

# Moisture, weather gives farmers some optimism

**About ag**  
**Brian Olson,**  
**K-State**  
**agronomist**



When producers look across their wheat fields, they see good stands with the potential for a great crop. Moisture over the winter has been sufficient to carry wheat through, while air temperatures have not been bitterly cold. All of this has led some farmers to have, dare I say, optimism about their wheat.

However, there is plenty that can go wrong from now until harvest and in that respect, it is important for farmers to control the variables they can that could limit potential wheat yield. One of these variables is nitrogen.

In the past during this time of year I have written an article about top dressing wheat, and every year, I see farmers top dressing their wheat later than when it would realistically do them any good. Wheat needs to have nitrogen top dressed a minimum of two to three weeks before it starts jointing.

In this two- to three-week period, nitrogen will have a chance to move with precipitation down to the roots of wheat where it can be easily taken up. If the application of additional nitrogen is delayed to when wheat is jointing,

the farmer will not see the yield increase anticipated. Instead, the wheat will likely have a higher protein content.

Many producers like to wait to apply nitrogen so they can add herbicide with it. This is a good way to minimize trips across the field, but by waiting to put both on until mid-April the opportunity to maximize wheat yields with additional nitrogen will have slipped away. Instead, the additional nitrogen will likely be acting as an adjuvant in maximizing weed control rather than wheat yields.

So when will the wheat go to joint? There is no specific date I can provide. Initiation of jointing is related to the weather, wheat variety, and when it was planted. A bitterly cold winter and cool spring will delay jointing, while in a mild winter and spring it will likely start earlier than normal. As

for wheat varieties, some like Jagger tend to start jointing earlier.

Realistically, I would suspect for this area jointing will start by the end of March. Farmers need to apply additional nitrogen to wheat no later than mid-March. An additional 30 to 40 pounds per acre of nitrogen top dressed has the potential to increase wheat yields by 15 to 25 bushels per acre.

For more information on top dressing wheat and calculating the amount of nitrogen and other nutrients wheat needs, a publication entitled "Wheat Production Handbook" will be very useful. This can be downloaded at [www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2) under the "Production and Pests" page, or visit your local county extension office to acquire a hard copy.

Brian Olson is Kansas State University extension agronomist for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties. E-mail [bolson@oznet.ksu.edu](mailto:bolson@oznet.ksu.edu) if you have any questions or would like to see a newspaper article on a specific crop production topic. For more information, contact the county extension office.



Leo Claassen of Leo's Sharpening Service from Richfield sharpened a pair of scissors Thursday afternoon. Leo sharpens everything from kitchen knives to mower and clipper blades. Thursday was the first of three days Leo will be in Norton. He'll be working today until 5 p.m. and then tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

## Police department gets new officer

A new officer has joined the ranks of the Norton Police Department.

Officer Asa Stiles officially started on Feb. 7. He came to Norton from Hays, where he recently graduated with a bachelors degree in criminal justice from Fort Hays State University. He also has an associates degree from Pratt Community College in elementary education. He is originally from Hanston.

Officer Stiles said he became a police officer because he was always interested in the law.

"I went into criminal justice not really knowing what I wanted to do," he said. "But, law enforcement was interesting."

He came to Norton not only because there was a job opening, but

also because his fiancé lives here. He said he found out about the job because his friend, who was also his roommate, saw it on a web page and told him about it.

Officer Stiles hasn't had any formal training yet, but plans on attending the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in July.

He said he has had some basic field training by going through the

local training course. He's been studying the city's statutes and will soon be certified to use a radar gun and a Taser. He has also done some mock work regarding accidents and reports, but hasn't actually done any real ones yet.

Officer Stiles said he thinks Norton is a nice town.

"Everybody's been really nice so far," he said.



Officer Stiles

## Deer cause most of February accidents

Deer on the roadways caused numerous accidents in Norton County in February.

On Feb. 4, Jo A. Lyon, 61, Norcatur, was driving east on U.S. 36 when a deer came out of the north ditch. She was unable to avoid the animal.

Damage to the 1994 Oldsmobile Cutless, she was driving, was estimated to be over \$1,000. Seatbelts were used and there were no injuries.

Scott E. Orcutt, 38, Cambridge, Neb., was driving west on U.S. 36 in a 2001 Ford Windstar on Feb. 11, when he hit a deer that came out of the south ditch. He was unable to avoid the deer which caused

damage that was estimated to be over \$1,000. Seatbelts were used and there were no injuries.

On Feb. 12, Gerald M. Cummings, 48, Norton, was driving east on U.S. 36 when he also hit a deer that came out of the south ditch. He was unable to avoid the animal which caused over \$1,000. In estimated damages to the 1991 Dodge Caravan, he was driving. Seatbelts were used and no injuries were reported.

Another deer accident happened on Feb. 24 when Paul Montoia, 79, Norton, was driving west on U.S. 36 in a 1998 Dodge. A deer came out of the north ditch and he was unable to avoid the

animal. Estimated damages were over \$1,000.

There were no injuries and seatbelts were used.

A non-injury accident on Feb. 24 involved Brianne R. Nelson, 16, Norton, and Elsworth LeBeau, 76, Norton. Mr. LeBeau was driving on West Washington and the Ms. Nelson failed to yield the right away while making a left hand turn.

