Issue 884

K-STATE Research and Extension

## Extension Agronomy

# eUpdate

*12/02/2021*

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. Safety first when planning deep tillage or earthwork: Call before you dig!

With harvest complete and some mild temperatures heading into winter, farmers might take to the field for deep tillage such as ripping, or to make earthwork repairs around the farm. A few days before you want to start these activities, it's worth a call to 811 for your safety and to prevent expensive damage to underground utilities. The website, http://call811.com, has easy-to-follow instructions for requesting this free service and detailed information concerning why you need to know what's below.

A video produced by Marathon Oil tells the story of a farm family and their close-call with a pipeline when installing tile drains. The landowner knew where the pipeline entered and exited the field, and they assumed the pipeline was straight— it wasn't. Watch this 6-minute, eye-opening video for the whole story; https://youtu.be/oe-iknpYzF8.

Sadly, fatal accidents do happen in soil excavations. If you dig any trenches or soil pits, safety should be considered from the very beginning of the project. Soils with sandy textures are more susceptible to a collapse than soils with a higher clay content. If standing water is present in the pit, the walls are more apt to collapse. Digging in soils that have been disturbed before, such as digging next to a hydrant or foundation, for example, means that the soil is far less stable than you might expect if that soil had never been disturbed before.

There are Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines on excavation safety, such as when it is necessary to shore the walls of a soil pit or trench. One important consideration is soil should be piled a minimum of 2 feet away from the walls of the trenches for two reasons:

1. Soil clods or excavating tools could roll back into the trench and cause injury to occupants.
2. Helps reduce the risk of a trench collapse by keeping the weight of the soil piles away from the trench edges.

Even if a soil pit is 5 feet deep or less, it is a good idea to angle the edges of the soil pit, especially if the texture is sandy, the soil is wet, or if the soil is otherwise unstable. This does create more disturbance, but if it prevents an accident, it's worth it.

For more information on trenching and excavation safety, see the following OSHA publication:

*Trenching and Excavation Safety*, https://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha2226.pdf


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## 2. Profiles in Soil: Home on the Range with the Lancaster soil

As every Kansan probably knows, the song "Home on the Range" was adapted from a poem written by Brewster M. Higley in Smith County, KS. A recent visit to the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, located near Canton, KS, to see bison and wildflowers turned into a quick soil-exploration opportunity to see a vibrant soil called the Lancaster soil series.

For the Lancaster series, what's so very eye-catching are the bright red colors, which are caused by excellent drainage promoting the oxidation of minerals (Figure 1). Why is this soil so well drained? The answer lies in its parent material; it is formed from sandstone and sandy shales. The Lancaster series formed under prairie vegetation, and has some rugged hills, making this series best suited for rangeland. Lancaster soils are found on hillslopes on uplands in central Kansas (Figure 2). The Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, where these photos of the Lancaster series were taken, is grazed by a herd of state-owned bison kept for breeding purposes (Figure 3).

