



Moving livestock to feed...page 7



# Ray-Carroll Cooperative News

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## Inoculate soybeans planted to flooded land

Flooded soil can dramatically affect crop production — both during and following the year of flooding. Long periods of soil saturation and anaerobic conditions decrease the nitrogen-fixing, rhizobial bacteria populations. Rhizobia need oxygen to survive and grow and soil flooding limits the available oxygen.

Silt deposited by a flood may add to the problem by sealing the field and preventing oxygen from entering the soil. Laboratory studies indicate that less than 20 percent of bacteria remain alive and healthy after only one month's storage when deprived of oxygen.

In addition to the reduced rhizobia populations, soil contamination deposited by flooding from new soil layers with unknown quantities of rhizobia. The best offense to maximize your crops yield potential following a flood is to inoculate and restore rhizobia populations.

For more information, contact your local Ray-Carroll service location.

## Be on guard for new forage insect pests in Missouri

**I**nsect invasions advanced more slowly when ships and wagons moved crops. Today, pests can hop aboard an airplane and infest a new area in short order. That makes it more important than ever to watch for agricultural insect pests, said Tim Schnakenberg of University of Missouri Extension.

Schnakenberg is a field specialist in agronomy in the heart of hay country. In 2016, he and other agronomists noticed significant populations of sugarcane aphids in late-season Sudan grass and other forage sorghum stands, specifically around Stone and Christian counties in southwestern Missouri.

“Aphid populations would be so intense that late-season harvests of forage sorghum fields—and in some cases Johnson grass—would be severely reduced or destroyed,” Schnakenberg said.

Infestation can be spotty and happen quickly, he said, so scout all fields. “Agricultural insect pests seem to develop when we least expect them,” he said.

New pests with the potential to damage pastures and reduce hay yield include sugarcane aphids, which moved in from southern states. Masses of the yellow aphids gather on the stems and leaves of individual plants to feed. This leads to yellowing or reddening of the leaves and reduced yield, Schnakenberg said.

Traditional insecticides do not offer effective control, he said. “So far, Transform WG and Sivanto 200SL are the only products that seem to work, though others may soon follow. Generally, these are legal for grain sorghum. However, always consult the label for special labeling in your state and if it can be used in a forage situation.”

The most practical way to deal with sugarcane aphids is to convert acreage to one of the millets that aphids do not affect, he said.

Another new insect in southwestern Missouri affects Bermuda grass. Schnakenberg and field specialist in agronomy Jill Scheidt found the bermudagrass stem maggot in Barry County in 2019, but they suspect it may have been present



Brown marmorated stink bug. Credit: U.S. Army.



Sugarcane aphid infestation on Sudan grass leaf in Stone County, Mo., 2016. Credit: Tim Schnakenberg, University of Missouri.

See “Pests,” cont. on pg. 6

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# USDA Opens Signup for Added Causes of Loss Under WHIP+

USDA announced additional disaster assistance available to agricultural producers, including producers impacted by drought and excess moisture. Through WHIP+, USDA is helping producers recover from losses related to 2018 and 2019 natural disasters.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will open signup on March 23 for producers to apply for eligible losses of drought (D3 or above) and excess moisture.

In June 2019, more than \$3 billion was made available through a disaster relief package passed by Congress and signed by President Trump. In December 2019, Congress passed, and President Trump signed the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 that provides an additional \$1.5 billion for the continuation of disaster assistance program delivery.

## WHIP+ New Qualifying Disaster Events

The bill added excessive moisture and D3 and D4 drought as qualifying losses for WHIP+ Assistance. Beginning March 23, producers who suffered either of these types of loss in 2018 and/or 2019 can apply for WHIP+ assistance at their local FSA office. For drought, a producer is eligible if any area of the county in which the loss occurred was rated D3 (Extreme Drought) or higher on the U.S. Drought Monitor during calendar years 2018 or 2019.

