

Upcoming Events of Interest

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

- Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training: Nov 12-14, Salina. <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/pesticides-ipm/>
- KSU Swine Day: Nov 21, Manhattan. www.KSUswine.org

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

Consider sampling now for soybean cyst nematode

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After harvest is an excellent time to soil sample for the soybean cyst nematode (SCN). Currently, 58 of Kansas's 105 counties are known to be infested (Figure 1).

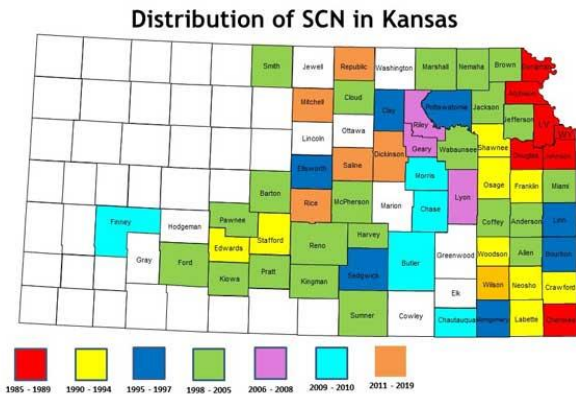


Figure 1. Current map of Kansas counties with known soybean cyst nematode infestations. Map created by Doug Jardine, K-State Research and Extension.

In fields currently infested, knowing your nematode population numbers is an excellent way to determine if your management plan is working. If numbers are

going up, you know that the population of nematodes in your field have overcome the resistance in the most recently planted soybean variety and that use of that variety should be discontinued in infested fields. Sampling the soil in a known infested field is very similar to collecting a soil fertility sample. You will need a soil probe, a bucket, and a little elbow grease (Figure 2). Walk a “Z” or “W” pattern across the field. If the field was in soybeans in 2019, collect the cores from directly in the row, since that is where the nematodes are most likely to be found. One difference from fertility sampling is that the probe should be inserted to a depth of 6 – 8 inches. Collect 18 - 24 cores in the bucket. Mix the soil thoroughly, and then remove about a pint for the actual sample. Soil can be placed into the same type of white sampling bag used for fertility samples or into a re-sealable, gallon-size plastic bag. Avoid freezing the soil or exposing it to excessive heat after collection. For fields with no history of SCN, you should concentrate on areas of the field that might be hot spots (Figure 3). Other than targeting potential hot spots, the sampling procedure is the same as outlined above.

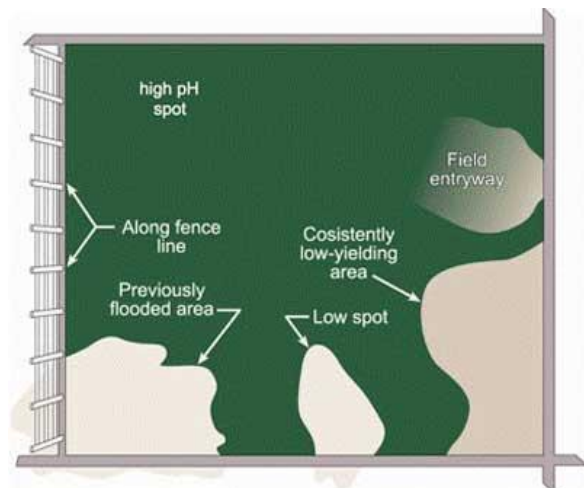


Figure 3. Hot spots in fields where soybean cyst nematodes are likely to be found. Photo courtesy of the Soybean Cyst Nematode Coalition.

Samples can be taken to any K-State Research and Extension county office for shipping. They can also be sent directly to the K-State Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory:

1712 Claflin Rd
4024 Throckmorton PSC
Manhattan, KS 66506

The Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab currently has a grant from the Soybean Cyst Nematode Coalition that allows us to provide free testing for SCN soil samples. Keep in mind that if you are too busy to sample this fall, any time is a good time to sample for SCN. Unlike other nematodes that move up and down in the soil profile depending on the season, the cysts are always there and move only with tillage. For more information, visit the SCN Coalition website at www.thescncoalition.com.

(Side note from Margaret – fall is an excellent time to do general nutrient soil testing as well! We have the bags and forms in the office, and can generally get a better/lower cost shipping rate if you come through us. The sampling guidelines for regular soil tests are a bit different than for SCN testing – read more here: <https://bit.ly/2VXKM1e>).

