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BBQ Clinic Deadline is Monday August 24th.
If you are interested in participating Saturday August 29th
Call 620-662-2371 or stop in and see us at 2 West 10th South Hutchinson.

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Hessian Fly Life Cycle Can Occur Twice Yearly

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Hessian flies, those tiny insects that can plague a wheat field and rob yields, generally emerge on warm September or October days, said Kansas State University entomologist Jeff Whitworth. They often emerge after rain and mate, and the females lay eggs. Adults are relatively short-lived, but deposit their eggs during this time, usually on the upper surface of wheat leaves. The eggs are small, but can be seen without magnification. Because the eggs are orange, they are often mistaken for leaf rust. They hatch within three to 10 days depending on temperature.

The larvae, sometimes called maggots, move down the plant soon after hatching and generally start feeding just above the crown between leaf sheaths and stem. Feeding may continue for eight to 30 days. Larval development is usually finished before cold weather. The mature larvae form hardened, mahogany-colored capsules or puparia called “flaxseeds,” in which they overwinter.

“This is the fall brood, and this process repeats itself during the spring,” Whitworth said.

Adults can emerge from overwintering in flaxseed as early as March, but usually not until April, and the cycle starts again with flaxseed for oversummering in wheat stubble. Additional or supplemental broods are possible in either fall or spring, depending on the weather.

Fall infestations often go unnoticed by growers, the entomologist said. Infested plants tend to have stunted shoots or tillers or plant death. Outward signs of fall infestations are undeveloped central shoots with a broad, thickened and darker green leaf.

Whitworth urges growers to confirm an infestation by examining several plants exhibiting this characteristic. Once a grower can find infested plants, identification becomes easier.

Spring infestations may also go unnoticed until harvest, he said. Hessian fly larvae often feed at the base of the plant, causing that tissue to stop growing while surrounding tissue continues to grow. This creates a pocket for the maggot but also weakens the stem, which may result in partially filled heads or stem breakage at the point of feeding. This, in turn, leads to lodging.

“Often, this is the first time growers notice Hessian fly damage,” the scientist said.

Three major measures for Hessian fly control

1. Resistant Wheat Cultivars. The most effective and cost efficient way to control this pest is to develop and deploy resistance cultivars. Unfortunately, there are not many wheat cultivars that carry Hessian fly resistance genes. State agricultural extension service centers can provide the names of wheat varieties resistant to the particular races of the Hessian fly. In the Great Plain region, a few wheat cultivars that are resistant to Hessian fly include Duster, Camelot, Thunder CL, NE01643, Infinity CL, Hallam, Goodstreak, and Harry. Thirty-three resistance genes have been identified.
and many of them have been incorporated into wheat varieties. In the Great Plain region, \textit{H13}, \textit{H21}, \textit{H26}, and \textit{Hdic} are the four genes that still confer high levels of resistance to current Hessian fly field populations (Chen et al. 2009, \textit{Journal of Economic Entomology} 102: 774-780).

2. **Late Planting.** Plant wheat late to avoid fall infestation by Hessian fly. This strategy is based on the belief that Hessian fly will not emerge after a certain date, so called fly-free date, because of cold temperature. The effectiveness of this strategy, however, is in question. First, delayed planting may reduce yield potential due to less time available for vegetative growth. Second, the existence of a fly-free date is in question because of warmer climate.

3. **Pesticide Treatment.** Treatment of wheat seeds with systemic pesticides before planting can protect young seedlings from Hessian fly infestation by killing larval insects. However, the effective period is short, lasting for two to three weeks after planting. In some states, systemic pesticides are still applied to control Hessian fly during late stages of wheat fields. The effectiveness of pesticide application depends on accurate prediction of Hessian fly larval hatching.

### Soybean Cyst Nematodes Overcoming a Common Management Tool

Scientists are urging a coordinated approach to combat the pest.

**MANHATTAN, Kan.** — A common tool used to manage a destructive soybean pest is losing its effectiveness, warned a Kansas State University nematologist.

Scientists at a recent meeting of Midwestern plant nematologists reported that they had observed a steady decrease in effectiveness of PI 88788 resistance against the soybean cyst nematode.

“This is becoming a serious concern for Kansas soybean producers,” said Tim Todd, research nematologist in K-State’s Department of Plant Pathology.

