

Continued Sorghum Research

The extreme heat/drought of 2011 and 2012 took a heavy toll on crops, pastures, windbreaks and eventually animal growth and yield production. Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission and Fort Hays KSU Branch Station are doing research on sorghum.

The dryland crops produced nothing. Only irrigated sorghum came close to a normal yield in the southwest area.

Nothing really worked on dryland acres in the Wichita County area, not even grain sorghum which can usually withstand dry weather pretty well. On irrigated ground, the grain sorghum looks relatively good, at least compared to corn.

This is not surprising. Compared to corn or soybeans, the other major summer row crops in the region, grain sorghum requires less water to produce a decent yield and handles stress better. No other crop makes such efficient use of available water and consistently generates income as a cash crop under such a wide range of soils and weather conditions, he said.

So why has grain sorghum acreage lagged behind corn and soybean acreage under full and limited irrigation in Kansas? Three big reasons, according to Greg Graff, Wichita County farmer and member of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission: limited top-end yield potential, limited options for controlling summer annual grasses, and a price spread that favors corn over grain sorghum.

A strong K-State Research and Extension program in grain sorghum is vital, Graff said.

Farmers in Kansas are relying on our K-State sorghum

Views with Van Keith Van Skike, Extension Director



breeders, Ramasamy Perumal in Hays and Tesfaye Tesso in Manhattan, to continue emphasizing higher yields. Right now, producers can get maximum sorghum yields of about 170 to 180 bushels per acre on 12 to 14 inches of water. If we could get 220 bushels per acre on that same amount of water, that would make sorghum roughly as profitable as growing corn on 18 to 24 inches of water.

After that, sorghum yields need to increase by 2 to 3 percent a year to keep pace with increases in corn yields, he added.

The goal is not to entirely replace irrigated corn with grain sorghum, but to make grain sorghum more of an equal partner with corn under irrigation.

Western Kansas farmers like to have a cropping system choice of corn, sorghum, and wheat under irrigation instead of just corn and wheat, but wheat and sorghum currently are not as profitable as corn, Mr. Graff explained. That would allow us to extend the available water in the aquifer, make better use of planting and harvesting equipment through the season, and allow us to reduce our risk of crop failure because of weather extremes and stress.

In addition to efforts to increase yields through plant breeding trials, K-State researchers have made other important contributions recently

to grain sorghum profitability, Graff added:

- Herbicide-resistant sorghum technology will help with in-season grass control in sorghum.
- Nitrogen fertilizer management research allows producers to reduce nitrogen use while maintaining yields.
- Improved stalk quality will support the weight of higher yields.
- Greater cold tolerance would allow sorghum producers to plant earlier and use longer season hybrids than they currently grow and increase yields.

Research efforts through K-State's Great Plains Sorghum Improvement and Utilization Center help increase sorghum acreage in Kansas so producers can make better use of water and other valuable resources now and in the future.

For more information contact: ksre.keu.edu, Tesfaye Tesso, 785-532-7238, ttesso@ksu.edu; Ramasamy Perumal, 785-625-3425, perumal@ksu.edu Sorghum Center

As pressure on the Ogallala Aquifer increases and less irrigation is possible, sorghum will become even more important to farmers in the Great Plains and to the High Plains livestock and ethanol industries.

The Great Plains Sorghum Improvement and Utilization Center brings together breeders, weed scientists, entomologists, faculty studying new uses for sorghum, plant pathologists, and crop production specialists.

The goal is to improve sorghum yield and profitability.

More Information: Dave Mengel 785-532-2166, dmengel@ksu.edu

Slip 'n' slide into the new pool



Progress is coming along on the new swimming pool being built in Norton. The construction crew has both new slides put into place along with the pool house. Now for the rest of the pool to be completed so the water can flow!

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

SCHOOL MENU

NCHS-NIHS

Monday, April 14
Breakfast-Breakfast rounds, applesauce, grape juice and milk.

Lunch-Chicken strip sandwich, lettuce and tomato, french fries, bbq sauce, bananas and milk or Chef salad and salad dressing.

