

# Stalk lodging in corn causes crop losses, slows harvest

Stalk lodging in corn occurs when the stalk weakens and breaks at some point below the ear. This results in crop losses and slows harvesting, and moisture levels may be high in lodged corn.

The first things many look at when stalk lodging occurs are either stalk rot diseases or corn borer damage. Stalk rot disease organisms (charcoal rot, Fusarium, Gibberella, anthracnose and others) are often found on corn with stalk lodging, said Doug Jardine, Kansas State University plant pathologist, and stalk rot often is the ultimate cause of lodging. But in most cases, the stalk rot diseases were only able to infect the plants because other factors predisposed the plants to infection.

There are many causes for lodging in corn, said Kraig Roozeboom, K-State cropping system and crop production specialist, from hybrid differences to environmental stress.



**jeanne  
falk**

• agron notes

## Carbohydrate depletion in the stalk

Higher-yielding "racehorse" hybrids tend to produce super-high yields at the expense of late-season stalk integrity.

These hybrids translocate a high percentage of carbohydrates from the stalks to the ears during grain fill. This weakens the lower stalk until eventually it will break over, possibly after becoming infected with a stalk rot disease.

This doesn't mean farmers should stay away from the racehorse hybrids, but these have to be managed well. They should be harvested early, shortly after physi-

ological maturity. This may mean harvesting the corn at about 30-35 percent moisture. This can result in discounts, but it's better than leaving those hybrids in the field so long that lodging occurs.

## Hybrid differences in stalk strength

Some hybrids have genetically stronger stalks than others. This is often related to a hybrid's yield potential, as mentioned above, and how it allocates carbohydrates during grain fill, but there are also genetic differences in stalk strength due to other reasons, including better resistance to stalk rot diseases. If a field of corn has stalk lodging problems, it could be due in part to hybrid selection.

## Poor root growth and other stresses

Severe drought and soil compaction can all result in short, inadequate root systems. Under these conditions, the roots may not be able to extract enough water and nutrients from soil to support plant growth and carbohydrate production.

When carbohydrate production is below normal during any part of the growing season, the ears will continue to take what they need during grain fill, which can leave the stalks depleted even under average yield conditions. The developing ear always has priority for carbohydrates within the plant.

## Poor leaf health

Any factor that results in poor leaf health will reduce carbohydrate production during the season. If overall carbohydrate reserves in the plants are low when grain fill begins, stalk integrity will suffer as the available supply moves into grain production.

Maintaining good leaf health is

important in minimizing stalk rots. The more photosynthesis, the less need for the plant to tap stalk reserves. "Stay green" characteristics in hybrids correlate to stalk rot resistance and reduced lodging.

## High populations

Plants can become tall and thin when populations are too high, which can result in thin stalks with inadequate strength. In addition, plant-to-plant competition for light, nutrients and water enhances the competition for carbohydrates between the stalk and ear within the plant, thus reducing the vigor of the cells in the stalk and predisposing them to invasion by stalk rot.

Nutrient imbalances and/or deficiencies predispose corn plants to stalk rot and stalk lodging, said Dave Mengel, K-State soil fertility specialist. Both potassium and chloride deficiency have been shown to reduce stalk quality and strength and stalk rot resistance. High nitrogen levels coupled

with low potassium levels increase the amount of premature stalk death and create an ideal situation for stalk rot and lodging. Soil chloride levels should be maintained above 20 pounds per acre.

## Corn rootworm and corn borers

Damage caused by the corn rootworm and the European corn borer can predispose the corn plant to invasion by stalk rotting organisms, as well as lead to outright yield loss.

## Mid-season hail damage

Similar to the damage caused by insects, the physical damage caused by mid-season hail can set up the plant for invasion by stalk rotting organisms. Stalk bruising and the resulting internal damage may weaken corn stalks, making them more likely to lodge later in the season.

