

Take some factors into account when cutting or grazing prairie hay

Several counties in Kansas have been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acreage due to the extreme drought and shortage of forage this year.

Several factors are important when haying or grazing prairie hay this summer, said Walt Fick, K-State Research and Extension range management specialist.

"If producers haven't cut their hay yet, I would encourage them to do so soon. Harvest date is the most important management decision affecting hay production. Timing affects production, quality, composition, amount of regrowth, and subsequent plant vigor," Fick said.

Producers should consider raising the cutter bar to leave at least a 3-inch stubble, he said. Maximum yield of native hay generally oc-

curs in August, but waiting until then results in lower quality, less re-growth, and can alter the composition and vigor of stands if done repeatedly over a number of years, Fick said. Plus, peak yield may have already occurred in drought-stricken counties this year. The quality of prairie hay will keep declining with time.

"Crude protein declines about 1 percentage unit every two weeks during the month of July, and will be no higher than 5 percent by late August when maximum yield normally occurs," he said.

The timing of haying on species composition and vigor of stands can also be important, Fick added.

"Repeated mowing around Sept. 1 can change a bluestem-dominated hay meadow to a stand dominated by broadleaf species. The change occurs because the grasses do not have a sufficient time period to replenish food re-

serves before frost occurs," he explained.

Grazing of prairie hay this year should be managed carefully, the agronomist said.

"Heavy grazing in the late summer can be detrimental to next year's production. The key is stocking rate. We need to leave enough leaf area so the plants can continue to carry out photosynthesis and store food reserves going into the winter," Fick said.

How much leaf area is enough? In conservation reserve stands planted with mid-size and tall grasses, a 6- to 8-inch average stubble height, or about 1,000 to 1,500 pounds per acre, would be optimum, he said.

Forage quality will also be low in the late season and livestock producers may want to consider how this could affect the management of their cow herds, including culling decisions, early weaning, and related practices, the range management specialist said.

Winona girl crowned at Junction City rodeo

Fifteen-year-old Winona resident Brittany Plummer was crowned Junction City Rodeo Queen on July 16 after a three-day contest.

Plummer placed first in nearly every event including a 75-question test, modeling, interview and horsemanship. She won several prizes including a new saddle and tack.

Plummer, the daughter of Shawn and Shelly Plummer, is a sophomore at Triplains High School.

This is her third crown in three years. She was Thomas County Rodeo Princess in 2009 and Beef Empire Days Princess in 2010.



Brittany Plummer

Plummer said she enjoys traveling with her horse Concho to promote rodeo.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE Last Wednesday

1:13 a.m. – Caller requested an officer to walk her out to her vehicle because of suspicious incident.

6:01 a.m. – Unlocked building at Fike Park.

12:55 p.m. – Caller reported juvenile missing for extended period of time. Deputy located child. Four police officers responded.

2 p.m. – Theft: report filed on subjects who failed to return rental vehicle.

3:25 p.m. – Caller reported juvenile in the street. Adult with child in the yard.

4:17 p.m. – Suspicious incident: subject came to station reporting keys lost. Spoke with subjects, keys found.

8:20 p.m. – Removed debris from roadway at 700 W. Seventh.

11:09 p.m. – Helped motorist move vehicle at Pine and Franklin.

11:10 p.m. – Parking complaint at South Park. Owner located, vehicle to be moved.

11:16 p.m. – Locked building at Fike Park.

Thursday

12:13 a.m. – Security check at B-Hive.

12:27 a.m. – Security check at Twister's.

1:02 a.m. – Security check at Bosselman's.

5:18 a.m. – Caller was stuck by Motel 6. Contacted 24/7.

6:29 a.m. – Unlocked building at Fike Park.

8:26 a.m. – Clerk called about two people sleeping in a vehicle in parking lot; wanted them to leave. All OK; subjects left.

9:58 a.m. – Caller reported man possibly got sick; is still in parked vehicle. All appeared OK; no one in or around vehicle.

10:17 a.m. – Assisted ambulance crew on call.

12:59 p.m. – Owner of motel called about car with engine running parked in lot for more than two hours. All OK; was an employee's.