PI 88788 is a common source of genetic resistance to the soybean cyst nematode (SCN) that was introduced into many soybean varieties to counter the pest. The nematodes cost U.S. soybean producers more than $1 billion each year in lost yields, according to some estimates, Todd said. Every major soybean growing county in Kansas is infested this year.

The availability of alternative sources of resistance are currently limited. “Kansas soybean farmers desperately need additional sources of resistance against this widespread pest,” Todd said.

Todd was one of a group of nematologists from eight Midwestern states and Ontario that discussed the development at a July 7-9 meeting of the North Central Committee on Practical Management of Nematodes on Corn, Soybeans and Other Crops of Regional Importance in Chaska, Minnesota. The committee reviews and coordinates ongoing research on managing nematode parasites of crops, with special emphasis on corn and soybeans.

The scientists concluded that a coordinated approach using multiple management options, such as alternating soybeans with non-host crops, planting SCN-resistant soybean varieties and using nematode-protectant seed treatments, provide the greatest likelihood of sustained success for producing soybeans profitably in SCN-infested fields.

They also planned coordinated research projects for upcoming years, including work on nematode-resistant varieties, non-host crops, seed treatments, new nematode detection methods and soil health.
**Why Do Cucumbers Get Bitter?**

A bitter taste in cucumbers is the result of stress that can be caused by a number of factors including heredity, moisture, temperature, soil characteristics and disease. Most often this occurs during the hot part of the summer or later in the growing season.

Two compounds, cucurbitacins B and C, give rise to the bitter taste. Though often only the stem end is affected, at times the entire fruit is bitter. Also, most of the bitter taste is found in and just under the skin. Bitter fruit is not the result of cucumbers cross pollinating with squash or melons. These plants cannot cross pollinate with one another.

Pickling bitter cucumbers will not remove the bitterness. Bitter cucumbers may be saved if the stem end is removed and the cucumber is peeled.

Source: www.hfrr.ksu.edu/doc1581.ashx

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**Safe Options for Pickles and Relishes**

One of the fastest growing areas of food preservation is in pickled products. The time is now to try making some of these tasty products yourself! Pickles are processed in a boiling water or steam canner. Here are some safe tips for changes and substitutions.

You may safely substitute grocery store cider vinegar (5% acetic acid) for white vinegar (5% acetic acid), and vice versa. Do not use other types of vinegar such as wine vinegar or homemade vinegar.

- You may add a clove of garlic or a small dried hot pepper to any pickle recipe without impacting the processing time.
- You may substitute zucchini or summer squash for cucumber in any relish recipe.
- You may substitute English or grocery store cucumbers for pickling cucumbers, but the quality of the product may be inferior.
- You may refrigerate a pickle recipe that can’t be safely canned. If refrigerated, store for up to 2 weeks.

Source: http://fyi.uwex.edu/safepreserving/category/canning-general/

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**Reprocessing Home Canned Food**

Oops! The lids didn’t seal! I used the wrong pressure! Can these jars be saved?

Home canned foods can be reprocessed within 24 hours of initial processing. Remove the lid and replace with a new lid. Change jars if the necessary because of nicks in the jar rim. Reprocess the food using the proper procedures for that food.

Another option is to store the jars in the refrigerator and use within a few days or freeze for later use. If freezing, be sure to have at least 1 1/2 inch headspace for expansion.

Do not use jars of food that become unsealed during storage for an unknown reason.

http://nchfp.uga.edu/how/store/store_home_canned.html

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**History of Bread & Butter Pickles**

The Bread & Butter name for pickles dates back to the early 1920s to an Illinois couple named Omar and Cora Fanning. They trademarked their recipe for “sweet and sour” pickles as they made their living growing cucumbers.

To make ends meet during hard times, the family used smaller cucumbers, which were considered waste, to make these pickles. They would trade their pickles for household staples like bread and butter. And as they say, “the rest is history.”

