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Livestock and Natural Resources

Geo Textile Fabric Saves Rock

It's dry and it's dusty, hard to believe 6 months ago, we were wading knee deep to do chores. How quickly we would forget, save for the ruts that the tractor made! We started using Geo-textile fabric in 2007. At that time we were making pads to feed hay on, surroundings for automatic waterers or tire tanks.

Eventually, it was being used for driveways, feed alleys or basically anywhere people wanted a good solid base. The geo textile fabric is said to last 15 years with maintenance. Ideally, you would put the fabric down, being sure to get the ends tucked down. Then you cover with 6 inch rock and then cover with lime screenings. After a few rains, it sets up to be a hardened surface. Even without the screenings, the fabric keeps your rock from sinking!

The fabric comes 12.5 foot wide; a whole roll is over 430 feet long. I can cut off the length you need, or if you prefer to buy a roll I can give you the contact information so you can purchase on your own. The current cost is \$1.40 a running foot.

So after haying season, you decide to make some improvements, give me a call and we can visit about the geo textile fabric. If you would like a section cut off, I only need a few days. I have to wait for a calm day to cut it, otherwise it makes a giant sail and I could end up in another county!

Be sure to join us for the Tailgate Talk 3, this one is all about water. It will be held on August 7th hosted by Jim Phillips on highway 16, east of Valley Falls. Will Boyer and Herschel George, Water Quality Specialists will be on hand to share all of their expertise and equipment. They will be demonstrating solar pumps, bilge pumps and many other inventions to move water around a pasture. It is a very interesting talk that last year would have continued except that it got dark! This will be Herschel's last presentation as he will be retiring! We are honored that he has agreed to come to this event.

The evening begins at 5:30 pm, with a light meal sponsored by the Jefferson County Soil Conservation District. We ask that participants RSVP, for meal planning, 785-863-2212 or email dhallaue@ksu.edu or myself at jholthau@ksu.edu. Please bring a lawn chair, and if the weather is questionable please call before you haul!

David G. Hallauer
District Extension Agent
Crops & Soils/Horticulture

Tailgate Talk III Coming Up – August 7th

You can have a really nice pasture with good perimeter fence, the opportunity for cross fencing or rotational grazing, and even no weeds or brush to speak of – and not have a lot if you don't have water. Without it, the type of grazing system doesn't really matter. It's going to be an uphill battle without a good water source.

That's why All About Water is the focus of the third (and final) in our Tailgate Talk forage education series scheduled for Wednesday, August 7th starting at 5:30 p.m. northeast of Valley Falls. Jim and Susan Phillips will be our hosts. Their ranch is located just northeast of Valley Falls, one and a half miles east of the junction of Highways K-4 and K-16 (watch for signs). We'll meet at their commodity storage site on the north side of Highway K-16 and kick off the evening with a light supper sponsored by the Jefferson County Conservation District.

After supper, it's All About Water. K-State Watershed Specialists Will Boyer (Northeast Kansas) and Herschel George (Southeast Kansas) will share some of their ideas for enhancing the availability of water on your farm, in hopes of making existing water sources potentially even more valuable. Their focus will be on moving water from an existing source to other areas of the pasture, whether needed in a single location to keep animals out of a water body or in multiple locations as might be necessary in a rotational grazing system. They will be demonstrating some of the work they have been doing with solar and bilge pumps, as well as other ideas – and limitations - for moving water from one location to another. Their presentation will demonstrate some of these tools, with plenty of time for questions and interaction.

To help with meal arrangements, please RSVP to the Oskaloosa Office of the Meadowlark Extension District by Tuesday, August 6th by calling (785) 863-2212. You can also RSVP via e-mail to me at dhallae@ksu.edu. Special thanks to the Jefferson County Conservation District for making the meal possible.

If you need ideas about getting water from point A to point B – you will want to be in attendance to check out what Herschel and Will have to demonstrate.

Green June Beetle

It's been a good summer for insect pressure. Even as Japanese beetles and bagworms continue to cause issues, another pest should be on your radar as well: Green June Beetle.

Green June Beetles look much like a June bug, but will have a dull, velvety green color and an iridescent green underside. One of their identifying characteristics is the buzzing sound they may as they zip through the air, crashing in to objects because of their poor navigational skills. While a little intimidating, they are not harmful to people.

They do, however, like sweet corn, blackberries, and peaches. Fortunately, a number of general-use insecticides are labelled for their control, including products that contain acetamiprid, carbaryl, and malathion. Be sure to read and follow label directions. For example,

Sevin has a two-day waiting period between spraying and harvest on sweet corn and a three-day waiting period on peaches, but a seven-day waiting period on blackberries, making malathion, with a one-day waiting period, potentially a better choice. Acetamiprid has a seven-day waiting period on peaches and a one-day waiting period on blackberries and raspberries.

July 19, 2019

Cindy Williams
Meadowlark Extension District
Food, Nutrition, Health, and Safety

No news from Cindy.

Nancy C. Nelson
Meadowlark Extension District

Family Life

Too Hot for Your Health

Too much heat is not safe for anyone. It is even riskier if you are older or have health problems. It is important to get relief from the heat quickly.

The National Institute on Aging says being hot for too long can be a problem as it can cause several illnesses, all grouped under the name hyperthermia.

Heat syncope is a sudden dizziness that can happen when you are active in hot weather. If you take a heart medication called a beta blocker or are not used to hot weather, you are even more likely to feel faint. Rest in a cool place, put your legs up, and drink water to make the dizzy feeling go away.

Heat cramps are the painful tightening of muscles in your stomach, arms, or legs. Cramps can result from hard work or exercise. Though your body temperature and pulse usually stay normal during heat cramps, your skin may feel moist and cool. Find a way to cool your body down. Rest in the shade or in a cool building. Drink plenty of fluids, but not those with alcohol or caffeine.

Heat edema is a swelling in your ankles and feet when you get hot. Put your legs up to help reduce swelling. If that doesn't work fairly quickly, check with your doctor.

Heat exhaustion is a warning that your body can no longer keep itself cool. You might feel thirsty, dizzy, weak, uncoordinated, and nauseated. You may sweat a lot. Your body temperature may stay normal, but your skin may feel cold and clammy. Some people with heat exhaustion have a rapid pulse. Rest in a cool place and get plenty of fluids. If you don't feel better soon, get medical care. Be careful—heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke.

If you have heat stroke, you need to get medical help right away. Older people living in homes or apartments without air conditioning or fans are at most risk. People who become dehydrated or those with chronic diseases or alcoholism are also at most risk. Signs of heat stroke are: fainting (possibly the first sign) or becoming unconscious; a change in behavior—confusion, agitation, staggering, being grouchy, or acting strangely; body temperature over 104°F; dry, flushed skin and a strong, rapid pulse or a slow, weak pulse; and not sweating even if it is hot.