## WHIP+ for Quality Loss

In addition, producers have reported widespread crop quality loss from eligible disaster events that resulted in price reductions or penalties when marketing the damaged crops. The Appropriations bill expands WHIP+ to include assistance for crop quality loss. FSA is gathering data and input from producers and stakeholders regarding the extent and types of quality loss nationwide.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for WHIP+, producers must have suffered losses of certain crops, trees, bushes, or vines in counties with a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or a Secretarial Disaster Designation (primary counties only) for the following named natural disaster events; hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms, wildfires, and now excessive moisture that occurred in 2018 or 2019. Also, losses located in a county not designated by the Secretary as a primary county may be eligible if the producer provides documentation showing that the loss was due to a qualifying natural disaster event.

For drought, counties having a D3 or D4 Drought Monitor classification in any portion of the county anytime during calendar year 2018 or 2019 will also be eligible.

A list of counties that received qualifying hurricane declarations and designations is available at [farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus](https://farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus). The U.S. Drought Monitor is available at <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>.

Because livestock losses are covered by other disaster recovery programs offered through FSA, these losses are not eligible for WHIP+.

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# Coronavirus forces prices down



**John Graverson**  
grain merchandising

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) issued their latest revision of their grain Supply and Demand summary on March 10 and it was a total snoozer for the market. They made only minor tweaks and the result was no changes at all to their ending stocks estimates for the 2019-20 U.S. crops.

With no changes and all the hubris in daily life about the COVID-19 virus, our commodity markets followed the lead of the financial markets and have steadily lost value most days in the first half of March. And of course, another influencing factor has been the fact that China has not really entered the U.S. commodity markets either as they, too, have struggled mightily with their own virus issues. With so much uncertainty and lack of demand after signing Phase 1 of the agreement, most all markets decreased quite sharply.

We have seen a lot of “give up” selling in March as fear drives all these markets. Producers have watched rallies erode overnight and with upcoming payments coming due, many felt they had no alternative but to sell remaining bushels before they lost more value.

At this point, it is hard to really make any accurate assessments for future price direction. But we do need to stay vigilant and watch the upcoming stocks report and prospective plantings reports that will be issued on March 31. There is the potential to see sharply increased planted acre estimates for both corn and soybeans in

this report. Absent any sizeable Chinese demand, if we are to see huge increases for planted acres, it is likely that prices could see further erosion.

While there is no hard, correct answer as to “what to do next,” keep informed on markets as you always

have. Start to use offer contracts and start to try out some of the hybrid pricing contracts that we offer. Start to define your market pricing goals and put those offers in. Don’t get boxed in by these markets, awaiting price rallies when upcoming cash needs will force you to sell regardless of prices just to make payments. I’d say \$4 corn and \$9 beans would be good places to start, even if you haven’t participated in making offer contracts previously.

Collectively the U.S. farmer is a price-taker in the overall picture, but that doesn’t mean it isn’t time to make a commitment to becoming a better marketer of your yearly production. Start to consider making new crop sales well before harvest. Realize that storing your grain at harvest is really making a decision that storing will produce higher prices and offset storage charges later in the

year. Many years storing grain is a marketing crutch that doesn’t pay.

The Ray-Carroll grain team is here to discuss markets, outlooks and help you with developing marketing plans. Call us.

*“...stay vigilant and watch the upcoming stocks report and prospective plantings reports... There is the potential to see sharply increased planted acre estimates for both corn and soybeans in this report.”*

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# Grass Tetany Prevention Programs

