

STEM Education Opportunity For Teachers

BROOKINGS — South Dakota State University is offering a Food Safety Scientist Workshop Aug. 1 (5-8 p.m.) and Aug. 2 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) at Riggs High School in Pierre.

Teachers participating in this workshop will experience virtual and hands-on labs along with educational tools to assist them in using problem solving teaching and learning strategies. The workshop will be led by Joan Hegerfeld-Baker, Extension Food Safety Specialist, and Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Associate Professor specializing in Food Safety and Dairy Microbiology. This workshop is developed from a summer food safety lab course that was held on the SDSU Campus in Brookings the past three summers.

"The response to the course we developed at SDSU has been extremely positive with teachers in agriculture, science and family consumer sciences," said Hegerfeld-Baker. "We have wanted to take portions of the course to the teachers across South Dakota. We are excited to provide this opportunity in a one-and-a-half day workshop."

The Food Safety Scientist Curriculum is also being adapted to incorporate the new Core Education Standards.

Funds are available to help reduce costs associated with participating in this workshop.

Lodging is provided at the Days Inn, if preregistered by July 9, along with reimbursement for mileage (up to \$50). The workshop registration fee of \$10 is fully refunded. The workshop is 10 hours, therefore teachers can receive 1 continuing education unit for a fee of \$5. To register for the Food Safety Scientist workshop visit the following website: <http://igrow.org/events/food-safety-scientist-workshop-pierre/>.

Southeast Research Farm Field Day July 10

BROOKINGS — The Southeast Research Farm Field Day is set for July 10 beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Research topics which will be addressed include: Evaluation of Herbicides for Weed Control in Corn and Soybeans, presented by Mike Moechnig, SDSU Extension Weed Specialist; Minimizing N Losses From Urea Application, presented by Ron Gelderman, SDSU Extension, Soil Fertility Specialist; Soybean Row Spacing and Plant Population, presented by Bob Hall, SDSU Extension; and Tiling Review by Chris Hay, SDSU Ag. and Biosystems Engineering.

There will be concurrent plot tours, one focusing on weed control and the other on agronomy which will start shortly after 3:30. A meal will be served around 5 p.m. Dr. Hay will give the presentation, "Tile Drainage Update," during the meal.

After supper, the plot tours will be repeated so those who went on the weed tour earlier can go on the agronomy tour after supper, and vice versa.

- Field Day Program: 3:30 p.m. — Coffee and Introductions (main office) 3:45 p.m. — Weed Plot Tour starts 4 p.m. — Agronomy Plot Tour starts 5 p.m. — Meal Time starts 5:20 p.m. — Tiling Update by Dr. Chris Hay 5:50 p.m. — Run #2 of the Agronomy Plot Tour 6 p.m. — Run #2 of the Weed Plot Tour.

The SDSU Research Farm is located at 29974 University Road, Beresford, SD 57004. For more information phone 605-563-2989, or email Ruth.Stevens@sdstate.edu.

Tri-State Old Iron Tractor Drive July 12-14

The sixth annual WNAX/Tri-State Old Iron Antique Tractor Drive will headquarter in Yankton at Paddle Wheel Point on July 12-14.

Check in for the tractor drivers will begin at noon on Thursday, July 12, with the actual ride on Friday and Saturday.

On Friday the first group of tractors will be departing at 7 a.m. Groups of 15 tractors will be leaving in 10-minute intervals until all 180 tractors have departed on their way to Viborg. They will be traveling north on Walshtown Road to St. Colombia Catholic Church will they will be taking a morning break being served refreshments by the youth group of the church. After resuming their drive they will have lunch at the Community Center in Viborg before continuing on through Wakonda and stopping in Volin for their afternoon break. The Mission Hill Hillers will be serving refreshments at this time. They will then proceed on back to Yankton to Paddle Wheel Point.

At 6 p.m., the grand parade of 180 tractors will parade through downtown Yankton where each tractor and driver will be announced by Michelle Rook from WNAX. They will proceed west on Third Street, turning south on Cedar stopping on Levee Street where all the drivers will enjoy a social get together at Riverside Park. The tractors may be viewed as they are parked on Levee Street.

On Saturday the tractors will again begin to depart at 7 a.m. They will be traveling to CJ's at the Lake for their morning break, then on to Bloomfield where they will enjoy a catered meal. After lunch they will be traveling to Crofton for their afternoon break, then north to the lake where they will cross over the top of the dam for a fantastic view of the lake before heading back into Yankton via Highway 52. Upon returning to Paddle Wheel Point they will load up their tractors and head back to their homes.

Each day's ride consisted of approximately 72 miles throughout our scenic countryside.

Drivers are registered from South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, and even from the state of New York.

For more information, contact Rodger Harts at 605-665-9785 or Leon Becker at 605-665-1300.

FSA Crop Certification Deadline Is July 15

HURON — USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Craig Schaubman, reminds producers that the annual crop certification deadline is July 15, 2012.

Producers who file accurate and timely reports for all crops and land uses, including prevented planted and failed acreage can prevent the potential loss of FSA program benefits.

"I encourage all producers to contact their local FSA office to make an appointment to file their annual acreage report by the July 15 deadline in order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements," said Schaubman.

