



Extension Agronomy

eUpdate

10/09/2020

These e-Updates are a regular weekly item from K-State Extension Agronomy and Kathy Gehl, Agronomy eUpdate Editor. All of the Research and Extension faculty in Agronomy will be involved as sources from time to time. If you have any questions or suggestions for topics you'd like to have us address in this weekly update, contact Kathy Gehl, 785-532-3354 kgehl@ksu.edu, or Dalas Peterson, Extension Agronomy State Leader and Weed Management Specialist 785-532-0405 dpeterso@ksu.edu.

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1. Wheat planting conditions: Early October 2020	3
2. Control annual weeds with fall-applied herbicides ahead of corn and sorghum.....	9
3. Stop spreading weed seed during harvest activities.....	12
4. Ag-Climate Update for September 2020.....	13
5. Commercial applicator recertification training changes for 2020.....	15
6. Update: 2021 soybean planting intentions survey - Producer input requested.....	17

1. Wheat planting conditions: Early October 2020

The dry pattern that dominated across Kansas in September has continued into October (Figure 1). In the majority of the wheat growing regions, namely central and western Kansas, warmer-than-normal temperatures and windy conditions worsened this lack of precipitation. Consequently, topsoil moisture (2 inches) is low across Kansas (Figure 2).

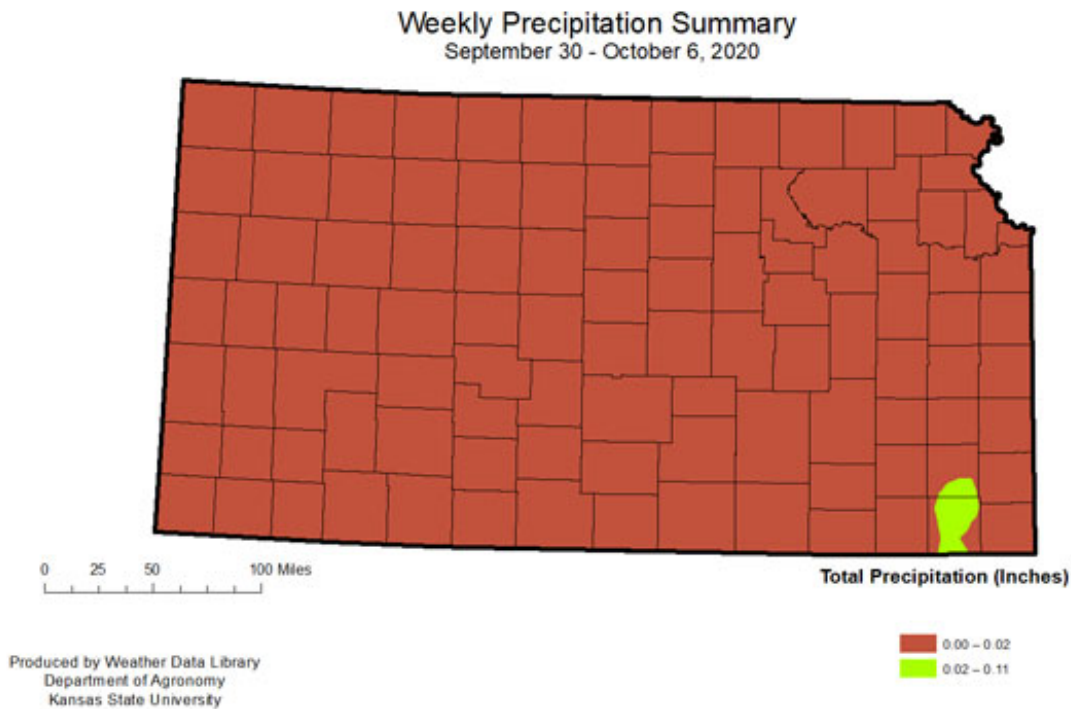


Figure 1. Total cumulative precipitation for the period between September 30 and October 6, 2020. Map by K-State Weather Data Library.

