K-STATE Research and Extension | Doniphan County
Ag News

Upcoming Events of Interest
Things that farmers, gardeners, and ranchers may want to check out:

- Doniphan County Fair: July 20, 22-26
- "Chill on the Hill": Aug 3, Doniphan County Fairgrounds
- ~~2018 Farm Bill Meeting sponsored by Doniphan County Extension and FSA: Aug 7, details TBD~~
- Women In Ag: August 15, 6-8:30pm, Troy Community Building. Please RSVP to the Doniphan County Conservation District (785-985-2221x3) by August 9.
- 2018 Farm Bill Meeting sponsored by K-State: Sept 5, 1-4:30pm, Nemaha County Community Building, Seneca. Info at https://bit.ly/2ZBmIl9; RSVP online at https://bit.ly/2MTDsTi or call the office.

Details on local events will be posted on the county Extension website: www.doniphan.k-state.edu

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Updates on Prevent Plant and MFP
We've officially crossed into summer, though you wouldn't know it by the growth stages of most of our crops. The government is still sorting out exactly how to handle and assist farmers facing the challenge of late planted (or unplanted) acreages. K-State's Monte Vandeveer provided an update in late June on the Ag Radio Network (https://bit.ly/31Oyniy).

The federal government previously announced that Market Faciliatation Program (MFP) payments would be repeated this year, with equal payment rates per acre regardless of the crop planted (unlike in 2018). Rates would be different for different regions of the country, influenced by historical crop production yield or value. There has been no further suggestion of what rates might be; as some regions are still planting, the thought is that the government does not want to influence planting decisions by making their current estimates known.

It is required that a crop actually be planted to receive MFP payments. So what about those farmers who are simply unable to get into the field? Higher-ups have said that they're seeking "legal flexibilities" to allow payment on prevent plant acres that are eventually planted to some sort of eligible cover crop. No details yet on what an "eligible" cover crop would be, though it's probably nearly the same list as the RMA-allowable cover crops for prevent plant.

Relatedly, RMA has announced that the date for harvest or grazing of cover crops on prevent plant acres has been moved up from November 1 to September 1. This will be incredibly useful to farmers hoping to, at the very least, be able to feed their livestock this winter, even if they can't harvest a normal cash crop.

As always, as producers hear these updates and start planning their own crop year, run the ideas by your crop insurance agent to make sure you have the most accurate and most up-to-date rulings.

Post-emergence marestail and pigweed control in soybean fields
https://bit.ly/2X1CMQA

Controlling marestail or pigweeds post-emergence in soybeans is always easier when the weeds are small – less than 2 inches tall is preferable for good control. Once weeds get taller, they are often considerably more difficult to control. However, conditions are not always conducive to getting optimal post-emergence weed control. The wet weather in many areas this spring may cause weeds in some fields to get larger than you intended. The following are some suggestions for controlling these weeds post-emergence in soybeans.

Marestail

Marestail tend to be difficult to control even when the plants are small and in the rosette stage, but become even tougher when plants get more than 6 inches tall (Figure 1). That is why fall and early burndown treatments are critical to the long-term management of marestail. Unfortunately, that

doesn't always happen. In addition, some marestail have developed glyphosate resistance in many areas. However, some marestail populations are still susceptible to glyphosate, and even resistant plants are not completely immune to glyphosate.

If Xtend soybeans are planted, Xtendimax, FeXapan, or Engenia should be some of the most effective herbicides for post-emergence control of marestail in soybeans. Remember that Xtendimax, FeXapan and Engenia can only be applied to Xtend soybeans.

If Liberty Link soybeans were planted, Liberty (glufosinate) also is fairly effective for marestail control, but requires higher spray volumes and good coverage for best results. The addition of ammonium sulfate is essential to optimize Liberty performance. It is important to remember that Liberty can only be applied post-emergence on Liberty Link soybeans.

The most effective herbicide treatment for controlling marestail in Roundup Ready soybeans is probably a tank-mix of glyphosate plus FirstRate. The combination of the two herbicides seems to work better than either herbicide alone, even on resistant plants. It is important to use the full labeled rates of glyphosate and recommended adjuvants, including ammonium sulfate, to optimize control and help minimize the risk of developing more resistance. Other tank-mixes to consider with glyphosate for controlling marestail would include Classic and Synchrony herbicides. Unfortunately, some marestail may also be ALS resistant, in which case FirstRate, Classic, and Synchrony would also be fairly ineffective. This just further emphasizes the importance of early spring weed control.

Waterhemp and Palmer amaranth

If pre-emergence herbicides weren't applied or didn't get activated in a timely manner, early-emerging waterhemp or Palmer amaranth may not have been controlled and can grow rapidly. Again, if Xtend soybeans were planted, the new dicamba products Xtendimax, Engenia, and FeXapan are an option to help control broadleaf weeds, including the pigweeds. However, just as with other post-emergence pigweed treatments, the pigweeds need to be less than 3 to 4 inches tall to achieve optimal control.

Likewise, Liberty herbicide can be used in Liberty Link soybeans to help control small pigweeds. Liberty is also most effective on smaller weeds and again, requires higher spray volumes to achieve good coverage and weed control. A sequential application of Liberty 7 to 10 days after the first application may be required for good control, especially on larger plants.

