

Double-checking



Chairman of the Norton County Commissioners Richard Thompson and Commissioner Carolyn Applegate looked over a ballot Monday morning in the county courthouse during the canvassing of the ballots. There were only a few minor changes to the final counts: Norton Mayor Corns, final vote count, 171; Norton City Councilwoman Kim Snyder's final, 38; Norton School District Board Member Scott Ellis, 220; Norton School District Board Member Craig Renner, 162; and newly-elected Norton School District Board Member Robert Wyatt, 170.

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Animal cruelty illegal in Norton

By BRANDY LEROUX
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April is Prevention of Animal Cruelty month, a time when you might see more people wearing orange to support the prevention of animal cruelty. The cities of Norton, Alma and Lenora each have ordinances against animal cruelty, abuse and neglect, as does the State of Kansas. Setting up fights with animals is also illegal in Kansas and the cities in Norton County.

Edmond does not yet have any ordinances against animal cruelty, but Mayor Jim Akers said the city is working on getting them.

Sherry Hickman is the Animal Control Officer for the City of

Norton. In a recent city council meeting, it was noted that she takes over 800 calls per year. The calls range from picking up strays to rescuing abused and abandoned animals.

"The worst case of animal cruelty and neglect was a four month old puppy that had been left abandoned in a home when the owners moved," said Mrs. Hickman. "Because of a leak, there was water in the bathtub, and there was water in the toilet, but because the puppy was so little, he couldn't reach any of it. The owners were found guilty of animal cruelty and fined."

According to Kansas law, intentionally and maliciously killing, injuring, maiming, tor-

turing, burning or mutilating any animal is a felony, and if convicted, a person will be sentenced to between 30 and 360 days in jail, and fined between \$500 and \$5,000. There will also be a psychological evaluation given during the jail time.

The first time a person is convicted of abandoning or neglecting an animal, it is a misdemeanor. The second time is a felony. The city ordinances do not specify a punishment for abandoning or neglecting animals.

Both city and state law require animals to have access to adequate food, potable water, air, light, space, shelter and protection from the elements.

Forensics team to hold dinner and show

By KEN THARMAN
Special To The Telegram

An exciting and fun-filled evening of food and quality entertainment is scheduled for April 20. The Northern Valley Forensics team cordially invites you to join us at 6:00 p.m. at the High School for "Dinner and a Show." We will start serving the dinner at the above time. Skits will follow (starting around 6:50 p.m.).

Dinner will consist of homemade bread sticks (made by those talented Long Island cooks), spaghetti (cooked and tested by chef Gale Hays), salad, and desserts (prepared by the multi-talented forensic students). Cost of this fine cuisine will be up to you this year. The increased expenses this year have put a dent in all of our pocket books. That is why I am having a "FREE WILL offering

for the meal and entertainment. Our only hope is that you are able to attend.

Eighth graders You will be admitted for supper and the entertainment for FREE (another one of Michelle's awesome ideas). Don't miss this exciting evening as we prepare for the State competition on May 2.

Thank you for your support through out the season. And remember.....Act Responsibly!

Open house to show inmates' work

Norton Correctional Facility will host an open house Wednesday at 11 a.m. to celebrate the completion of the first of four inmate-built cabins that will be available for rent at area state parks.

The public is invited to a ribbon-cutting ceremony that will be followed by a light luncheon and tours of the three cabins currently located on the facility's north grounds.

Former Kansas governor and current Secretary of Wildlife and Parks Mike Hayden is scheduled to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony that also will be attended by Kansas Department of Corrections deputy secretaries Chuck Simmons and Roger Haden, Kansas Wildscape Foundation Executive Director Charlie Black, Kansas Wildscape Foundation Board Chair Warren Gfeller, Duane Krueger of Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Commission Member Doug Sebelius. Other wildlife and parks commissioners also may attend. Norton Correctional Facility Warden Jay Shelton will be on hand to welcome guests and to oversee the activities.

Inmates from Norton, the Hutchinson Correctional Facility and the Ellsworth Correctional Facility are constructing the rental cabins that feature fully furnished kitchens and living areas. Kansas Wildlife Foundation, a non-profit conservation organization, provides funding for the construction program as part of a cooperative

agreement with the Department of Corrections, Wildlife and Parks and the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush.

The first two cabins constructed by inmates at Norton will be moved to Scott Lake in west central Kansas. These cabins, unlike the log-siding exterior cabins at other parks, feature a stucco exterior to match Scott Lake's Native American theme. The final two cabins will be placed at Keith Sebelius Lake by Wildlife and Parks. The cabin building program began at the Norton facility in December 2007.

The cabins have proven to be popular among park users and the inmates participating in the program who are gaining construction experience that can assist them in finding meaningful employment

upon their release.

Most cabins will accommodate 4 to 6 adults while others are planned to sleep up to 10 adults. Sixty-nine cabins are currently available at various Wildlife and Parks locations across the state. Cabin reservations may be made on-line at <http://reserve.ksoutdoors.com>. Additional information concerning Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is available at <http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us>.

"Ninety percent of the rental fee returns to Wildscape as repayment of their investment and ten percent is retained by Wildlife and Parks," said wildlife and parks representative Mark Stock.

Note: Upon entering Norton Correctional Facility, follow the signs to the north side of the grounds.