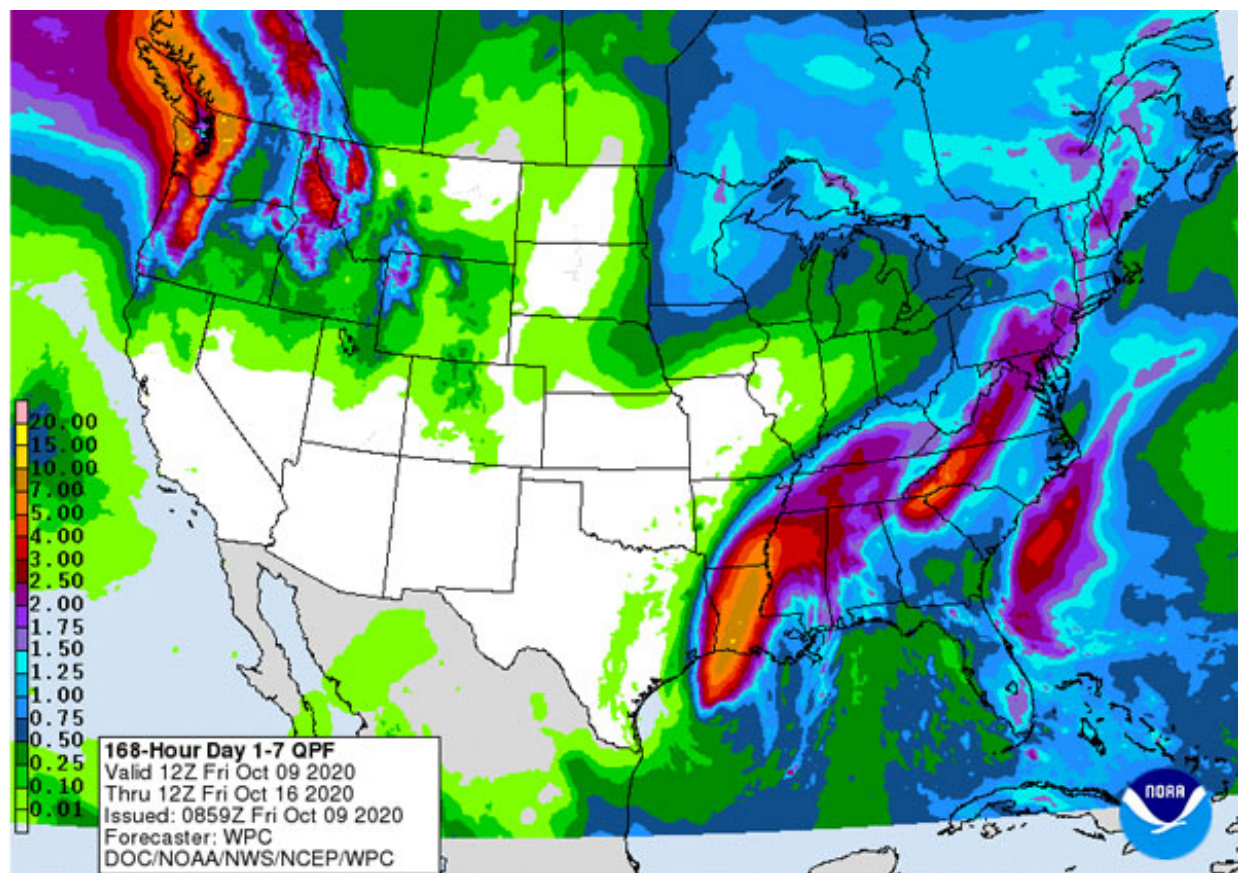


Figure 3. Weekly precipitation forecast as of October 9, 2020 by the National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center (NOAA). Precipitation probabilities in Kansas for the next 7 days range from 0.00 to 0.10 inches.

