

# Town wants to thank couple for Christmas tree

The Brewster Community would like to thank Jon and Reva Eicher for putting up the Christmas tree in the middle of the street at Kansas Avenue and Main Street. It is beautiful and makes the town so festive looking. Surprising what one lighted tree will do. Thank you Jon and Reva.

I understand Duane Jones is doing well after breaking his hip. He's in Greeley still in hospital but is doing rehab three times a day. Ruth became ill with the flu over the weekend and is also in the hospital in Greeley. I hope she is feeling better by now.

The Prairie Gem 4-H Club decorated the Senior Center for Christmas.



**betty jo baird**

• brewster news

mas. They did a beautiful job, and the center looks very festive.

The Senior Center is having an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, to honor Jack Faber's 26 years as the Senior Center's president. Come in and enjoy some hot apple cider and cookies and help us celebrate this occasion.

Jack will continue as a board

Other board members are Mike Baughn, Willard Moore, Marjorie Westover and myself.

The boys and girls both won the Sage Brush Basketball Tournament. Great going, kids.

The book "Title Towns! Champions of Kansas 1952-1968" by Steven Farney of McPherson is available to be checked out at the

Brewster Library. Much research went into this book to tell stories of all the Class BB boys basketball teams to win state championships.

Brewster was the winner in 1968 with Don Dawes as their coach. Team members were Roger Blau, Jim McKee, Bill Deeds, Steve Thummel, Charlie Lehman, Jim Childers, Bill Finley, Tony Classi, David Wicks and Lance Raid.

We received a Christmas card from Willard and Joan Hartley, and she wanted me to thank everyone for all the cards and phone calls while she was in Hays for five weeks.

She said, "When anyone in Hays would ask her where she was from, she'd say I'm from Brewster. I just

live in Goodland."

Speaking for myself, that's exactly why I came back home to Brewster six years ago after being gone for 40 years. There is no place like home when it is a small community.

My precious one, The world you live in is obsessed with staying young. Every day you see people around you spending enormous amounts of time and energy and money on any scheme that promises to keep them youthful.

Some have mastered the art of looking young on the outside while their spirits within them are withered and old. They are tired of the uphill struggle of their existence

and bored with its routines; they hunger for something more.

Above the roar and the rumble of their stressful lives I am calling them, saying "Surely you know. Surely you have heard. I am the Lord, the God who lives forever, the Creator of the ends of the earth. I give strength to the weary and power to the weak."

Everyone who chases this world's vain pursuits will grow weary and old. But those who hope in me will renew their strength. They will soar like eagles. They will run and not need to rest. They will walk without growing tired. Come to me and be renewed. God. Isaiah 40, 28-31.

# Farmers must plan nitrogen fertilization to get highest return

Quite a bit of the wheat in our area is well established and has good stands.

During the winter and early spring, many farmers topdress their wheat with nitrogen and possibly a broadleaf residual herbicide.

Farmers must properly plan nitrogen fertilization programs to make sure they get the highest possible net return, said Dale Leikam, Kansas State University soil fertility specialist. The four main factors involved in this are timing, source, application method and rate.

The most important factor in getting a good return on topdress nitrogen is usually timing. It is critical to get the nitrogen on early enough to have the maximum potential impact on yield.

While some farmers wait until



**jeanne falk**

• agron notes

spring, just prior to jointing, this can be too late in some years. For well-drained medium-fine textured soils that dominate our wheat acres, the odds of losing much of the nitrogen that is topdressed in the fall or winter is low, since we typically don't get enough precipitation over the winter to cause significant denitrification or leaching. For these soils, topdressing can begin anytime now, usually the earlier the better.

On all soils, nitrogen should be applied early enough that it has time to move down into the root zone of the wheat before jointing begins. Surface-applied nitrogen moves into the soil with rain or snow, and that is unpredictable in Kansas. Therefore, the best strategy on most soils is to apply the nitrogen as early as possible to have the best chance of getting a rain that will move it into the root zone.

As temperatures warm in the early spring, there is a greater likelihood of getting significant leaf burn from topdress nitrogen applications. This generally does not re-

duce yield prospects if applications are made before the last, uppermost leaves are developed. If the leaf burn occurs at a very late stage of growth, such as flag leaf emergence or boot stage, significant yield reductions are possible.

Most topdressing is broadcast applied. In high-residue situations, this can result in some immobilization of nitrogen, especially where liquid urea ammonium nitrate is used.

If no herbicides are applied with the nitrogen, producers can get some benefit from applying the nitrogen in a dribble band on 15-18-inch centers. This can help avoid immobilization and maybe provide for a little more consistent crop response.

The typical sources of nitrogen

used for topdressing wheat are urea ammonium nitrate solution and dry urea. Numerous trials by Kansas State over the years have shown that both are equally effective.

In no-till situations, there may be some slight advantage to applying dry urea since it falls to the soil surface and may be less affected by immobilization than broadcast liquid urea ammonium nitrate, which tends to get hung up on surface residues. Dribble (surface band) applications would avoid much of this tie-up on surface crop residues as well.

Farmers should start the season with a nitrogen recommendation in hand, ideally based on a profile nitrogen soil test done before the crop is planted and before any nitrogen has been applied.

It is not uncommon to just use the same nitrogen rate year after year. This may result in too much nitrogen being applied some years and too little in others.

Where conditions have been dry and recent crop yields have been low, there could well be some very high levels of residual nitrogen remaining in the soil and easily within the root zone of wheat.

In those cases, a topdress nitrogen application may not increase yields at all. The only way to know for sure is to have a profile nitrogen test done.

However, if some nitrogen has already been applied to the wheat crop, it is too late to use the profile soil test since it is not reliable in measuring recently applied nitrogen.

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