

Workshop on insects, diseases planned here

An Insect and Disease Management School will be offered by Thomas County Extension and the Sunflower Extension District on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at the American Legion in Colby.

Over the last several years, some insect and disease problems have never gone away, including leaf rust in wheat.

Several disease and insect problems have made a comeback, namely, Hessian fly and stripe rust in wheat, while others occur sporadically such as the head moth in sunflowers and chinch bugs in sorghum. There are also a couple of diseases and insect problems that are on the horizon such as the soybean

aphid and soybean rust.

The workshop has been planned to aid producers in identifying and managing these disease problems. Seven hours of continuing education units for the IA certification will be offered, along with the one core hour needed for renewal. Certified crop adviser credits will also be available for producers and others.

Addressing options for managing these problems will be K-State specialists Doug Jardine, plant pathologist; J.P. Michaud, entomologist; and Jerry Miller with the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

There is a \$15 registration

fee to cover lunch and materials. Reservations are requested by Thursday, Dec. 1, online at www.sunflower.ksu.edu. Look for registration under the Agronomy Tab.

If you have questions or need information feel free to call the Thomas County Extension office, (785) 460-4582, the Northwest Area Extension Office, (785) 462-6281, or the Sunflower Extension District Office in Goodland, (785) 890-4880.

You can also e-mail Clint Milliman, Thomas County Extension Agent at milliman@k-state.edu or Jeanne Falk, Sunflower Extension District Agent at jfalk@k-state.edu.

Deer-vehicle collisions peak during mating season

Deer can be spotted near our state's roadways any time of the year. However, in the fall, motorists should be especially vigilant for deer crossing the highways. Deer breeding season peaks in mid-November, and this marks the period when deer-vehicle collisions are highest. That's why the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism are working together to raise awareness and help drivers avoid collisions with deer.

According to Department of Wildlife biologist Lloyd Fox, the increase in deer-vehicle crashes is strongly influenced by the deer mating season, called "rut." During rut, deer focus on mating; they travel more than in other seasons, and pay less attention to hazards such as vehicles. Also during the fall, many deer move to new locations as crops are harvested and leaves fall from trees and shrubs, so they are less secure than in their summer habitats.

Not only are deer more active during the fall, shorter days mean dusk and dawn – when deer are more likely to be on the move – occur when commuter traffic is highest. According to Department of Transportation spokesperson

Steve Swartz, there were 9,109 deer-vehicle collisions reported in 2010. Deer-vehicle collisions occur in every Kansas county. In most cases, counties with high human populations and high traffic volumes record the most deer-vehicle crashes.

Motorists should observe the following tips to avoid deer collisions.

- Be especially watchful at dawn and dusk when deer are particularly active.
- Watch for more than one deer. They seldom travel alone, so if one crosses the road, others may follow.
- Reduce speed and be alert near wooded areas or green spaces such as parks or golf courses and near water sources such as streams or ponds.
- Don't swerve to avoid hitting a deer – the most serious accidents occur when motorists swerve and collide with another vehicle or run off the road and hit an obstacle.
- Heed deer crossing signs.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Use bright lights and slow down whenever the reflective eyes of deer are spotted.

According to Technical Trooper Josh Kellerman of the Highway Patrol, if you hit a deer, pull onto the shoulder, turn on your emer-

gency flashers and watch for traffic before exiting your vehicle. Do not try to remove a deer from the roadway unless you are certain it is dead; an injured deer could hurt you. If you have a cellular phone and are on a Kansas highway, dial *47 (*HP) for a highway patrol dispatcher or *582 (*KTA) for assistance on the Kansas Turnpike, or dial 911.

Anyone involved in a vehicle-deer crash that results in personal injury or property damage that totals \$1,000 or more is required to immediately report the crash to the nearest law enforcement agency.

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Lola M. Skiles, deceased.
Case No. 10-PR-35

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed on October 24, 2011, in said Court by Frank J. Skiles, executor of the estate of Lola M. Skiles, deceased, praying for final settlement of the estate, approval of his acts, proceedings and accounts as Executor, allowance for attorney fees and expenses, determination of the heirs, devisees and legatees entitled to the estate and assignment to them in accordance with the Will of Lola M. Skiles, deceased. You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 21st day of November, 2011, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on said day, in said Court, in the City of Colby, Thomas County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Frank J. Skiles, Petitioner

Laurence A. Taylor, #9496
1480 West Fourth
P.O. Box 509
Colby, Kansas 67701
785-462-6736
Attorney for Petitioner

(Published in The Colby Free Press on Friday, October 28th, November 4, 11, 2011)

Insecticide options available

The Kansas Department of Agriculture has obtained approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Special Local Need registrations of the insecticide products Cobalt and Stallion to help deal with alfalfa weevil infestations. These registrations allow for fall applications of Cobalt or Stallion across the state starting Nov. 1.

