



Volume 1, Issue 2
September 2013

Gear Up Now for Brush Control

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- Upcoming Events

David Moore, CCA, Range and Pasture Specialist



Late summer and early fall is a great time to spray brushy species. We usually look at a window from June through the end of September as an effective time to spray the perennial, woody weeds. Late August and through September may even be a tick better, as the plant prepares itself for winter. During this time frame, it moves nutrients and carbohydrates from the above ground portions of the plant to the root zone. As a result, we get very good movement of herbicide along with these nutrients. Thus, the plant itself assists you in your efforts to control it.

Choosing the correct herbicide, as always, is critical for success. Remedy Ultra, PastureGard HL (Remedy Ultra + Starane) and Surmount (Tordon + Starane) are common choices. Use the list below to choose the correct herbicide:

- Remedy Ultra 2 - 4 pints per acre – Beech, Elderberry, Hedge, Maple, Oaks, Russian Olive, Sumac, Willow
- PastureGard HL 1.5 pints per acre – Hedge, Poison Ivy, Sericea Lespedeza
- Surmount 2-3 quarts per acre – Ash, Beech, Cottonwood, Dogwood, Elm, Hackberry, Hawthorne, Mulberry, Persimmon, Sumac

Check the label for specific rates for each species. A good combination for multiple species is 1 – 1.5 quarts of Remedy Ultra plus 1 – 1.5 quarts of Surmount. Don't forget to add 1 quart of Astute surfactant per 100 gallons of water. Use of a good quality surfactant is as important as choosing the correct herbicide.

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...Continued From Front Page For fencerow spot spraying, I like to use a 2% mix of Surmount – 2.5 ounces of Surmount per gallon of water, plus surfactant. Another good choice for killing bigger trees (up to 6" in diameter) is to apply a basal bark treatment. Mix 1 quart of Remedy Ultra with 3 quarts of diesel fuel. Using low pressure, coat the bottom 2-3 feet of tree trunk all the way around the tree, just to the point of runoff. This can be done any time of year. Any size tree can be killed out by cutting and treating the stump with Tordon RTU.

Call your local Western MO MFA Agri Services location for more information.

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- **What is the Precision Advantage?**
 - The Precision Advantage is a MFA service that combines grid sampling with variable rate applications of fertilizer, lime, chemical applications and planting to ensure that the farmer receives the highest yield in the field at the lowest cost.

- **Advantages of Precision Advantage**
 - Grid soil sampling allows the farmer and fertilizer applicators to see where areas of the field need more nutrients and lime than other areas of the field. This allows the farmer to place more fertilizer in locations that have greater yield potential and cut down rates in areas that have lower yield potentials. By using the variable rate applications farmers can expect to save money on fertilizer as well as optimize yields with optimum fertilizer application.
 - The soil pH is often an overlooked aspect of farming. Low pH's in a field inhibit root growth, tie up valuable phosphorous and potassium, and will lower the water holding capacity of the soil. Grid sampling lets the farmer know exactly what areas of the field need the most amount of lime and which areas need less. In most cases the lime savings will pay for the cost of grid sampling depending upon the amount of lime needed to bring up the soil pH.

For more information call:
Jason Frieden, Agronomy Sales Rep.: (573) 239-9663
Adam Montee, Seed Sales: (417) 682-4644

Lamar Holds Annual Open House



On Tuesday, July 30, Lamar held their annual Meeting/Open House/Customer Appreciation Day. Lunch was served from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and featured grilled burgers, fresh brats and hotdogs. This was accompanied by baked beans from Tractor's (they were delicious!), a selection of Lay's chips, cookies by Party Oasis (these were melt-in-your mouth delicious!), and all was washed down by a vast array of chilled pop or water.

The weather was absolutely delightful, especially for the end of July. It's not very often that we can enjoy a breezy day following a cooling rain in the middle of a Southwest Missouri summer. The "meeting" was attended by many. There were 200 people who "signed-in," and we are confident that we served many more.

There was a drawing held and prizes were won by many who put their name and phone number in the drawing 'jar'. Many hats were given away as well as pizza cutters (for our Supreme Customers), rain gauges and thermometers.

Our Advisory Board this year will consist of Darrel Crockett, Mike Divine, Doug McKibben, Ronnie Means, Jason Morgan, Ed Onstott and Charles Rush. Thank you gentlemen for the time and effort that you put forth to act



as "advisors". Some of the duties of an advisor include assisting management on local policy, recommending changes, additions and improvements as well as keeping informed on the location's financial position, to name just a few.



Thank you to all who were able to join us. We really enjoy getting to visit with all of you. Our new manager, Jerry Bain, appreciated the opportunity to meet you and get to know your families. If you haven't had the chance to meet Jerry yet, then make it a point to stop by, and we will introduce you. We look forward to doing business with you throughout the year and enjoying a meal with you again next year. May your year be blessed and prosperous!

