

Ag Talk with Jeanne

Drought-tolerant corn varieties on the way

By Jeanne Falk Agronomy Specialist



Seed for two new drought-tolerant corn varieties will be in limited release this spring.

DuPont (Pioneer Hi-Bred) and Syngenta developed the new varieties through traditional breeding techniques.

The duo's entry into the world market could start decades of fierce competition for rain-challenged growers' business.

"Either way, drought-tolerant corn could expand seed companies' markets," he said. "Continued expansion of corn acreage at the expense of other crops, such as wheat and sorghum, will mean greater corn seed sales.

Mr. Roozeboom added that technology isn't the only reason new-generation corns are arriving so fast, compared to the new offerings for other standard crops.

Market factors have been pulling agriculture toward increased corn production, Roozeboom explained. If nothing else, corn remains the primary base for U.S. ethanol manufacturing.

The agronomist said that so far, the best ways to address those market forces are to:

- Get more acres into corn production, including land that has been considered marginal, due to limited precipitation.
• Reduce the risk of corn crop

losses while also increasing average yields in water-limited production areas, such as central and western Kansas.

"Untimely rains or dry conditions can have a big impact in our state -- sometimes causing substantial yield reductions or complete crop failures," he said.

Without timely rains, however, even southeast Kansas can have moisture problems, because during mid-summer, the shallow topsoils there can dry out in a couple of weeks.

In contrast, much of western Kansas has deep silt loam soils with high water-holding capacity. So, despite the area's sparse rainfall, successfully growing dryland corn is possible, so long as enough stored soil moisture is available to complement limited rainfall during the growing season.

Mr. Roozeboom said that as global temperatures continue to rise, on-going improvements in cropping systems may also be necessary to maintain and expand corn acreage and production.

"Of course, moisture problems aren't as big a worry for irrigated farms," he said. "However, irrigated farms with limited well capacity could also reduce their risks if the new-generation hybrids perform as advertised. Water is a scarce resource that is getting scarcer."

"What's Coming? Syngenta, the world's No. 3 supplier of corn seed, announced its initial drought-tolerant Agrisure Artesian hybrids last July. Syngenta Biotechnology scientists developed

the Agrisure Artesian platforms in conjunction with the company's (U.S) Midwest and California breeders, who conducted the field testing. The Switzerland-based company will sell its new seeds for 2011 under the Garst, Golden Harvest and NK brands.

Both companies and Monsanto, the world's top seed seller, are now developing genetically engineered corns. Their aim is more predictable drought resistance, plus greater yield potential, Mr. Roozeboom said.

DuPont announced this month that its biotech challenger won't be ready for the market until later in the decade. A Syngenta spokesperson has said its competitor will require "years."

"Drought itself is a complex subject. And corn's ability to handle dry conditions involves a number of genes," he said. "Beyond that, drought-tolerance alone simply addresses the problem of having to produce in a water-limited environment. Kansas know that heat can be just as damaging. Both water availability and heat stress also can depend on or interrelate with soil type, pests, nutrient levels and each farmer's management practices."

AARP

AARP meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, at the St. Francis Senior Center. The speaker will be Kary Meyer on the Majestic Services. Hostess is Ilene Raile.

Free tax help

Free tax help is available for middle and low-income people at the St. Francis Library on Wednesdays, 2 to 5 p.m.; and at the St. Francis senior center on Thursdays from 2 to 5 p.m. For more information or make an appointment, call Rowland Roelfs at 785-332-3490.

Kansans For Life

The Cheyenne County Kansans for Life will meet Monday at Solid Rock Baptist Church in St. Francis beginning at 7:30 p.m.. All in the communities are welcome to join in prayer, learning and fellowship as they work together to provide "Life for All."

Cheyenne County Conservation Awards Banquet

The Cheyenne County Conservation Awards Banquet which was postponed on Monday night has been rescheduled for Monday, Feb. 21.

Music Club news

The St. Francis Music Club will hold their next meeting on Monday, at the home of Jean Ann Confer. The program begins at 7 p.m. and will feature love songs performed by Neala Carmichael. Hostesses are Margaret Poling and Dorothy Smestad. members and guests are welcome.

Board of Education

The St. Francis Board of Education will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 10.

City Council

The St. Francis City Council will meet on Monday, Feb. 14.

Tag deadline

All residents with last names beginning with A should purchase their car, pickup, motorcycle and motorized bike tags and pay their vehicle personal property tax by the end of the month to avoid paying a penalty.