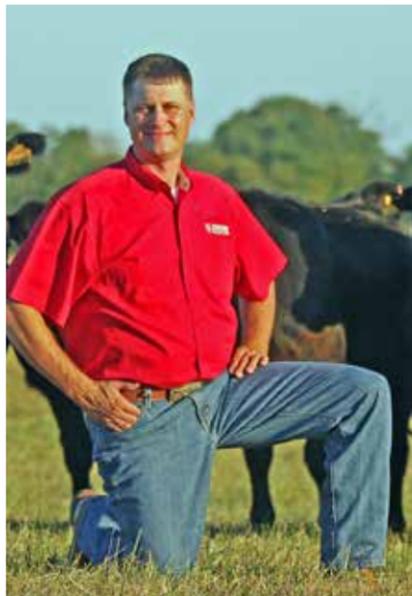
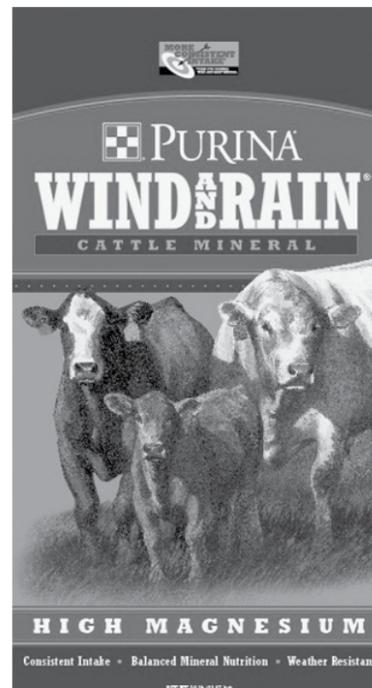
March means that signs of springtime are near, and that our long and challenging winter season is about to leave us! Many of you will begin working on that to-do list for your farm operation that keeps us occupied for the rest of the spring and summer.

One item on that list should be to offer a Purina Mills Wind and Rain Storm Formula High Magnesium mineral to your brood cows during the months of March through May. Ray-Carroll County Grain Growers offers the Wind and Rain Storm Hi Mag 4 Complete mineral family to accomplish this need.

The reason you would want to consider feeding a high magnesium mineral is that cows are susceptible to a condition known as Grass Tetany in the springtime. It is a metabolic imbalance in cows that occurs when lush, rapid growth of grass is occurring. That is a perfect storm during springtime in Missouri with fast growing Fescue forages. Feeding a high magnesium mineral will assist in countering this metabolic effect, and keep your cows protected from Grass Tetany.

The cows in your herd that will be at highest risk for Grass Tetany are your older cows that are under the stress of calving and raising a calf, while consuming lush forages. Cows that are in less than ideal body condition can also be at risk...a common occurrence this year considering some of the poor quality hay we have had to offer to our cows this winter.

If you have any questions about these products or Grass Tetany, please contact your local Ray-Carroll County Grain Growers location.



**glen waters**  
Purina Animal Nutrition, LLC



## Conservation Reserve Program grasslands sign-up begins

Farmers and ranchers may apply to enroll grasslands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands sign-up beginning March 16. The sign-up runs through May 15.

Through CRP Grasslands, participants retain the right to conduct common grazing practices, such as haying, mowing or harvesting seed from the enrolled land. Timing of some activities may be restricted by the primary nesting season of birds.

Participants will receive an annual rental payment and may receive up to 50 percent cost-share for establishing approved conservation practices. The duration of the CRP contract is either 10 or 15 years. FSA will rank applications using a number of factors including existence of expiring CRP land, threat of conversion or development, existing grassland, and predominance of native species cover, and cost.

The 2018 Farm Bill set aside 2 million acres for CRP Grassland enrollment. CRP is one of the largest conservation programs at USDA. CRP marks its 35-year anniversary in 2020 with 22 million acres currently enrolled.

For more information or to enroll in CRP Grasslands, contact your local FSA county office or visit [fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://fsa.usda.gov/crp). To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator).

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# Searching & prepping for springtime rallies

The coronavirus has pushed corn and soybean prices to contract lows and there is no positive news to be found today. However, spring planting is right around the corner and that is typically when markets rally.

We discuss marketing plans daily with our producers, but the next few months are when rallies happen, so it's in your best interest to get a plan in place ASAP. The 30-year seasonal trend has corn and soybeans rallying in the April to June time frame and then falling to harvest-time lows in August to October. As the U.S. farmer begins planting, conditions could be too hot, too wet or too dry in some part of the Corn Belt.