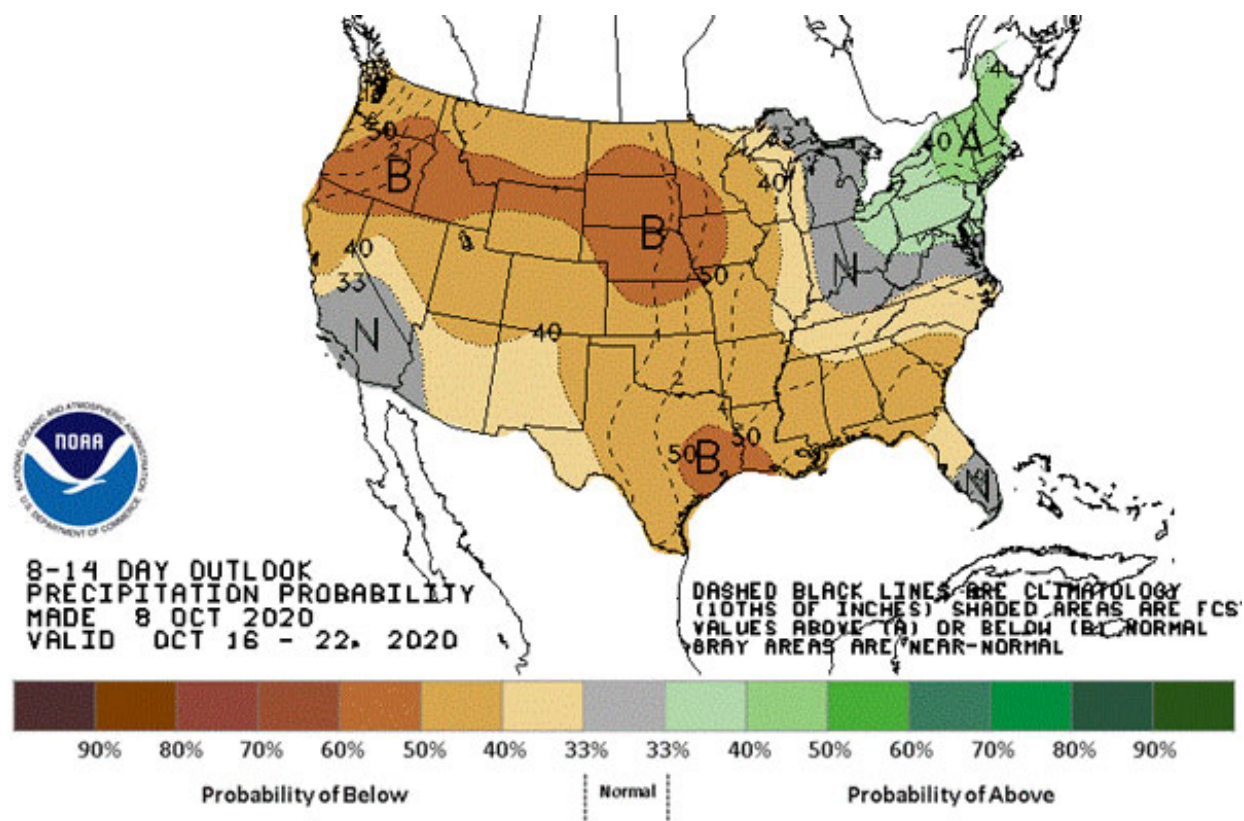


Figure 4. The 8- to 14-day precipitation forecast as of October 9, 2020 by the National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center (NOAA). Precipitation probabilities in Kansas for the next 7 days range from 0.00 to 0.10 inches.

Wait for rain or “dust the crop in”?

The current wheat-planted acreage in Kansas, according to the USDA-NASS crop progress report, was 56% as of October 5, 2020. This is ahead of the 5-year average of 41%, likely due to an early harvest of summer crops. With less than 50% of the winter wheat area still to be planted and 70% of the crop yet to emerge, the biggest question in growers’ minds at the moment is: Should I “dust the crop in” or should I wait for rain?

