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**Meetings the First
Monday Night
of Each Month**

1003 North Main

547-4077

Extension 3

Perryville, MO 63775

August 2012

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OUR SOIL * OUR STRENGTH

NEWSLETTER

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For information on programs, sign-up deadlines and more, check out the Perry SWCD Website at <http://www.swcd.mo.gov/perry/index.html> and the Missouri NRCS Website at <http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Keep up to date with the latest drought information and federal programs available by visiting http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/Drought_2012.html

Maintenance Reminder

Hard to believe, but fall is almost upon us! Remember to take the time to look at the erosion control practices (structures and seedings) that you have completed over the last 10 years. Fall is a great time to fix maintenance issues such as: controlling woody development on dams, reseeding inadequate grass stands (25' around vertical drain), cleaning out sediment in terraces/dry structures, or fixing settled areas around sinkhole pipes, etc.

Management Intensive Grazing School

Interested in learning how to improve and get the most out of your pasture? A Management Intensive Grazing School is scheduled for September 5th and 6th in Jackson. Cost of the school is \$90/person (\$25/additional person associated with farm) and includes: meals/refreshments, grazing stick, "MO Grazing Manual" and "Forages and Weeds of Pastures" booklet. Class starts at 8 am and lasts until 4:30 pm. If you are interested in attending, call our office at 547-4077 ext 3 **ASAP** and we will try to help you get a reservation.



Money to Complete Conservation Practices

The following are dollars the EQIP program has brought into Perry County over the past few years: Fiscal Year 2012 – 13 contracts totaling \$139,462, Fiscal Year 2011 – 12 contracts totaling \$201,777, and Fiscal Year 2010 – 11 contracts totaling \$120,314.

What are these dollars going towards? The funds are completing a wide range of conservation practices including: Fencing out woods/creeks/ponds, Watering Facility Development, Cover Crops, Pasture and Hayland Plantings, Erosion Control Practices (sinkhole development, terraces, dry structures), Nutrient Management on crop fields, Grazing Systems, Forest Stand Improvement, High Tunnels and Wildlife Enhancements, to name only a few.

The FY13 EQIP Sign-up will probably be sometime soon. Please contact our office to see if EQIP can help you complete your conservation goals!

Forest Management Field Day

Tentative plans are being made to hold a Forest Management Field Day in Perry County sometime late winter or early spring. Possible topics include: Forest Stand Improvement (description and benefits), Knowing When to Harvest, Invasive Species, Financial Assistance Available on Forestland. Please contact 547-4077 ext 3 if you want us to let you know the date when plans are finalized.

Yet Another Exotic Invasive Plant!

Mike Keeley, MDC Resource Forester

Bush honeysuckle is an eastern Asian shrub that is starting to invade our forests in Perry County. Unlike the vine honeysuckle that grows along the edge of your fields you might be familiar with, bush is a shade tolerant shrub that grows 4 to 20 feet tall. The plant is spread by birds eating the berries, and can quickly multiply if left untreated. Heavy infestations occur in St. Louis area, Cape Girardeau, and Illinois and are migrating their way here. Two years ago I saw little to no bush honeysuckle in Perry County, now there is some in most landowners' woods I visit. The negative impacts of this plant are that it can completely take over understory of your woods and inhibit other plants from developing. That is why it is critical to find and remove this plant while they are in small populations. In heavy infestations, removal costs can easily be \$500 an acre.

How to identify? The best time to identify and treat this plant is in the fall after all the native vegetation drops their leaves. Bush honeysuckle is semi-evergreen so it is pretty obvious. A good time to look is during deer season. Look for a multi-stem, woody shrub (4-20 feet tall) that still has its leaves, which looks similar to a dogwood tree. It has white/yellow flowers in the spring and red berries in the fall.

How to kill this plant? Small individual plants are easily pulled out by hand. For bigger plants a foliar treatment with glyphosate will work. For large plants in the woods that are too hard to foliar spray, use a cut stump treatment with glyphosate or triclopyr.

For more information call your local MDC office at 573-547-4537.



Do You Know Anyone Who Has Hay for Sale?

This is a question that we have been asked many times already this year. Therefore, we are interested in developing a list of hay producers. If during a normal year you have hay for sale, please call our office and give us your contact information and type(s) of hay you sell. We will compile the names and distribute to those who come in the office wanting to purchase hay. Thanks!