Difference In Lime Quality?

Eric Preston, SW MO/SE KS Regional Precision Sales Manager



It has been a very interesting spring and mid-summer. This time last year, we were terribly dry and this year, the rivers and creeks are flooding. It is amazing what just a few short months will make, but I guess that is just living in SE Kansas or SW Missouri.

In this article I would like to talk about the difference between Effective Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (ECCE) and Effective Neutralizing Material (ENM).

The 2 basic factors that are used to figure both ECCE and ENM is Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (CCE) and particle size.

The CCE of a liming material is determined by chemically reacting agricultural lime with an acid. The amount of acid the liming material neutralizes tells how much CCE a liming material contains. On an equivalent basis (pound for pound), the different liming materials found in nature are capable of neutralizing different amounts of acidity.

The fineness of a limestone material affects how rapidly the lime will react in the soil and how thoroughly it can be mixed in the soil. A great deal of research has been conducted to determine the effect particle size has on the reactivity of lime. The smaller the particle size, the more effective the liming material. As particle size is reduced, the surface area of the particles per pound of lime greatly increases. This allows more of the liming material to react faster. On the other hand, larger particles generally have a more long-lasting effect. A rating system was developed to show the effectiveness of different particle sizes to neutralize acidity. The rating is based on the amount of lime that would likely be expected to react in soils in a one-year time period. Sieves are used to determine particle size.

ENM

In Missouri the term ENM, Effective Neutralizing Material (ENM), is used to figure lime quality which is in turn how we decide how much lime is needed for a recommendation. ENM per ton of liming material is calculated using the Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (CCE) and particle size efficiency ratings. Here is the equation that is used to figure ENM.

$$\text{ENM} = \text{CCE} \times \text{fineness factor} \times 800$$

The 800 is a constant that refers to the pounds of effective calcium in one ton of pure lime.



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ECCE

In Kansas, Effective Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (ECCE) is used to classify quality of lime. ECCE is the measure of the effectiveness of liming materials and is calculated as the product of the purity value (CCE) and the fineness value divided by 100. For example, if the purity is 80 percent and the fineness value is 75 percent, then:

$$\text{ECCE} = (80 \times 75)/100 = 60\%$$

In conclusion these numbers are a way of finding the most cost effective way of buying lime. The higher the ENM or ECCE, the more effective and faster acting the lime application will be on changing soil pH. I hope this information can help you get your lime application for this fall planned. If you need more information, you can contact your local Western MO MFA Agri Services location.

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Happenings Around Lockwood

Kirk Kleeman, Lockwood Manager



The last full week of July brought us a good six inches of rain. This much needed moisture was a huge help to the beans and has caused the corn to hopefully be better than we thought. The pastures are 'greening up' and starting to look good. It's not very often that we can say those words and mean them at the end of July.

As we look toward the next three months with Fall quickly sliding in, we need to start thinking about pastures and helping to add more growth to them. My suggestion would be to apply 40 to 60 units of nitrate, 20 units of phosphate and 30 units of potash. Give Casey or I a call, and we can discuss the different options.

We appreciated seeing all of you that were able to attend the Precision Meeting in August. We look forward to having more meetings in the future to help you with all of your farming or ranching needs.

The Lamar newsletter is coordinated by Felicia Costley and MacKenzie Oswald. It is printed through Morrison Printing in Lamar, MO. If you have any agronomy, feed, seed, animal health, or grain topics you would like us to address, please call Felicia at (417) 682-5593 or send an e-mail to fcostley@mfa-inc.com or moswald@mfa-inc.com.

Some New Faces at Western MO MFA Agri Services



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Jerry Bain, and I am the new General Manager here at Western MO MFA Grain and Agri-Services which includes locations in Lamar, Iantha, Irwin, Carytown, Lockwood and Mt. Vernon.

I come to the area after spending eight years with ADM where I managed 11 locations including eight grain elevators. Prior to ADM, I spent 11 enjoyable years working for Cargill loading barges on the Illinois River near where I grew up in Ottawa, Illinois.

My wife, Heather, and our son, Ethan, have moved to a home in Lamar and are anxious to get better acquainted with the area. We enjoy sports, camping and spending time together as a family.

The day-to-day interactions that I am able to have here with the farmers, ranchers and employees are a real perk of the job. My office door is always open. Please feel free to stop in and say hello.



Hello, I am Rodney Woody and the manager here at Carytown. A little background on myself is the following: I lived on a family farm in Illinois that raised some row crops, but the main focus was diversified livestock with exhibits and presentations at fairs, schools, and television shows. I have been with MFA since January of 2012. Before Carytown, I worked at the AGChoice locations in Weir and Parsons, Kansas, and Chelsea, Oklahoma. I was the local fieldsman for the seed side of things at those locations.

