



# Missouri Ag News

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## Wheat Insect and Weed Control

Fall insect management targets aphids, in particular bird cherry-oat aphid, primarily to manage barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) infection. Begin scouting earliest emerged wheat fields approximately 30 days after emergence. When determining threshold levels consider three factors that make scouting and finding bird cherry-oat aphids difficult: dark olive color; small colonies; feed and hide on lowest leaves and stems near crown. With this in mind, thresholds are generally set low if management of BYDV is primary objective. Threshold range is 6 to 12 aphids per linear foot of row.

Fall weed control targets winter grass weeds: ryegrass, bromes (cheat) and bluegrass. Grass weeds that come up with wheat or emerge in the fall while wheat is trying to establish and tiller will have the largest yield impact. The primary target to scout for is ryegrass. In general, a two pass control program (Fall followed by Spring) will provide good control of problem fields. The primary products for ryegrass control include the ALS-inhibiting herbicides Osprey, PowerFlex or Finesse Grass and Broadleaf and the ACCase-inhibiting herbicide Axial. There has been resistance to these modes of action in Missouri, therefore, consider alternating modes of action. Axiom (PRE) and Zidua (Delayed-PRE) are also available and offer a Group 15 mode of action.

For more information on insecticides and herbicides for wheat refer to [Missouri Manual 171: Pest Management Guide](#) <http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/manuals/m00171.pdf>.

Anthony Ohmes, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Jackson MO.



Bird cherry-oat aphid.

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# 2015 MO Rice Summary

The Missouri 2015 rice crop started late and remained late until we were blessed with a perfect harvest season. It started very cold and wet in early April and remained that way until mid-May except for a couple days here and there. Only a few farmers planted 5% percent by April 20, with only 25% by May 5, followed by 65% at May 15, 80% May 30 and the remaining 2 % was scattered up to late June.

Growers planted about 210,000 acres of rice with 206,000 acres harvested. This is down from 225,000 acres in 2014. Weather, price and production cost contributed to the reduced acres. Some growers were more conservative this year choosing conventional varieties over Hybrids and Clearfield. They lowered fertilizer rates along with weed control programs and it was noticeable in some cases. Weed control is one of those tasks that they evaluate at harvest and begin planning for the next season. I noticed that for the most part Missouri rice farmers did a good job controlling our ample supply of weeds in 2015. However, we had a few more spots with sprangletop, barnyard, red rice and sedge escapes than in past years. Flat, umbrella and yellow nutsedge seem to be on the increase. It may be because of less competition due to the low seeding rates of rice we are planting these days. Most growers try to start clean and stay clean.

One very positive note was our very low irrigation pumping cost this year due to almost weekly rain fall until late July. And with our already ample ground water supply furnished by our Ozark Karst system to the north and west and the Mississippi River influence to the east, MO is blessed with a very good low cost replenished ground water supply. Mo growers irrigate 97% from wells and 3% from streams.

MO growers chose more conventional varieties in 2015 than in the past with about 25% hybrids and 50% Clearfield. Long grain

was 95% with medium grain 5%. Our yields were average this year, perhaps down a bit from the past couple high yielding years. This information is based on observations from a few consultants and myself. I have a lot of respect for American growers that blend together very complex choices to produce high quality economic crops. First, growers must choose their rice production system and then build a weed and fertility control program that will work well in that system. The choice of system (zero grade, water seeded, precision graded, drilled, furrow irrigated) depends on several factors such as, soil type, topography, grade, field size, clear field, variety, water supply and weed species pressure. Row or furrow irrigated rice is on the increase in MO with about 10% planted in 2015. So, like a coach, growers go about the business of putting a complex system together to win. Like a coach, growers feel more comfortable when they start ahead and stay ahead. 2015 was not an easy year for that.

I want to mention and say thanks to our Private Rice Consultants, Dealer Distributor Supply Consultants, MO Rice Research Council, University of Missouri, Southeast Missouri State University, University of Arkansas, Louisiana State University, Mississippi State University and MO Rice Farmer checkoff dollars that help all of us to partner in making MO a very productive rice state and player on the world market.