Tuesday, April 15
Breakfast-Waffles, syrup, sausage links, pineapple, grape juice and milk.

Lunch-Taco meat, tortilla shell, refried beans, picante sauce, lettuce and tomato, apples, shredded cheese and milk, or Chef salad and salad dressing.

Wednesday, April 16
Breakfast-Assorted cereal, Mandarin oranges or peaches, toast w/margarine, orange juice and milk.

Lunch-Stuffed crust cheese pizza, combo salad, peaches, green peppers and milk or Chef salad and salad dressing.

Thursday, April 17
Breakfast-Breakfast burrito, grapes, picante sauce, apple juice and milk.

Lunch-Chicken alfredo, carnival salad, green beans, applesauce, french bread and milk or

Chef salad and salad dressing.

Friday, April 18
Breakfast-Breakfast pocket, bananas, picante sauce, grape juice and milk.

Lunch-Hamburger gravy, whipped potatoes, rolls, carrots, pears and milk, or Chef salad and salad dressing.

EES Menu

Monday, April 14
Breakfast-Kansas granola bar, cheese stick, mandarin oranges, apple juice and milk.

Lunch-Spaghetti, tossed salad, peaches, garlic bread and milk

Tuesday, April 15
Breakfast-French toast, warm syrup, strawberry fruit cup, grape juice and milk.

Lunch-Corn dog, sweet potato tots, pepper strips, fruit cocktail and milk.

Wednesday, April 16
Breakfast-Western omelet quesadilla, salsa, hash brown patty, peaches, orange juice and milk.

Lunch-Scalloped chicken, corn, sweet heart pears, celery stick and milk.

Thursday, April 17
Breakfast-Breakfast cake, pineapple chunks, apple juice and milk.

Lunch-Beef Burrito, cheesy broccoli, applesauce, baby carrots and milk.

Friday, April 18
No School

Northern Valley Menu

Monday, April 14
Breakfast-French toast, syrup, hash browns, juice and assorted cold cereal.

Lunch-Sierra Chicken, tossed salad w/dressing, seasoned spinach and fruit cup.

Tuesday, April 15
Breakfast-Breakfast pita, eggs, yogurt and assorted cold cereal.

Lunch-Wiener Wagons, potato wedge, seasoned broccoli and sliced pears.

Wednesday, April 16
Breakfast-Monkey bread, hash browns, links, fruit and assorted cold cereal.

Lunch-Italian past bake, whole wheat roll, tossed salad w/dressing and peach half.

Thursday, April 17
Breakfast-Waffles, syrup, eggs, fruit, juice and assorted cold cereal.

Lunch-Burrito, sauce, cheese, tossed salad w/dressing, seasoned carrots and fruity Jell-O.

Friday, April 18
No School

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NCHS

Monday, April 14
Cheerleader fundraiser ends
Tuesday, April 15
KAY officer applications due
Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.
Varsity Golf at Goodland, 2 p.m.

S.A.D.D., A.P.
Varsity Track at Smith Center, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16
FHSU art show
Job Olympics at Phillipsburg, 9 a.m.

FFA Horse Judging at Oakley, Noon
Dance team tryouts, Stull Gym, 4 p.m.

Thursday, April 17
NCHS Dance Team fundraiser begins
Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.
State Large Group Music at Colby, TBA

KAYS officer selection, A.P.
Junior varsity Golf at Hill City 3 p.m.

NIHS

Monday, April 14
NCHS Cheerleader fundraiser ends
State Assessments, 7th grade
Language arts

State Assessments, 8th grade

Math

Tuesday, April 15
NCHS KAY Officer applications due
State Assessments, 7th grade
Language arts

State Assessments, 8th grade
Math

Wednesday, April 16
Faculty meeting 7:45 a.m.
Job Olympics at Phillipsburg, 9 a.m.

7th grade Enrollment meeting, MTSS Period
8th grade Driver's Ed meeting, MTSS Period
NCHS Dance Team tryouts, Stull Gym, 4 p.m.

