

Ag Talk with Jeanne

By
Jeanne Falk



Agronomy Specialist

Controlling Volunteer Wheat

Have you walked through your wheat stubble lately? Have you looked closely at the fields where you are going to plant wheat in a few weeks?

It might be worth spending a few minutes now looking because it could help your (or your neighbor's) yields this next harvest!

Every year at about this time, you hear "Control your volunteer wheat." The primary reason for this is to decrease the threat of wheat streak mosaic virus infecting newly emerged wheat.

Wheat streak mosaic virus can be devastating to a wheat field. This virus is moved by the wheat curl mite.

These mites live on volunteer

wheat during the summer and rely on it as a food source. They are microscopic and cannot be seen with the naked eye. In addition, the mites are highly mobile and can travel up to 1/2 mile on wind currents!

It is critical that all volunteer wheat within 1/2 mile be completely dead at least two weeks prior to planting. Volunteer wheat can be controlled by working the ground or by herbicide application. Grazing volunteer is not an effective option because there is green wheat material left and the mites can be living in that material.

As the summer progresses into fall, these mites are looking for a new food source...and what better than young, tender, juicy wheat

plants that have just emerged. The worst case scenario is that the volunteer is dying just as the new wheat is emerging.

Fall infections of wheat streak mosaic are the most devastating to the wheat crop. However, infections can take place from wheat emergence until late spring. The fall infections are the most detrimental to the crop because the plant is young and not completely established.

Think of the wheat streak mosaic virus like the flu virus in humans. It is the toughest on the young because they have a harder time fighting off the virus.

In addition, there is no medicine or treatment to cure the virus.

Wheat that is stressed will be more susceptible to severe symptoms.

This includes stress from drought, lack of nutrients, or poor growing conditions. The only difference is that humans can fight off the virus and wheat cannot fight it off.

So take a few minutes and check for volunteer wheat. It may save your (or your neighbor's) wheat yields this next harvest.

If you have any questions on wheat streak mosaic or controlling volunteer, please contact me at the Extension office.

Moments With Mila

By
Mila Bandel



County Health Nurse

Pertussis – Whooping Cough Disease

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a highly contagious respiratory disease. It is caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. This disease is experiencing increased rates within the United States and for Kansans as well.

Pertussis most commonly affects infants and young children and can be fatal, especially in babies less than 1 year of age. Pertussis can cause serious illness as well in other children and adults.

The disease starts like the common cold, with runny nose or congestion, sneezing, and maybe

mild cough or fever. But after 1-2 weeks, severe coughing can begin.

Unlike the common cold, pertussis can become a series of coughing fits that continues for weeks. Pertussis can cause violent and rapid coughing, over and over, until the air is gone from the lungs and you are forced to inhale with a loud "whooping" sound. In infants, the cough can be minimal or not even there.

Pertussis is most severe for babies; more than half of infants younger than 1 year of age who get the disease must be hospital-

ized. About one in four infants with pertussis get pneumonia (lung infection), and about two thirds will have slowed or stopped breathing. Pertussis can be deadly for one or two infants per 100 who are hospitalized.

People with pertussis usually spread the disease by coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others, who then breathe in the pertussis bacteria. Many infants who get pertussis are infected by parents, older siblings, or other caregivers who might not even know they have the disease.

The best way to prevent pertussis is to get vaccinated. There are vaccines for infants, children, pre-teens, teens and adults. The childhood vaccine is called DTaP, and the pertussis booster vaccine for adolescents and adults is called Tdap.

For more information on pertussis and for the vaccine call the Cheyenne County Health Department at 785-332-2381.

Across the County

By
Marty Fear



County Extension Agent

Get Creative with Feeding Options

Producers who trucked in supplemental forages from further north last year will likely be out of luck this season thanks to the expansive drought.

Many producers will be forced to get creative with feeding and grazing this year, said Justin Waggoner, K-State beef systems specialist, during the 2012 K-State Beef Conference on August 9. "We're probably going to have to make do with what we have," he said.

Waggoner advised producers to explore feeding non-traditional forages, such as crop residues or weeds. Most alternative forages have some associated risk though. "They are nontraditional for a reason," Waggoner said. Testing samples of forage for toxic substances helps assess the risk involved with feeding it.

High nitrate levels in forages are especially important to watch for, Waggoner said. When plants experience stress, such as a drought, their nitrate levels rise, which can be deadly for cattle. Nitrate con-

tent up to 3,000 ppm is considered safe, while 3,000 to 6,000 ppm only moderately safe and should not constitute more than half of the ration for stressed animals. If the content is 6,000 to 9,000 ppm, the forage could be toxic and should not be the sole source of feed.

Waggoner said nitrate content is typically variable, and he stressed the importance of thorough sampling. Producers should record the field of origin for each sample. Forage from an area with high nitrate levels may be mixed with forage from an area with lower levels and fed to cattle with lower risk of toxicity.

From an economical perspective, Waggoner also recommended grazing forage whenever possible instead of baling it into hay. "Anytime we run a swather and baler, we're

going to tie up \$30 to \$35 a ton in that forage," he said.

If it is necessary to hay, Waggoner recommended ammoniating low quality forage to improve digestibility and intake. To ammoniate, stack bales in a 3,2 or 3,2,1 arrangement and cover the stack with 6 mil black plastic. Seal the edges with soil and insert the anhydrous line, applying about 3 percent ammonia of the total weight of the dry stack. The time the stack should remain covered varies with temperature. At temperatures of more than 80 degrees Fahrenheit, leaving the stacks covered for approximately two weeks is usually sufficient. Waggoner warned against ammoniating forages containing weeds or moderate quality forages, as toxic substances can be produced.

