

News Column

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WOMEN IN AG FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?

You probably thought I was kidding when I told you shortly after Christmas that I intended to enroll my wife in this year's Women Involved in Agriculture class,...and tell her it was a late Christmas present.

Guess what? She is enrolled and, I think, looking forward to attending. Here's how it went down.

I got home from work one evening and was greeted at the door by my wife, with a copy of the Riley Countian in her hand. She didn't immediately tell me everything the kids had done wrong. She didn't scold me for tracking up the floor. She didn't bombard me with a list of things I needed to do that evening. She just smiled and said she had been reading about herself.

Whew!

I know my wife well. I know that it takes some processing time for her to agree to something. She needs to check the calendar, worry about the weather, decide two months ahead if somebody is going to get sick on that day,...then check the calendar again. She couldn't come up with a good excuse, so I gave her a couple of days to think it over.

The next day I got a text from a friend, saying he had seen the article in the paper and wanted his wife to attend too. The one condition was that she would only attend if Pam was attending.

I smiled when I saw his text. I've seen these two together at our kids' ball games and I

knew it was a done deal. I'm concerned that they might spend the whole class visiting instead of paying attention to the speakers, but they are both signed up!

The first Women Involved in Agriculture class is on February 11, so here's my new plan. I'm going to hope Pam has forgotten about this being a Christmas present and I'm going to tell her it is her Valentine's Day gift instead. Pretty smart, don't you think?

Women Involved in Agriculture (WIA) is a six-session course, meeting on Thursday afternoons from February 11 to March 17. Topics include: True Colors (personality profile), financial statements, family dynamics and communication, marketing, lease law and leasing principles, estate planning, FSA programs, and record keeping with Quicken.

The first WIA session is just a week away, so we need reservations soon. The cost is \$75 per person, including lunch, class materials, and plenty of chocolate and soft drinks. Reservations can be made online at www.riley.ksu.edu, or by calling the Extension Office at 785/537-6350.

Coffee Show Agronomy – February 11

February 11 will be a busy day for me with a Coffee Shop Agronomy meeting at 10:30 a.m. and Women In Ag starting at 12:30 p.m. I'll be late to the WIA meeting, but I'll get there.

There are actually two coffee shop meetings that morning. Wheat Diseases and Fungicides is the topic on the agronomy side, with Eric DeWolf as the featured speaker. Gregg Eyestone will lead the discussion on the horticulture topic, Common Garden Pests. Both should be very good.

The wheat diseases and fungicides topic was chosen because so many of us made mistakes last year, thinking a fungicide to control stripe rust wouldn't pay off. Those who did apply a fungicide in 2015 – and applied it at the right time – saw a huge payout.

We don't know yet what diseases might hit in 2016, but that will be part of the

discussion. DeWolf will lead us through the possibilities, and will discuss wheat disease identification and prevention. Timing of preventative fungicide applications will likely be a big part of the discussion. If you don't time it right, you're throwing your money away.

Please shoot me an e-mail or give me a call if you plan to attend. We like to know how many to expect so we can have handouts for everyone.

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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