Dill pickles are the most popular pickle, followed by sweet pickles, which includes the Bread & Butter variety. Sources:

www.etsu.edu/cph/documents/Bread_and_Butter_Pickles.pdf

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**A Dozen Ways to Stretch Your Back-to-School Budget**

There is no doubt that we are living in tough economic times. With the cost of gas increasing and grocery bills on the rise, families need to watch how they spend their dollars. The end of the summer means a...
flurry of shopping activity for many families as they prepare their children for the start of another school year. The question is: how can families stretch their school shopping dollars? This is a good opportunity to help children understand how to determine their needs, make decisions, understand the value of money, and a few budgeting basics. Following is a list of suggestions that may help families conserve their time, cash, and energy while shopping for back-to-school items.

1. **Start by taking an inventory with your child of clothing and backpacks they currently have.** Which clothes and backpacks can be used to start the coming school year? Make a list of items you have and items that are needed before school starts. Can some of the items be purchased at a later date?

2. **Know your school’s dress code policies and restrictions before you start shopping.** Find out what students are permitted to wear to school and about other rules regarding dress and backpacks.

3. **Recycle clothing and backpacks whenever possible!** For example, denim pants that have a hole in the knee can be cut and hemmed into shorts. Can used textbooks be purchased for college students rather than new ones? Use your network of family and friends to see if they have articles of clothing and books that can be passed down to younger children.

4. **Set a budget for each child’s back-to-school needs.** Consider shopping without your child. If children shop with you, make sure they are aware that their clothing choices must remain within the family’s budget.

5. **Save gas by doing some comparison-shopping online.** Look online for sales, coupons, and offers for free shipping. Online shopping can save gas dollars too!

6. **Check for sales at discount department stores and office supply stores before you start out on your shopping trip.** Make a plan of how you can shop for what you need in one day if possible. This will save you from using gas by running to the store multiple times for one or two items.

7. **Consider locating second-hand shops, consignment shops, local church clothing exchanges, and hospital thrift shops.** Look for quality clothing at a reasonable price. Thrifty is the new chic this year!

8. **Plan to purchase basic items needed to start the school year.** Since the weather is still warm at the start of school, delay purchases for winter clothing until it is on sale. Make the clearance racks your first stop when you enter a store. You may be surprised at the values you find there.

9. **Resist impulse buying!** Stick to your list of needs to avoid over spending.

10. **Don’t buy everything today your children need for the entire school year.** Create a spending plan that coincides with your budget so you can pace out the expenses.

11. **Pay for items with cash if possible.** Use a credit card if you can pay the amount charged in full, or set aside more than the minimum payment each month until the debt is paid. Get ready for next year’s back-to-school expenses by starting a holiday savings club. Holiday savings club payments usually come in early October, which is just in time for cooler weather clothing needs.

12. **Prepare family lunches at home to save extra dollars.** Make lunch menu planning and food preparation a family event. Purchasing food at a local supermarket and preparing it at home saves money over spending extra dollars on ready-made, convenience and restaurant foods. Save money by sending food to school in reusable plastic containers and insulated food storage bags that can be used throughout the year. At the end of the day, throw away food leftovers that have not been refrigerated after lunch. Follow important food safety guidelines by keeping cold food cold and keeping hot food hot when preparing food to be eaten away from home.

http://www.extension.org/pages/29760/a-dozen-ways-to-stretch-your-back-to-school-budget#.Vcy_EvlViko
Online Resources for Genealogy

If you’ve ever been interested in searching for family history information online, or were curious as to how the DNA genealogy services work, join us on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Reno County Extension Office. We’ll demonstrate some of the research websites and also show you what to expect from DNA results. Registration is free, but you must RSVP to reserve a spot – seating is limited! Contact Jan Steen at 620-662-2371 or jmsteen@ksu.edu to register.

Use the Calm Before the (Next) Storm: ‘Prepare Kansas 2015’ Registration is Open

Online challenge can help Kansans be better prepared for disasters.
MANHATTAN, Kan. – Forty-two. That’s how many Kansas counties have been declared major disaster areas this year alone, due to severe weather events that swept through the state May 4 through June 21.

Those 42, out of Kansas’ 105 total counties, stretched from Atchison in the northeast, to Hodgeman in the southwest, and Sumner in the south central. The disaster designation, announced by President Obama in a July 20 White House news release, makes them eligible for federal aid.

There is no question Kansas has its share of disasters, but not all come in the form of a major storm. When any home floods or is ravaged by fire, it’s a disaster for the individual homeowner, renter or business owner involved. For that reason, some emergency responders say “all disasters are local.”