It is difficult to reach a definitive answer to this question, and each grower must consider his or her own situation to take this decision. Advantages of “dusting the crop in” now and waiting for rain include a good seed distribution usually attained in dry soils, as well as the opportunity to plant a large number of acres before it rains. However, if no rain occurs in the near future, the crop might not emerge until it rains later in the fall or even winter, delaying the “effective planting date” to whenever the rain actually occurs. Thus, growers should treat these fields as if they were sowing late,

where increases in seeding rate as well as in-furrow starter fertilizer are recommended. These might also be situations in which seed treatments can be beneficial, as the seeds will be out exposed to weather in the fields for several days. The worst case scenario would include planting into a limited amount of moisture, just enough for emergence of some plants but not enough to maintain these seedlings after they emerge. This situation can result in uneven stands and high within-field stand variability (Figure 5), or even crop failure. Thus, if good moisture cannot be reached in about the top 1.5-2 inches of soil, growers would likely be better off sowing it shallower and waiting for rain.

Otherwise, in central, south central, and southeast Kansas, growers can still wait for a firmer rain forecast to plant their wheat, as these regions are still within the optimum sowing window. This might actually be a good option for growers who can plant all of their remaining acres within a two or three-day timeframe, in case a stronger chance of rain appears in the forecast. The disadvantage of waiting is that, if the fields do not get planted before a potential precipitation event, moist soils can delay sowing dates.

For more information on planting wheat into dry soils, please see a previous eUpdate article from October 2, 2020: [Considerations when planting wheat into dry soils](#)



Figure 5. Uneven wheat stands resultant from sowing into dry soils. Photo by Romulo Lollato, K-State Research and Extension.

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2. Control annual weeds with fall-applied herbicides ahead of corn and sorghum

With row crop harvest well underway, it is time to start planning fall herbicide applications. Herbicide applications in late October through November can improve control of difficult winter annual weeds. Fall weed control is associated with warmer soils and easier planting in the spring, however, it is important to remember that fall-applied herbicides may limit your crop options in the spring. Also remember that herbicides should not be applied to frozen ground.

Some of the key herbicides to consider for fall herbicide applications include Autumn Super, Canopy, Spartan or Authority, and Valor for residual activity. For burndown activity, glyphosate, 2,4-D or dicamba are good options to consider. One thing to keep in mind about residual activity from fall herbicide applications is that weather conditions will influence the length of residual control and the weed emergence patterns. So, even though they provide some residual activity, additional spring application pre-emergence herbicides will likely be needed for season-long weed control.

Some of the key weeds to target with fall herbicide applications are marestalk, henbit, dandelion, prickly lettuce, pepperweed, field pansy, evening primrose, and recently-emerged cool-season grasses. When higher rates of herbicides are used, some control of early spring-germinating summer annual broadleaf weeds such as kochia, common lambsquarters, wild buckwheat, and Pennsylvania smartweed can be achieved. Recent data comparing kochia control with fall and spring applications are included in Figure 1.

