

August 9, 2019

Jody G. Holthaus
District Extension Agent
Livestock and Natural Resources

No News From Jody

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

This year's Meadowlark Extension District Demonstration Plot Tour is scheduled for Tuesday evening, August 27th. Specific times and locations will be announced in this space next week and information will be posted on the Crops & Soils page at www.meadowlark.ksu.edu or can be obtained by e-mailing me at dhallaue@ksu.edu. This year's focus will be weed control.

Aquatic Weed Management

One of the quickest ways to reduce the enjoyment level of your pond is to let it get covered in vegetation. Unfortunately, our weed pressures are such that this is often the case.

Control programs have to start with a proper identification of the problem species. KSU's Aquatic Plants and Their Control (link below) is a great resource. If you want color pictures, check out the aquatic weed management website at Texas A&M at: <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/>. Once species are identified, it's time to think about control. Your options are varied.

Preventative measures focus on the physical features of the pond. Clear, shallow water bodies that are high in nutrients often see prolific plant growth. If possible during new construction, make sure excavation encourages adequate depth. Older ponds can be cleaned to increase depth as well. Implement filter strips or other management practices upstream of the pond to reduce sediment loads that can increase nutrient density.

Mechanical control efforts can be effective, but typically require lots of labor. Start by pulling or raking out marginal plants or removing submersed plants by pulling a cable or chain through them. V-shaped weed cutters can be thrown out into the water and pulled back, cutting the weeds off so they can be raked to shore. Even shading with a fine mesh, dark plastic screen is an option. Mechanical control is typically short lived and most effective in smaller bodies of water. It is best used in conjunction with biological and chemical control methods.

Numerous herbicides are available for chemical control. Species identification is one of the most important facets of chemical control, as is proper application according to product labels. Most labeled products are very safe for fishing, swimming, etc... after application, so long as label guidelines are followed. If a large portion of the pond is covered in vegetation, avoid treating the entire area at one time. Decomposing vegetation uses up oxygen. This oxygen is taken from the water, meaning less is available for aquatic life living in the pond, potentially causing fish kills. Products may be expensive and are not typically as readily available as many of our common herbicides. Be sure to read and understand product labels before purchasing.

Biological control typically consists of grass carp since they will feed on many species of floating and submerged plants. They won't necessarily control an established infestation of weeds, but can keep them eaten off if allowed to stay ahead of them. As many as 20 fish per acre may be required, but they can be a nice addition to your pond at an inexpensive price. They will readily leave the pond during heavy water flow so be prepared to restock as necessary.

Aquatic weed control methods are as varied as the vegetation present in our ponds. If you have questions about them, don't hesitate to contact us. The K-State Research & Extension publication Aquatic Weeds and Their Control is a great resource as well. It is available via your District Office or online at: <http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/c667.pdf>.

August 9, 2019

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

Cindy will be out of the office on extended leave after the death of her husband. Thank you for your understanding. We all look forward to her return and her articles.

Nancy C. Nelson
Meadowlark Extension District
Family Life

Food Tampering is No Joke

Food tampering is punishable by law. Be a smart shopper and report any issues.

If you see something, say something. That statement holds true for many situations, including food tampering. We live in a world that causes us to be more cautious in our daily routines.

In this buyer beware world, here are some tips when grocery shopping.

- Carefully examine all food product packaging. Be aware of the normal appearance of food containers. That way you'll be more likely to notice if an outer seal or wrapper is missing. Compare a suspect container with others on the shelf.
- Check any anti-tampering devices on packaging. Make sure the plastic seal around the outside of a container is intact or that the safety button on the lid of a jar is down.
- Don't purchase products if the packaging is open, torn, or damaged. This includes products on the shelf or in the refrigerator or freezer sections of the grocery store.
- Don't buy products that are damaged or that look unusual. For example, never purchase canned goods that are leaking or that bulge at the ends. Likewise, for products that appear to have been thawed and then refrozen.

In Kansas, report any food problems at www.foodsafetykansas.org/.