The alfalfa weevil is one of the primary insect pests of alfalfa. In addition to reducing forage quality, insect pests of alfalfa are estimated to reduce yields by 10-15 percent annually.

The life cycle of the alfalfa weevil begins in late fall when the adults enter the alfalfa fields to feed and deposit eggs in the stems of alfalfa plants. The goal is to interrupt the life cycle with a fall pesticide

application after the last cutting, which should have little to no impact on bees or other pollinators.

A fall application is not contrary to the specific use restrictions for either insecticide product. These registrations do not change the number of applications or the amount applied per crop growing season. The timing of the application has been amended to better reflect the life cycle of the alfalfa weevil. This change may result in better control of the pest, improved crop yields and less pesticide use in the spring when bees and other pollinators are foraging.

For information, contact Judy Glass, Kansas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Registration Specialist, at (785) 296-3454 or judy.glass@kda.ks.gov.

Earthquake insurance not part of regular homeowner policies

Sandy Praeger, Commissioner of Insurance, reminds Kansans that earthquake insurance is not part of a regular homeowners, renters or condominium insurance policy.

"If your insurance company offers it, coverage can be added by including an endorsement to your policy or by purchasing a separate earthquake policy," Commissioner Praeger said. "In either case, you will pay an extra premium, just as you do for flood insurance, which is also not part of a regular policy."

replace your home.

- Questions to ask yourself: How much would it cost to repair or rebuild your home? How much would it cost to replace your household items? How much would it cost to find a temporary place to live because you couldn't live in your home after an earthquake?
- The deductible for earthquake insurance usually is 10-20 percent of the coverage limit. This is different from a homeowners policy, which is usually only one flat amount deductible, like \$500 or \$1,000.
- The time to buy the coverage is before an earthquake. Most insurers won't sell any new earthquake insurance for 30 to 60 days after a recent earthquake.
- As with any household coverage, make a household inventory. Go through each room to write down and video everything in the room. Store the inventory in a secure place at another location, such as a safe deposit box. For a download of a Personal Home Inventory, go to www.ksinsurance.org and click on "Publications" at

the bottom of the home page.

- Put your agent's or company's toll-free number into your cell phone directory.
- "As always, your best source for determining your need and coverage levels is your local insurance agent or agency," Commissioner Praeger said.
- For additional assistance, contact the Kansas Insurance Department's Consumer Assistance Hotline at (800) 432-2484.

Learn to make farming enjoyable and profitable

Rangeland management specialist Dave Pratt will hold a workshop on how to make farming more enjoyable and profitable from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the city hall in Wray, Colo.

There is no fee, but reservations are needed by Dec. 7.

Pratt, chief executive officer of the Ranching for Profit school, will speak about what it takes to transform a farm or ranch into a real business and why it is in your best interest to do so. Learning to build a cash flow chart or read a profit and loss statement are just the first steps in turning the collection of assets and tasks of a farm or ranch into a sustainable business.

Workshop attendees will go through the process of building a livestock business from scratch starting with no land, no livestock, no money and no time. Through the process participants will see what it takes to earn a healthy profit.

To register, call (970) 332-3173 ext. 3 or email julie.elliott@co.usda.gov to make your reservation by Wednesday, Dec. 7.


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Reduce Your Taxes

Colby Community College Tax Credits are still available


Receive a **60%** Kansas State Income Tax Credit on 2011 returns. Depending on your income, you may be eligible to receive a deduction resulting in further savings on your Federal Income Tax.

Examples	\$10,000	\$1,000
Contribution to CCC	\$10,000	\$1,000
Less:		
Tax Credit, State of Kansas (60%)	(\$6,000)	(\$600)
Approximate Savings on Federal Income Tax*	(\$2,500)	(\$250)
Estimated Net Cost for Contribution	\$1,500	\$150

All donations are eligible (no minimum).

For tax credit details contact Chief Financial Officer Alan Waites at (785) 460-5402 or Nick Wells, Foundation Director, at (785) 460-4684.

*Based on taxable income above \$33,950 (single) or \$67,900 (married). Filing jointly (both have a "marginal tax rate" of 25%). Tax savings could be greater based on higher taxable income, thereby lowering the overall net cash flow for a contribution.



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