K-State Research and Extension has developed a way for Kansans and others to prepare. Prepare Kansas is an online challenge, now in its second year, which focuses on simple activities every week during September. A goal is to make it as easy as possible for individuals or families to complete each activity – and become better prepared.

This year, the activities focus on creating an emergency supply kit; assembling a “grab and go” kit for each family member (including pets); creating a communication plan; and practicing a fire drill. Each week will focus on different emergencies that can happen.

The program coincides with National Preparedness Month, designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“We’ve had such good response to this program. We look forward to working with past participants on new activities this year, as well as with Kansans who are new to extension programs,” said Kansas State University associate professor Elizabeth Kiss.

Working step-by-step on each Prepare Kansas activity helps participants to be better prepared for emergencies, whether at home or at work. It can also spark discussions among families or co-workers about preparedness in general and the best ways to handle future disasters, Kiss said. By the end of September, participants will be more prepared for any emergencies, which can make recovery easier.

A Prepare Kansas blog is an ongoing resource available to anyone, whether they participate in the annual challenge or not. It addresses seasonal threats and other topics with links to more information.

Register for Prepare Kansas (https://goo.gl/GcX6cH) or read the Prepare Kansas blog (https://blogs.k-state.edu/preparekansas)

(Website addresses are case sensitive)

Keeping Our Community’s Roads Safe: Back to School Tips for Teen Drivers

For many it seems like summer has only just begun. However, school is, or will soon be, back in session, which means many teens may be having their final summer fun before getting back into the routine of school. Since car crashes are the number one cause of teenage deaths, now is always a good time to remind teens about some simple but important safe-driving tips.
**Simple but Crucial**

- Obey the speed limits. Going too fast gives you less time to stop or react. Excess speed is one of the main causes of teenage accidents.
- Always wear your seat belt – and make sure all passengers buckle up, too. Don’t try to fit more people in the car than you have seat belts for them to use.
- Don’t text while driving or have too many passengers in the vehicle as distractions of any kind can cause an accident.
- Make sure your windshield is clean. At sunrise and sunset, light reflecting off your dirty windshield can momentarily blind you from seeing what’s going on.

**Consider Other Drivers**

- Don’t make assumptions about what other drivers are going to do. The only thing you can assume about another driver with a turn signal on is that they have a turn signal on. He/she might not be turning at all, and just forgot to turn it off.
- Watch out for aggressive drivers, and try to stay out of their way. They are the cause of a lot of accidents – especially on freeways.
- Never pull out in front of anyone or swerve into someone else’s lane.

**Constant Awareness**

- Make sure your car always has gas in it – don’t ride around with the gauge on empty.
- If you’re in the country, watch out for deer and other animals. If you see an animal approaching, slow down and flash your lights repeatedly. Dusk and dawn are particularly bad times for running into animals, so be on the lookout for them.
- When the light turns green, make sure the intersection clears before you go.

These tips and more are available on-line at teendriving.com.

*Adapted from Wayne Co. Ohio Extension*

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**Office 2013 Tips: Indenting a Cell’s Contents in Excel**

Excel is definitely not a word processor. However, there may be a time when you need to include indented text in a cell to make the spreadsheet more appealing and legible.

Follow the directions below to learn how to indent text or numbers in a cell.

**Directions:**
1. Type the text or numbers as you normally would.
2. Select the cells that need indented.
3. RIGHT click on the selected (highlighted) cells.
4. Select Format Cells… from the menu.
5. Click on the Alignment tab.
6. Then, select “Left (Indent)” for the Horizontal setting.
7. Increase the Indent value to 2.
8. Click on [OK].
9. Adjust the indented value as needed to make your text appear the way you want.

**Tip:** If you just need to indent the contents of just a few cells of text, type the apostrophe character (‘) and then press the space bard a few times before typing the cell contents. Once you press enter, you should see the cell contents indented. This is only intended for text entries.

**Important Note:** By using the apostrophe character when entering numbers, it forces the number to be stored as text. So, just be aware of that when you enter numbers using the apostrophe. Excel will give you a visual cue in the form of a green triangle at the top left of the cell to let you know the number cannot be calculated. It’s best to only use the apostrophe shortcut with text.

*Adapted from West Virginia Extension*
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"Knowledge for Life"

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