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

## obituaries

### Lois Ruth Dizmang

Lois Ruth (Kemp) Dizmang, 77, a Goodland homemaker, died Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2006, at John Knox Village in Lee's Summit, Mo.

She was born August 8, 1929, in Ruleton, the daughter of Arthur Franklin and Mildred Ruth (Brown) Kemp. On August 3, 1946, she married Harold LeRoy "Sam" Dizmang in Goodland.

A Goodland High graduate, she was a homemaker and helped her husband run Sam's Auto Salvage. She was a member of the United Methodist Church and a charter member of the Goodland Gardenettes.

Preceding her in death were her parents; a step-father, Ralph Gilbert; her husband; a daughter, Roxane; a sister, Ellen Losey; a brother, Willis Kemp; and a brother-in-law, Fred Schultz.

Survivors include a son, Rodney (Cheryl) Dizmang of Garden City; three daughters, Rogene (Pete)

Mahoney of Oklahoma City, Rochelle (Stephen) Peters of Louisburg and Ronette (Mitchell) Rosenow of Lee's Summit; a sister, Leona Schultz of Independence, Iowa; two brothers, Willard (Zita) Kemp of Fort Collins, Colo., and Wayne (Nordie) Kemp of Plant City, Fla.; a sister-in-law, Sue Kemp of Omaha; a brother-in-law, Gary Losey of Logan; five grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 23, 2006, at Koons Funeral Home in Goodland with the Rev. Janet Hernandez officiating. Burial will follow in the Goodland Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Sarcoma Foundation of America in charge of the funeral home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735-1555.

### Deloris Emilie Nipps

Deloris Emilie Nipps, 80, St. Francis, died early Wednesday morning, Oct. 11, 2006, in the Cheyenne County Hospital.

She was born May 10, 1926, in St. Francis, the daughter of Fred and Bertha (Zuege) Krien, and attended grade school and high school there.

Friends said Nipps was athletic, and could play volleyball and basketball and loved to roller-skate.

She loved to dance and jitterbug. She played the saxophone and was in a sax trio. She graduated from St. Francis Community High School in 1945 and attended Kansas State University, where she studied physical education.

On Nov. 26, 1949, she married

Leroy "Hookey" Nipps, and they lived on the Nipps farm south of Wheeler. After her husband and parents died, she moved to town.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband and her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Roy and Alma Nipps.

Survivors include a son, Charlie Nipps of St. Francis; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Services were Friday, Oct. 13, 2006, at the St. Francis First Christian Church with the Rev. John Bartlett officiating.

Burial was in the Goodland Cemetery. Knodel Funeral Home of St. Francis was in charge of the arrangements.

### Darl Elder

Darl Elder, 72, Aurora, Colo., a 1952 Sherman Community High School graduate, died Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2006, at the University of Colorado Medical Center after suffering a heart attack in his home.

He was born April 11, 1934, in Syracuse, the son of Wesley and Lois Elder. He married his high school sweetheart, Amelia Follett, daughter of Victor and Velva Follett, in 1953.

She said he will be remembered by many in Goodland for his friendly personality and his ability to play baseball and other sports.

Mr. Elder joined the Air Force in 1952 and served all over the world, earning the highest noncommissioned rank.

He served as command sergeant major for Defense Communications Pacific Area from 1971 to 1974, and NCOIC DCA, NORAD and was first sergeant of the 47th

Communications Group at Peterson Air Force Base near Colorado Springs just before retiring.

He retired from the Southland Corp. in 1992. He was the family handyman, both at home and for relatives in Goodland, able to fix about anything.

Preceding him in death were his parents; an older brother, Gilbert; and a sister, Dianne Swanson.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years' two children, Victor Elder and Darla (Tom) Theil, both of Denver area; a brother, Dwight Elder of Aurora; a sister-in-law, Annette Franklin of Manhattan; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was Thursday, Oct. 12, 2006, at Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Aurora. Air Force honor services were Friday, Oct. 13, at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver.