Livestock Prep for Winter

The Farmer's Almanac is calling for another cold and wet winter. If your farms were anything like mine, last year was full of expenses for extra bedding, extra feed, extra meds, and extra stress as I tried to keep all my animals dry, comfortable, and fed. Sadly, late fall is hardly a great time to start preparing winter livestock care – there's so many other things going on! But for when you get a rainy day, here are some things that might be worth thinking about.

- Who: first, sadly perhaps, is – are all those mouths worth it? Is it worth sending some poorer-doing animals to auction or butcher? I know about what it cost me to feed and keep an average animal (goats in my case more than cows) last year. With that in mind, I'm considering each of the mouths in my pasture, and whether they're worth it.
- What: second is, what are you going to feed, and to who? Can you split groups up into animals who need more (or less) feed or can you split by quality required? Do you have enough hay on

hand, and if not, what else can you bring in? Stalks are a great option for those with access to them, and it might be worth investing in some electric fencing and step-in posts to take advantage of this resource. Meanwhile, can you take advantage of any other feed resources, such as distillers grains, spent brewers grains, or something else?

- Where: where animals are fed, or at least the conditions in which animals are fed, makes a difference. Last year the theme was MUD, and it might be similar this year. If things don't nicely freeze, is there a dry/high/rocky spot you can feed cattle on? For the future, consider a rocked lot or feeding area – NRCS/EQIP and possibly WRAPS will help cost-share these projects, as they benefit livestock, soil, and water quality.
- When: a recent study from K-State looked at the characteristics of profitable cattle producers across the state. One item of note was that low costs, rather than high gross profits, were associated with greater net profitability and profit per cow. Feed costs (not including pasture) were approximately 40-45% of total costs, and the most profitable herds tended to have the lowest feed costs per cow. Interestingly, they did not have the lowest pasture costs per cow. Grazing is a lot cheaper than feeding hay. Renting additional crop or pasture ground may be a good alternative to buying more hay.
- Why: along with who you're feeding to, know why you're feeding those animals each feed. Are you trying to increase BCS before calving or rebreeding? Are you maintaining current condition? Once your goals are set, work with a nutritionist or extension agent to determine if your current feeding regimen is sufficient to provide the nutrients required to reach those goals.

Some more reading on the K-State beef cattle studies, and winter preparations:

- Winter prep from On Pasture: <https://bit.ly/2PqdRkw>
- KFMA: A Snapshot of Kansas Cow-Calf Producers: <https://bit.ly/2WIR2Qp>
- KFMA Cow-Calf Factsheet – Feed and Pasture Management: <https://bit.ly/2JvYm6R>

Invasive Asian bush honeysuckle can be controlled in the fall

Asian bush honeysuckle is an invasive species that is slowly taking over Kansas landscapes, negatively impacting wildlife habitat and decreasing local ecosystem functionality.

“There are many options when it comes to controlling bush honeysuckle,” said Ryan Armbrust, forest health forester with the Kansas Forest Service, adding that fall presents an ideal opportunity to identify and treat the invasive species.

“Bush honeysuckle is one of the last woody plants in our Kansas landscapes to drop leaves in the fall. Combined with the bright red fruit the plant puts on, bush honeysuckle is easy to spot starting in early November,” Armbrust said.

As other plants go dormant in early and late fall, bush honeysuckle remains active. Chemical treatment in the fall is an effective option when controlling large stands with minimal to no damage to desirable plants while they are in a dormant state.

Large stands of bush honeysuckle can easily be chemically treated with the use of a backpack mist blower, Armbrust said. Mist blowing offers effective control at a low cost per acre by decreasing the time spent and possibly the cost of chemicals. A backpack mist blower allows for quick treatment of large areas without a decrease in effectiveness. It is common to treat one to two acres per hour effectively with little impact on non-target species when applied in the late fall.



To assist in chemical treatment, KFS has two backpack mist blowers that are available for loan to private landowners, contractors, or other state and federal agencies. Contact Armbrust at rarmbrust@ksu.edu to request a mist blower.

More information about the chemical treatment of Asian bush honeysuckle can be found in a publication through the K-State Research and Extension Bookstore (<https://bit.ly/2BNEAPR>).