Heat and Drought Resistant Grasses

Livestock producers that have a warm season grass component in their grazing operation had more forage available during the extreme temperatures and drought this summer. Warm season grasses fill a hole in available forage that fescue pastures lack. It is suggested to have 20-25% of your total pasture acres planted to warm season grasses. If you want to discuss warm season grasses or the funding available to help you establish it, please contact the NRCS office.

Hurry Up and Wait: Replanting Decisions for Pastures During Drought

Rob Kallenbach & Craig Roberts, Department of Agronomy

Drought typically causes Missouri cattlemen to be concerned about their pastures. These concerns can turn to thoughts of replanting, but such plans may be premature.

The major pasture grass in Missouri is tall fescue. Most of it is common Kentucky 31 infected with "endophyte," a symbiotic fungus that protects tall fescue from environmental stress. Infected tall fescue can easily withstand a drought, assuming it is not threatened with a compounding stress such as an insect invasion or severe disease pressure. Even after the prolonged drought of the early 1990s, many tall fescue pastures recovered during the next rainy season. The exceptions were pastures with fall armyworm infestations in combination with dry weather, which caused tall fescue pastures to disappear.

For most years, a drought does not have a long-term effect on a tall fescue stand. If you are worried about losing a stand of tall fescue because of severe drought, it may be premature to replant and thicken up the stand. It is best to wait for a rain before spending any money and time on reseeded. If a rain does not come soon, the seeding effort will have been wasted anyway. And if a good rain does come, it will likely cause the field to green up, rendering the seeding effort unnecessary and the time and money wasted.

It may be frustrating to "hurry up and wait," but it is probably the best approach. If the next big rain reveals a patchy stand that will not likely recover, the thin canopy can be exploited by thickening up the field with red clover, annual lespedeza or another summer forage. These crops can be drilled into a thin stand and thrive especially well in absence of a thick grass canopy, assuming it rains.

AGW1006 reviewed February 2009

Pasture Considerations During Drought Conditions

If pastures have been grazed down to their minimum recommended heights (3" for cool season grass and 8" for native warm season grasses) and no regrowth has occurred, or grasses appear to be completely dormant, then producers should seriously consider moving livestock to a sacrifice area off the pastures, and then feeding the livestock hay and supplements as needed. If no sacrifice area is available then temporary fence could be used to create an area. The sacrifice area should have a fresh adequate water supply and some shade for periods with extreme temperatures. When air temperatures are over 85 degrees and humidity is also 85 percent or higher, shade becomes a necessity during the heat of the day. Feeding hay is better than allowing livestock to continuously graze forages and thus severely overgraze, weakening the sward, reducing intake of the animals, and compromising most chances of any good regrowth once adequate moisture returns. Protected grass reserves have more potential of increased grass growth of valuable forage for later on.

It is critical that producers do an inventory of dry matter on hand and estimate livestock future and present requirements. Inventory all grazing livestock and assume intake of at least 3% dry matter needs per body weight per day. Next, walk pastures noting any potential grazing forage present and estimate the amount of available dry matter present per acre. For a rough estimate, figure 250 pounds of dry matter per average acre inch present then subtract what should be left behind. Depending on how they are being grazed, utilization should be figured roughly at 50%. The total estimate from pasture and from hay reserves can then be weighed against livestock requirements.

An example estimate for 8 inch tall grass would be: 8 inches X 250 lbs. per inch X 50% utilization means there is 1000 lbs of forage that is likely to be eaten by the livestock. If higher amounts of forage are available the use of daily strip grazing allocations can increase utilization to as much as 70% of the existing forage.

For pastures that are not yet dormant or have received enough rain to begin recovery, grazing instead of haying at this time is advisable. Managed grazing of these stands may have less negative impact on the stand than haying, because it will open up the sod less and protect valuable cover. You hear the values of soil health talked about, and here is another example. Pastures with good cover, dry or not, insulate the soil and help maintain a cooler soil temperature than ones with poor cover. This could be the difference in whether the forage survives or not. Cooler soils, even though dry, will be better for plant revival than hotter soils and cooler soils should also slow

oxidation of valuable carbon in the soil. This will also help reduce excessive evaporation when we do get rain. To help maintain this canopy all pasture clipping or mowing should be postponed until next year. **Leave any forage standing, even fescue seed stems. This will help shade the soil and prevent the loss of critical moisture.**

Forages will do best if allowed to rest after grazing periods to allow the plant to try and replace carbohydrate reserves. Producers often panic and become increasingly afraid they are running out of forage to graze. They mistakenly open up all the gates and let the livestock pick and choose at their will. This drastically reduces adequate rest and promotes overgrazing, leading to weak and progressively slower responding forages. These overgrazed pastures will take much longer to recover once sufficient moisture returns, and if damage is prolonged enough, could be detrimental to the stand itself. Good productive forage stands are expensive to establish so care should be taken to prevent damage when possible.

