

News Column

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SPRING TIME IN WINTER

January at the Extension office reminds me of springtime on the farm when I was in high school and college. There was never a lack of something to do and I always felt like I was behind in getting things done.

School goes too long in the spring for farm kids that have work to do at home. I always spent the first two weeks after school let out in late May doing the things that should have been done in April or early May.

We had to haul cows to grass, get fields ready to plant, and we needed to swath and bale alfalfa, all in about a two week span. And,...I was the lucky one who got to dig thistles that should have been sprayed earlier instead of being left for me to clean up in early June.

The second week of January is when the fun begins for me this year. We start the “You Inherited the Farm – Now What?” series at noon on Tuesday, January 11. Then we host the first session of the Farm Financial Skills for Women in Ag series on Wednesday evening of that week, followed by the first meeting in our Coffee Shop series on Thursday morning.

Like farming, it all looks pretty easy from a distance. All you have to do is show up at daylight and work until dark and everything will turn out great, right?

Well, maybe farming isn’t quite as easy as it looks. I suppose somebody has to change the oil in the tractor, repair the planter, order the seed, fertilizer and herbicides, and visit with the banker before we can go to the field in the spring.

That's kind of where I am right now. I'm checking off all the boxes, trying to get the little details ironed out before I can start my meeting season. Next on my list is promotion – I need to tell you what we are doing and try to convince you to join us.

First up is the “You Inherited the Farm – Now What?” series that I talked about in this space a month ago. This is a series of five meetings held on Tuesdays at noon via Zoom, starting January 11 and concluding on February 8, 2022. Register online at www.riley.ksu.edu and I'll send you connection information.

The next event on my schedule is one you should have registered for by January 3 because the registration fee went up after that date. The Farm Financial Skills for Women in Agriculture series starts at 5:30 p.m. on January 12. Our local group will meet at the Riley County Public Works Facility, 6215 Tuttle Creek Boulevard. If you still want to sign up, you can do that at www.Agmanager.info.

The Thursday, January 13 Coffee Shop meeting is one I haven't talked about yet. KC Olson, KSU Professor of Range Beef Nutrition and Management will be the featured speaker at that meeting. The start time is 10:30 a.m., with adjournment by noon. The location is The FarmHouse restaurant in Riley.

KC will talk about his summer burning research, primarily focusing on sericea lespedeza control. This is a concept that seems to be working and we'll get to learn the ins and outs of burning pastures in the summer.

If you want to learn from someone doing some cutting-edge research, and if you are willing to do things a little different from others, this is a meeting you need to attend. I don't get KC on Extension programs often and it's not because I don't want to. His university appointment is actually research and teaching, and not Extension. However, he is one of the

good ones and someone I would hire on the Extension team if I was making the decisions.

If you plan to attend the January 13 Coffee Shop meeting, we would like to hear from you by noon the day before. Register online at www.riley.ksu.edu or contact me any other way you know how.

If you have questions, you can reach me at the Riley County Extension Office at 785/537-6350. Or, you can send e-mail to gmcclure@ksu.edu.

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