I look forward to meeting everyone that I have not had the opportunity to do so yet. Here at Carytown, we offer everything from feed, fertilizer, chemicals, and livestock equipment. If something is needed that we do not have in stock, let me know, and I will order what you would like.

By the time you get this, wheat planting will be here before we know it. Visit your local Western MO MFA Agri Services to discuss what wheat will work for you along with what chemicals you need to help with a good weed control program. Take a look at treating your wheat to aid with disease pressure that may come along between planting and harvest.

Please feel free to call me with any questions you may have at (417) 394-2435.

Rodney Woody
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We would like to introduce and have you join us in welcoming Jason Frieden to our team. Jason grew up in Lamar, so he is a familiar face to many of you. He graduated from Lamar High School in 2009 and went on to Fort Scott Community College to graduate with an Associate's Degree. He then continued his education at Missouri State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science and a minor in Natural Resources/Agronomy.

Jason's job will consist of Precision Agronomy, Field Scouting and Chemical Sales. His first day was Tuesday, July 30, the same day as our Customer Appreciation day. He had the opportunity to meet and get reacquainted with many of you.

In his spare time Jason likes to hunt, fish and play basketball. His goal in working for MFA is to help the farmers in our local area to thrive in agriculture. Be sure to give Jason a call or stop by the store to meet him and see how he can help you.

Fall Recipe: Crock Pot Apple Butter

By the time this newsletter comes out, it will be September, and by the time the next newsletter comes out, it will be December! Wow, where has the year gone?! Between now and then, APPLES will be ripening and waiting to be picked. I'm sure many of you freeze the apple slices for apple pies among other things, but there is also something else you can do with the apples before (or after) you freeze them...APPLE BUTTER! Who doesn't like the smell of warm apple butter cooking down on a cool crisp fall day? I know I sure do. The recipe that follows is one that is incredibly easy. All you need is a crock pot and all those apples you picked!

Crock Pot Apple Butter (yields approximately 6 pints)

Ingredients:

5 quarts of apples, peeled, cored and finely chopped (For frozen apples, I use one 1-gallon bag)
4 c. sugar
1/4 tsp cloves
4 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp salt

Directions:

Process apples in food processor
Mix all ingredients in crock pot.
Cook on high for 1 hour, turn down and cook on low for 6 to 8 hours.
Pour into clean hot pint jars, add hot lid and ring and wait for the wonderful "ping!" of a sealed lid.



Control Next Year's Thistles This Fall

David Moore, CCA, Range and Pasture Specialist



We basically have two types of thistles in our area – musk and bull. Both are biennials. Seeds from this year's thistles will germinate this fall and form a rosette. Next spring this rosette will enlarge and the plant will bolt upright and bloom again. With the number of thistles we have had this year, we need to anticipate a huge crop next year.

By spraying 1 quart per acre of GrazonNext HL late this fall (November 10 – December 20), we can eliminate the vast majority of next year's thistles! This works best in pasture and hay ground that is grazed low enough that the rosette is clearly visible and accessible to herbicide application. For best results, spray when daytime temperatures are 45 degrees or higher.

A major side effect of this application is that it also controls a large portion of our winter annual weeds, which may or may not be emerged and visible at the time of application. This was very apparent on the thistle plot I sprayed last year (December 5, 2012). The picture below clearly shows a line where the treated field meets the check strip. Before you even notice the absence of thistles and winter annuals, you will notice a significant (2-3 times) increase in grass in the treated area!



Take advantage of this slower time of year - spray 1 quart of GrazonNext HL per acre plus Astute surfactant (1 quart per 100 gallons of water). The net result will be fewer weeds and more grass! It also takes some pressure off of you next spring when there are many things that need your time and attention...

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Growth Promoters: Implants

Tony Koger, MFA Incorporated Livestock Consultant, product sales and services



Weaning time is fast approaching. One practice I've noticed producers neglecting for one reason or another is implanting. Growth promoting implants have been used to boost beef production since their approval by the Food and Drug Administration in the 1950's. Implants are approved for use in beef cattle to increase weight gain and feed efficiency. There are three natural hormones (estradiol, progesterone, and testosterone) and two synthetic hormones (zeranol and trenbolone acetate) used in beef cattle implants. Estradiol, progesterone, and zeranol are estrogenic hormones, which are hormones that affect female characteristics. Testosterone and trenbolone acetate are androgenic, which refers to hormones affecting the male characteristics.

Implants are small pellets that are inserted into the middle third on the back side of the animal's ear, between the skin and cartilage. They then dissolve slowly into the blood stream. The ear is used because it does not enter into the food system. Estrogenic implants increase the amount of somatotropin, an insulin-like growth factor in circulation. Androgenic implants also increase the insulin-like growth factor and decrease the loss of muscle tissue. Some implants use a combination of both estrogenic and androgenic hormones. Since implants affect the hormone production by the animal, they are not recommended for the use in animals intended for breeding.

