

Corn is down, but still popular

About ag
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Over the last couple of years, dryland corn production has taken it on the chin. The drought has decreased yields and given corn a bad name with some. However, producers still have some varying degree of interest in the crop and ways to improve production.

One of the major costs of corn production is nitrogen. Many questions arise in no-till production about what is the best time to apply nitrogen and what is the best method of application.

To answer these questions a study funded by the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation and Kansas Fertilizer Research Fund was initiated at five locations in Norton, Rawlins, Thomas, Wallace, and Greeley counties. Application methods of broadcast, surface dribble, and sub-surface injected were used at the application timings of pre-plant, pre-emergence, and after planting to apply 0, 30, 60, 90, and 120 lbs of nitrogen/A. Droughty conditions decreased the utility of the information, but there was some useful information obtained.

Although yields were low, an early pre-plant application of nitrogen produced greater early growth at 50% of the sites, with a trend towards more growth at the other sites. A broadcast nitrogen application produced greater early season growth than injected nitro-

gen at two sites, while at the other sites there was no difference in plant growth due to application method.

This study did not yield the amount of useful information it could have if weather conditions would have been better, but it will be continued for the next couple of years. If there are producers willing to cooperate with K-State on this project by allowing us the use of the land, please call me at 785-443-1264. I would like to have two sites in our area.

If you would like a copy of the results, please download "Nitrogen Management for No-till Dryland Corn in the Central Great Plains" by clicking on the icon Block 2 Yield Results at the Web site: www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2, or a copy can be acquired at your local extension office. Please e-mail me at bolson@oznet.ksu.edu if you have any questions or would like to see a newspaper article on a specific crop production topic.

Fall most common agriculture accident

Falls are the most common accident in agriculture accounting for as many as one-third of all farm injuries.

Falls happen quickly and unexpectedly.

For older farmers, falls are especially troublesome. Safety experts estimate that one in three Americans over the age of 65 suffer a fall each year.

Winter signals the beginning of a particularly hazardous time for falls on the farm. To help minimize the risks, here are several recommendations.

*Wear warm boots with rubber soles for added traction. Put those slick-soled cowboy boots away until spring.

*If the sidewalk or gravel look slippery, walk on the grass. You will likely get better traction.

*Carry a small bag of rock salt, sand, or kitty litter in your pocket or car. Sprinkle it on slick spots when you find them.

Home ed
Tranda Watts,
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*Enter buildings carefully. Floors may be wet or icy and slick. Put down non-slip runners to increase traction. Use that rock salt, sand, or kitty litter on outside entrances, stairs and walks.

*Cover tractors with a tarp or store in a shed stormy weather to reduce ice on steps and ladders. If tractor steps get slick, clean them.

*Avoid walking onto icy ponds to chop ice. Use tank heaters, covers and insulation where ever possible around the farm.

If you have further questions about farm safety, contact your local County Extension or e-mail me at twatts@oznet.ksu.edu.

Couples and families can help mentor youth

By ERIN MANNING,
executive director

Some of my favorite childhood memories with my family include joking around after supper, playing cards or board games, and attending countless sporting events.

For children enrolled in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, being matched with a mentor could be as simple as enjoying those same activities with an adult role model.

One main goal of January's National Mentoring Month is to raise awareness of mentoring.

Traditionally when people think of Big Brothers and Big Sisters, they think of men — big brothers — mentoring boys and women — big sisters — mentoring girls. Many people are not aware that couples and families can volunteer too.

Couple matches consist of husband and wife volunteers. Many volunteers do not have children of their own or their children are grown. As a couple, you can choose to match with either a boy or girl.

Family matches consist of a couple volunteer with children. The whole family chooses to mentor a child.

For many little brothers and sisters, couple and family matches

are ideal. The majority of children enrolled in the program have little or no contact with an absent parent. It's a positive experience for these children to be part of a family. Enjoying simple activities such as eating supper together, playing games and joking around are important to them.

As with any match, volunteers select a child who will work well with them. Part of the volunteer process includes discussing preferences on age, comprehension level, home situation, activities and interests.

For families, it's important to consider which little brother or sister would work well with their own children.

Big brothers and sisters come from different backgrounds. Some are in high school, and some are retired. They may be traditional or they may be couple or family matches. Despite any differences they may have, all volunteers share one common goal. They want to make a difference in the life of a child.

You could mentor for a child right here in Norton County.

Articles on mentoring will appear throughout January in honor of National Mentoring Month. For more information regarding the program, call 874-4200.

Undeck the Halls



Unwrapping the town, city crews removed Christmas decorations from municipal buildings and from the street lights using a bucket truck. Decorations will be stored for use next year. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Sheriff, commissioners look at savings

(Continued from Page 1) the county.

"We're funding KBI, every one of us," Sheriff Thomson said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Received a bid for used trailers to haul trash. The bids were for \$23,000 and \$34,000. The commissioners said they would needed the bids to see what this type of equipment would cost in case the county should need to

haul municipal trash. At this time a private contractor does the hauling.

• Passed a resolution authorizing the sale of \$1 million in general obligation bonds. The money will be used to pay for needed bridge repairs and replacements in the county.

