

# Wheat disease outlook not good

Although the wheat crop has only recently greened up, Kansas State's Plant Pathology department sent out a report to the agents of what we might be looking for this year and I thought I would share that with you. This report covers the entire state, but has information of interest to us.



**dana belshe**

• ag notebook

were found on old green leaves in Wichita County on March 1. The extent of overwintering is not yet known.

According to Bob Bowden, Kansas State Plant Pathology Wheat Specialist, many of the weather factors that determine disease incidence and severity have already taken place. Some diseases were favored and some were suppressed.

The first thing that happened was the warm, dry fall. This allowed a buildup of oat-bird cherry aphids, which carry barley yellow dwarf virus. Expect an above-average year for barley yellow dwarf. Early symptoms are a subtle stunting and slight yellowing of the leaves. The classic symptoms of yellow or purple leaf tips will not become obvious until around the flag leaf stage of development.

A similar story applies to wheat streak mosaic virus. The warm, dry weather favored reproduction and migration of wheat curl mites, which are the carriers of this disease. Symptoms

are stunting and a yellow, streaky, mosaic pattern on the leaves. Some fields already looked yellow due to this disease late last fall.

The dry fall weather should have had a suppressive effect on diseases like soilborne mosaic and spindle streak mosaic. Both cause wheat to be stunted and chlorotic, especially in low portions of fields. A moisture-loving soil microorganism called Polymyxa transmits both viruses in the fall. Except for irrigated fields, most Kansas wheat fields were too dry to allow infection. Likewise, the fungus that causes take-all root rot needs moisture in the fall to cause infection. Expect a below average year for this disease as well.

The next factor to consider was the mild winter weather that allowed many wheat leaves to remain green all winter. This favored leaf rust, which overwinters only in living leaf tissue. Fresh pustules of leaf rust

Powdery mildew is another disease that should be favored by the mild winter. Fresh pustules of powdery mildew were noted in Riley County on March 4.

The third weather factor was the relatively warm rains received in late February and early March over much of the state. This moisture probably allowed initiation of new infections by leaf rust, powdery mildew, Septoria, and possibly the tan spot fungus. It may take several weeks before new lesions become apparent.

The last factor is the predicted weather pattern for the spring. If La Nina holds sway, it is supposed to be warmer and drier than usual. This would tend to suppress the development of foliar diseases like leaf rust, Septoria leaf blotch, powdery mildew, or tan spot.

However, I wouldn't bet too much on long-range weather predictions.

# Dumpsters now available for yard waste

Spring is just around the corner, when people start to mow their lawns and clean up their yards. The City of Goodland would like to remind resi-

dents that for their convenience dumpsters are available for disposing of yard waste.

All loose grass clippings, leaves and garden waste may be put into the yellow dumpsters. However, no bags,

trash, tree limbs or any other kind of refuse are allowed in them.

If residents are unsure of what is allowed in these dumpsters or would like to request one for their alley, please contact Cindy Crutcher at 899-4539.

# Man charged with rape

A Goodland man was charged Thursday with rape and aggravated indecent liberties with a child.

The charges were filed in Sherman County District Court by County Attorney Bonnie Selby against Lee Walter Yarbrough.

The file said the charges stem from an incident with a 15-year-old girl, alleging that it was done without her consent, or by use of force or fear. The complaint said the rape occurred around the end of July or the first of August.

Yarbrough was being held in the Sherman County Jail. His bond has been set at \$50,000.

# Ranchers ask what's good about dogs

**RANCHERS, from Page 1**

extinction." A rancher on the other side of the room thought he was a liberal.

"If I had one prairie dog in my pasture," he said, "that would be two too many."

Several landowners made it clear they had no use for prairie dogs at all.

"What would be so bad if we had no prairie dogs?" one woman asked. "What is it good for? 'Cause everybody here wants to get rid of them."

Other landowners said that while they have frequently eliminated the small rodents from parts of their property, they have left some alone.

"They're like coyotes and bindweed," one man said. "They're part of the prairie ecosystem. You're going to have to control, them but you can't eliminate them."

Several people said they worried because prairie dogs can carry plague.

Mr. Lee said that although prairie dogs do carry the plague, it is uncommon for them to transfer it to people or domestic animals. Mostly, he said, when colonies get the plague, they die out.

Several people spoke in favor of the state's plan to take control of prairie dog management instead of allowing the federal government to decide what landowners could do.

"I don't want them on the endangered species list," one property owner said. "If we live under state control, we have some say."

A neighbor agreed. "We do not want them on the endangered species list because that takes it out of our control."



