

1:23 p.m. — Caller reported a hitchhiker walking south in the 1300 block of K-25. Unable to locate.

2:48 p.m. — Took two inmates from Law Enforcement Center to Sherman County Sheriff's Office.

3:03 p.m. — Took two inmates from Law Enforcement Center to Rawlins County Sheriff's Office.

3:11 a.m. — Released Alexander Michael Whitehead.

3:39 p.m. — Booked Andrew Martinez Ramirez.

6:17 p.m. — Subject arrested on warrant by Johnson County Sheriff's Office.

6:28 p.m. — Booked Amber N. Hambricht.

6:47 p.m. — Released Hambricht.

7:07 p.m. — Booked Riol Quesada Yoel.

8:39 p.m. — Booked Richardo Rodriguez-Vasquez.

11:29 p.m. — Checked semis in the 200 block of N. Court.

#### Wednesday

3:49 p.m. — Released Jason Lazaro.

9:18 p.m. — Booked Hannah Pyle.

10:53 p.m. — Booked Taylor L. Brown.

# Alfalfa weevils are sprouting early

It's not only cyclists and joggers taking advantage of recent unusually warm Kansas weather. Alfalfa weevils are rapidly developing throughout the state, according to K-State Research and Extension entomologist Jeff Whitworth. Whitworth said samples he's taken and reports from others showed the first larvae were detected the week of March 5, and with the significant warm spell Kansas has experienced since then, egg and larval development has been readily apparent.

"All fields we sampled this week in central Kansas had 10 to 30 percent of the stems infested with first instar larvae," Whitworth said. "Most infested stems had multiple larvae simply because that is where the female weevil deposited a clutch of eggs last fall and now they are all hatching together."

Treatment thresholds vary in alfalfa, depending upon the end use, but usually delaying application until there is one larva for every

two stems (50 percent infestation) is the most effective management tactic, he said.

"This warm weather may condense weevil development by increasing it so quickly, so early that the infestation may not drag out over a four to six week period as it has in the past," Whitworth said.

"We've been getting questions about the use of chlorpyrifos, or products containing chlorpyrifos, relative to the legality of making a second application, if needed, per cutting. This question has arisen because of the early egg hatch and the potential length of time between this and swathing, which usually doesn't occur until at least late April.

"If you do decide a second application is necessary prior to that first cutting, make sure you consult the label of the product you intend to use to ensure it is allowed for that product. Always read the label prior to and have the label available during application."

# Women in ag to meet

"Estate Planning — Family and the Farm" is the topic for the Women in Ag Conference at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19. The conference will be at the Redeemer Lutheran Church at 743 Magnolia in Salina.

Shon Robben, attorney with Arthur-Green, will be the speaker. He will present information on things to consider when making an estate plan for a farm operation. He will also discuss how the cost of long-term care can affect a farm estate plan.

The conference is sponsored by

K-State Research and Extension-Central Kansas District, Farm Bureau, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, American Ag Credit and Conservation Districts.

This conference is designed for any woman who has an interest in farming such as a land owner, farmer, or farmer's wife. Men are welcome also.

There is no fee for the conference, but participants are asked to pre-register by Friday, April 13. To register, call the Extension office in Salina, (785) 309-5850.

# Wayward emu escapes

SOUTH HERO, Vt. (AP) — An elusive emu on the lam in Vermont has been amusing residents in towns on Lake Champlain.

The 150-pound flightless bird looks like a small ostrich. It has been spotted wandering in Grand Isle and South Hero since it escaped from a local farm.

It was spotted outside the South Hero elementary school, where it

walked by a window of the principal's office. School worker Steve Berard tried to lasso it with an extension cord, but it broke free.

The emu's owner tells WCAX-TV (bit.ly/YUT7C) he bought three emus for his grandchildren but they don't make great pets.

He's taken out an ad in a local newspaper saying, "Free emu if you can capture it."

# Driver gets triple tickets

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Traffic officers along Interstate 84 in Oregon's Columbia River Gorge say a lead-footed driver was in such a hurry to make a court date on a meth possession charge that he racked up \$2,000 worth of speeding tickets in an hour.

Police say 34-year-old Jose Romero-Valenzuela of Las Vegas, Nev., was zooming west and got pulled over three times — first at 105 mph, then at 98 mph and finally at 92 mph.

Police say the last ticket appeared to have an effect. Down the road a bit, a trooper set up watch and clocked him at the limit, 65 mph.

Besides fines and penalties, police say his license could be suspended for up to 90 days if he's found guilty on the citation alleging driving in excess of 100 mph.

Police confirm he was indeed scheduled for a court appearance in Oregon City, south of Portland.

## Quotes For Kids

### Entire Month of March



Get your insurance quote for home, auto, business or farm and get a donation to the area school of your choice.