Site Council, 5 p.m.
Thursday, April 17
NCHS Dance Team fundraiser begins

Track at Phillipsburg, 11 a.m.
EES
Monday, April 14
EES Teacher of the Year Reception, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15
Grade Level meetings, 3:40 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16
6th grade band recital, Band Room, 1:40 p.m.

TEAM meeting
Northern Valley

Monday, April 14

State Assessments, 4th grade
Reading, 8:15 a.m.
State Assessments, 3rd grade
Reading, Noon

Forensics "Just Desserts" at highschool auditorium, 6 p.m.
BOE meeting, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15
State Assessments, 4th grade
Math, 8:15 a.m.
State Assessments, 3rd grade
Math, Noon

High school track at Colby, 10 a.m.
Bus Drivers meeting at Almena 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16
State Assessments, 4th grade
Science, 8:15 a.m.
FFA District Agronomy and Horse at Oakley, 8:30 a.m.

Job Olympics at Phillipsburg, 9 a.m.
Thursday, April 17
Junior high Track at Logan, 10 a.m.

Junior varsity Golf at Hill City, 3 p.m.
Easter Egg Hunt, Kindergarten-4th grade, 3:15 p.m.

Friday, April 18
No School

COLLEGE NOTES

The following area students have been recognized by the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture for their academic performance for Fall 2013.

Dean's Honor Roll - To qualify a student must earn a grade point average of at least a 3.5 on a 4-point scale.

Andrew Levi Nickell

Call Shylo with all of your social news. 877-3361

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The Norton County Treasurer's Office will be **CLOSED** from noon to 1 p.m. on Monday, April 14

Farmers struggle with the drought

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced recently that 10 Kansas counties have been designated as Primary Natural Disaster Areas. The designation comes as a result of the ongoing drought in the region. Counties listed include: Barton, Ellsworth, Kiowa, Mitchell, Edwards, Jewell, Lincoln, Osborne, Smith and Russell. Contiguous counties also eligible for assistance include: Barber, Ellis, Ottawa, Republic, Clark, Ford, Pawnee, Rice, Cloud, Hodgeman, Phillips, Rooks, Comanche, McPherson, Pratt, Stafford, Saline and Rush.

Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Jackie McClaskey commented on the announcement.

"This designation will allow Kansas farmers and ranchers to have access to programs that can assist them as they weather this challenging time," McClaskey said. "It also highlights the critical importance of water to Kansans. Without water, agriculture, our state's largest industry, cannot thrive."

All counties designated natural disaster areas on March 26, make qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency loans from the Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses.

Additional programs available to assist farmers and ranchers include the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance, and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local Department of Agriculture Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures.

This designation comes at a time when Kansas officials are working to help develop a water vision. "Gov. Brownback issued a charge last October to develop a comprehensive, 50-year vi-

sion for water," McClaskey said. "The long-term viability of our water supply, including the usable life of the Ogallala Aquifer and our reservoirs, is at stake. We must be proactive in our approach in order to ensure the ongoing economic viability of Kansas."

The Water Vision team has conducted over 130 presentations to nearly 6,000 Kansans since last October. The team has gathered input on the 50 year water vision from farmers, ranchers, municipalities, other water users, and other stakeholder groups. For more information about the Vision for Water in Kansas or to submit comments, visit www.kwo.org/50_Year_Vision/50_Year_Vision.htm.

On April 11, in Manhattan, Kan., there will be a Joint Meeting of the Kansas Water Authority, Natural Resource Agencies and Stakeholders in Manhattan to further develop the draft of the Water Vision.

High Plains Mental Health is Happy to Introduce . . .

Cassie Ost

Cassandra is a native Kansan, born and raised in Mankato. She attended undergraduate classes at Kansas State University and earned her Master's degree in Social Work from Washburn University. Cassie completed an internship at Homecare and Hospice while living in Manhattan, and completed her clinical training by providing crisis services at Pawnee Mental Health Center. Cassie is a Licensed Social Worker. She has been employed at High Plains Mental Health Center since May 2013. Cassie resides in Norton with her fiancé, Matt; both (but mostly Cassie) are busy planning a September wedding. They are excited to call Norton, KS their new home.

To MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH CASSIE, PLEASE CALL (800) 432-0333