

# ‘Seven Deadly Scams’ published to help Kansans

*Dear Attorney General Kline: It seems that more and more scams are appearing in my e-mail, on my fax machine and even in my mailbox. What are the most common scams in Kansas?*

Dear Kansas Consumer, I would like to invite you to stop by my booth at the State Fair in Hutchinson between September 8th and 17th and discuss this question with staff from my Consumer Protection Division.

We have produced a new and very informative brochure for the State Fair this year. This new brochure is entitled “Seven Deadly Scams” and it is designed to educate Kansans on the scams generating the most complaints in my Consumer Protection Division.

As you have stated, these scams have proliferated in recent years. International investigations have determined that many of these con artists operate from outside of the United States, especially from Canada, Nigeria and Central America.

We have received reports from Kansans who have, sadly, wire transferred funds to all of these areas, never to receive the benefits



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promised.

Benjamin Franklin’s sage advice is as relevant today as it was 200 years ago: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. “Seven Deadly Scams” was written to give Kansans, in one reading, the ounce of prevention needed to inoculate them and their loved ones from the seven most common scams reported to my office.

Here are the Seven Scams discussed in this informative brochure:

• Money for Nothing Scams

Unfortunately, many Kansans have lost hundreds or even thousands of dollars chasing promises of government grants, sweepstakes prizes, lottery winnings, secret foreign funds or recovery of long-lost property. The hapless victim is usually directed to wire or direct deposit funds out of the country to get the process started.

Realize that all that glitters is not gold. Too many con artists, and especially on-line con artists, deliver goods far different than what was advertised. In the case of pharmaceuticals, such a mistake could prove deadly.

• Buying and Selling Scams

Classified ads on the Internet and even in Kansas newspapers are becoming a hunting ground for con artists. Some pose as sellers, offering a great deal on a popular item. Others pose as buyers, offering to pay more than what is asked. The scam sellers never deliver the goods, the scam buyers send counterfeit checks or money orders and trick Kansans into passing the bogus paper at the bank.

• Biz Op Scams

The standard business opportunity scams of generations past (such as envelope stuffing, chain letters,

billing centers or vending machine routes) are quickly being replaced by scams offering riches for web surfing, data processing or on-line marketing or telemarketing.

Realize that much of the money to be made in such areas is made by duping others to attend endless seminars, pay outrageous prices for web page hosting, or agree to sign up countless friends and family for unnecessary and overpriced on-line services.

• Billing and Marketing Scams

Telephone companies sometimes allow other telecommunications firms to post items on their billing statements in order to consolidate billing and minimize costs.

Thus, even a legitimate telephone bill can seek payment for services that the consumer did not order. Such false billing is called “cramming.”

Unscrupulous telemarketers and others have been known to switch long distance carriers without the express permission of the consumer, a practice known as “slamming.”

• Informational Scams

Your personal information is now a hot commodity on the world mar-

ket. Your social security number, credit cards, checking account numbers, driver’s license and other items of interest can bring hundreds of dollars on the black market. When they are sold in such manner, the result is identity theft.

• Front Door Scams

My Consumer Protection Division has taken enforcement action against con artists selling asphalt paving, tree trimming, magazines, lightening rods, home remodeling, vacuums, frozen meat and cooking utensils door to door.

While it must not be said that every door to door sale in Kansas is a scam, our Division receives many complaints from Kansans who believe that they were “taken” by a door to door salesman.

The new brochure contains much more detail than can be shared in this column, including steps that you should take to protect yourself and loved ones from the con artists casting lures into our great state. Our best defense against the Seven Deadly Scams is in recognizing them and realizing how they are used to separate Kansans from their hard earned cash.

Please help me protect Kansans

from con artists and scams by ordering copies of this new brochure to pass around at civic events, social gatherings and other locations where the good people of Kansas interact.

You can obtain copies of this new brochure to share with friends and families by dropping by the Consumer Protection booth at the State Fair (in the Sunflower building) or by calling us toll free, (800) 432-2310.

To learn more about these Seven Deadly Scams call our Consumer Information Line at (785) 296-2424 and listen to the messages recorded in category one.

*Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints or questions.*

*For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., Second Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, (800) 432-2310.*

# Glyphosate-resistant weeds confirmed in several areas of world

Glyphosate is one of the most widely used herbicides in Kansas and around the world. It is effective for broad-spectrum weed control, especially for fallow and no-till production systems in northwest Kansas.

However, glyphosate-resistant johnsongrass has been confirmed in Argentina, said Dallas Peterson, K-State weed scientist. This has reinforced the need to make sure farmers are aware of the potential problem and use management practices that can help prevent development of glyphosate-resistant weeds.

Glyphosate-resistant weeds that have been confirmed to date include:

• Annual ryegrass in Australia,



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• Waterhemp in Missouri, 2005.

• Johnsongrass in Argentina, 2006.

Some of these weeds are present in northwest Kansas, though the

California, South America and South Africa, 1996.

• Goosegrass in Malaysia, 1997.

• Horseweed and marestail in eastern and southeastern United States and probably in Kansas, 2000.

• Common ragweed in Missouri, 2004.