Farmers have been navigating very slim margins in recent years; selling corn for \$3.50 compared to \$3.00 could be the difference in making or losing money this year. As our producers start to plant the crop, it is important to get cash offers for old and new crop bushels entered at your pricing goals. Not only does this help take advantage of fast markets, but having the orders working helps producers stick with their pricing goals.

If the market rallies due to delayed planting and the producer can't get their crop planted, they will usually

cancel their order. Then once the crop is planted, the higher prices have passed them by. Offer contracts help take the emotion, looking out your back door, out of your marketing plan.

In the last three years the infinite majority of bushels delivered at harvest have been placed on storage hoping for \$4.00, instead of being forward contracted for 3.70. Our producers then spend 30-40 cents in storage, only to sell the corn for 3.70. Paying storage is a convenient option to get through harvest time lows, but the consequence of using storage tends to result with lower new prices as opposed to forward contracted bushels.

Here is an example of new crop scale-up offers that some of our producers are using based off their Revenue Protected crop insurance bushels.

Offer 20% of bushels each at \$3.50, \$3.60, \$3.70, \$3.80, and \$3.90.

There are no guarantees that any of these offers get fulfilled, but if they do, you'll have a \$3.70 cash average as a result. These producers are also doing the same process with new crop soybeans. Starting at \$8.50 cash and offering equal amounts every 25 cents up to \$9.50.



**clint boon**  
grain originator

## New team established to serve beginning farmers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established a new team that will lead a department-wide effort focused on serving beginning farmers and ranchers.

"More than a quarter of producers are beginning farmers," said USDA Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky. "We need to support the next generation of agricultural producers who we will soon rely upon to grow our nation's food and fiber."

To institutionalize support for beginning farmers and ranchers and to build upon prior agency work, the 2018 Farm Bill directed USDA to create a national coordinator position in the agency and state-level coordinators for four of its agencies – Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Risk Management Agency (RMA), and Rural Development (RD).

Sarah Campbell was selected as the national coordinator to lead USDA's efforts. A beginning farmer herself, Campbell held previous positions with USDA and has a wealth of experience working on issues impacting beginning farmers and ranchers. She recently served as acting director of customer experience for the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, where she led the piloting of innovative, customer-centric initiatives.

In her new role, she will work closely with the state coordinators to develop goals and create plans to increase beginning farmer participation and access to programs while coordinating nationwide efforts on beginning farmers and ranchers.

"We know starting a new farm business is extremely challenging, and we know our customers value and

benefit from being able to work directly with our field employees, especially beginning farmers," Campbell said. "These new coordinators will be a key resource at the local level and will help beginning farmers get the support they need. I look forward to working with them."

Each state coordinator will receive training and develop tailored beginning farmer outreach plans for their state. Coordinators will help field employees better reach and serve beginning farmers and ranchers and will also be available to assist beginning farmers who need help navigating the variety of resources USDA has to offer.

### *More on Beginning Farmers*

Twenty seven percent of farmers were categorized as new and beginning producers, with 10 years or less of experience in agriculture, according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture.

USDA offers a variety of farm loan, risk management, disaster assistance, and conservation programs to support farmers, including beginning farmers and ranchers. Additionally, a number of these programs have provisions specifically for beginning farmers, including targeted funding for loans and conservation programs as well as waivers and exemptions.

### *More Information*

Learn more about USDA's resources for beginning farmers as well as more information on the national and state-level coordinators at [newfarmers.usda.gov](http://newfarmers.usda.gov) and [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov). For more information on available programs in your area, contact your local USDA service center.

A vertical advertisement with a black border. At the top, the text "INCREASE YOUR PROFITS" is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. Below this is a large, 3D-style grey arrow pointing upwards and to the right, set against a background of a faint grid. At the bottom of the advertisement, the text "DO BUSINESS WITH RAY-CARROLL" is written in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters, with "DO" on the first line, "BUSINESS" on the second, "WITH" on the third, and "RAY-CARROLL" on the fourth.