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Tips to plant gardens, maintain lawns

As seed costs go up, it becomes increasingly important that producers do everything they can to ensure a good corn stand. Some of the most important factors for establishing and maintaining a good stand include:

Seedbed conditions

Don't get in a hurry. Wait until soil temperatures at the 2-inch depth are consistently above 55 degrees Fahrenheit at mid-day, especially if planting early in the recommended time frame. Planting into a wet seedbed can cause sidewall compaction and inhibit root growth into the surrounding soil. Cool, wet soils favor seed rots and seedling diseases. Wet residue will not cut well and can ball up in planter.

Seed Depth

The general recommendation for seeding depth is 1 and a half to 2 inches. Seed depth can be adjusted beyond this range to account for soil texture, seedbed conditions, soil moisture, and other factors but should never be less than 1 inch or more than 3 and a half inches. Planting too shallowly may force the crown to establish at or above the soil surface, potentially resulting in poor anchoring of the secondary root system — planting too deeply can slow emergence or reduce stands, especially in cool, wet soils.

Seed Treatments

Virtually all corn seed now comes treated with both a fungicide and a broad spectrum insecticide. Protection from the systemic insecticide will last 21 to 28 days from planting. Cool conditions that delay emergence will not extend the duration of insect protection. Higher rates of seed-applied insecticide are more likely to last the full 28 days, but typically will not extend beyond that.

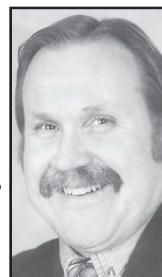
Planter Maintenance and Planting Speed

It is important that corn seed be planted at the proper depth, with good seed-soil contact, and with good closure of the seed furrow. This is particularly important in no-till situations with greater amounts of residue and a firmer seedbed. The goal is to have uniform spacing and plant emergence. The more exact and replicated the seed spacing, the more uniformity in stand. Both variable plant spacing and late emerging plants have been documented to reduce yield in some cases.

Starter fertilizer

Avoid placing starter fertilizer in direct contact with the seed if possible. If you are placing starter fertilizer with the seed, be sure to use less than 10 pounds per acre of nitrogen and potassium combined. On the other hand, starter fertilizer applied in a band to the side of the seed or dribbled on the soil surface at planting time likely will help

Views
with Van
Keith VanSki,
Extension
Director



early corn growth, especially when planting early and/or in no-till. Twenty to thirty pounds of phosphorous for starter is good.

Problems Resulting from a Late Spring Freeze

One potential problem that producers in Kansas face nearly every year is a hard freeze after the corn has emerged. A hard freeze often burns back the foliage on seedlings or young plants, sometimes to the ground. But as long as the corn is not yet at the V6 (or six-leaf collar) stage, a spring freeze rarely causes death of the entire plant. From the time of emergence through the V5 stage (the first two to three weeks after emergence), the growing point of corn is below the soil surface, and protected from freeze injury. It is possible, at the V3-V5 stages of growth for a freeze to cause some corn development problems as new leaves try to push through dead leaf tissue, but stand and yield losses typically are minimal at this stage.

Proper Timing for Crabgrass Preventers

Crabgrass preventers are another name for pre-emergence herbicides that prevent crabgrass seeds from developing into mature plants. Crabgrass preventers are just that — preventers. Preventers have to be applied before crabgrass germinates. Additionally, they don't last forever once applied to the soil. Most crabgrass preventers are fairly ineffective after about 60 days, although there are considerable variations among products. April 15 is a good target date for applying the preventer because it gives the active ingredients time to evenly disperse in the soil before crabgrass germination starts.

Dimension and Barricade are the only two products that will give season-long control of

crabgrass from a single application. In fact they can be applied much earlier than April 15th and still will have sufficient residual strength to last the season. Barricade can even be applied in the fall for crabgrass control the next season. Dimension can be applied as early as March 1st. Because of the added flexibility in timing, these products are favorites of lawn care companies who have many customers to service in the spring.

Dimension can kill crab grass as long as it is young (2-3 leaf stage). Dimension is also the best choice if treating the lawn that was planted late last fall. Normally we recommended not using a pre-emergence herbicide unless the lawn has been mowed 2 to 4 times. However, Dimension is kind to young tall Fescue, Perennial Ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass seedlings and can be applied as early as two weeks after the first sign of germination. Therefore, lawns established in the fall can be safely treated with Dimension the following spring even if they have not been mowed.

Note that the products that contain Dimension and Barricade may use the common name rather than the trade name. The common chemical name for Dimension is dithiopyr and for Barricade is prodiamine. Remember, when using any pesticide, read the label and follow instructions carefully.

Vegetables

It is best to purchase seed potatoes, however cooking potatoes will sprout just as well — you just may not know what you're getting. Seed potatoes are certified disease free and have plenty of starch to sprout as quickly as soil temperatures allow. Most seed potatoes can be cut into four pieces though large potatoes may yield more. Each seed piece should be between 1 and a half and 2 ounces to ensure there is enough energy for germination. Each pound of potatoes should yield 8 to 10 seed pieces. Cut the seed 2 to 3 days before planting so freshly cut surfaces have a chance to suberize, or toughen, and form a protective coating.

Now is the time to prepare your yard for the summer

Stop by for your crabgrass preventer fertilizer, grass seed and many other products to make this a successful lawn and garden year!

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- Election of Trustees
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