A driver's license needs to be presented or entered on form at time of renewal.

Hospital Guild

The Cheyenne County Hospital Guild will meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 7, at the St. Francis Senior Citizens Center. The program will

be Hospice Update. Hostesses are Wilma Lampe and Sonya Modrell.

Veterans Affairs

Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in St. Francis at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. today (Thursday), at the county clerk's office. People may also contact the Veteran's Affairs office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at (785) 462-3572.

Equity annual meeting

The St. Francis Equity annual meeting was postponed because of the weather. It has been rescheduled for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 9, in the cafeteria at the St. Francis Community High School. Dinner will be followed by the meeting.

High school art exhibition

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum is proud to present the "34th annual high school art exhibit. This year's exhibition will be Feb. 11, to March 13.

St. Francis Rec Commission

February classes include "Alternative Answers" DVDs with Kate Jenkins, Feb. 2: High Level Health; Feb. 9: Detoxify Your Home. Call Penny Gienger (785) 332-3949.

High school basketball

The varsity basketball teams will entertain Wallace County on Tuesday, Feb. 8.

High school wrestling

The varsity wrestlers will attend the Phillipsburg Invitational on Saturday.

Peace of Mind AA

Peace of Mind AA will meet at the St. Francis Public Library at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. Contact Kris D. at (785) 332-4410 or (785) 772-5090.

Narcotics Anonymous

Narcotics Anonymous meetings are held at 104 W Webster/Methodist Education Building on Sunday nights at 8 p.m. and Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. Contact (785) 342-0028.

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter provides 24-hour-7day-a-week service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Weekly support groups are available for women and children within the northwest Kansas area. For information or in need of assistance, please call the toll-free number 1-800-794-4624.

Corrections

• Sydney Sundstrom's name was inadvertently missing from the first semester high honor roll for seventh grade students.

• In St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce story printed in last week's issue of The Herald, it stated that the Good Samaritan Village employees received \$2,000 in Chamber Scrip. It should have said \$20,000. It should be noted that Chamber Scrip money is good in all of Cheyenne County -- not just St. Francis.

Student News

Kansas State University

Brooklyn Hnizdil, Heather Hnizdil and Alecia Zimbelman are among the nearly 3,000 students who earned semester honors from Kansas State University for their academic performance in the fall 2010 semester.

Students earning semester honors receive commendations from their deans with the honors recorded on their permanent academic records. K-State semester honors are awarded to students who earned a 3.75 grade point average or higher for the semester. Students had to be enrolled in at least 12 semester hours of graded course work.

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m. 1 hr. 50 min. True Grit Feb. 4, 5 & 6 PG-13 for some intense sequences of western violence including disturbing images. Action/Adventure, Western, Adaptation and Remake. CHEYENNE THEATER St. Francis, KS 785-332-2747 Children 12 & Under: \$3 All Others: \$5

SINGING Valentine Telegram SFCHS Vocal, Band & Advanced Music Classes will be delivering Singing Valentine Telegrams in St. Francis. Cost - \$5.00 Includes Song, Balloon & Candy. Forms for Singing Valentine Telegrams will be available from any band, vocal or advanced music student, at the high school office or area businesses.

Happy 16th! Love, Mom, Dad & Sis

CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL 210 W. 1st • St. Francis, KS 785-332-2104

February Calendar

- Dr. Frankum Feb. 2 & 16
Dr. Rubinowitz Feb. 8
Dexascan Feb. 9
Dr. Saba Feb. 18
Mammo Feb. 22
Nuc Med Feb. 8 & 22
Dr. Uyemura Feb. 23 - surgery
Dr. Curtis Feb. 24
Dr. Uyemura Feb. 28 - clinic
For more information or to schedule an appointment call 785-332-2104

Idalia News

By Angela Deleon St. John news

Men's Bible study is weekly on Thursday mornings from 7 to 7:30 at the St. John Church. All men are welcome.

On Sunday, St. John Church will welcome Mrs. Pam Coulter from Wray, as the guest speaker to the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

School news

There is no school on Feb. 4, and Feb. 11, for the following grades, first through fifth, due to professional development for the teachers. If you need more information call (970) 354-7298.

No school for Idalia students on Monday, Feb. 21, in observance of President's Day.

Exercise

There is an exercise hour on

Mondays from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Cornerstone Building.