# Five Steps in Obtaining a Quality Hay Test

This spring was a challenge for hay producers. Wet weather resulted in delayed harvest (mature/stemmy hay), damaged in-field cut (rained on) hay and forced hay baling (>18% moisture) under poor drying conditions. Testing hay this fall will give a quantitative measure of forage quality. Forage quality reveals itself in animal performance. Guessing the quality of hay being fed to livestock this winter could result in underestimating or overestimating the nutrient content and the amount of supplementation needed, thus cutting profitability.

A quality hay test, like a soil test, requires quality sampling technique to insure the lab results represent your hay lot(s). There are 5 steps in obtaining a quality hay sample:

Sample each HAY LOT separately. A hay lot would be a cutting from the same field, same environmental conditions and same forage composition. Every field and cutting will be different.

Representative sample using a HAY PROBE that is 12" to 24" long and 3/8" to 5/8" in diameter. Grab or hand pulled samples will not provide uniform samples. Poor sampling will result in misleading values which could lead to reduced animal performance.

Sample multiple bales out of hay lot representing at least 10% of lot, usually a minimum of 15 random bales.

Sampling method will depend on bale type:

Large Round – Take sample on curved side of bale and remove outer layer if moldy. Avoid outside bales.

Large Square – Take sample at a 45° angle on the side or 90° angle at the end.

Small Square – Take sample through center and the end of the bale.

Keeping each hay lot separate, mix samples thoroughly in a bucket using enough to fill a quart size plastic bag. Samples are perishable and should be sent off to a lab the same day of sampling. If this is not feasible, keep samples away from direct sunlight and store in a cool, dry place until you can send them off. High moisture samples (>15%), such as baleage or silage, should be frozen if storing before shipping.



Sampling with a hay probe. Picture courtesy eXtension.org

Another concern with hay quality is mold growth, especially from lots that were baled wet. Mold growth is at highest risk from hay that was baled at greater than 22% moisture. Inspect the inside of hay bales for mycelium (white mold) growth and/or dustiness from spores. Mold makes hay less palatable, resulting in lower intake. It is recommended to avoid feeding moldy hay to horses and pregnant cows, which are more sensitive. Keep in mind that not all molds produce mycotoxins, however the amount that is produced by different fungi is unpredictable and livestock should be carefully monitored for mycotoxin symptoms. With any livestock, it is important not to force the consumption of moldy hay without other forage or supplement being available.

Anthony Ohmes, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Jackson MO.

# Registration for the 2015 Governor's Conference on Agriculture is open

The [Missouri Governor's Conference on Agriculture](#) is the place where those involved in agriculture gather to build the state's number one industry. We do this by providing an educational and entertaining lineup of sessions and events over a three-day period. Gathering together as an industry each year to discuss current and upcoming opportunities and challenges is critical to our continued success.

Discover the stories shared by Missouri farmers and ranchers: stories of tradition, opportunities and challenges on their farms. See innovative farmers working side-by-side to learn what has worked on the farm and what has not. Feast on great Missouri foods and beverages at the Taste of AgriMissouri Reception and enjoy entertainment by national country recording artist and Perryville, MO. Native, Chris Janson. This is the time we can put our heads together and get ready for another year of greatness.

## Wednesday, December 16, 2015

- Taste of AgriMissouri Reception – sponsored by [AgriMissouri](#) and its members – Join us for an evening of great Missouri foods, beverages and entertainment as we kick off the 46th Missouri Governor's Conference on Agriculture.

## Thursday, December 17, 2015

- Welcome with [Director of Agriculture Richard Fordyce](#)
- State of the Industry Panel Discussion with Missouri's commodity organization leaders
- [Seven Revolutions](#) by Scott Aughenbaugh
- Missouri Urban Agriculture Discussion with the [Agribusiness Council of Kansas City](#) and the [St. Louis Agribusiness Club](#)
- Future Agricultural Leadership Live & Silent Auction

## Friday, December 18, 2015

- Missouri Youth in Agriculture presentation
- Consumer Perceptions Panel facilitated by the [Center for Food Integrity](#)
- Agriculture Awards & Recognition Banquet – recognizing the AgriMissouri Member of the Year, Farm Broadcaster of the Year, International Exporter of the Year, as well as the winners of the [2015 Missouri Agriculture Awards](#): Missouri Farm Innovator, Missouri Environmental Steward, Missouri Agriculture Education Leader, Missouri Agriculture Volunteer, Missouri Food Animal Veterinarian & nine Missouri Agriculture Legacy Awards.
- Missouri's own Chris Janson country music concert.

