

Extension Notes

By Tye Faulkender,
Extension Director

"Fall Focus on Beef" will be held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the Cheyenne County Fair building, St. Francis. The program will also be held in Sharon Springs from 2 to 4:30 p.m. mountain time, at the CAP building.

Rodney Jones, K-State Department of Agricultural Economics, will be talking about beef cow leasing and the cattle economics outlook. Bryan Rickard, Kansas Animal Health Department, will be updating farmers and ranchers on

the National Animal Identification System.

How to effectively use by-products will be presented by Twig Marston, K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

Lunch will be served. People are asked to pre-register by Friday. Call the Cheyenne County Extension office at 785-332-3171; or the Sharon Springs office, 785-852-4285.



Faulkender

Christmas Facts

Why do people give each other presents on Christmas day?

The tradition of gifts seems to have started with the gifts that the wise men (the Magi) brought to Jesus. As recounted in the Bible's book of Matthew, "On coming to the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." As men-

tioned in the previous question, however, no one was really in the habit of exchanging elaborate gifts until late in the 1800s. The Santa Claus story (described later), combined with an amazing retailing phenomenon that has grown since the turn of the century, has made gift giving a central focus of the Christmas tradition.



THE ST. FRANCIS SINGERS entertained the crowd during the Christmas Opening held Nov. 24 at First National

Bank. Santa was nearby to visit with and listen to children's wish lists for Christmas.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



TRACY NEITZEL (right) shows Leigh Ann Faulkender and Mike Bandel one of the Christmas trees she has for sale at Hilltop General Store.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Christmas Facts

The common abbreviation for Christmas to Xmas is derived from the Greek alphabet. X is letter Chi, which is the first letter of Christ's name in the Greek alphabet.

Oliver Cromwell, in England banned Christmas Carols between 1649 and 1660. Cromwell thought that Christmas should be a very solemn day so he banned carols and parties. The only celebration was by a sermon and a prayer service.

In 1643, the British Parliament officially abolishes the celebration of Christmas. The Puritans in America tried to make Thanksgiving Day the most important annual festival instead of Christmas.

Silent Night was written in 1818, by an Austrian priest Joseph Mohr. He was told the day before Christ-

mas that the church organ was broken and would not be prepared in time for Christmas Eve. He was saddened by this and could not think of Christmas without music, so he wanted to write a carol that could be sung by choir to guitar music. He sat down and wrote three stanzas. Later that night the people in the little Austrian Church sang "Stille Nacht" for the first time.

St Francis of Assisi introduced Christmas Carols to formal church services.

Telesphorus, the second Bishop of Rome (125-136 AD) declared that public Church services should be held to celebrate "The Nativity of our Lord and Saviour." In 320 AD, Pope Julius I and other religious leaders specified 25 Decem-

ber as the official date of the birth of Jesus Christ.

26 December was traditionally known as St Stephen's Day, but is more commonly known as Boxing Day. This expression came about because money was collected in alms-boxes placed in churches during the festive season. This money was then distributed during to the poor and needy after Christmas.

Melbourne, Australia has a sporting Boxing Day tradition. The Melbourne Cricket Ground hosts a Cricket test match. Sometimes this attracts 90,000 spectators. Cricket is Australia's premier Summer sport.

The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531

Ag Talk with Jeanne

By Jeanne Falk
K-State Co
Agronomist



Sudden Drop in Temperatures Hurting Wheat?

During the last week of November, there were severe temperature extremes. In Colby, there was a 60 degree high and four days later the low was 2 degrees. So, the big question is "Will these temperature extremes cause wheat injury?"

According to Jim Shroyer, K-State wheat production specialist, the answer is dependent on the stage of development of the wheat and moisture levels in the soil.

There are two main questions to consider when evaluating the potential for winterkill.

1) How well has the wheat hardened off, and how well developed is the root system?

In general, temperatures were well above normal into late November, and then dropped suddenly. There was a period of time before Thanksgiving in which temperatures were close to normal, and that helped the wheat develop winterhardiness. Where the wheat was planted late or conditions have been dry, the wheat may not have developed a good secondary root system. Wheat that is small, has not tillered, or has not developed secondary roots is much more susceptible to winterkill.

