

## Temperature changes slow down growth

Views  
with Van  
Keith VanSlike,  
Extension Director



The recent temperatures certainly caused some concern but the temperatures recently have slowed down any growth changes. I have been seeing some minimal damage with wheat but perhaps quite a bit more on alfalfa. As I look at the wheat I am seeing the wheat not as far along as I had thought earlier. There is some obvious leaf burn, some bleaching of some stems, some heavy lush areas have lodged down with some of those burned by frost but others just lodged due to their lush growth. These lodged areas may have some eventual stem damage as the crops mature. At this time I have looked at a lot of wheat in the southwest, northwest and northeast part of the county and I have only seen some symptoms related to superficial tissue leaf or stem damage.

Obvious symptoms to look for are: wheat leaves will turn brown due to the disruption of cell walls and there may be some silage odor; tillers will collapse near the joint; the growing point at first will appear to be healthy and then shrivel and turn off-white to brown. This may be caused directly by the freeze or indirectly by the lack of nutrients due to the collapsed stem. If the temperature remains cool; these symptoms will be slow to develop. The tiller, if damaged, will stay green but the growing point will not develop and secondary tillers will grow past the damaged ones.

To look for damage, pick up some plants by the roots and feel for the knot or "joint" down low on the stem. Take a knife and cut the stem the long way. As you're cutting, note the color of the areas. If they are light or lime-green and fresh looking, chances are everything is ok. If the stem area looks brown or has a water soaked mushy appearance, there may be some damage.

One thing in our favor is the moisture in the soil at this time and the tremendous ability for wheat to rejuvenate at this early stage.

Injury to the lower stems in the form of discoloration, roughness, lesions, splitting, collapse of inter-

nodes, and enlargement of nodes frequently occurs at the jointing stage and the following stages after freezing. Injured plants often break over at the affected areas of the lower stem so that one or two internodes are parallel to the soil surface.

Stem injury does not appear to seriously interfere with ability of the wheat plant to take up nutrients from the soil and translocate them to the developing grain. Injured areas might become infected by micro-organisms, however, which can cause further stem deterioration. Lodging, or falling over, of plants is the most serious problem following stem injury.

### Dry Corn

Within the past few years, corn has certainly been attractive in a dryland fallow system and a lot has been attributed to hybrid genetics, the popularity with corn over milo at harvest, and more yield potential in a wetter year with the increase in moisture, I looked up earlier data of a small plot. With the 3 replicated populations in the Norton County plots, we found that the 24,000 plants was the highest population at about 145 bushels per acre. The other plots were 120 bushels at 12,000; 135 bushels at 18,000 and 30,000 plants per acre. If you haven't tried an increase in population, take a few acres and try something for a couple of years to see what happens.

### Thinning Apples

The insecticide "Sevin" or generic carbaryl if applied after petals fall and within the next 2-3 weeks after can be effective in causing apples to be thinned. Many apple and crabapple types are susceptible to this. Always treat after petals fall due to bee toxicity. The label should give you the amount of product to put in solution.



Aaron Helm, Norcatur, admired the leather-bound certificate that recognized his appointment to West Point Military Academy.

Aaron leaves for school the last week of June.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Dream comes true for Norcatur youth

By CAROLYN PLOTTS  
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Ever since he was in junior high, Aaron Helm of Norcatur has dreamed of going to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He said a teacher in his gifted class set his mind to thinking about college and, in particular, the academy.

Now, thanks to a lot of hard work and some help from Rep. Jerry Moran and Kansas' two senators, that dream is about to come true. Aaron toured West Point last week and is preparing himself to report to school the last week of June. He says he plans to focus his studies on engineering and history. He received nominations to the academy from Congressman Moran and Sens. Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback.

Aaron, 18, a senior at Decatur Community High School in Oberlin, comes from a family with a long history of service in the military. He said his grandfather, John Helm, served in the Army during World War II, and his grandfather Robert Fossum is an Air Force veteran. An uncle Martin Rinehart was in the Navy and his uncles Jim, Fred and John Helm all served in the Army, as did his father, Mike Helm, a rural carrier for the Oberlin post office.

After he received a dictionary from the University of Kansas honors program, Aaron said, his

Uncle Jim, a former sergeant in the elite Green Berets, gave him a word of advice.

"Take a pair of scissors and just cut the word 'quit' out of it," his uncle told him, adding that he might get tired, but he should remember that the guy in charge is tired, too, and he has to keep going.

Aaron has been "going" for years. He is a long-time member of Star Valley 4-H Club, president of the Decatur Community High School National Honor Society, and a member of the school's Student Council. He is a student athlete, participating in cross country,

wrestling, weight club and D-Club. He has gone out for speech, band, honor band, Drama Club, the school play, attended Boys State and competed in Scholar Bowl. Aaron was a graduation usher, a homecoming escort, prom server and Halloween Clean-Up captain. He is also active in Catholic Youth Organization at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Oberlin, and the Sons of the American Legion. He was named a Putnam Scholar and a Kansas Hansen Scholar.

In addition to his busy academic life, Aaron works part-time at Creative Dimensions in Oberlin and

has helped his father remodel a house for his family. The oldest in a family of five, he has three brothers and a sister, plus his mother, Deb Helm.

Aaron said he is not worried about adjusting to the rigors of military life. He said he would remember his father's advice, "Keep your stuff straight."

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## Handgun training to be in Colby

A concealed-carry handgun training course will be offered from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday May 19 in Thomas Hall, Room 410 at Colby Community College.

The course is being taught by professional instructors from ProFire. Successful completion

of the course enables participants to submit application for Kansas Concealed Carry Certification.

The enrollment fee of \$145 includes a buffet lunch. To enroll call Barry Kaaz, 785-460-5429.

## Featured Homes of the Week

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Full Basement,  
Framed, Dbl. Car  
Garage,  
All Appliances,  
Except W/D.



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#4 PRAIRIE RIDGE ROAD — BACK VIEW

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Patio, CH/CA



603 SUNSET DRIVE



312 NORTH NORTON

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Bathroom; Second Floor-  
2 Bedrooms, Bathroom,  
Partial Basement, CH/CA,  
Attached Garage, Detached  
Carport, Storage Shed

Living Room, Dining  
Room, Eat-In Kitchen,  
2 Bedrooms,  
Bathroom, CH/CA,  
Finished Basement-  
2 Bedrooms, Rec  
Room, Bathroom,  
Utility Room, Single  
Car Detached Garage



410 W. WILTON



405 N. BROWN

2 Bedrooms,  
Living Room,  
Dining Room,  
Eat-In Kitchen  
Bath/Utility Comb.  
Full Basement  
2 Baths,  
CH/CA

2 Bedrooms-  
Each Own Bath,  
LR/Eat-In Kitchen,  
Office/Utility Room,  
Rec Room w/Fireplace  
Custom Made  
Cabinets, Double  
Car Attached Garage



704 VALLEY VISTA



612 NORTH GRANT

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