Intro to Computers

Do computers frustrate you? If so, here's your class -- Ted Mosier is teaching Intro to Computers in 8 Tuesday and Thursday sessions starting Tuesday, Feb. 8 at Idalia School from 7-9 p.m. Those attending are welcome to either bring their own laptop or use the school desk top for the classes. Topics to be covered will be discussed in the first session.

Class size is limited to 15, so if you are interested, call Ted at 354-7329 or Chuck Wright at 303 881 0895 There is no fee or charge for the series. This class is sponsored by the Cornerstone Community Center as one of several classes to be offered this spring.

James E. Reeves, DPM Podiatrist/Foot Specialist Reconstructive Surgery Foot & Ankle Injuries For appointments call: Rawlins County Health Center 785-626-3211 Wed., March 15 Cheyenne County Hospital - P.M. 210 W. 1st • 332-2104 Thurs., March 17 Atwood (a.m.) • 626-3211 Colby (p.m.) CSMC, 175 S. Range 462-3332 CMC, 100 E. College Dr. 462-7511 Fri., March 18 CSMC at 9 a.m.

2008 F150 Crew XLT, 4x4, AT, 60K, #T51928.....\$27,100!!
2009 Taurus X E. Bauer, DVD, AWD, 15K, #T5080 \$26,500
1999 Crown Vic Cloth, 73K, Blue, #53870B \$6,500
1996 Chrysler Sebring LXI, 150K, White, #45514A \$1,750
1996 Lincoln Continental, Lthr, 115K, Tan, #25307C \$1,895
2006 F150, S/C, XL, L.Box, AT, 4x4, 47K, White, #23451A \$18,500
2009 Chevy 1500 Silverado S/C, 4x4, 26K, #T0834A \$24,000
2006 F250, S/C, XLT, 6.0L, 4x4, AT, 88K, White, #T8116A \$19,995
2008 F350, S/C, XL, 4x4, AT, 6.4L, Flatbed, 80K, #T7537A \$27,995
2008 Mercury Sable Premier, 27K Miles, #27009 \$17,900
2006 Freestar SEL, Cloth, AT, 71KMiles, #60770A \$10,700
2010 Focus SE, AT, 4 door, 20K, #27020 \$14,375
2008 F250 S/C Lariat, 4x4, 6.4L, AT, 49K, #T1737A \$35,900
2008 F250 Crew XLT, 4x4, AT, 6.4, 70K, #T3329A \$34,200
2007 Roketa Maui 50 Scooter, #18432B \$1,000
2010 Explorer E. Bauer, only 18K, #T5631 \$29,500
2008 Toyota Tundra Crew SR5, 92K, #T1122A \$22,995
2008 F250 R/C, XL, 4x4, AT, 6.4L, 45K, #T5676A \$28,325
2008 F250 R/C, XL, 4x4, AT, 6.4L, 40K, #T5677A \$28,325
2006 Acura TL, AT, Sunroof, Leather, #25830A \$16,675
2007 F150 Crew XLT, 4x4, AT, 56K Miles, #T9464 \$25,000
2010 Fusion S, FWD, AT, only 993 Miles!, #48583 \$19,250
2004 F350 Crew XLT, 4x4, L.Box, 112K, #T1256A \$19,995
2010 Escape XLT, AWD, 10K, #T5020 \$22,000
2004 Freestar SEL, 2nd row CPT, pwr side dr. #T7020A \$8,775
2010 Taurus SEL, FWD, 9KMiles, #52324 \$26,550
2008 Explorer XLT, AT, 4x4, 37K, #T7141A \$21,500
2006 F550 XL Crew, AT, 4x4, Serv. Bed, #T8939A \$27,000
2010 F150 Crew XLT, 4x2, cloth, 6K, #T1323A \$29,000
1995 Windstar FWD, cloth, #T2434B \$1,250
2009 F150 Crew Lariat, 4x4, 39K, #T0869A \$32,800
2006 F350 Crew Lariat, 4x4, L. Box, 6.0L, #T2068C \$23,500
2009 Flex Limited, AWD, DVD, Nav., 35K miles, #T5459A \$30,500
2008 F150 Crew XLT, 4x4, AT, 60K, #T5192B \$27,100
2008 F250 R/C XL, 4x4, AT, L. Box, 6.4L, #T5675A \$28,325
1999 F150 S/C XLT, 4x2, Topper, #79479A \$5,500
2004 Ford F250, S/C, 141K, #T2049B \$17,500

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