A K-State Research and Extension

video "how-to" on Ammoniating Low Quality Forages is posted at <http://youtu.be/-JtjB-umpk>.

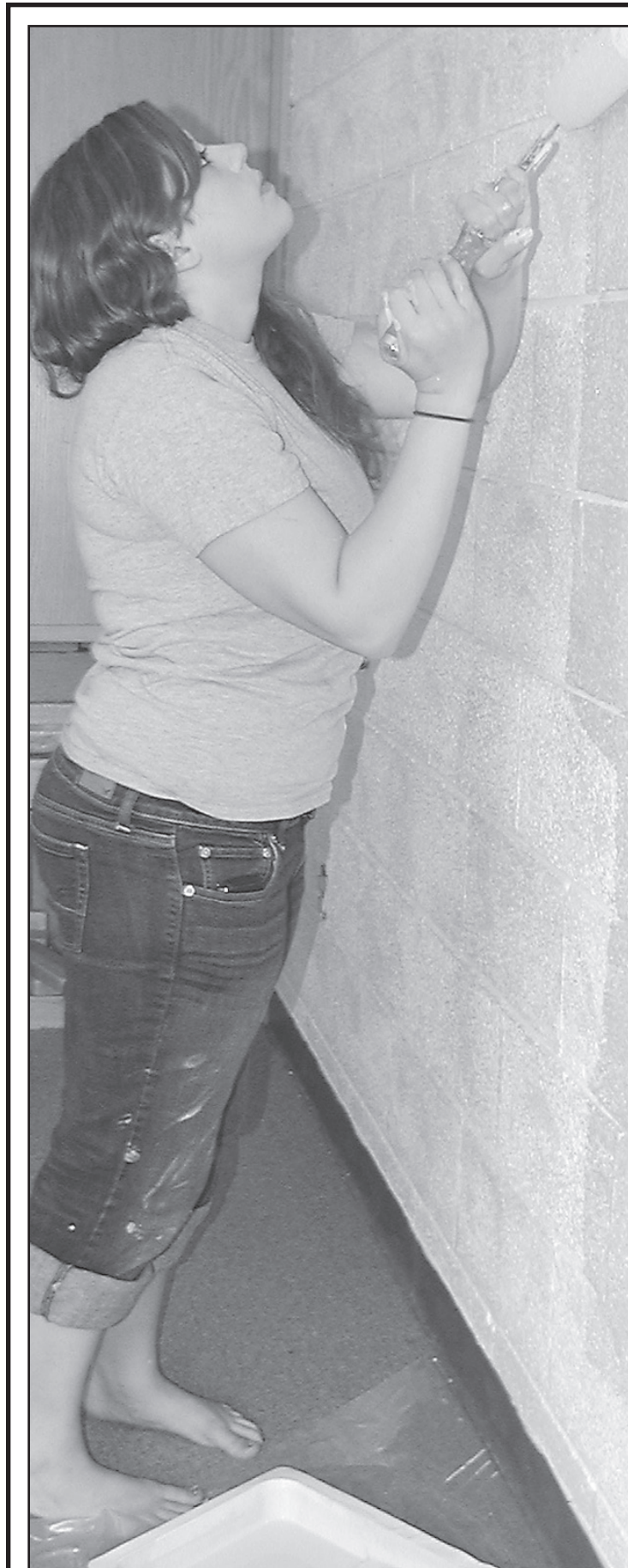
If a producer is able to locate available forages to buy, Waggoner recommended asking a few questions to help assess its quality, since forage is rarely bought or sold with sample results.

1) What did the field look like prior to cutting? What were the dominant plant species?

2) What is the history of management? Was it in CRP?

3) When was it cut?

Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu with questions or comments. Until next week - Marty



HAYLEY SCHMID was one of the teachers getting the ABC Preschool room ready for students. The remodeling has been done with funds raised through donations and money makers. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

Community offers leadership class

The St. Francis Community Builders is looking for new members. A leadership class is in the works for the fall of 2012.

Community Builders is a grass roots organization made up of local individuals who desire to keep the communities of Cheyenne County vibrant and growing. Although the group does not have an agenda, it is active in organizing activities such as past political forums.

The group has grown by offering three leadership classes in the past, the last being held in 2007. Although the fall session is still in the planning stage the Community Builders have met to begin the process.

Classes will be held on Monday evenings in the basement of the Bankwest building. There will be four sessions and dinner will be provided. A small fee is required which will cover the food costs. The meetings will last from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

The actual dates have not been decided but should be with in the window of Oct. 8 to Nov. 19.

The leadership class will be limited to 24 participants and is on a first-come-first-serve basis. If you are interested contact a Community Builder member or Tom Keller at 785-332-3991 or email tomekeller48@gmail.com.

Fun Facts

- Americans routinely use about 10,000 words, but can generally recognize between 30,000 and 40,000.
- More than 40 percent of the water used in the United States is used for irrigation.
- When the Krakatoa volcano erupted in Indonesia in 1883, the sound was heard 3,000 miles away.
- The unit of electric measure-

ment called the "volt" is named for the Italian scientist Alessandro Volta.

• The helicopter was invented in 1907.

• With an estimated 250,000 species, flowering plants are the most numerous plants on earth.

• Although Amsterdam is officially the capital of The Netherlands, the seat of government is in The Hague, 34 miles away.

Watch St. Francis at Holyoke

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AUTHENTIC MANHOOD

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with Robert Lewis

Tuesdays, Beginning Sept. 4th

6:30 a.m. (Breakfast Provided)

First Christian Church Fellowship Hall

Ron Maifeld at 785-332-3133