**Figure 1. Lancaster soil series, McPherson County, KS. Photo by DeAnn Presley, K-State Research and Extension.**

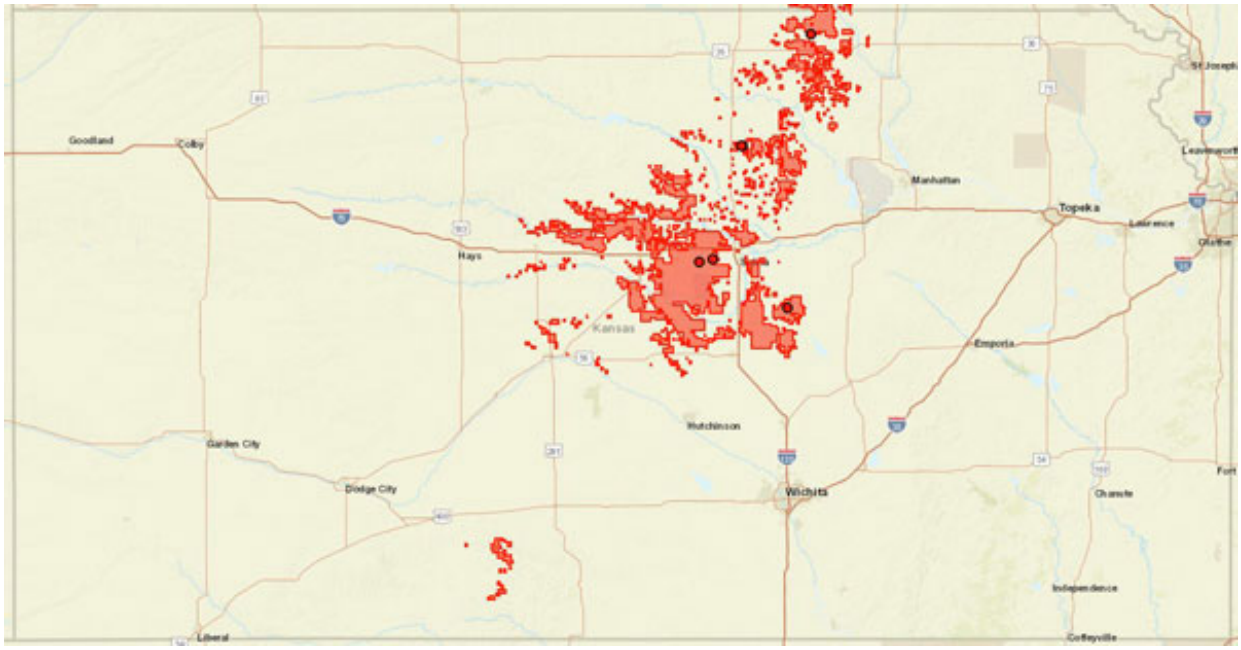


**Figure 2. Soil series extent map for the Lancaster soil series in Kansas. This soil can be found on over 390,000 acres in central and north central Kansas. Map created using** [USDA-NRCS Official Soil Series Description website](#)**.**

**Figure 3. Ironically, the skies were in fact cloudy on this particular day but no discouraging words were heard. Photo by DeAnn Presley, K-State Research and Extension.**

According to the city of Canton's website, "The Maxwell Game Preserve which opened to the public in 1951 was established because of a provision in the will of the late Henry Irving Maxwell dictating that the bulk of his estate be used for the benefit of the public. He instructed the handler of his property to buy not less than three nor more than six sections of land, suitably improve it and stock it with buffalo, antelope and deer, prairie chicken and quail."

Reference:

City of Canton website: Maxwell Wildlife Refuge (cantonks.org)

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## 3. Save the Date: K-State Soybean Schools scheduled for late January and early February

A series of six K-State Soybean Production Schools will be offered in late January and early February to provide in-depth training targeted for soybean producers and key-stakeholders. The schools will be sponsored by the Kansas Soybean Commission.

The schools will cover a number of issues facing soybean growers including weed control, crop production practices, nutrient management and soil fertility, insects, risk management, and disease management. More information on specific speakers and topics will be provided in future eUpdate issues once agendas are finalized.

The dates are set and specific locations have been chosen with schools located across the state.

**Beloit, KS - January 25 (Tuesday) - 8:00 am to 1:00 pm**
Contact: Sandra Wick, swick@ksu.edu

**Holton, KS - January 25 (Tuesday) - 3:00 to 7:00 pm**
Contact: David Hallauer, dhallaue@ksu.edu

**Newton, KS - February 1 (Tuesday) – 8:00 am to 1:00 pm**
Contact: Ryan Flaming, flaming@ksu.edu

**Parsons, KS - February 1 (Tuesday) – 3:00 to 7:00 pm**
Contact: James Coover, jcoover@ksu.edu

**Oakley, KS - February 8 (Tuesday) – 8:00 am to 1:00 pm**
Contact: Kelsi Wertz, kjwertz@ksu.edu

**Great Bend, KS - February 8 (Tuesday) – 3:00 to 7:00 pm**
Contact: Stacy Campbell, scampbel@ksu.edu

Lunch/dinner will be provided courtesy of the Kansas Soybean Commission. There is no cost to attend, but participants are asked **to pre-register by Friday, January 14**. Online registration is available at http://bit.ly/KSUSoybean. You can also register by emailing/calling the nearest K-State Research and Extension office for the location you plan to attend (contact emails for each location are listed above).