## “Pests,” cont. from front cover

in southwestern Missouri before then. Bermuda grass growers in Gulf states have seen it for several years.

Like sugarcane aphid, the stem maggot affects mid-to-late season growth. It can cause yields to taper off quickly. The first sign of infestation is when the upper terminal leaves look frost-damaged and die. Looking inside the stem reveals a small white maggot. Infestations vary with different varieties of Bermuda grass.

The standard recommendation for control used in the southern states is to spray with an insecticide seven to 10 days after the previous hay harvest or grazing. “Fortunately, inexpensive pyrethroid insecticides can be effective on this insect if applied timely,” Schnakenberg said. “Unfortunately, most producers do not like to use routine insecticide in Bermuda grass stands.”

Kevin Rice, MU Extension entomologist, recommends monitoring for two other emerging pests that can damage alfalfa.

The brown marmorated stink bug feeds on alfalfa and many other plants. It has been found in seven Missouri counties so far, including Greene

County. Schnakenberg said he has not seen it in southwestern Missouri crops or forages. Unlike the green stink bug, it moves quickly when established.

Another emerging pest, the spotted lanternfly, could affect vineyards and walnut trees. Found in northeastern states, it lays eggs on metal sur-



Sugarcane aphid infestation on Sudan grass leaf in Stone County, Mo. Credit: Tim Schnakenberg, University of Missouri.

faces, including trains and trucks, giving it a way to spread to Missouri. The spotted lanternfly is a potential pest for alfalfa, corn and soybeans. It contains cantharidin, a toxin found in blister beetle. It can kill horses when they eat large amounts of infested alfalfa.

For more information, contact the MU Extension agronomy specialist in your area or an entomologist with the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

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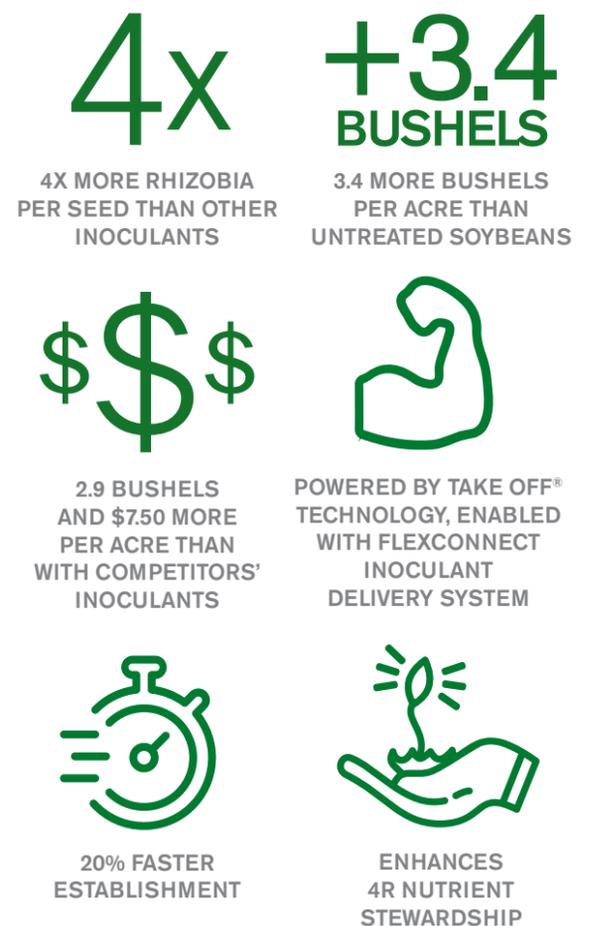
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# Wheat and N: What to do?