• Palmer amaranth in Georgia and Tennessee, 2005.

biotypes present here are not resistant to glyphosate and are controlled by timely applications. The presence of resistant biotypes in other parts of the world illustrates these weeds have the ability to adapt to repeated glyphosate applications.

In nearly every case, the resistant populations developed in fields where glyphosate had been the only

herbicide used for six or more years. Glyphosate resistance appears to be different from most other examples of herbicide resistance.

ALS and triazine resistance occurs due to a single dominant gene that gives plants a high level of resistance. On the other hand, weed populations seem to become resistant to glyphosate gradually as a result of multiple genes that each increase the tolerance to some degree.

The rate of glyphosate required to adequately control the weeds gradually increases to the point where the weeds can no longer be controlled, a phenomena sometimes called “rate creep.”

Glyphosate resistance is most likely to develop in fields where glyphosate is used frequently and exclusively for weed control. It may also develop more quickly if low rates are used that allow more-tolerant plants to escape control. For this reason, it is important to use labeled rates for weed control.

The best strategy to help delay or prevent the development of glyphosate-resistant weeds is to avoid continuous and exclusive reliance on glyphosate for weed control in any field. This can be achieved by:

• Rotating crops, especially conventional and Roundup Ready crops.

• Rotating and/or tank mixing herbicides with different modes of action.

• Tank mixing 2,4-D or dicamba with glyphosate in burn-down treatments.

• Use preplant or preemergence herbicides when using a Roundup-Ready crop.

• Using the recommended label rate of glyphosate and the proper timing for the weeds being treated.

• Using ammonium sulfate and other application techniques that optimize glyphosate performance.

*Jeanne Falk is area crop production and economics specialist for Sherman, Cheyenne and Wallace counties with Kansas State University Research and Extension.*

## matters of record

### District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

**Aug. 14** — Harry R. Specht \$126 for improper parking.

**Aug. 15** — Christina G. Allen \$138 for speeding.

**June 28, 2000** — Christopher J. McGuire, \$91 reinstated for speeding.

**April 17, 2004** — Brain W. Vandusen, \$114 reinstated for speeding.

**June 1, 2005** — Chinyu J. Sun, \$300 reinstated for first conviction of driving while suspended and \$150 reinstated for speeding.

**Dec. 3, 2005** — Drew A. Cioffi, \$138 reinstated for speeding and dismissed for no liability insurance.

**April 14, 2006** — Justin R. Tumlinson, \$186 reinstated for speeding.

**April 17** — Rafael T. Santos, \$120 reinstated for speeding.

**April 19** — Kenneth L. Fowler, \$216 for speeding.

**May 2** — Jerod D. Fox, \$310 reinstated for speeding.

**May 6** — Jon R. Graber, \$132 reinstated for speeding.

**May 7** — Demond J. Shead, \$190

reinstated for speeding.

**May 17** — Chanell M. Gustafson, \$126 reinstated for speeding.

**May 19** — Leigh A. Rosser, \$186 for speeding and dismissed for first conviction for driving while suspended.


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**June 19** — Jose F. Rosales, \$126 for improper parking.

**June 23** — Catherine A. Bloom, \$150 for speeding.


**June 25** — Carmel R. Bell, \$168 for speeding.




**June 29** — Robert F. Glynn, \$121 for improper parking.

**Warehouse Auctions**  
**Tuesday, September 26**  
**5:00pm CDT**  
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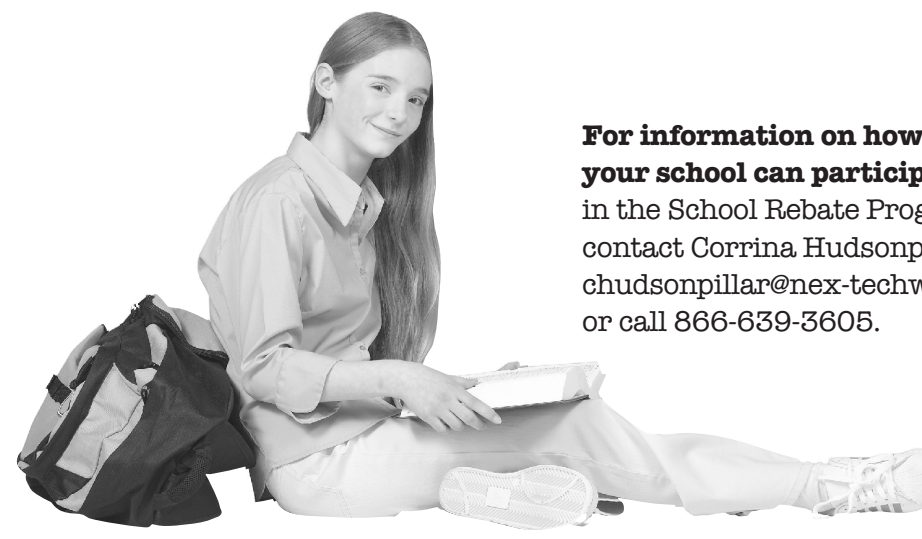
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Nex-Tech Wireless is eligible to receive support from the Federal Universal Service Fund in designated areas. As a result, Nex-Tech Wireless must meet reasonable requests for service in these areas. Questions or complaints concerning service issues may be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection by calling 1-800-662-0027.