Flexstar, Cobra, Marvel, and Ultra Blazer can be fairly effective for controlling small pigweed, but are less effective as the pigweed gets larger, especially Palmer amaranth. Some waterhemp and Palmer amaranth also may have developed resistance to this class of herbicides, but size still seems to be a factor, even on resistant populations. These herbicides also provide some residual weed control, so tank-mixes of these herbicides with glyphosate should be applied within 3 weeks after planting to optimize performance in Roundup Ready soybeans. Producers may try to cut the rates of these herbicides to reduce soybean injury. However, lower rates of these burner herbicides still cause similar soybean burn symptoms and weed control is often reduced.

Pursuit and Harmony were once fairly effective for pigweed control and can still provide good control of susceptible populations, but many fields now have ALS-resistant waterhemp and Palmer amoaranth.

Residual herbicides such as Zidua, Anthem Maxx, Outlook, Dual Magnum, and Warrant can also be added to any of the previously mentioned post-emergence herbicides to provide some extended residual control of pigweeds. This may be especially helpful if a good rate of residual herbicide was not used earlier or with heavy pigweed pressure. Prefix and Warrant Ultra herbicides are premixes of Reflex and Group 15 herbicides than can provide both post-emergence control of small pigweeds along with extended residual control.

Spreadsheet / Analysis Tool for Prevent Plant

Monte Vandeveer at K-State put together this downloadable spreadsheet tool to help determine the most economical options for corn.

https://bit.ly/2ZIXamk

Soggy Cows? Health Considerations for Livestock During Wet Weather

The pain and frustration of the overly wet weather goes beyond crop farmers unable to get out in the field. Those wanting to harvest hay (and those of us wanting to buy that hay) are also struggling to get forage out of the field and maintain decent quality. And, those of us managing animals are finding some additional challenges.

Wet conditions promote certain challenges

Animals standing out in wet fields or in wet barns are at increased risk of foot and leg issues, notably footrot and thrush. Far more of my goat herd has been some level of "gimpy" since the start of spring, most often in my herds grazing heavily treed lots where the sun cannot dry out the soil. Wet conditions lead to softened hooves and flesh, making it easier for bacteria to get in. I've seen my first cases of true contagious footrot, the kind that rots out the spaces between toes, as well as many cases of the less severe wet 'crud' that can show up. My goats on very brushy pastures are suffering more from thorns, which are easily able to puncture the softened soles of their feet.

Footrot in small ruminants is best controlled through use of injectable antibiotics, hoof baths, and proper trimming. Every producer will need to find their viable balance of time, energy, and facilities. In an ideal world, the hooves are trimmed to eliminate pockets of dead tissue, 'flaps' of overgrown hoof wall, and other areas where dirt, mud, and bacteria can build up. The infected hoof/hooves should be soaked in a solution of copper or zinc sulfate – however it's hard for most of us to keep an entire herd or flock in a soaking tub for a reasonable amount of time. A secondary option is a topical spray or ointment like Kopertox or Hoof 'N Heal. Injection with a systemic antibiotic such as LA-200 (oxytetracycline) will also help fight off infection, and according to at least one study, is the single most important part of treatment. Luckily it's also the easiest and least labor-intensive! My current treatment regimen involves watching for any goats who go lame, and catching them for a hoof trim. I pull out any thorns or foreign objects, and make sure any diseased tissue is cut away. They then get a squirt of Kopertox on the worst spots, or sprayed with BluKote on other lesser areas. If there was clear infection (rather than the blackish gunk or white powdery indicators of low-grade thrush), they get injectable antibiotics. I also have found many to self-correct simply when moved to a pasture that gets a lot more sun, or is better-drained.

For cattle, antibiotic treatment alone is the most common. The management aspects all apply though – avoid keeping cattle in pastures where they'll stand in wet areas for long, and provide a good mineral supplement.

Flies are also extra bothersome

The damp conditions have made for a tremendous fly population. I know around my farm, that my inability to get my barns adequately cleaned has made this even worse. All the rain also makes fly sprays somewhat less effective; even the "water-resistant" ones can only handle being poured on so much. And while forage growth has been a bit slower than normal, most cool-season grasses have headed out. Clipping seedheads is probably one of the lowest priority activities for tractors these days, on the few days it's dry enough to do fieldwork. All of these combine to make a great environment for pinkeye infections. Be on the lookout for clouded or infected eyes, and treat as fast as possible. Consider fly tags or fly control in mineral mixes rather than pour-ons. Long-lasting oxytetracyclines are generally effective against the pinkeye organism. I've had pretty good success with squirting LA-200 directly into the eye (and when the cow is that blind, it's relatively easy to do). ToDay or ToMorrow (mastitis treatment tubes) are also pretty cheap and effective eyedrops – I've used them lots on goats. When feasible, keeping the eye sheltered (with a patch or sutures) can help pinkeye from worsening.

It's already been a rough year. With some extra attentive management and an eye to prevention, hopefully we can keep livestock illnesses from adding to the struggles.