By Peter C. Scharf & Gregory A. Luce  
University of Missouri, Division of Plant Sciences

It's been another tough year for wheat so far. A lot of planned wheat acres did not get planted last fall due to the wet fall and slow harvest over much of the state. Much of the wheat that did go in was planted late.

For late-planted wheat, formation of fall tillers will be less than for wheat planted on time. And tillers are a crucial component of wheat's potential yield, determining total heads that form. The best growers know to plant more seeds when planting late, in order to emerge from winter with enough tillers (or close to it). More plants help to compensate for fewer tillers per plant.

Early spring N can also stimulate formation of additional tillers. Now on March 11, some of the window in which additional tillers can form has passed, but some of that window is still left.

My research has showed that, in most years, wheat yield is higher when all or most N is applied just before jointing.

The exception to that rule comes when tiller count at green-up is low. There will be more fields in that situation this year than in most years, and thus more need for early N this year.

The most accurate method is by counting tillers; 60 per square foot or less means that you desperately need N soon to maintain yield potential; 90 or more per square foot means that you should probably wait until just before jointing to apply N. Between 60 and 90, some N now would be good but not crucial. If you're not willing to count tillers, the eye test works reasonably well. If the wheat looks thin, applying some or all N as soon as possible will probably pay. If it looks thick, wait. In between, probably apply some or all N soon, but it's not as critical.

Last year was similar to this year—wet fall, slow harvest, late wheat planting, cool and wet winter. Early N was probably critical in many fields last year.

This was proven in one farm field where “early” N out-yielded late N by 10 bushels even though more N was applied later. A split N application was planned, but the first application (about 55 lb N/acre) was stopped about 1/3 of the way through the field due to rutting. This was already well after green-up due to wet conditions. It took 12 more days for the farmer to get back in; by that time tillering had ended. He decided not to make a second application where he had already applied, but applied 75 lb N/acre to the rest of the field. Because his tiller count was low (I think about 40-45 per square foot), the earlier N timing really paid off. The extra yield from applying early would have easily paid for a plane to apply the N.

N timing	N rate	Yield
Halfway from green up to joint	55	91
Just after joint	75	81

## Take-home

- If your wheat looks thin or has less than 60 good tillers/square foot, apply N as soon as possible. If the field is too wet to drive, seriously consider getting a plane to do the job. If you can't get N on soon, monitor the field closely as it may be a candidate for planting another crop.
- If your wheat looks just okay, you should probably get some N on soon, but it's not as critical as in fields that look thin. You could consider splitting the N into two applications, or just apply all now.
- If your wheat looks good, especially if it has more than 90 good tillers/square foot, wait until just before jointing to apply N



Cattle producer and MU Extension agronomist Rusty Lee says milo can help producers cut winter feed bills. Photo by Linda Geist.

## Move livestock to the feed to lower costs, save nutrients

Milo planted for grazing cuts winter feed bills by half and keeps nutrients on the farm, said Rusty Lee, University of Missouri Extension agronomist.

Nutrients stay on the land when cattle and sheep recycle manure by stomping it into the soil during grazing, Lee said.

Milo's strong root system also improves soil quality. The finely branched tillers and roots add significant biomass to the soil and give the plant the support it needs to continue standing until grazed, he said.

Lee said milo's tolerance of hot, dry growing seasons makes it a good choice for Missouri livestock producers.

During the past few years, Lee and other producers found success with milo as an alternative winter feed source. Lee said he now keeps hay on hand only as a backup.

Planting is normally mid-May to early June, on 30-inch rows. “The intent is grain production, as the bushels of milo per acre determines the grazing-days per acre,” he said. “While land with marginal productivity can produce grain, the higher-productivity acres will generate more cow days per acre.”

Milo in the field puts dollars back into the producer's pocket. Move the feedlot to the field to reduce equipment and labor costs for harvesting, grinding and transporting feed. Made hay costs about \$1.08 per day per cow, Lee said, while bought hay is \$1.26 per day per cow at \$35 per bale, \$1.62 at \$45/bale and \$1.98 at \$55/bale. Grazed milo is 69 cents per cow daily on land rented at \$100 per acre.