• Approved payment of dues for the League of Kansas Municipalities and the National Association of Counties.

• OK'd paying the county's share of the district coroner's salary. Norton County pays 22 percent of the salary based on the number of people, who live in the county. The cost is \$568

• Held an election of officers. Commissioner Leroy Lang was elected chairman and former chairman John Miller was elected as vice chairman for 2004.

• Selected *The Norton Telegram* as the county's official publication

for legals and The First Security Bank & Trust Company of Norton and Lenora, The Bank, Norton; First State Bank of Norton, and the Almena State Bank of Norton and Almena were approved as official county depository banks.

• Decided to keep the mileage reimbursement for county travel at 36.5 cents per mile which was also

• Reviewed payroll and authorized a 2.5 percent cost of living raise for full-time employees.

WILSONVILLE NEWS

By VELMA HOLTZE

Bob and Connie Holliday and Delbert and Laurie Laws rang in the new year together. Mrs. Holliday fixed supper and the two couples played cards until almost midnight.

Austin Anderson, Elwood, was the guest at his grandparents Ron and Dee Anderson on Thursday this past week. On Friday Austin spent the night with his grandparents, Delbert and Laurie Laws. The Laws took him home on Saturday.

Adeline Ballou was a New Year's Day dinner guest of her son, Brad Ballou and family at Hendley.

Dean and Margaret Brown joined their granddaughter, Anita Propes, grandson, Scott Propes and friend, Christina Felker, of McCook at their daughter Deanna and Bob Propes' home for New Year's Day dinner.

TAX TIME

Don't forget those quarterly taxes need paid by **Thursday, Jan. 15**. Lots of things have changed for printing forms from

the Internet this year so make sure you check with the Internal Revenue Service.

HOLTZE FAMILY

The annual winter get together of the Holtze family was held at the Hampton Inn beginning with a cooperative dinner on Jan. 3 hosted by Ivalene Simmons and her family, Russell and Michelle Simmons, Hays; Richard and Heather Simmons and children, North Platte; James Simmons, Oshkosh; and Caroline Wolf, Chris and Caden Ericson, Holdrege.

Others attending were Russell, Kendra Hoagland and Jake, Hastings; LaVern, Rhonda Banzhaf and family, Brad, Renee Holtze and boys, Justin and Jolene Miller and family, Margene Holtze, Cambridge; Jim, Becky Holtze and Janene, Brian Holtze, Kenneth and Carla Holtze and Velma Holtze. Wilsonville; and Lyndzee Claus, Arapahoe.

The younger generation especially enjoyed the swimming pool and the piñata. Angels was the theme, including the decorations

and before they left for home each guest selected a little angel as their remembrance of the day. However, they also learned that each had a name of a family member and for the next year they are to be that person's angel.

Several families left for home that evening while eight families remained overnight making a weekend of it. Some of those stayed and attended church services with Richard's and enjoyed dinner together at their home.

FIRST SNOWFALL OF 2004

Three days into January and everyone is grateful for the first snowfall across the state. In this area three to four inches fell with no wind, which makes for one of those picturesque snows. There were no church services in Wilsonville on Sunday because of conditions Saturday night.

BENEFIT

A few people from Wilsonville attended the benefit dinner in Cambridge sponsored by the Cambridge Catholic Church for Leon O'Brein's family on Sunday.

Colleen Ballou and Mary Palmer returned to Lincoln on Dec. 29 because of their father, Leon O'Brein's condition. Brent Ballou and children and Doug Palmer and children drove to Lincoln on New Year's Day retuning home that evening. Carolyn, Leon's wife, was raised at Wilsonville and after their marriage they established their first home here. Now, two of their four daughters live here, Mary Palmer and Colleen Ballou.

City talks about options for its trash

(Continued from Page 1) sibility of taking trash there.

Mr. Hawks emphasized that the city only wanted to talk with Phillips County and that the city wanted to take its trash to the Norton County landfill if possible.

In other business, the council:

- Announced Tim Millan was the city employee of the month.
- Voted against a motion to move the beer garden at the races to the west end of the open bleachers as requested by Don and Paula Bolt.

• Passed a resolution requiring a minimum \$4 electricity fee for chargers at the Norton Airport.

• Voted to extend the city waterline on KQNK Road to the point east of Larry Enfield's property. Mr. Enfield will pay for materials and the city will provide the labor.

• Passed an ordinance annexing city-owned land north of the power plant.

Commissioners talk to department heads

(Continued from Page 1) day, Jan. 19, and runs through June.

• Learned that there were five ambulance calls over the weekend including one patient, who would normally have been flown out but could not be because of the roads.

The patient, who was in a wreck south of Norton was critical and the ambulance took them to

Kearney at about 30 miles an hour, Acting Emergency Medical Services Director Andy Neilsen said.

• Talked to Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan about the work his crew has been doing on the roads and the snow, which fell on Sunday.

"This moisture is the best thing for our roads," Mr. Brannan said. "We're just like the farmers, we

need the moisture."

Minutes of the meeting can be found on the county web site at www.nortoncountysks.org.

