

Saying farewell



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Dr. Brewster Kellogg (left) chatted with his longtime nurse Rosanna Zeigelmeier, Dalena Gawith, and her husband Dean Gawith at his going away reception Friday afternoon in the cafeteria of Citizens Medical Center. Kellogg is moving to Granby, Colo. after working at the Family Center for Healthcare for nine years.

Deadline coming to file for farming disaster loans

The expiration date for filing applications for Emergency Disaster loans by farmers and ranchers in Gove, Logan, Scott, Thomas and Wichita counties is Monday, Sept. 9, according to Dwight A. Jurey, Farm Loan Manager, for the Farm Service Agency.

Jurey said those needing farm credit as a result of drought from Nov. 15 on and who think they are eligible for assistance, should apply at the Farm Service County Office, 1015 W. Second in Oakley, before the expiration date.

"Loans covering physical and/or production losses are scheduled for repayment as rapidly as feasible, consistent with the applicant's reasonable ability to pay," said Jurey. The current interest rate is 1.50 percent but is subject to monthly changes until the loan is approved.

Ranchers get help on pastures

Has the stress and worry of the present drought caused you to question the way in which you make management decisions on the grazing lands you operate?

Over the past couple of growing seasons, statements often heard are "I don't like the way my pastures look" or "I sure have had an increase in weedy-type plants" since the drought has been in place. Both are indications that ranchers are concerned about the plant communities in their pastures.

With droughts which have staying power, the stress to both the land and the manager can accumulate. The answer is to gain a better understanding of how climate and

plant communities interact with one another.

The Kansas Graziers Association along with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Kansas Farmers Union will hold a one-day drought-plan-writing workshops Tuesday at the conservation service's Conference Center at 747 Duvall, Salina.

Presenters include: conservation service Range Specialists David Kraft, Dwayne Rice and Doug Spencer. Also on the program is experienced rancher Ted Alexander, who has developed and implemented drought plans that have greatly benefited his ranch.

Attendees will be encouraged to:

• Identify critical decision dates at their ranch location.

• Pinpoint decisions which they can make before actual drought conditions are present.

• Seek the development of a ranch forage inventory which is the benchmark for fine tuning all decisions on the ranch.

The workshop will begin at 9:30 a.m. and finish mid-afternoon. There is no cost. Lunch will not be provided; a break at noon is scheduled.

Space is limited, so please make reservations at kansagraziers.blogspot.com. For information contact Mary at kfu.mary@gmail.com or call (785) 562-8726.

Volunteer wheat stands grow in wet weather and need to be controlled

The recent wet weather through much of Kansas has caused volunteer wheat to emerge and grow rapidly, said Jim Shroyer, K-State Research and Extension crop production specialist. Wet soil conditions may keep producers out of the fields, or result in multiple flushes emerging, making it even more difficult than usual to control the volunteer.

To protect the state's planted wheat crop, volunteer wheat must be controlled, Shroyer said.

"Volunteer wheat within a half-mile of a field that will be planted to wheat should be completely dead at least two weeks before wheat planting," he said.

Volunteer wheat that emerges during the summer and is still present when planted wheat emerges creates numerous problems for the crop. Shroyer and K-State Research and Extension entomologist, Jeff Whitworth, reviewed some of the most serious potential problems.

• Wheat streak mosaic and associated viruses. The most important threat from volunteer wheat is the wheat streak mosaic virus complex, which is carried by the wheat curl mite. In most cases, infection can be traced to a nearby field of volunteer wheat, although there are other hosts, such as corn, millet, and many annual grasses, such as yellow foxtail and prairie cupgrass. Control of volunteer is the main defense against the wheat streak mosaic virus complex.

• Hessian fly. Hessian flies survive over the summer on wheat stubble. When the adults emerge, they can infest any volunteer wheat that may be present, which will keep the Hessian fly population alive and going through the upcoming crop season.

• Barley yellow dwarf. Volunteer wheat is a host of barley yellow dwarf virus, and the greenbugs and bird cherry oat aphids which carry it. In that respect, destroying volunteer helps reduce the reservoir for the barley yellow dwarf viruses. The aphids have to

pick up the BYD virus from an infected host plant first in order to become a carrier that can transmit the disease to wheat.

• Russian wheat aphid. This aphid can also infest volunteer wheat during the summer and move to planted wheat in the fall.

Another reason to control volunteer is that volunteer and other weeds use up large amounts of soil moisture, Shroyer said. When water storage is important, such as

in summer fallow, volunteer must be destroyed.

For those reasons and more, all volunteer wheat should be completely killed within a half-mile of wheat fields at least two weeks before planting, Whitworth said.

"It is important to wait two weeks after the volunteer has died before planting wheat. This will allow enough time for any insects or mites present on the volunteer wheat to leave the area or die be-

fore the new wheat emerges," the K-State entomologist said.

Destroying volunteer after the new wheat emerges is too late, he added. Producers should leave enough time to have a second chance if control is incomplete.

Where there is a heavy stand of volunteer, some producers may be tempted to leave it and graze it out or even harvest the grain next summer rather than kill it out.

"The best option is to control the

volunteer, then plant a new crop of wheat two weeks later rather than leave the volunteer for grazing or harvest," he said. "This will protect your planted wheat and help your neighbors by reducing the chances of wheat streak mosaic, barley yellow dwarf, Hessian fly, or Russian wheat aphid."

For information, see K-State publication MF-1004, Be a Good Neighbor: Control Your Volunteer at a local Extension office.

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