12:59 p.m. – Manager of business called about required signage for conceal carry non-usage. Provided information.

4:27 p.m. – Caller reported subject behaving strangely on several different occasions.

5:45 p.m. – Caller reported medium-sized dog at large in the area of 400 block of W. Fifth Street. Dog gone on arrival.

6:32 p.m. – Provided direc-

tions from Country Club Drive to K-25.

9:36 p.m. – Caller reported wallet lost somewhere in the city of Colby. Report filed.

9:53 p.m. – Harassment: caller reported subjects issuing various threats. Spoke with subjects, civil matter.

10:51 p.m. – Caller reported alarm. Everything OK.

11:11 p.m. – Secured restrooms at Fike Park.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Thursday

4:30 a.m. – Went to Junction City Juvenile Detention Center to bring back a juvenile.

6:30 a.m. – Caller reported wires being pulled on irrigation motor. Spoke to reporting party, nothing damaged or taken. No report.

2:59 p.m. – Caller reported vehicle collision at Frontier Ag in Brewster.

3:32 p.m. – Took juvenile prisoner to Junction City.

5:09 p.m. – Caller reported semi transporting unsecure load at U.S. 24 and County Rd. 22.

9:55 p.m. – Caller reported confused subject approaching various residences. Unable to locate.

Heat takes toll on Kansas farm crops

WICHITA (AP) — Triple-digit temperatures and the continuing lack of moisture are taking a rising toll on Kansas crops.

Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service on Monday issued a weekly crop update showing rapidly declining conditions for the state's major crops.

The agency now rates 34 percent of the Kansas corn crop in poor to very poor condition. About 32 percent is in fair shape with just 29 percent rated as

good and 5 percent as excellent.

Sorghum crops are also hurting, with 36 percent rated in poor to very poor condition. About 33 percent of the soybeans are also rate poor to very poor.

The deteriorating conditions show up across multiple indicators. Topsoil and subsoil moisture is short across most of the state, while Kansas range and pasture conditions are getting worse.

Thomas County Jail

Booked into the Thomas County jail:

• Joseph Bernard Castellana, 69, Marietta, Ga., July 17, sale-distribui on of certain hallucinogenic drugs, no drug tax stamp, Kansas Highway Patrol, released July 20

on signature bond.

• John Samuel Kuder, 34, Springfield, Mo., July 19, failure to appear, failure to appear/driving under the influence (second offense), Thomas County Sheriff's Office, released same day on

bond.

• Joseph James Spohn III, Leawood, 24, July 19, driving with license suspended or revoked, illegal tag, Colby Police Department, released same day on notice to appear.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of

Rexford

will meet on August 10, 2012 at 7:00 PM at Rexford City Hall for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at City Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2012 Expenditures and Amount of Current Year Estimate for 2011 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2012 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2010		Current Year Estimate for 2011		Proposed Budget for 2012		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2011 Ad Valorem Tax	Estimate Tax Rate*
General	60,438	32.096	74,800	32.012	95,450	22,632	31.657
Debt Service							
Special Highway					15,350		
Utility	41,200		43,500		191,266		
Totals	101,638	32.096	118,300	32.012	302,066	22,632	31.657
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	101,638		118,300		302,066		
Total Tax Levied	22,150		22,150		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	690,130		691,882		714,907		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2009		2010		2011		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

Jolene E. Hansen

City Official Title: City Clerk

(Published in the Colby Free Press on Wednesday, July 27, 2011)

Former Jackson County sheriff exonerated

TOPEKA (AP) — A former Jackson County sheriff will not face criminal charges after being accused of misconduct by an inmate at the county jail.

A spokesman for Attorney General Derek Schmidt said Monday that no charges will be filed against Charlie Cornell, who resigned as sheriff in May. He said the Kansas Bureau of Investigation did not find evidence warranting charges.

The *Topeka Capital-Journal* reports that the fe-

male prisoner alleged that Cornell forced her to take part in sexual acts at the county jail and other locations.

Cornell had predicted that he would not be charged.

Before his resignation, the county spent at least \$100,000 to settle claims in a half-dozen lawsuits or notices of legal claims that claimed the sheriff created a hostile work environment.

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