**Donations**  
 \$20\* - Home & Auto  
 \$50\* - Business  
 \$100\* - Farm  
*\*conditions must be met*

**F&M Insurance Store**  
 990 S. Range,  
 Suite 2-B, Colby  
 785-462-3628  
 1-800-279-4806

**Prairie Land Insurance**  
 A Division of Strutt  
 Insurance Services, Inc.  
 318 Main, Brewster  
 785-694-2501

# IT'S COMING

## TUBBS & SONS FORD SALES

810 S. Range, Colby, KS • 785-460-6746 • 800.369.3673 • tubbsford.com

## WOOFER PUMP & WELL INC.

1024 Oak Ave.  
Hoxie, KS 67740

Office Phone 785/ 675-3991    Fax: 785/ 675-3990  
 Shop Phone 785/ 675-3023    E-mail: woofprw@ruraltel.net

### Now offering heat pump systems!

- Lower Your Monthly Utility Bills
- Certified Installation
- Call For Information Today
- Irrigation Pump Repair
- Irrigation Well Drilling
- Domestic Well Drilling & Repair
- Environmental Drilling
- Windmill Repair



## AG DEALER INVENTORY REDUCTION

FRI., MARCH 30

Bidding starts to close at 10 a.m. CD

**2 SELLING!**



Items #D8891 & #D8892  
'08 JD 9770 STS combine



Item #B5704  
'09 CIH 7088 combine

**8 COMBINES SELLING!**

### ALL ASSETS SELLING NO RESERVES!

**COMBINES:** '09 CIH 7088, (2) '08 JD 9770 STS, '99 JD 9610, '98 CIH 2388, (2) '88 CIH 1680 **SPRAYERS:** '07 Apache AS1210, '05 JD 4720, '00 Redball 680, '99 CIH SPX 4260, JD 250, Hardi TR800 **BALERS:** '07 CIH RBX563 rd, (2) '05 CIH RBX562 rd, '03 NH BR780 rd, '99 AGCO Hesston 4910, '99 CIH 8465A, (2) '97 CIH 8465 rd, '95 JD 535 rd, JD 568 rd, JD 567 rd **PLANTERS:** '98 AGCO White 6186 16R, (2) '97 AGCO White 6122, AGCO White 6700 12R, CIH 900 Cyclo 8R, (2) Int'l Cyclo Air 800, CIH Cyclo Air 950 early riser **HEADERS:** '09 JD 635D draper, JD 930 30' platform **SOIL PACKER:** '09 Sterling 30' flex gang **GRAIN AUGER:** Westfield MK-100-81 **COMBINE TRAILER:** '95 Jantz 48-12. 10% buyers premium applies

**866.608.9283**

**BID NOW! purplewave.com**

## Purchase from 20 to 138 Acres GRASSLAND AUCTION

**TUES., APRIL 3 ♦ 10:00 AM CT**

**City Limits Convention Center - Colby, Kansas**  
Conrad & Judy Reed, Sellers

### REALIZE YOUR DREAM OF OWNING country property by purchasing one or more tracts of grassland, just 1 mile west of Colby, KS

- Property has excellent new 6-wire fences
- All Seller's mineral interests go to Buyer(s)
- Tract #1 features a nice 40'x70' metal bldg. with four attached horse stalls, electricity & windmill
- All tracts have Highway 24 or Co. Rd. access
- Property is located in SW/4 of 35, 7-34, Thomas Co.

## SHAY REALTY, Inc.

Serving Colorado, Kansas & Nebraska  
 Ryan W. Shay, Broker ♦ 785-332-5588  
[www.shayrealty.com](http://www.shayrealty.com)

## DO YOU OWN A fuel tank?

The EPA now requires America's farms & ranches to prepare oil-spill (SPCC) plans on their fuel storage tanks.

Keep your farm-business free from fines and attend this regulation meeting.

<p><b>Goodland</b></p> <p>March 26th, 2012 Elks Lodge 1523 Arcade St. Goodland, KS 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Oakley</b></p> <p>March 27th, 2012 NKESC 703 W. 2nd Oakley, KS 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Quinter</b></p> <p>March 28th, 2012 Church of the Brethren 700 Grant St. Quinter, KS 12:00 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Colby</b></p> <p>March 29th, 2012 City Limits Convention Center 2227S Range Ave. Colby, KS 12:00 p.m.</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid green; border-radius: 50%; width: 100px; height: 100px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">FREE MEAL</p> </div>	
<p><b>Hoxie</b></p> <p>March 30th, 2012 4H Building 1308 Main Hoxie, KS 12:00 p.m.</p>		

ag compliance [www.agcompliance.com](http://www.agcompliance.com)

Please Recycle

Sponsored by Frontier Ag Inc. [www.frontieraginc.com](http://www.frontieraginc.com)