



Physical Therapist Assistant program director Pat Erickson (center) instructs a student on taking blood pressures.

Program director wins award

Pat Erickson, director of the physical therapist assistant program at Colby Community College since 1989, received an award for item writing for the National Physical Therapist Examinations for physical therapist assistants.

Erickson wrote questions for the national board, the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, for the test that the students are required to pass to earn a license.

Erickson was recognized at the group's meeting in San Diego.

Criteria for the award include the development and approval of

60 items by the Item Bank Review Committee and entry into the examination item bank. Recipients must also attend a beginning item writer workshop, fulfill content area assignments during the workshop and be recommended by an item writer coordinator.

Late wheat planting requires extra planning from farmers

MANHATTAN — Some wheat had not yet been planted by the end of October across Kansas — especially in the eastern third of the state — due to wet ground.

In other cases, farmers are still waiting to harvest their soybeans, grain sorghum or corn before planting wheat, said Jim Shroyer, Kansas State University Research and Extension crop production specialist.

This may require them to do a little extra planning, Shroyer said.

"Planting wheat in early November is still within the acceptable range of planting dates in southeast and far south central Kansas," he said. "In other areas, this is later than I would like to see and later than the cutoff date for full crop insurance coverage."

When planting wheat more than two weeks after the Hessian fly-free date, he said, growers should begin to make certain management changes.

"For one, seeding rates should be increased," the agronomist said. "When planting in late October or early November, producers should use a seeding rate of 75 to 90 pounds per acre in western Kansas and 100 to 120 pounds in eastern and central Kansas, or in fields under irrigation."

"Also, as wheat seeding is delayed well past the optimum date in the fall, producers should strongly consider using about 15 to 20 pounds per acre of phosphorus fertilizer directly with the seed, regardless of soil P levels. This placement method is more effective at that time of year than other. The later the planting date, the more fall root development is slowed. The closer the fertilizer is to the seed, the sooner the plant roots can get to it."

If volunteer wheat is present, the best option at this point might be to leave it alone and concentrate on

getting the wheat planted, said Jeff Whitworth, K-State Research and Extension entomologist.

"Most of the wheat curl mites or aphids present on volunteer in late October or November will probably stay in place on undisturbed volunteer through the winter and not move onto newly planted wheat this fall," he said. "The uncontrolled volunteer could lead to infestations of wheat curl mite, aphid and Hessian fly on planted wheat next spring, however, so it's a tradeoff. Yield losses from spring infestations of these pests are typically not as great as losses from fall infestations."

The highest priority now is to get the wheat planted as soon as possible, Shroyer said. Trying to spray the volunteer with a herbicide is not a good plan because it would take a couple weeks for it to die.

Wheat can be planted in November and still survive the winter in most cases, as long as there is enough warm weather for the wheat to develop a couple of tillers and a secondary root system, Shroyer said.

"Be sure to plant at least 1 to 1.5 inches deep. If the seed is placed too shallowly, it will be more susceptible to winterkill and desiccation injury. If placed too deeply, it may not have enough vigor in cold soils to emerge well, he said."

A study done several years ago near Garden City showed that the yield potential of wheat is reduced by about 20 percent for wheat that emerges in early November and another 20 percent for every month after that.

Many factors other than planting dates affect yields, of course, but wheat that doesn't emerge until after Thanksgiving in western Kansas almost always yields less than wheat that emerges at the normal time, Shroyer said.

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