A multitude of implants are marketed for beef production. They will be marketed as gender specific, be targeted for a certain stage of production, and they will have various levels of potency. Higher levels of potency are only recommended when the increased potential can be met nutritionally. Much like an animal's genetic potential, it would not be able to reach the implants full potential without adequate nutrition provided.

The downfalls to implants are that they reduce the amount of intramuscular fat deposition, which leads to leaner carcasses. Dark cutters and bullers become more common. However, the added value of additional pounds and decrease in cost of gain outweighs any negative associations with implants.

We try to keep the most commonly used implants at the store but can order any kind you want. Please keep us in mind this fall when weaning time comes for all your feed, animal health, and equipment needs. And don't forget to add value and weight to those calves by participating in the MFA Health Track Program.

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The Role of Seed Treatments in Wheat Disease Management

Dr. Erick DeWolf, K-State Professor of Plant Pathology; Forwarded by Doug Fast, Operations Manager



This is the time of year that wheat producers are finishing their seed purchases and making decision about whether or not to use a seed treatment. There are both fungicide and insecticide seed treatments available, which can be used alone or in combination.

Fungicide Seed Treatments

As I evaluate the research results of fungicide seed treatment trials done in Kansas and throughout the U.S., a few questions emerge that I think are worth discussing. 1) What is the purpose of these seed treatments? 2) What value do they have for wheat producers in Kansas?

Think about these questions for a minute before you continue reading this. Is your answer something like this: “The primary purpose of seed treatments in wheat is to reduce the risk that diseases and insects pests will affect stand establishment and the early stages of plant development.”

Based on the research I have reviewed, I would say this is a true statement. In fact, seed treatment fungicides do increase stand by an average of about 10% under heavy disease pressure. The problem; however, is that these increases in stand don't always translate into a yield increase. In fact, research results suggest that in most years the yield improvement from seed treatments is generally less than 1%. Wheat has a tremendous ability to compensate for moderate losses of stand through increased tiller production on the remaining plants.

A closer look at the data indicates that occasionally there is a large yield response – more than 20%. That makes me think there must be some additional value beyond stand establishment that explains these large yield responses.

Fungicide seed treatments are one of the primary tools for management of seed-borne diseases such as common bunt (stinking smut) or loose smut. The fungi that cause these diseases survive in association with wheat seed and can build up to damaging levels in just a few years. If you have ever had loads of wheat rejected for stinking smut, you know what I mean by “damaging levels.”

Seed treatments are an effective way to prevent these seed-borne diseases from becoming a problem on your farm. Seed varieties you intended to save for seed on your farm in coming years is a top priority for these treatments, because seed production has higher value than general production fields.

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Insecticide Seed Treatments

Seed treatment insecticides have a role in the management of barley yellow dwarf (BYD). Greenbugs and bird cherry oat aphids spread BYD and the most damaging infections generally occur when the virus is introduced in to the plants early in their growth and development. The seed treatment insecticides such as Imidacloprid (Gaucho) or Thiamethoxam (Cruiser) can provide protection against aphid feeding in the fall and lower the risk of severe BYD.



Barley Yellow Dwarf



The research results on these products indicate some situations where a yield response may exceed 20%. Unfortunately, this yield response is inconsistent among years. Why is this? In some years, the peak aphid activity occurs in the fall and the insecticides do a great job of preventing the aphid populations and spread of the disease. But if the aphids remain active during a mild winter or arrive in the spring, the insecticide is no longer effective.

Summary

Seed treatments have an important role in wheat production in Kansas, a role that goes beyond stand establishment. The primary role of these products may be to manage seed-borne diseases and to reduce the risk of BYD. When it comes to BYD management, it is important to have realistic expectations. In some situations there will be a yield response large enough to make the practice worthwhile, but you may have to weather some years where the aphid population is active beyond the limits of the insecticide.

More information about production options and priorities for wheat seed treatments can be found in the recent K-State publication: Seed Treatment Fungicides for Wheat Disease Management www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/plant2/MF2955.pdf.

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Upcoming Events...

Ozark Farm Fest
Empire State Fairgrounds
Springfield, MO
October 4 - 6

Kansas State Fair
Hutchinson, KS
September 6 - 15

Cattlemen's Meeting
Be Watching for a Date and Time!

Check Us Out on the Web at www.lamarmfa.com!!!

Western MO MFA Agri Services Locations

Carytown: (417) 394-2435

Iantha Bulk Plant: (417) 682-2037

Irwin Bulk Plant: (417) 884-2474

Lamar MFA Grain Office: (417) 682-5593

Lamar MFA Feed Store: (417) 682-5300

Lockwood: (417) 232-4516

Mt. Vernon: (417) 466-3752

