

Wheat yield reduction linked to volunteer corn in rotation

One of the common crop rotations used by farmers on the High Plains – wheat-corn-fallow, using Roundup Ready corn – has its advantages, but nearly indestructible volunteer corn can cut into yields some years, Kansas State University researchers said.

The results of a three-year study conducted across western Kansas indicate that in average years, when conditions were neither drier nor wetter than usual, volunteer corn growing in fallow reduced the following wheat crop's tiller production and grain yield, but had minimal effect on grain test weight.

"Producers who grow glyphosate-tolerant corn are challenged with controlling volunteer corn during the fallow period in a dryland wheat-corn-fallow rotation," said John Holman, K-State cropping systems agronomist. Volunteer corn can germinate throughout the fallow period and is not affected by traditional herbicides used in chemical fallow. This creates an issue for farmers who must allow the volunteer corn to grow or apply a selective grass herbicide, which in turn increases weed-control costs.

K-State researchers started the study in 2007 to determine common levels of volunteer corn and to quantify the effect of volunteer corn on soil moisture during the fallow period and the subsequent effect on winter wheat.

The three-year study, conducted by Holman in collaboration with K-State agronomists Alan Schlegel and Brian Olson, found that for every 200 volunteer corn plants per acre, wheat yield was reduced by one

bushel per acre in years with average growing conditions. At Tribune, the first bushel of wheat yield was lost when volunteer corn density was 75 plants per acre. However, in years with very low or very high precipitation, volunteer corn growing during fallow did not impact the subsequent wheat crop's yield.

Fields in the study, including farmer-owned and university acreage, averaged 500 volunteer corn plants per acre.

"On the basis of the test results in Colby and Tribune from 2008, a density of 500 volunteer corn plants per acre would cut wheat yields by 4.6 bushels per acre," said Holman.

"A selective grass herbicide can be used to control flushes of volunteer corn, but may cost close to \$15 per acre," said Troy Dumler, K-State southwest area extension agricultural economist, also a collaborator on the study. "...With wheat at about \$5 per bushel, a yield loss of 3 bushels per acre would be needed to justify additional herbicide treatments to control volunteer corn. That would require a density of more than 250 volunteer corn plants per acre."

One way to reduce the cost would be to spot spray the volunteer corn, use a selective grass herbicide in place of glyphosate for sequential herbicide applications in fallow, or use a herbicide program other than Roundup and a non-Roundup-Ready corn variety.

Information about the study is available on the Web at www.wkarc.org.

Hays hospital offers cancer class

A nationally broadcast program addressing care options related to cancer diagnoses will be presented live-via-satellite at Hays Medical Center next Wednesday.

The program will be from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Hadley Conference Room No. 2 at 2220 Canterbury in Hays. Registration begins at noon.

A panel of national speakers will address topics including the complexities of professionals working with end-stage cancer patients and their families as they transition from hospice to palliative care; responding to the range

of physical, psychological and spiritual reactions that people who are dying of cancer may have; assessment of the ways families and other caregivers are coping with cancer and the imminent death of the patient and how the decisions made and events that occur during the cancer illness and dying process can change the course of bereavement.

Continuing Education credit will be available through the Hospice Foundation of America for nurses, social workers, counselors, funeral directors, clergy, psychologists, physicians and

nursing home administrators. This program is being offered free of charge. If you desire to obtain continuing education credit there is a \$25 processing fee payable to Hospice Foundation of America.

To register call (800) 248-0073 Ext 5500 or e-mail debbie.mclaren@haysmed.com.



CLASSIFIEDS

Leap into savings with the...

We're Looking for EXECUTIVE MATERIAL!



Are you looking for a good job?

Recent college grads welcome!

The Colby Free Press is looking for a full-time advertising executive to sell advertising for Nor'West Newspapers. The work week would be 40 hours with occasional evening and weekend duties. Computer skills with Excel, Photoshop, InDesign, and Acrobat helpful but not necessary. Must have good communication skills, and excellent customer service skills with attention to detail. Send a letter and resume to Steve Haynes, publisher, at 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kansas., 67701 or s.haynes@nwkansas.com. This could be the job you've been looking for.



COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. 5th • Colby, KS 67701 • 785-462-3963

WHY WOULD I EVER WANT TO BE A NEWSPAPER CARRIER?!

✓ out all these GREAT incentives!

- \$25 signing bonus after 3 months
- Bonus for new subscribers
- Various sized routes
- No 2 routes are the same



Contact Kathryn at the Colby Free Press for more information on available routes.



COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. 5th Street - 785-462-3963