Rotating livestock allows forages to rest between grazing periods. During drought conditions, longer rest periods are better. If there happens to be heavier amounts of forage available, slowing the livestock down and concentrating them for very short durations will allow them to consume the best forage present, increase utilization, and waste less. Allocating the forage in strips with temporary fence greatly increases control of the livestock and efficiency. During extended drought, recovery periods can often exceed 90 days or more as compared to our closer to normal 45 days during summer months.

Though it is not popular as the first choice by most producers, reducing animal numbers usually is one of the best options. Culling late calving or out of season calving cows, old, or hard to maintain body condition score animals is a good place to start. Readily marketable animals should be next such as stocker cattle or retained heifers. Early weaning of calves can also be an option. Reducing numbers, especially if numbers are possibly excessive even for a good year, will help stretch reserves, reduce any hay or supplements needed and allow for longer rest periods. Most purchased inputs into an operation are a direct hit on the bottom line and need to be seriously contemplated before purchasing.

Watch for possible poisonous plant issues as livestock graze areas with low available forage. Poison hemlock and white snake root become increasingly more likely to be eaten as hungry livestock search for "something green." Monitor pastures for poisonous plants and forage amounts.

Look for possible grazing or forage harvesting options. If possible, grazing is generally more cost effective than harvesting, moving, and feeding forages to the livestock. Opportunities for grazing and forage should be looked at carefully to make sure it will meet the nutritional needs of the livestock and that it has no negative impacts. Drought stricken crops may come available to be baled, chopped or grazed. It is extremely important that the producer test all crop material for nitrates. Material with high nitrates will have to be diluted. Check herbicide withdrawals to make sure the crop can be fed to livestock. Fall annuals planted after drought stricken corn may also be high in nitrates and should be tested prior to feeding or grazing.

If pastures remain dormant, especially tall fescue and orchardgrass pastures, and we get sufficient rain later to plant, it might be one of those rare opportunities to inter-seed into the existing sod with some annuals. Only very competitive annuals will come close to working because they have to stay ahead of the existing forages that will soon break dormancy. Some success has been achieved with one or more of oats, turnips, and cereal rye in these late summer conditions. Conditions vary a lot and there are a lot of "it depends", but there is potential for good fall and winter growth and some nitrogen and soil building. Soil fertility must be in at least moderate to good condition for optimal growth. There is more growth potential for late winter and spring grazing with the cereal rye. Oats, turnips, and cereal rye to some extent, can provide good forage for grazing in the fall. Being able to graze annuals this fall, if conditions allow, will allow more time for regrowth on pastures to be utilized after the annuals are no longer available.

Integrated Pest & Crop Management MU IPM Program

Consider Herbicide Carryover Potential before Planting Wheat or Forage Grasses this Fall

With the extreme drought we have experienced throughout the state this season, there is no question that the risk of herbicide carryover to fall-seeded crops will be higher than normal this year. Due to the poor corn and soybean crop, many are considering planting more winter wheat this fall, while others are inquiring about the possibility of a fall-seeded forage grass

crop as an alternative feed source. While it is difficult to predict exactly when or where herbicide carryover injury might occur, there are several factors that will influence the likelihood of herbicide carryover occurring to these crops. These include the type of herbicide applied, the rate of herbicide applied, the time during the season that the herbicide was applied, the soil pH, and most importantly the amount of rainfall received since the time of the initial herbicide application.

The amount of rainfall received during the course of the growing season is perhaps the most important factor that will influence the likelihood of herbicide carryover injury to wheat or forage grasses planted this fall. Soil moisture is critically important for herbicide degradation, especially in the first few weeks after herbicide application. If adequate rainfall is not received during this time period, then the chemical and microbial processes responsible for herbicide degradation are reduced significantly and the herbicide molecules are more likely to become bound (adsorbed) to soil particles. All of this results in less herbicide degradation and increases the likelihood of herbicide carryover injury. Some herbicides are also degraded chemically in a process called hydrolysis. Hydrolysis is a reaction of the herbicide in question with soil water; therefore when soil water is limited, chemical hydrolysis of the herbicide is also reduced.

