

### Upcoming Events of Interest

Things that farmers, gardeners, and ranchers may want to check out:

- March 5: DP Co Ag Breakfast, Troy community building. RSVP to Conservation Office by Feb 28.  
<https://bit.ly/32uSd3h>
- March 6: K-State Cattlemen's Day, Weber Hall, Manhattan campus.  
<https://bit.ly/37Wxzdi>
- March 14: Junior Sheep Producer Day, Weber Hall, Manhattan campus.  
<https://bit.ly/3a41PED>
- March 21: K-State Sheep Day, Stanley Stout Center, Manhattan campus.  
<https://bit.ly/2TIIHfJ>

Details on local events will be posted on the county Extension website:

[www.doniphan.k-state.edu](http://www.doniphan.k-state.edu)

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### 2020 Kansas Non-Irrigated Farm Lease Survey

*Leah J. Tsoodle, Land Use Survey Center*

Understanding lease arrangement trends and changes is important to help Kansas agricultural landowners and operators make informed decisions. This survey collects information on Kansas non-irrigated farm lease arrangements for the 2019-2020 crop year. Please answer any portion of these questions that you can. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete. Your input is crucial to provide reliable, accurate information.

The survey can be accessed at <http://www.tinyurl.com/ksdryland>. The survey will be open until the end of April.

Response to this survey is voluntary, and your response will be kept confidential. If you know of anyone else who can answer questions from the survey, please share this email or the link to the survey with them. If you have any questions or would like a paper copy of the survey, then please do not hesitate to contact me at [ltsoodle@ksu.edu](mailto:ltsoodle@ksu.edu) or the Center at 785-532-3509.

*(Margaret's note – many people ask me for lease rates, rental values, etc. I get my information from the results of surveys like this – so if you'd like accurate information, please contribute!*

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### New Seed Treatment Available to Reduce Damage from Sudden Death Syndrome in Soybeans

Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) and the associated crop disease sudden death syndrome (SDS) are common sights in Doniphan county crop fields. Most of our local soils have significant levels of SCN, and I reviewed sampling techniques a few newsletters ago. Different soybean varieties have different inherent resistances to SCN and SDS, though within the past decade or so, one of the most common resistance genes has begun to fail. Farmers have turned to seed treatments such as ILeVO (Bayer CropScience) to reduce outbreaks of SDS in their soybeans. A new product is coming available in 2020: Saltro, released by Syngenta Crop Protection. Extension professionals used Saltro next to ILeVO in an experimental planting trial in the River Valley District this past year, and are reporting the results now.

The field had a history of SDS and SCN levels were tested prior to planting. Along with a control (no treatment) strip, Saltro was tested alone, with Avicta or Clariva (other nematicide products), and ILeVO was tested alone. After planting, foliar symptoms of SDS were evaluated every 5-6 days after first sighting and used to calculate an overall disease level. Yields were determined for each replication.

Plant population was lower in ILeVO treated areas compared to all others at first, but not by the end of the trial. SDS severity was greatest in the control treatment, as expected, and did not differ between the experimental treatments. Yield was lowest for the control treatment, as expected; yield did not differ between any of the Saltro treatments (i.e. adding Activa or Clariva to Saltro did not improve yield over Saltro alone). There was a slight yield advantage of Saltro over ILeVO.

The take-home message from the researchers is as follows:

The addition of Saltro as another tool to combat SDS is great news for growers who need to manage SDS on a regular basis. It is not known from this study if Saltro will reduce Soybean Cyst Nematode as successfully as ILeVO has done in previous research. Regardless, this data indicates that both products can significantly reduce the severity of SDS and increase soybean yields.

Incorporating either of these two seed treatments, in combination with a partially resistant variety, has the potential to greatly reduce the yield loss due to SDS, and increase the profitability of soybeans production.

The full report can be found on the agronomy website: <https://bit.ly/32uH2r0>

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## Learning from Corn Yield Contest Data

Several crop producers in this corner of the state participate in the yield contests. In addition to getting bragging rights for the farmers, K-State agronomists like to look at the contestants and winners to see why they might've won. They analyzed data like seeding rate, row spacing, crop protection chemical use, fertilizer rates, and more to identify practices associated with the highest yields.

Some of these practices include:

- Use of pre- *and* post-emergence herbicides
- Higher seeding rates (over 30,000 seeds/ac)
- Use of fungicide, insecticide, *and* starter fertilizer
- Higher rates of N application
- Use of irrigation

It's impossible to say whether any of these practices were directly responsible for the increases in yield, but it is interesting to take note of some of the different practices. The full report can be found on the agronomy website: <https://bit.ly/2PrrBuy>

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## 2018 Farm Bill Program Selection

There's not much time left to enroll for Farm Bill program selections! If you do not enroll on your own, your farm will default to the decision made for the 2014 farm bill – but you will not get any payment for the 2019 crop.

K-State has released a few more updates on projected prices and payments.

Remember that PLC is contingent entirely based on marketing year average (MYA) crop prices, which aren't determined until long after harvest and program selection. K-State does provide estimates, which are updated monthly. The most recent (Feb 25) estimates for the 2019 marketing year put corn at \$3.78/bu and soybeans at \$8.76/bu. PLC payments only trigger if the MYA price is below a reference price - \$3.70/bu for corn and \$8.40/bu for soybeans.

ARC-CO payments are based on a combination of county yields and MYA prices. If the total revenue (yield x price) is below a threshold level, payments are triggered. That threshold, called the benchmark revenue, is the product of the five-year Olympic average county yield and the five-year Olympic average MYA price. Basically, the formula asks whether this year's profit was significantly below the usual. Thus it's impossible to say that "below X price" or "below Y yield" that ARC-CO will pay. The best estimate uses knowledge of the most recent harvest, plus estimates of the MYA price associated with that harvest. Right now, for soybeans in Doniphan county, the benchmark revenue below which ARC pays is \$616.32/ac (64 bu/ac x \$9.63/bu). For non-irrigated corn, it's \$747.22/ac (202bu/ac x \$3.70/bu). For irrigated corn, it's \$791.65/ac (214bu/ac x \$3.70/bu).

K-State Ag Economist Robin Reid does a great job of explaining the relationships between the prices, yields, and payouts in a video posted to

the AgManager.info website. See <https://bit.ly/2T0TMmh>.

At this moment, using best **\*estimates\*** for 2019 yield and MYA prices, producers are unlikely to get any payouts from ARC-CO or PLC for 2019 crops. A recent map of the state was released that looks at each county's potential payment rate, and it looks like Doniphan's current estimated yield is far above what would trigger an ARC payment.

<https://bit.ly/37VbOL3>

I have had some individuals ask about the ARC-IC program. Unlike ARC-CO, ARC-IC uses farm yields, not county yields, to determine whether a crop's revenue was low enough to trigger a payment. If your farm was either flooded and planting was prevented, or if you were impacted significantly by hailstorms, it's worth looking at. There are some different parameters and restrictions – payment is only given on 65% of base acres; all acres in a given FSA farm number must be enrolled in ARC-IC (no picking and choosing what to enroll each crop in), but I have spoken to a few individuals who are likely to get ARC-IC payments this year. Feel free to stop by the office (please remember I'm only in on Wednesdays anymore!) or email me the necessary information and I'll complete the estimates. For this I need to know crop yields and planted acres from 2013 through 2019, and farm base acres. My email is [mchamas@ksu.edu](mailto:mchamas@ksu.edu).

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