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It Was a Long Winter!

Finally, the cows and the bulls are out to grass! What a relief, for all involved. Anxiety levels rise as the hay pile gets shorter!

Each year many cattlemen are negotiating pasture leases. I read an article about the cheapest and most expensive states to rent pasture. Fortunately, Kansas is not in the top 10 most expensive, and we're not in the bottom 10, cheapest places. I guess it's our nature to be in the middle. This information is gathered by the USDA's National Ag statistics. The 2017 rate for Jackson county was \$28/acre, Jefferson county was \$25.50 an acre and Nemaha county was 0. Probably not enough surveys were returned to give a good enough picture of what rent in in Nemaha county OR most of it is privately owned.

Whatever the rate you are paying, is your lease in writing? I'm a big advocate for having it in writing. When you put it in black and white, then both parties of the lease understand the terms. If something should happen to one of the parties of the lease, their heir, also can see the terms of the lease. For landowners, when you rent out your property, you give up the right to that property. Written leases can spell out that you still want to go mushroom hunting, fishing, camping or whatever on your property during the lease.

Written leases can also address what happens in unusual circumstances, like a drought, or the pond dries up. Is the full lease amount required, if the grazing time was cut in half by drought? We do have some farm lease materials, and even some sample leases that you can use as a starting point. These leases can be of your own making, or you can go through your lawyer, just make sure that both parties sign and date them.

If you want to check out the map of pasture rental rates, go to:  
<http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=31de53634d214d328c98f1ce839b14ae&extent=-117.0183,28.0358,-76.4568,48.4457>

David G. Hallauer  
District Extension Agent  
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### **Brush Control: Buckbrush & Roughleaf Dogwood**

While contrasting in their appearance, buckbrush and roughleaf dogwood are two of the more common brush species in our pasture/range stands. Our ability to control their spread, however, is equally important as both can result in reduced forage production. KSU Rangeland Management Specialist Dr. Walt Fick recently outlined some control options summarized here.

While short in stature at only two to three feet tall, buckbrush makes up for height by using above ground runners to spread around forming clumps. If you've ever tried to pull a plant that you can't spray (or just thought it would be 'easy' to try), you'll find this out rather quickly. That ability to spread is what gives it a huge competitive advantage even as a shorter statured plant in our forage systems.

Buckbrush can be (somewhat) controlled with two to three years of repeated mowing in early to mid-May. This is the time frame when root carbohydrates are the lowest, requiring the plant to regrow from a depleted root system. The key is being able to mow over multiple years to keep it weakened.

If chemical control is preferred, spray just as the leaves turn from light green to a darker color, again signifying that the plant is at its 'weakest'. Products like 2,4-D and picloram plus 2,4-D products can be very effective when appropriate timing is used.

Roughleaf dogwood can easily grow to heights above ten feet tall and can be identified by the flat topped clusters of white flowers that appear in late May or early June. That bloom stage identification is critical, as it's the time when herbicide applications seem to do the best job of resulting in good control. Our more commonly used active ingredients (triclopyr, dicamba, 2,4-D and picloram, for example...) might defoliate dogwood – but rarely kill it. Instead, consider high volume applications of products that use varying combinations of picloram, fluroxypyr, triclopyr, and 2,4-D for better results. These combinations can be found in products like PasturGard HL, Surmount, Grazon P+D, and Remedy Ultra. Repeated herbicide applications or herbicides used in combination with prescribed fire will likely be required, since dogwood is typically not controlled by a single application.

For a full list of products and application rates, pick up a copy of the 2019 KSU Chemical Weed Control Guide available via your District/County Extension Office. Always read and follow label directions.

### **Unwanted Tree Seedlings**

Two of our more common landscape species – maple and elm – produced a lot of seed this year, likely in response to prior stresses. Those seeds had to go somewhere, and most landed in gutters or the lawn. With ample rainfall, those that landed on the lawn are now sprouting and might cause you to take a step back when you look across your lawn.

Control options are varied. You can pull them, but most of the time they are too numerous to try that. You might be tempted to mix up a batch of spray and try to spot treat them. Most lawn herbicides will have some activity on them. The simplest thing to do, however, is probably just to mow them off. You likely won't kill them when they are very small, but before long, you'll mow enough off that they will eventually die. A combination of the above can sure work as well, but consider giving mowing a try first.

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

Cindy Williams, Meadowlark Extension District Agent

#### Time to Get Your Pressure Canner Testing Gauges Tested

Now is the time to get dial gauges tested on pressure canners. Here are some reminders. Each of the Meadowlark Extension District Offices-(Oskaloosa, Holton and Seneca) as well as most Extension offices have the Presto Gauge Testing Unit. This can test pressure gauges on the brands Presto, National, Maid of Honor, and Magic Seal.

This testing unit cannot test All American pressure gauges. Newer models of the All American canner have both regulator weights (weighted gauge) and the dial gauge. The weight is more accurate than the gauge and customers should use the weight in order to determine if they are at the needed pressure. If the weight begins to rock at the desired pressure and the gauge is off by more than 2 psi the company recommends replacing the gauge. The gauge is now used as a reference to know when the unit is at 0 psi and can safely be removed.

#### National Festival of Breads—June 8<sup>th</sup>

Looking for a fun, educational outing that is fairly close, consider attending the National Festival of Bread that will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2019, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. This will be held at the Manhattan Conference Center located at 410 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Manhattan, KS. This is a free event, with many educational speakers throughout the day.

There will be eight finalists that are from all over the United States baking their special bread entries. Participants will have a chance to watch these finalists, as well as sample these entries. Four of the finalists are home bakers and there will also be four bloggers among the finalist selections.

For a complete schedule of events (<http://nationalfestivalofbreads.com/national-festival-of-breads>). Participants are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food to support local food pantries.

This is a great opportunity to bring 4-H members and/or other youth as there will be a Kids' Zone Bread Baking Workshops. The National Festival of Bread is held every other year and is considered America's Bread Baking Championship.

Nancy C. Nelson  
Meadowlark Extension District  
Family Life

### Children Need More Water When Playing in the Heat

With summer approaching, it is important to remember that children become dehydrated very quickly when playing in the heat.

Children don't tolerate heat as well as adults because their bodies generate more heat relative to their size than adults do. They are also not as quick to adjust to changes in temperatures that summer brings. Children also have more skin surface relative to their body size which means they lose more water through evaporation from the skin.

Kids tend to forget to drink when they are playing and need to be reminded. Muscle work of any kind causes the body to lose water through sweat. This is true even when swimming or playing in other cool environments.

Dehydration is a serious condition, especially in small children. Watch for signs such as decreased frequency of urination, dark urine, and coated tongue. More severe dehydration includes sunken eyes, nausea, muscle cramps and pain, clammy skin and a throbbing heart. If the child has any of these symptoms, seek advice from a physician immediately.

Advice for kids in active play, especially in the heat include drink a couple of glasses of cold water 1-2 hours before the activity and another cup 10-15 minutes before. Take water breaks every 15 minutes during activity to drink at least 1/2 cup of water. Plain cold water is absorbed most quickly by the body.