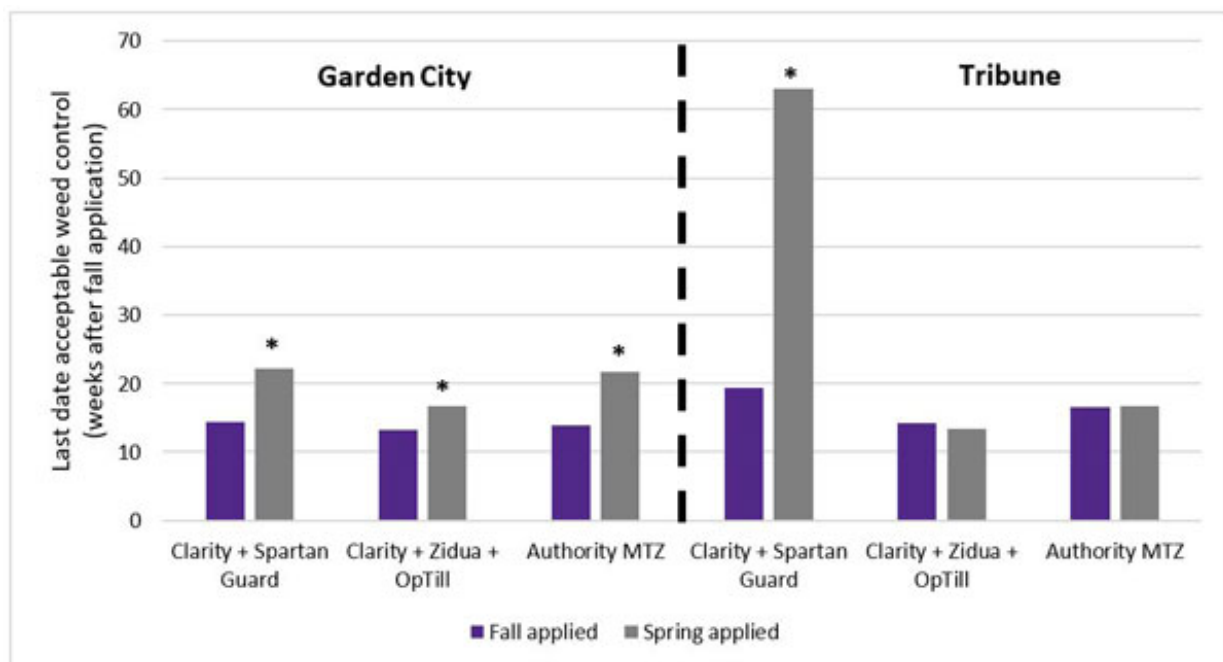


Figure 1. Estimated weeks of kochia control greater than 80% following fall (early December 2014) and spring (early February 2015) herbicide applications at Garden City and Tribune, KS. An asterisk (*) indicates that the spring application provided acceptable weed control at a later date than a fall application. Data from Kumar et al.,2019.

Marestail is a problem that merits special attention. Marestail is much easier to control in fall or early

spring while it is still in the rosette growth stage (Figure 2). 2,4-D or dicamba can effectively control fall-emerging marestalk plants. Sharpen can also be very good on marestalk and may provide residual control through spring, but should be tank-mixed with 2,4-D, dicamba, or glyphosate to prevent regrowth. Valor is another product that may provide residual control of marestalk. Because many marestalk populations are resistant to Group 2 herbicides, ALS-inhibitors like Autumn Super, Canopy may not control if applied alone.



Figure 2. Marestalk rosettes in a recently harvested soybean field. Photo from Dallas Peterson.

The use of trade names is for clarity to readers and does not imply endorsement of a particular product, nor does exclusion imply non-approval. Always consult the herbicide label for the most current use requirements.

For more information on controlling bindweed, see [2020 Chemical Weed Control for Field Crops, Pastures, Rangeland, and Noncropland](#), K-State publication SRP-1148.

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3. Stop spreading weed seed during harvest activities

Weeds can spread in a variety of ways, including on farm equipment. As you move harvest equipment from field to field, be aware of the potential to spread weed seed – especially if uncontrolled weeds are known or suspected to be herbicide resistant. Some steps that can be taken to prevent the spreading weeds when moving harvest equipment from one field to another are listed below.

- Clean new-to-you equipment so someone else's weeds are not introduced to your farm.
- If possible, harvest fields with excellent weed control first.
- Harvest fields where weeds are or might be herbicide resistant last.
- Harvest around areas with extremely dense weed populations.
- Slow the combine to 'self clean' between fields:
 - run the unloading auger empty for a minute or two
 - open grain elevator doors, rock tramp, and unloading auger sump then run the separator with maximum air flow and suction
- Use an air compressor to remove material remaining in rock trap and grain auger and from the head, feeder house, straw spreader
- Take half a day to do a deeper clean when possible
- Check fall-tillage equipment between fields

It is very difficult to completely remove weed seeds from harvest equipment. However, taking a few minutes to reduce the number of seeds on your harvest equipment may save time and money in the future.