Damage to both vehicles were estimated to be over \$1,000. Mr. LeBeau was not wearing a seatbelt, however Ms. Nelson was wearing hers. There were no injuries reported.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

**NORTON**  
Monday — Board of Education, 7:30 p.m.  
Monday, March 14 through Friday, March 18 — No school, spring break

**NORTHERN VALLEY**  
Saturday — Dance team performs at State Basketball at half-time of the 6:15 p.m. game  
Sunday — Students leave for New York/Washington D.C. Trip (March 13-March 21)

Monday — No school, spring break; Kansas severe weather awareness week; Post Prom meeting, 7 p.m., lunchroom, Almaena; School Board meeting, Almaena, conference room, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday — No school, spring break; AFLAC Rep here, 12:30 p.m. to 12:50 p.m., music room, Almaena; Parent/Teacher Conferences in Almaena, 1 to 5 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday — Site Base council meeting, 7 p.m., Conference room, Almaena

Thursday — Fifth and Eighth Grade Plays; Fifth Grade at 2 p.m. and 7:40 p.m.; Eighth Grade at 2:45 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Forensics Meet at Colby, 2 p.m.; Morning Almaena bus route evacuation

drills; Kansas assessment test  
Friday — Kansas assessment test; Morning Long Island bus route evacuation drills

Saturday — Big Brothers Big Sisters MAYB basketball tournament in Almaena, Norton and Lenora

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**Northern Valley Breakfast/Lunch Menus:**  
Monday — No school  
Tuesday — No school  
Wednesday — Breakfast: Pizza bagel, pineapple ring, cold cereal, milk; Lunch: Chicken enchilada, tossed salad with dressing, peas, butterscotch pudding, milk

Thursday — Breakfast: Peanut butter muffin, scrambled egg, grape juice, cold cereal, milk; Lunch: Ham-n-scalloped pota-

atoes, whole wheat roll, green beans, spice cake

Friday — Breakfast: Pancake/sausage bite/syrup, pear half, cold cereal, milk; Lunch: Fish sandwich, French fries, broccoli,

chocolate pudding  
**JENNINGS**

Monday, March 14 through Friday, March 18 — No school, spring break

**SECOND CHANCE HOMELESS PET SOCIETY**

**"Gemli" - Male black lab mix, 1-2 years old**

Dogs will be started with obedience training and housebreaking. Vaccinations and spay/neuter will be completed. There will be an adoption fee required for each dog.

**For more information contact**  
Linda, 785-877-5219  
Terry, 785-874-9672  
Kathy, 785-877-5651

**Fund Raising/Special Events**

Coordinate major special events and volunteers from a home-based office in multiple counties around the Colby and Norton areas. Prefer cold-call, event fundraising, sponsorship, community relations experience. Excellent communication and project follow-through required. Frequent travel. We offer excellent health benefits, paid vacation and holidays. Send cover letter, resume, salary req. and references to: American Cancer Society, Attn: Jennifer Oberding, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., Kansas City, MO 64105 or fax 816-842-1509. EOE

**PETS AT THE POUND ADOPTION:**

- 1 yr. old female Boxer/Shar-Pei mix
- 5 month old male Bluehealer and Border Collie mix
- 5 month old female Shepherd mix
- (2) 5 month old male Mastiff mix
- 1 yr. old female Calico

For more information call Sherry Hickman, Norton Animal Control at 874-4294  
Norton City Dog Pound, New location: 3/4 mile east on KQNK Road

**Donations Welcome!**

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In Honor of Our 3rd Year in Business We Will Be Serving Refreshments from 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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Additional taxes, surcharges and fees may apply, including a 56¢ Regulatory Cost Recovery fee and a 59¢ Telecom Connectivity fee. These fees are not taxes or government-required charges. Other surcharges may include federal and state mandated Universal Service Fund fees and a 911 fee of up to \$1.94. Limited-time offer at participating locations. Requires service agreement, credit approval and approved handset. \$200 early termination fee applies. Activation fees may apply. Other restrictions apply. Terms and conditions are available at Authorized Agent locations or [www.alltel.com](http://www.alltel.com).

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice of USD 294 School Election**

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, March 11, 2005. (1T)

**NOTICE OF CITY/SCHOOL GENERAL ELECTION STATE OF KANSAS — For Norton County —**

I, Marilyn Horn, County Clerk and Election Officer of Decatur County, do find the following named persons are entitled to a place on the official ballots for the School General Election to be held on the 5th of April, AD, 2005.

<b>USD 294 - 5</b> School District Member Dewayne Jackson, Oberlin Blank for Write-In	<b>USD 294 - 6</b> School District Member Chris Bailey, Oberlin Blank for Write-In	<b>USD 295 - At Large</b> School District Member Regular Term
Vote for One	Vote for One	

Vote for Three or Less

—No One Filed —  
Blank for Write-In  
Blank for Write-In  
Blank for Write-In

295 School District Member  
Unexpired Term

Vote for Two or Less  
Frances Bader, Jennings  
Blank for Write-In  
Blank for Write-In

Norton Registered Voters may vote at their regular polling place or ask for an Advanced Ballot from the Norton County Clerk/Election Office or vote there in person before Election Day.

In all places the polls will open at 7 o'clock AM and close at 7 o'clock PM. Witness my hand and seal this 4th day of March, 2005.

Marilyn Horn,  
Decatur County Clerk  
& Election Officer

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