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## 4. Kansas Forage and Grassland Council and K-State to Host Winter Forage Conference, Dec. 8

The Kansas Forage and Grassland Council and Kansas State University will host their annual Winter Forage Conference from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 8 at the Harvey County 4-H Building, Newton, Kansas.

Agricultural specialists will speak on a variety of topics such as alfalfa production, crabgrass production potential, ration supplementation with high grain prices, combating woody encroachment on native range, and a farmer panel discussing their progressive approaches and alternative forage sources that are helping them to extend the grazing season.

Featured speakers include:

- Justin Waggoner, KSU Southwest Extension Specialist
- Romulo Lollato, KSU State Forage Specialist
- Bruno Pedreira, KSU Southeast Extension Agronomist and Forage Specialist
- Doug Spencer, NRCS State Grazing Specialist.

The event is free for current KSFGC members and $45 for non-members (which includes a membership to KSFGC and lunch).

To learn more, go to https://ksfgc.org/upcoming-events/. To join KSFGC, go to https://ksfgc.org/join-us/.

Please RSVP to Ryan Flaming, Agriculture Extension Agent, (316) 284-6930 or flaming@ksu.edu.

The first 30 audience members through the door will get a free KSFGC cap.

*The Kansas Forage and Grassland Council was organized in 1988 to strengthen the forage base for the livestock industry through more efficient production and utilization. KSFGC serves to provide education and programs to strengthen the forage industry in Kansas.*

## 5. 2021 Crop Pest Management Schools - December 8, 9, and 21

Be sure to get registered to attend one of the 2021 Crop Pest Management Schools scheduled in

December. This year, two schools will be offered in the traditional, in-person format.
A third school will be delivered in a virtual format.

Each school will start at 7:50 am with registration and conclude at 5:00 pm. A lunch will be provided to all participants that attend an in-person school. The cost to attend either of the in-person events is $50 if registered by Dec. 1. After Dec. 1, the cost will be $75. The virtual school fee is $75 and you must be registered by Dec. 17.

Each school will feature a variety of topics on weed control, insects, and diseases. Detailed agendas for each school can be viewed at: https://www.sunflower.k-state.edu/agronomy/

The dates and locations of each school are:

**December 8 –Colby, KS**
City Limits Convention Center
2227 S. Range Ave.

**December 9 – Great Bend, KS**
Knights of Columbus Hall
723 Main St.

For the in-person schools, please register by December 1 at https://www.sunflower.k-state.edu/agronomy/ . After December 1, you can register at the door.

**December 21 – Virtual Program**

If you choose to attend virtually, you will need an internet-connected device, such as a laptop, desktop, or tablet at your home and/or at your workplace.

The following is required:

- only one person per computer
- good internet connection
- audio (from the computer speakers, microphone port, or via telephone)
- downloaded application of Zoom on your device (to download, visit https://zoom.us/)

For the virtual school, please register by December 17 at https://www.sunflower.k-state.edu/agronomy/ .

Commercial applicator and Certified Crop Advisor credits have been applied for.

# K-State Crop Pest Management Schools

**December 8** – Colby
City Limits Convention Center
2227 S Range Ave

**December 9** – Great Bend
Knights of Columbus Hall
723 Main Street

**December 21** – Virtual

Register at www.sunflower.ksu.edu/agronomy
December 8 and 9 Schools
Cost is $50, if registered by December 1. After Dec 1, cost is $75 and register at the door
December 21 School
Cost is $75

Credits:
1A Commercial Applicators: 7 credits and 1 core hour have been applied for
Certified Crop Advisors: 8 pest management credits have been applied for

**Topics and Speakers**

| | |
|---|---|
| Getting the Most from Your Herbicide Application | Dr. Sarah Lancaster |
| Identifying and Controlling Common Corn Insects | Anthony Zukoff |
| Combatting Corn Diseases | Dr. Rodrigo Onofre |
| Weed Research Update | Dr. Vipan Kumar |
| Common Weeds – Identification and Characteristics | Jeanne Falk Jones |
| Wheat Diseases And their Prevention/Control | Dr. Kelsey Andersen Onofre |
| Research Update on Herbicide Applications | Dr. Ajay Sharda |
| Kansas Regulations | KDA Representative |

**Schedules for each school:**
**www.sunflower.ksu.edu/agronomy**

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