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4. Ag-Climate Update for September 2020

The Ag-Climate Update is a joint effort between our climate and extension specialists. Every month the update includes a brief summary of that month, agronomic impacts, relevant maps and graphs, 1-month temperature and precipitation outlooks, monthly extremes, and notable highlights.

September 2020: Temperatures oscillated along with little precipitation

September was much drier than normal. It ranked as the 22nd driest September since 1895. All divisions averaged below normal for the month, resulting in expansion of drought across the state (Figure 1). At the end of September, only 23% of the state had no drought or abnormally dry conditions in place.

Temperatures were cooler than normal. The statewide average for September was 1.6 degrees cooler than normal. The thermal heat unit was largely driven by warm maximum temperatures. Statewide there were 29 new daily record highs and 1 new record warm low.

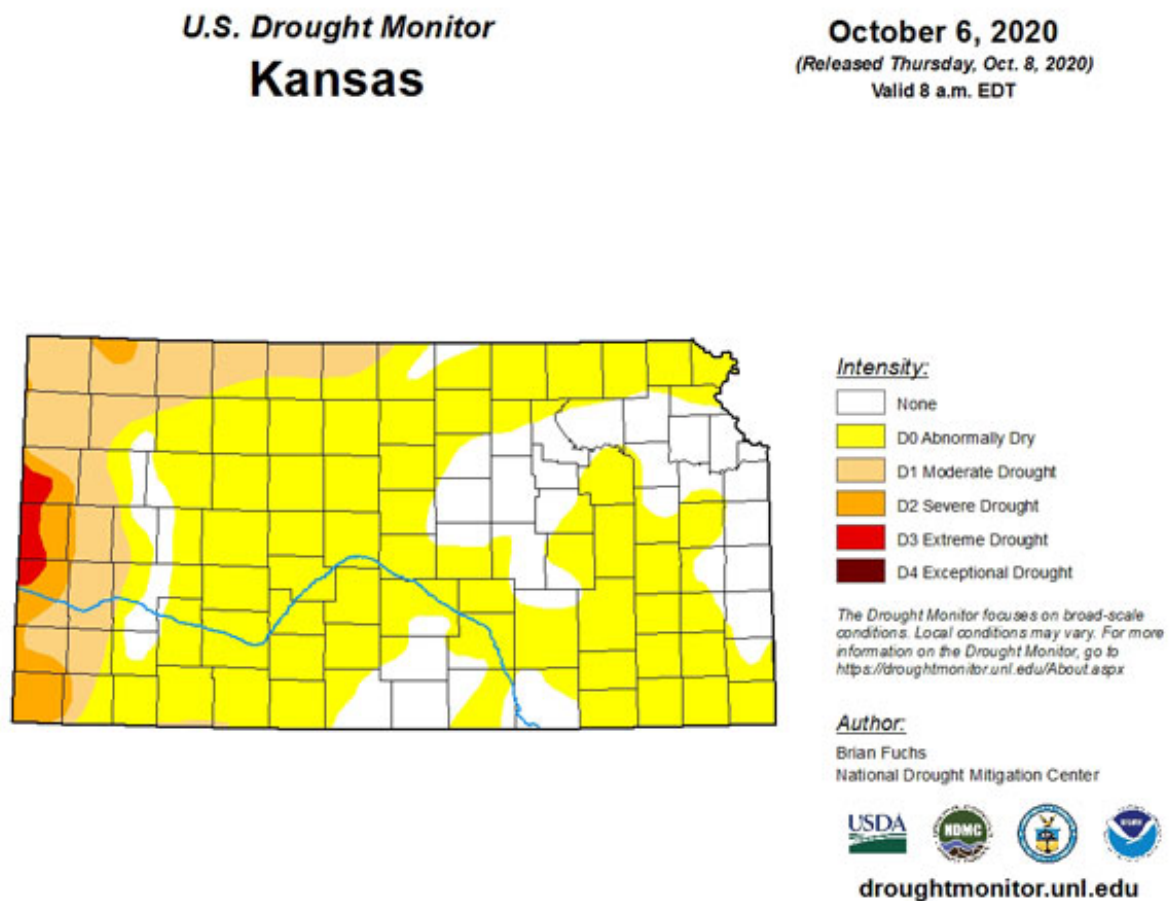


Figure 1. Drought monitor for Kansas as of October 6, 2020.