[Click here](#) to register. [agriculture.mo.gov/governor\\_conference](http://agriculture.mo.gov/governor_conference)




# Ag Expo 2016 - Celebrating 30 Years

Friday, January 15 and Saturday, January 16, 2016.

Friday 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday 9a.m. to 3 p.m.

Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff, MO.



Admission  
Adult - \$1.00  
Youth & College  
Students - FREE

- Over 118 Agriculture Exhibits
- 4-H/ FFA public Speaking Contest (Friday 4:00pm)
- Milking Contest (Friday 5:30pm)
- Duck Calling Contest (Friday 6:00pm)
- Toy Tractor Pedal Pull Contest (4-5 yr Friday 6:00pm; 6-7 yr Friday 7:00pm; 8-9 yr Saturday 10:30am)
- FFA Driving Contest (Saturday 9:00am)
- Old Time Auction (Saturday 12 noon)
- Baking Contest
- Ag Photography
- Petting Farm
- Entertainment

## Education

- Private Applicator Training (Friday 2:00 –5:00pm)
- Grain Bin Safety (Friday 5:00 –6:00pm)
- Soil Fertility for Forage (Friday 6:15 –7:15pm)
- Kids Garden Adventure (Saturday 9:00am)
- Youth Farm Safety Education (Saturday 12:00 –2:00pm)

## Beauty Pageant

Saturday, January 16

Pre register \$30 at 573-686-8064

- 9:30am Baby Girl (birth to 12 month)
- 10:00am Toddler Girl (1st birthday to 23 month)
- 10:30am Petite Miss (2 to 4)
- 11:00am Tiny Miss (5 to 7)
- 11:30am Little Miss Ag Expo (8 to 12)
- 12 noon Junior Miss Ag Expo (13 to 15)
- 12:30 Miss Ag Expo (16 to 20)

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If you are interested in a vendor booth at the Ag Expo please call 573-686-8064 for more information.

## Keeping Track of Finances for Farmers

The University of Missouri Extension will offer a workshop November 5, 2015 at 6:30pm at the Oregon County Courthouse in Alton MO.

Topics covered include understanding financial terminology, pros and cons of popular farm record keeping tools and financial management of your farm business. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will also be on hand to give an overview of their Farm Loan Program and risk management tools.

“Financial Management of a farm business is key to a sustainable future for the farmer and farm,” said Kevin Anderson agricultural business specialist with University of Missouri Extension and a sixth generation livestock producer in the Missouri Ozarks. “Farmers are usually operating on a slim margin and it’s more important than ever for them to keep a handle on their expenses and income.”

This workshop was made possible through a generous donation from FCS Financial, proudly serving Oregon, Shannon and Howell counties, and through the support of the University of Missouri Oregon County Extension Council.

Registration is required and the cost of the workshop is \$5. Please contact Barbara Simpson at 417-778-7490 to register or Kevin at 573-576-9500, [AndersonKL@Missouri.edu](mailto:AndersonKL@Missouri.edu), if you have any questions about the workshop.

## Calf Weaning

The University of Missouri Extension-Oregon County will be offering a ‘Calf Weaning program on November 10, 2015 at 6:00pm. The program will be held at the Oregon County Courthouse conference room, Alton MO.

The methods we use to wean our beef calves can result in major impacts on their health and future productivity. The effects of different beef calf weaning procedures on calf performance will be presented by Randy Wiedmeier, livestock specialist with the University of Missouri Extension.

Registration is required and the cost of the workshop is \$10. Please contact Barbara Simpson at 417-778-7490 to register, or if you have any questions about the workshop.

## Growing Farm Entrepreneurs

*Practical Knowledge For Farmers to Improve Economics of Farming Operations.*

Taught by University of Missouri Regional Specialists.

**November 10 - “Comprehensive Forage Management Systems for Livestock Producers”:** Tips on nutrient management, weeds, plant selection, hay production and economics of forage and livestock.

**November 12 - “Growing for Market”:** Growing tips for vegetable and fruit production as well as season extension techniques. Learn about a web-based tool for identifying alternative agriculture opportunities.

**December 10 - “Reducing Costs in Cattle Production”:** Covering AI vs. natural service in cattle, basic economics and grazing methods.

