

Hospice to hold training

The need for volunteers grows as Hospice Services provides care for more families across northwest Kansas. The next volunteer training for Hospice Services is scheduled for April in Quinter. It will be at 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mountain Time Saturday, April 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 7, and 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 9.

All three sessions will be at Jay Johnson Public Library, 411 Main, Quinter. If anyone wants to become a Hospice Services Inc. volunteer but cannot attend all three sessions, alternative arrangements will be made.

At the training, speakers provide information for the participants in the different areas of hospice care. "The training prepares our volunteers for whatever situations they may face when working with a family," said Hospice Services Nurse, Marla Hawbaker. "We want everyone involved in the hospice experi-

ence to be comfortable."

Volunteering for hospice is a great way to give back to the community, she said; each family has unique needs — volunteers have a variety of opportunities to assist.

Helping another displaces us from being in the center of our own personal universe, she said, and affirms our sense of dignity and worth and that of the person we help.

Anyone who can free up two hours in a week to make a telephone call or friendly visit, give a ride to the doctor, do some light shopping, provide brief respite for a family caregiver or change a light bulb will be doing what most volunteers in America do — simple tasks, but powerful because they allow a person who needs such help to live with hope and dignity.

Hospice Services provides care for fourteen counties in northwest and parts of north central Kansas. Volunteer Training is usually of-

fered every two to three years in each county.

Potential volunteers are invited to participate in a training session near them when it is possible. After completing training, volunteers are invited to participate in activities and serve families in their county, although, several volunteers also opt to travel and join volunteer training and events in adjoining counties as their schedule permits.

Hospice Services is more of a concept than a place. It provides care and services for the terminally ill and their families. Pain control and symptom management are vital goals.

Hospice Services addresses the spiritual, emotional, and social needs as much as the medical/physical requirements. Death is neither hastened nor postponed.

Call Marla Hawbaker at 785-754-3827 or Amanda McKenzie at 800-315-5122.

Plant strawberries early in season

New strawberry plantings should be set early in the growing season so that mother plants become established while the weather is still cool.

The mother plants develop a strong root system during this cool period, when the soil temperatures are between 65 and 80 degrees. The most appropriate planting time is midlate March to mid-April in our area.

Later in the season, runners and daughter plants develop. The earlier the mother plants are set, the sooner the first daughter plant will take root.

These first daughter plants will be the largest plants at the end of the growing season and will bear more



dana belshe

• ag notebook

first year. New plants have limited energy reserves. These need to go into establishing

berries per plant the following spring.

When planting is done later, the higher temperatures stress the mother plants. This results in reduced growth, weaker mother plants and delays in daughter formation. Fewer and smaller daughter plants produce fewer berries, resulting in a smaller crop.

Remove all flowers during the

the mother plants and making runners rather than making fruit.

If fruit is allowed to develop the first year, the amount of fruit produced the second year will be drastically reduced.

Dana Belshe is agricultural agent for Sherman County with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

Yellow wheat caused by drought, virus

"What is causing this yellow wheat?" is a question that I have been hearing quite a lot.

When looking closer at the plants, I have seen a variety of causes for the yellowing. One is the fact that it is just plain dry. I have looked at a couple of dryland wheat fields in Sherman County that were under drought stress, and the leaves were beginning to curl up.

The rain that we are having and expecting later in the week should help ease the drought stress.

Some of the earlier planted wheat is showing yellow symptoms. One problem is wheat streak mosaic, the most important virus disease in the western two-thirds of Kansas.

This is moved by wheat curl mites that live in volunteer wheat over the summer. After wheat has emerged in the fall, the wheat curl mites will move to the newer, lush, green wheat.



jeanne falk

• agron notes

(2137, Cutter, Jagger, Overly and Santa Fe), but there are no varieties that are completely resistant.

Nitrogen deficiency is also showing up in both early-and-late-planted wheat. This is characterized by older leaves turning yellow and dying, while the younger leaf tissue is green and healthy.

Nitrogen is a mobile nutrient in the soil and in plant tissue. The plant takes the nitrogen out of the older leaves and puts it into the newer leaves to maintain plant growth. Nitrogen deficiency may be remedied by applying nitrogen to affected areas or fields.

Jeanne Falk is area agronomist for Sherman, Cheyenne and Wallace counties with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

As they are feeding, the mosaic virus moves into the wheat. Symptoms can vary, but it is usually characterized by a mottled yellow and green color on the leaves.

Long yellow streaks may be concentrated towards the tip of the leaf. As the symptoms get more severe, the leaf veins often remain green.

To confirm this disease, a sample can be sent into the plant tissue testing lab at Kansas State University, where tests are run to detect the virus.

Since this is a virus, there is no treatment. There are some wheat varieties with moderate resistance

club news

Dana Belshe gave a good talk on lawns Wednesday, March 16, at the 4-H building. Four members of the Lincoln Larks attended.

He talked about mowing lawns at the right height, mowing frequently, mowing in a pattern, keeping the mower in good condition and following mowing safety.

Watering your lawn is important, he said, as water conservation is an important issue. Water with zero run-off, no loss of water from soak-

ing, he said, and sustain water where evaporation loss from heat and wind is low. Water in the morning and shut off one half hour before sun down.

There are a lot of different grass seeds, Belshe said. Aerating your lawn improves rooting, loosens compacted soil, breaks up and removes thatch, improves water infiltration and improves the root system.

A lot of different chemicals are available for the different weeds in

lawns, he said. Be sure and read the labels and always use the correct amount.

The best way to recycle grass clippings is to let them fall back into the turf. These are just a few of the things Belshe talked about.

The Lincoln Larks will have the Northwest Area Spring Workshop Monday, April 11, in the 4-H building.

Karen Jones will give the club's next lesson Wednesday, April 27.

Submitted by Arbutus Topliff



A Goodland family gathered five generations last week. Standing are D.J. Baehler, his mother Cynthia Bohl and her father Larry Bohl. Sitting is Larry's mother Anna Bohl holding D.J.'s son Bentley Dale. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Small addition is fifth generation

A small addition extended a Goodland family to five generations. The family gathered all five Thursday at the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center, where great-great-grandmother Anna Bohl lives.

Bentley Dale Baehler was born Tuesday, March 15, 2005, at Goodland Regional Medical Center. He weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

His parents are D.J. and Berlinda

Baehler of Goodland. His grandparents are Cynthia Bohl of Goodland and Floyd and Darla Stegeman of Chappell, Neb.

Larry and Marilyn Bohl of Goodland and Phyllis Wilson of Chappell are his great-grandparents.

Bentley is the first child, grandchild, great-grandchild and great-great-grandchild of all in the family. The Bohls are long-time residents of this area, having also lived many years in Wallace County.



Bentley Dale Baehler



First National Bank employees
will be attending a
Spring Conference on March 31,
therefore we will be closing early on that day.
Please note the following
closing time on your calendar:

Thursday, March 31, 2005
FNB will close at 2:00 pm MT.

Thank you!

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