View the entire September Ag-Climate Summary, including the accompanying maps and graphics (not shown in this summary), at <http://climate.k-state.edu/ag/updates/>.

5. Commercial applicator recertification training changes for 2020

Each year in the fall, applicators from across the state attend commercial recertification training programs. This year will look a lot different in terms of training opportunities. Due to the continued presence of COVID-19, the Kansas State Pesticide Safety Program will be hosting virtual training opportunities through zoom. This will allow the applicator to obtain pest management credits from the safety of his or her home or office. I have heard from some applicators that feel they are technologically challenged, but don't let that keep you from trying a new way of learning. The team is here to help you every step of the way!

The Kansas State Pesticide Safety Program is hosting training on the following dates:

- October 20 – 21 (9:20 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) (1:20 p.m. -3:30 p.m.) Right-of-Way, Industrial Weed, and Noxious Weed Training (Category 6, 7C, & 9A)
- November 2 (12:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.) and November 3 (8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Stored Product Pests and Seed Treatment (Category 7B & 4)
- November 4 (9:20 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) Ornamental, Turf and Interiorscape (Category 3A, 3B, & 3C)

Registration for the above programs can be found at: <https://commerce.cashnet.com/KSUIPM>

- November 9 (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Ag Plant (Category 1A)
- November 10 (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Structural and Public Health (Category 7D, 7E & 8)
- November 10 (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Core Hour
- November 12 (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Wood Destroying and Wood Preservation (Category 7A & 7F)
- November 12 (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Core Hour
- November 13 (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Forest Pest, Ornamental, Turf and Interiorscape (Category 2, 3A, 3B)

Registration for any of these trainings can be made at: <https://conferences.k-state.edu/commercialpesticide/>

Additional online resources

Flyers containing the registration information can be found on the Pesticide Safety and IPM webpage at: <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/pesticides-ipm/commercial-applicator.html>.

Facebook users may want to consider “liking” the Kansas State Pesticide Safety and IPM program page, which can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/KSRE-Pesticide-Safety-and-Integrated-Pest-Management-Program-109039044075447>.

Other groups or associations may be hosting other training opportunities. A complete list can be

found at: <https://portal.kda.ks.gov/PAF/PafTraining/TrainingEventList>.

If you don't remember how many credits you have or need, you can look up your training status at:
<https://portal.kda.ks.gov/enrollment/ExistingCertApp>

Questions?

If you have further questions regarding how this training will be conducted, please contact Frannie Miller at (620)241-1523 or e-mail fmiller@ksu.edu

6. Update: 2021 soybean planting intentions survey - Producer input requested

The Agronomy Extension specialists at Kansas State University need your help!

We are looking for information from soybean producers across the state about their planting intentions the 2021 growing season. Participation in this very quick survey will help in the planning of our fall and winter extension presentations. This survey is completely anonymous. A summary of the results may be shared as research findings to help other Extension programs.

The cancellation of over-the-top dicamba labels in June 2020 caused considerable confusion, especially in Kansas, where the overwhelming majority of soybeans were dicamba-resistant. The expanded availability of 2,4-D-resistant soybean varieties adds to the complexity of soybean production for 2021. The main goal of this survey is to start understanding how the events of 2020 might change soybean production in Kansas during 2021. The information gathered will help ensure extension programming for 2021 will meet the needs of Kansas farmers. If this information is shared with Extension specialists in other states, no identifying information will be included. Current responses suggest that 2021 soybean acres will be approximately 2/3 dicamba-resistant and 1/3 2,4-D resistant, with a small number of famers planting some of each.

If you are willing to participate, you can find the survey here: [2021 Soybean Planting Intentions Survey](#).

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