Charles Lee



Dan Mulhern

steps into one, ranchers said.

Mr. Lee suggested that landowners might be able to rent their property for prairie dog hunting. Since hunting usually does not eliminate colonies, he said, it could provide both compensation and conservation.

Kim Graber, a representative of the wildlife federation from Denver, attended the meeting as an audience member. Ms. Graber introduced herself and noted that although she now lives in Denver, she was raised in Topeka.

After the meeting, she said that the federation is in favor of the states taking control of prairie dog conservation. She said that she can see how the landowners will need some sort of compensation.

Several of the people at the meeting stayed afterwards to talk to her and thank her for coming, saying that they thought she was very brave to come to such a hostile meeting.

Comments from the session, moderated by the Docking Institute of Fort Hays State University, will become part of the record supplied to those who have to make decisions on the future of the prairie dog in Kansas and across the West.

# February Employee of the Rosie Whiteman

Rosie is responsible for the fine service at Freshway Deli in Goodland. The attention to detail and willingness to help wherever it's needed are a few of her special qualities. Many recognize that she sincerely likes helping our customers. This attitude extended to Frontier Equity's involvement in a recent community event.



Congratulations Rosie, you deserve to be employee of the month.

Please continue to let us know when we do something exceptional for you so we can recognize one of our many valued employees!



Goodland • 899-3681

Bird City • 734-2331

Brewster • 694-2281

Ruleton • 899-5721

Save Every Day from March 18-26!

# LUCKY 25 SALE

**25% off**

Save on regular prices storewide from March 18-26.

Includes most Catalog & Internet orders too!

Discount does not apply to Sale prices, Red Ticketed Clearance prices, Value Right, Catalog "2-or-more" reduced prices, Cosmetics and Fragrances, Bose®, Boyd's Collection®, Calvin Klein®, Dermalogica®, Easy Spirit®, Evan-Picone®, Hanes®, Oreck®, or to Services, Outlet Stores, Gift Cards, prior purchases, or in combination with any other offer.

**\$1000**  
JCPenney Shopping Spree  
One winner per store!

**1-in-10 cards is a winner!\***

•One \$1000 JCPenney Shopping Spree in every store.

•\$10 off merchandise certificate on your next purchase of \$20 or more.

•Additional 5% off sale prices on your next purchase.

Visit your nearest JCPenney store today and get a game piece with every purchase.

\*No purchase necessary. See store for details.

**3 EASY WAYS TO SHOP**

**1 COME IN**

Shop the store nearest you.

**2 CALL IN**

1-800-222-6161 and ask for "Operator A8." 25% savings from our Spring/Summer '00 JCPenney Big Book™ and "Signature Series" catalogs.

**3 LOG ON**

www.jcpenny.com and key in "OPER A8" when prompted for a promotional code.

Discount applies to regular-priced clothing, accessories and shoes, window coverings, furniture, home decor, bath, kids' and adult bedding and luggage orders.

CONTEST RULES: No Purchase Necessary. Receive one game piece with any JCPenney purchase (except from JCPenney Outlet stores) made between 3/17/00 and 3/26/00. Game pieces also available without purchase at Catalog desk at participating stores. MI and OH residents only may send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to: JCPenney Lucky 25 Sale Sweepstakes Game Piece Request, McCracken Brooks Males, 110 Chesire Lane, Minnetonka, MN 55305, postmarked by 3/27/00 for a free game piece by mail. Game pieces available through scheduled dates while supplies last. Must be a legal U.S. resident (except Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands) who is 18 or older to play. Employees of JCPenney, its affiliates, MGR, Inc., and their respective participating retailers, subsidiaries, advertising, promotion and production agencies, printers of game pieces, and the immediate families and household members of each are not eligible to win. Promotion ends 3/26/00 in-store and 3/27/00 by mail. Grand Prize: \$1,000 JCPenney Gift Card. First Level Discount: \$10 off merchandise certificate on JCPenney purchase over \$20. Second Level Discount: 5% off merchandise certificate on JCPenney purchase. First Level Discounts awarded are dollar off regular or sale prices. Second Level Discounts are percent off sale prices only. Federal, state and local taxes, if any, are the sole responsibility of the individual winner. Some exclusions/restrictions on use of Prizes and Discounts apply. Discounts must be used in-store by 4/30/00. Void where prohibited. Sweepstakes subject to official rules available at participating JCPenney stores.

# JCPenney®

Come in. Call in. Log on.™  
1104 Main • Goodland, Kan.  
(785) 899-7200

Monday-Friday 9:00-5:30  
Saturday 9:00-5:00  
Sunday 12:00-4:00