### Thelma I. Frerichs

Thelma I. Frerichs, 77, Colby, mother of Richard L. Frerichs of Goodland, died Monday, Oct. 16, 2006, at Infinitia of Colby nursing home.

She was born Dec. 7, 1928, in Rawlins County, the daughter of William and Eva (Eicher) Biggs. She was a telephone operator for Southwestern Bell before she retired.

Preceding her in death was a son, William Robert Frerichs.

Other survivors include her husband, William H. Frerichs of Colby; two brothers, Jimmy L. Biggs of Lorenburg, N.C., and Walter R. Biggs of McDonald; four sisters, Edith M. Ditzes of Gillette, Wyo.,

Lola M. Andrews of Indianapolis, Ind., Sylvia L. Hurst of Goodland and Ruth M. Kersenbrock of Colby; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 9:30 a.m. Mountain Time today, Friday, Oct. 20, 2006, at Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby with Pastor Charles Kerr of Goodland officiating. Burial will be at Goodland Cemetery.

Visitation was scheduled from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday at Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, 745 S. Country Club Drive, Colby.

Memorials to the nursing home may be left at any Colby bank or the funeral home.

## Millipedes invade homes as winter nears

What is the little brown worm that curls up when touched that is invading my home now?



### dana belshe

• ag notebook

That would probably be a millipede. Millipedes normally live outdoors, where they feed on damp and decaying wood and vegetable matter, as well as tender roots and green leaves.

They are slow crawling and have rounded bodies with two pairs of legs on most body segments. They are generally brownish in color — I call them mahogany colored — and are about 1 to 1 1/4 inches long.

When crushed, they have an unpleasant odor from glands that they use to secrete the odor for protection. Millipedes start moving into homes in the fall, sometime in hordes, looking for a warmer climate.

They start outside the home, and that is the best place to cut down on the numbers entering. There are a number of different insecticides that can form a barrier.

Look for the pest on the label to ensure you have something that will work on it. In general, for treatments outside the home, insecticides should be applied to form a

barrier of five to 10 feet around the structure.

Treatments must be thorough and cover foundation walls, steps, porches, window wells, sidewalks and especially doorways and other openings. It may help to remove plant mulch, leaves, boards, rocks, compost piles, etc., to remove hiding places and aid control.

In the home, sanitation may be your first line of defense. Decide if the problem can be controlled by sweeping or vacuuming to remove individuals. If populations are high or persistent, an insecticide could be justified.

Contact or aerosol sprays may be applied directly to millipedes for quick knockdown, but their effects are short lived. Residual sprays can be used to treat baseboards, cracks, crevices and other hiding places. As with all pesticides, please read and follow all label instruction.

Dana Belshe is agricultural agent for Kansas State University Research and Extension and the Sunflower Extension District, covering Sherman and Wallace counties.

## matters of record

### Divorce Granted

The following divorces have been granted by the Sherman County District Court: Craig L. Bennett and Burgundy K. Bennett both of Sherman County.

### District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court: **Sept. 25** — Jessica E. Andrews, \$156 for speeding. **Sept. 26** — Brandi R. Sosa, \$183 for speeding.

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## student of the week



**Name:** Ryan Gausman  
**Parents:** Randy & Shellie Gausman  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Age:** 17

**We've nominated this student because:** Ryan is just a great kid to be around. He has a positive attitude and works hard in the classroom. He also works well with others and is active in the school & the community.

**Student Comment:** Be-

ing around my friends and being involved in golf and football. Yearbook is my favorite class. I'll always remember the golf trips and fun times at school.

**Activities involved in at school:** Golf, Football, NHS

**My choice of movies, books, and games :** Any movies with Adam Sandler, any kind of music, any mystery or suspense book and my choice of games is Texas Hold'em.

**After I leave Goodland High School I intend to:** go to college and mast in whatever I decide to do.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be:** living life to the fullest and enjoying my job.

**Favorite Quote:** Adopt the pace of nature, her secret is patience.

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