2. How cold did the soil get at the crown level?

Cold injury is possible when soil temperatures at the crown level (about one inch deep) get down into the single digits. If the soil had good moisture, it's possible that soil temperatures at the crown level may not have reached the critical level. However, if the soil was dry, there is a greater potential for injury, es-

pecially on exposed slopes or in low-lying areas.

To test for winterkill damage, producers can dig up a few plants, put them in pots, and bring them inside to warm up. If the plants do not respond to the warmer conditions, they may have suffered winterkill injury.

If plants are killed outright, they won't green up. If they are only damaged, it might take them a while to die. They will green up and then slowly go 'backwards' and eventually die. There are enough nutrients

in the crown to allow the plants to green up, but the winter injury caused damage to the tissues that move nutrients. This slow death is probably the most common result of winter injury on wheat.

In addition, direct cold injury is not the only source of winter injury. Under dry conditions, wheat plants may suffer from desiccation. This can kill or weaken plants and is actually a more common problem than direct cold injury.

Bowling News

Wednesday Afternoon Coffee 11-29

Team standings: Windmill Restaurant 33-11, Sunshine Girls 29-19, Kathy's Cater Cats 24-20, Lodge Sleepers 21-27, Kale's Girls 20-24

High game (scratch): Pat Rose 175, Marlys Poulignot 168, Linda Yonkey 160; (handicap): Yonkey 220, Poulignot 216, Rose 214

High series (Scratch): Rose 480, Poulignot 445, Debbie Bush 421; (handicap): Rose 597, Poulignot 589, Bush 583

Wednesday Night Bowling 11-29

Team standings: 2001 Electronics 23-17, Krien Steel Buildings 23-17, First National Bank 20-20, Haigler Two 20-20, Grace Flying Service 20-20, Fearless 4 Some 19-21, Haigler One 19-21, Neitzel Insurance 15-25

High game (scratch): John Bargo 222, Kale Zimbelman 205, Jasper

Shanks 200; (handicap): Janice Krien 209, Erica Harlan 206, Tammy Zimbelman 204

High series (scratch): K. Zimbelman 557, Bob Lippert 538, Ted Mosier 517; (handicap): Harlan 609, T. Zimbelman 590, Krien and Peggy Horinek 588

Ladies Nite Out 11-30

Team standings: Jersey Maids 34-18, Wray Meat Packing 32-20, Bankwest Alley Kats 29-23, Cheyenne Bowl 28-24, Dundy Ag 27-25, Wright Carpet 23-29, Mel's Gals 18-34, Stockman's Strikers 17-35

High game (scratch): Tammy Zimbelman 218, Nancy Vernon 198, Tammy Overlease 197; (handicap): Zimbelman 250, Vernon 247, Overlease 244

High series (scratch): Marsha Kechter 519, Zimbelman 493, Overlease and Boots Peterson 490; (handicap): Overlease 631, Kechter 624, Vernon 624

FUEL TRUCK OPERATOR / CLERK INSPECTOR

Starting wage is \$15.28/hour. Earn up to \$20.38/hour after completing 60 qualifying months of service.

The UNION PACIFIC FRUIT EXPRESS is currently interested in career minded individuals to fill the position of Fuel Truck Operator / Clerk Inspector in North Platte, NE.

Qualified applicants will fuel and inspect refrigerated railcars, intermodal equipment. Responsibilities include customer service to both internal and external clients, prepare reports and other duties as assigned. Applicants should have a working knowledge of personal computers. A net typing speed (once errors have been deducted) of 25 wpm is preferred. Work is performed outdoors regardless of weather conditions, at elevations of more than 12 feet above ground. Requires the ability to climb and perform physical labor on a continuous. Applicants must pass a medical exam and a comprehensive background investigation. Must possess the ability to obtain a Class 'B' CDL with hazmat endorsements within thirty- 30 days of employment.

Minimum requirements include:

- Must be a minimum of 18 Years of age.
- Individuals with felony and/or misdemeanor convictions may not be hired.
- Must have experience driving medium trucks or similar equipment.
- Must possess a current valid driver's license.

If you meet these minimum qualifications, please submit your complete resume to the following agency by no later than December 11, 2006 to schedule an interview:

North Platte Workforce Development
306 E 6th Street
North Platte, NE 69101
Phone: (308) 535-8320
Fax: (308) 535-8085
Email: noplattewfd@dol.state.ne.us

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