Determine yield to reduce waste and shortages, he said. Allocate acreage based on estimated yield and a cow's daily need of 9-10 pounds of milo grain.

It is important to supplement the milo field with protein, he said. This can be through access to stockpiled fescue pasture, quality hay, or commodity feeds like distillers grains or soybean meal.

When the allocation is right, cows will eat most of the grain heads in a paddock within 30 minutes. Within two hours, they eat 70-80% of the milo leaves and stalk. Usually, only the bottom 18 inches of stalk goes uneaten.

Calves adjust to grazing on milo as they follow the lead of their mothers, Lee said.

Grazed milo offers cattle added high-energy nutrition, said Eric Bailey, MU Extension beef nutritionist.

Its nutrient value is similar to that of corn silage, Baileys said. He rec-

See “Livestock to feed,” cont. on pg. 8

# Test in spring for SCN, soybean's silent killer

Test for soybean cyst nematode (SCN) in the spring before planting, said University of Missouri Extension plant pathologist Kaitlyn Bissonnette.

Data from MU researchers shows SCN field populations are becoming more virulent on commercial soybean cultivars, Bissonnette said.

SCN quickly began spreading in Missouri in the 1970s and gained a strong foothold in most of the state's soybean-growing counties by the 1990s. Easily transported by nature, cysts and eggs can be spread within a field or to new fields by soil, equipment, water or wind. Today it is the No. 1 soybean disease in the U.S. and Canada.

Yields drop by as much as 14 bushels per acre in infected fields when SCN reproduction is high, according to the SCN Coalition, a public-private partnership of researchers, extension specialists and industry representatives.

Populations can increase exponentially, with 100 females capable of producing 39,062 eggs after four generations in one growing season, assuming each female produces 250 eggs, only half become female and only 1% of eggs will survive.

SCN is difficult to detect without testing because damage occurs to the root system before it can be seen. Symptoms include stunted plants, yellowing and yield loss. Yield loss can occur even when there are no visual symptoms, Bissonnette said.

Nematodes are becoming increasingly resistant to PI 88788, the genetic source of SCN resistance used in about 95% of all SCN-resistant soybean varieties.

Bissonnette suggests two ways to test for SCN. One way is to dig a month-old soybean plant, gently shake the soil from the roots and look for white females. Another is to collect soil samples for testing. Collect 15-20 core samples for every 20 acres. Cores should be 6-8 inches deep and an inch in diameter. Collect in a zigzag pattern and divide each field into management zones. Include high-risk areas such as the field entry, flooded areas, low spots and historically low-yielding areas.

For each collection zone, mix the core samples together. Moisture content is important. "It's difficult to get an egg count out of concrete or sludge," Bissonnette said. Ideally, cores will stay intact during collection but will easily fall

Soybean roots with soybean cyst nematode females (the white, round objects coming out of the roots). Photos by Angela Tenney, MSU.



apart upon mixing. When in doubt, err on the side of dry.

Put samples in a bag and label. If possible, mark down the GPS coordinates of the field where samples were collected. Send to a testing facility.