Each session is from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Iron County Health Department, 606 West Russel Street in Ironton. *Please RSVP by November 7, 2015. Each session will last for approximately 3 hours.*

**Cost: \$10 per session** (Original cost \$35 but \$25 discount is made possible through various funding sources.)

**RSVP by calling the Iron County Extension Center at 573-546-7515.**

## Annie's Project – Farm Management for Women

The University of Missouri Extension is offering a program targeted at farm women, women landowners and new farmers. The course consists of six classes starting November 4, 2015 from 6 to 9pm. It will be held at the Carter County Nutrition Center in Van Buren, MO.

**Annie's Project** is an educational program created specifically for farm women that covers topics like: risk management, estate planning, leases, record keeping, ownership of property, insurance, financial statements, spreadsheets, writing a business plan, communication issues, personality traits, and marketing. The course will be taught by University of Missouri Extension personnel and guest speakers.

Women have always played a large role in agriculture. They drive tractors, work cattle, help in the hay fields, cook supper, and take care of their families. In recent years, women are becoming more involved in the business operations of the farm. Farm women have diverse backgrounds, some that prepare women well for the responsibilities of running a farm business. Other women come into farming operations by way of marrying men who happen to be farmers, or because having outlived a spouse or family member they are left with the responsibility of managing a farm. Being married to a farmer or being a woman in a male dominated business has its challenges. Some women have learned to handle this responsibility very well and are

valuable mentors to women who have not had it so easy.

Annie's Project provides farm women with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to make informed risk management decisions regarding their farm business operations. This will enable farm women to become better managers, and in turn, increase the viability of their farming operation. It also gives farm women an opportunity to network and interact with other women involved in agriculture finding answers, strength, and friendship, as they get involved.

The deadline for registration is November 2, 2015. The fee for this course is \$75 which includes materials and a light meal each night. With the resources and materials that each participant receives, the value of the class exceeds \$300 per person. For more information or a brochure please contact Sue Miller at the Carter County Extension Center, 573-323-4418 or Kevin Anderson, Agriculture Business Specialist, at 573-576-9500 or [AndersonKL@missouri.edu](mailto:AndersonKL@missouri.edu).

Annette (Kohlhagen) Fleck, circa 1942



*Annie's Project*  
Risk Management Education for Women

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### Future Meetings & Events -

**Anne's Project - November 4, 2015**, The Carter County Nutrition Center in Van Buren, MO from 6 to 9 pm.

**Keeping Track of Finances for Farmers - November 5, 2015**, the Oregon County Courthouse in Alton MO at 6:30pm. Fee is \$5. Register at 417-778-7490.

**Pearls of Production: Women in Agriculture Conference - November 6-7, 2015**, Animal Science Research Center, Columbia, MO <http://muconf.missouri.edu/womenandagriculture/index.html>

**Livestock and Forage - November 10, 2015**, United Methodist Church in Marble Hill, MO from 6 to 9 pm. Contact Bollinger County extension center at 573-238-2420 to register.

**Watermelon Meeting - December 2, 2015**, the American Legion in Kennett, MO from 8 am to Noon. Contact Butler County extension center at 573-686-8064 to register.

**Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Sale - December 5, 2015**. Fruitland Livestock Auction at 1:00 p.m. For information or catalog contact Erin Larimore (573) 243-3581, [LarimoreE@missouri.edu](mailto:LarimoreE@missouri.edu) or visit [www.semobeef.com](http://www.semobeef.com)

**Missouri Regional Corn Meeting - December 9, 2015**, Miner Convention Center in Miner, MO with registration at 8 am. Contact Anthony Ohmes 573-243-3581 or David Reinbott 573-545-3516 to register.

**Missouri Regional Soybean Meeting - January 12, 2015**, Miner Convention Center in Miner, MO with registration at 8 am. Contact Anthony Ohmes 573-243-3581 or David Reinbott 573-545-3516 to register.

**Great Plains Growers Conference and Trade Show - January 7, 8 & 9, 2016**, Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, MO. For information on vegetable, fruit, cut flower and includes an educational program consisting of 5-concurrent sessions featuring conventional and organic production and marketing of horticultural crops.

**Commodities and markets** - <http://extension.missouri.edu/scott/crop-budgets.aspx>

**Farm Bill** - <http://extension.missouri.edu/scott/Farm-bill.aspx>