Another very important factor that influences the likelihood of herbicide carryover is the type of herbicide applied. As a general rule, corn or soybean herbicides with residual soil activity have the highest potential for causing carryover injury to wheat or forage grasses that may be planted in the fall. This is because residual herbicides are designed to remain in the soil profile for a specified period of time in order to prevent weed seedling germination.

In fields where corn was the previous crop, triazine herbicides are of the greatest concern in terms of herbicide carryover injury to wheat. These include atrazine or any of the many prepackaged herbicide mixtures that contain atrazine as one of the active ingredients (Bicep II Magnum, Degree Xtra, Guardsman Max, Harness Extra, Lumax, Lexar, etc.). It is important to note that atrazine or any of the atrazine-containing products **DO NOT** allow wheat or forage grasses to be planted in the fall following a spring application, although in some years and in some areas of Missouri certain farmers choose to plant wheat following their corn crop. With the extreme drought we have experienced this year, any wheat planted after a corn crop that has been treated with atrazine this season will be at risk for atrazine carryover injury.

In fields where soybeans were the previous crop, the likelihood of carryover injury to wheat is lower, but still possible in a year with as little rainfall as we have experienced. There are generally fewer residual herbicides applied in soybean, but that trend is changing. Also, as a result of our glyphosate-resistant waterhemp problem throughout the state, the herbicide fomesafen, which is the active ingredient in Flexstar, Flexstar GT, Rhythm, and Prefix, has now become a very common post-emergence herbicide of choice in soybean. Fomesafen-containing products have a 4-month wheat replant interval and in areas that have received little to no rainfall following application, fomesafen carryover injury to wheat or other forage grasses can be a concern this year.

The rate of herbicide applied and the timing of the herbicide application are other factors that influence the likelihood of herbicide carryover injury to wheat or other rotational crops. Simply put, the higher the rate of herbicide applied and the later the herbicide application was made, the greater the chance that some of the herbicide will remain to cause carryover injury to wheat. For example, if Flexstar or Flexstar GT applications were made later in the season to control glyphosate-resistant waterhemp in soybean, these sites are more at risk for herbicide carryover this fall.

The soil pH can also influence the likelihood of herbicide carryover injury. This is most often a concern with ALS-inhibiting herbicides, especially those containing chlorimuron or Classic (Valor XLT, Envive, etc.). With soils that have a high pH, some ALS-inhibiting herbicides as well as atrazine are more likely to persist and carryover.

In fields where there is a high degree of concern and/or uncertainty about herbicide carryover, one way to obtain more information is to conduct a soil bioassay. This is a simple test that can be done to ensure you don't waste a lot of money by planting an entire field and then observe that the entire stand is injured as a result of herbicide carryover. To conduct a soil bioassay, gather several soil samples from across the field in question several weeks before you intend to plant your fall-seeded crop at that location, then take those soil samples and mix them together and place the soil in some kind of greenhouse flats or pots. Plant your wheat or forage grass seed into these pots and wait for the seedlings to germinate in order to observe any signs of herbicide carryover injury that may be present. In order to have a comparison, it will be important to follow this same procedure at the same time with soil from a location where you know there are no concerns with herbicide carryover.

Ultimately the best practice is always to follow the label of the herbicide product(s) that you have applied, but this year with the drought we have experienced it will also be important to consider each of the factors discussed above in relation to the field(s) in question. If several of these factors indicate a high probability of herbicide carryover, then it is a good idea to abandon the field until next spring and rotate to another location where the probability of herbicide carryover is not as high.

Author Information: Kevin Bradley, University of Missouri Division of Plant Sciences
206a Waters Hall, Columbia, MO 65211 Phone: (573) 882-4039 bradleyke@missouri.edu

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Find more pest & crop management info at: <http://ipm.missouri.edu/ipcm/>

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Perry County Soil & Water Conservation District
547-4077

**Notice to Hispanic and/or Women Farmers or Ranchers
Compensation for Claims of Discrimination**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. This means you may be eligible if:

1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing during that period; and
2. the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, or approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service, and
3. you believe these actions were based on your being Hispanic, or your being female.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims packet, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website: www.farmerclaims.gov

**PERRY COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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