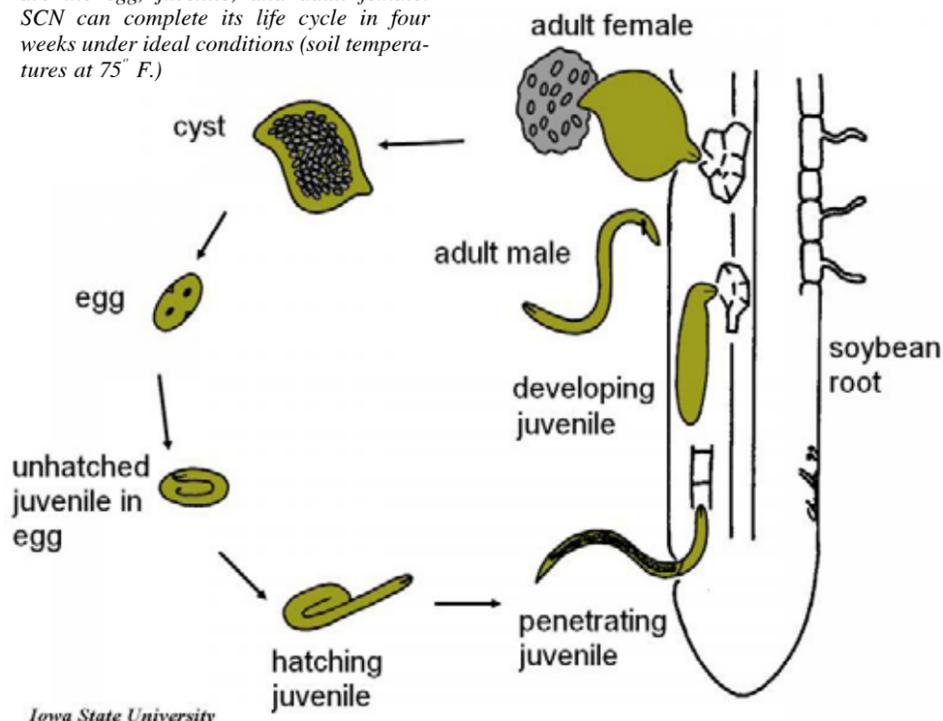
Know your baseline SCN egg count and test every three to five years, Bissonnette said. Comparing SCN egg counts tells you if your management plan is working long-term.

Work with crop advisers and extension agronomists in your area to develop a management plan.

Bissonnette recommends that farmers 1) test fields to know SCN egg count; 2) rotate to resistant varieties; 3) rotate to non-host crops; and 4) consider using a nematode-protectant seed treatment.

For more information on SCN, visit [www.TheSCNCoalition.com](http://www.TheSCNCoalition.com).

The three main stages of the SCN life cycle are the egg, juvenile, and adult female. SCN can complete its life cycle in four weeks under ideal conditions (soil temperatures at 75° F.)



## "Livestock to feed," cont. from pg. 7

ommends supplements for lactating cows and backgrounding cattle.

"Cow body condition maintains and can improve over winter, even in lactating cows who calved in the fall," he said. Body condition of calves also improves in the dead of winter.

John Turner, retired USDA grasslands conservationist, said milo's high nutrient value makes it a valuable addition in grazing systems. Most annual crops produce seed and die. Milo does not. Nutrients, including sugar in the stalk sap, remain in the plant after frost.

However, keep cattle off milo for about seven days after frost to avoid prussic acid issues. In central Missouri, it is usually safe to put cattle back on milo fields by Nov. 1, Lee said.

Nitrogen fertilizer at a rate of 120 pounds per acre will support good yields and avoid potential nitrate problems from overfertilization, he said.

Producers get better cattle and save cash, Bailey said. Hundred-bushel milo provides 400 cow days per acre at a lower cost than silage.

Sheep and goats are less enthusiastic than cattle about milo grazing because they cannot see predators over the tall seed heads. However, Truxton area sheep producer Harry Cope found success with strip grazing. He said that sheep graze the outer edge of the field first and work their way to the center.

Lee said milo strip grazing requires some additional labor that one person can handle. Cattle must be moved to a new paddock each day; goats and sheep need a new location every one to three weeks.

Make those moves easier by avoiding steel posts, which are difficult to move after a freeze, Lee said. Polywire fencing works in snow and ice. Choose small-diameter wire over polytape that will sag.

As with any new crop, Lee recommends that producers start with a few acres to see if the change is right for their operations. "Plant a few acres and stick your toe in the water."

For more information, contact your local MU Extension agronomist, or contact Lee at 573-564-3733 or [leerw@missouri.edu](mailto:leerw@missouri.edu).