South Dakota FSA offices no longer mail appointment cards and maps to producers for acreage reporting purposes. Producers are responsible for contacting their local FSA office to set up an appointment to file their 2012 acreage report. Hard copy maps will be provided to the producer at the time the acreage report is filed. Producers wishing to obtain digital color copies of their respective maps are encouraged to provide their e-mail address or a new jump drive to their local FSA office to facilitate the request for digital maps.

Producers are also reminded to report crop losses insured through Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) within 15 days of the disaster or as soon as the loss is apparent.

Additional information about the acreage reporting process or programs administered by FSA may be obtained by contacting your local FSA office or on the web at www.fsa.usda.gov.

A New Disease Threatens Region's Black Walnut Trees

BY RITA BRHEL
P&D Correspondent

As much fear surrounds the Emerald Ash Borer and what it would mean for Yankton's predominant ash treescape should this slender, shiny green beetle make it to southeast South Dakota or northeast Nebraska in the coming years, there is as much threat to another native species — the Black Walnut — from a new bug only as big as fine pepper.

BLACK WALNUTS' VALUE

The Black Walnut is a common species lining the Missouri River bluffs, in pastures, and some farm windbreaks and residential lawns. South Dakota and Nebraska are on the very western edge of the Black Walnut's native range, which spans much of the eastern United States. However, there are numerous planted Black Walnut trees throughout both states. While walnut trees can sometimes be viewed as a nuisance tree, as each tree drops hundreds of walnuts each fall onto the surrounding ground, many people value their unique qualities: Besides providing shade and attracting wildlife, the Black Walnut is known to be a generally hardy pick for both residential and agricultural uses, being both drought- and disease-tolerant. Individual Black Walnut trees have been known to live for several hundred years. It is a species that, like ash trees, would be missed.

In addition, the Black Walnut can be harvested as lumber and the nuts can be eaten. While South Dakota figures were not available, in Nebraska alone, the state's Department of Agriculture in Lincoln, Neb., estimates there to be 1.5 million trees, the lumber of which is valued at \$40 to \$80 million. Approximately \$3.5 million in lumber is harvested each year. The wood is especially prized for use in furniture and guitars.

Many people plant groves of Black Walnut specifically to be harvested in 40 years to add to their retirement funds, referring to the Black Walnut as "the 401k on a stump," said Bruce Moltzan, national program leader for forest pathology with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service.

Another \$1.2 million of the state's economy comes from the 70,000 pounds of walnuts produced each year in Nebraska, which is most widely used in the commercial market in the ice cream industry.

DANGER TO BLACK WALNUTS

Unlike the Emerald Ash Borer, which is an invasive species native to China, Japan and Korea, the Walnut Tree Beetle is native to the southwestern United States, according to the Nebraska Forest Service in Lincoln, Neb. Before 2010, the reddish-brown, 1.5 millimeter-size Walnut Tree Beetle was not considered a pest; however, its status has changed with a recent association with the Geosmithia fungus, which can kill full-grown trees within three years of the first signs of infection. Dennis Fulbright, a plant pathologist at Michigan State University, believes the spread of the fungus, which naturally prefers warmer temperatures, may be due to climate change.

"It's a hard time for hardwoods," said Steve Seybold, a chemical ecologist and forest entomologist with the USDA Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station in Davis, Calif. "This is behaving like an invasive pathogen that has run amuck."

While all walnut species including English Walnut and Butternut are able to contract the fungal Thousand Cankers Disease, the Black Walnut is the most susceptible. Pecan, hickories, and other tree nuts outside of the walnut family are resistant.



ILLUSTRATION: METRO GRAPHICS

"It's a hard time for hardwoods. This is behaving like an invasive pathogen that has run amuck."

STEVE SEYBOLD

The Walnut Tree Beetle feeds on walnut wood under the bark, creating small cankers, or dead areas, ranging in size from only a few millimeters to three centimeters in diameter, according to the Walnut Council based in West Lafayette, Ind. Without the fungus, these cankers would not significantly damage the tree. However, as a carrier, the insect introduces the fungus to the tree, which then causes bigger and deeper cankers and eventually death of the tree by obstructing the uptake of nutrients through the tree's phloem tissues, which is where the cankers are located.

Trees may be infected for many years without visible symptoms, which include yellowing leaves that wilt and turn brown and dying branches, starting at the tops of the trees; in all, it may take more than a decade to kill a tree, but for the majority of those years, there are no symptoms. There are no effective chemical controls, and ultimately, all infected trees die.

In fact, the entire population of Black Walnut has been killed in Colorado Springs, Colo., said Ned Tisserat, the Extension plant pathologist with Colorado State University who first identified the responsible fungus and gave the disease its name. Other cities whose Black Walnut populations have been eliminated since the disease's discovery in 2008 include Boulder, Colo.; Portland, Ore.; Prosser, Wash.; and four counties in California.

"It is really, really a scary disease," Tisserat said.

Confirmed cases of Thousand Cankers Disease — which was first recorded in New Mexico in 2001, with the beetle-disease complex not noticed until 2008 in California — are found throughout the western United States, including Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico, as well as now

Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Virginia in the eastern United States.

PROTECTING BLACK WALNUTS

Nebraska has joined Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, West Virginia, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota in putting regulations in place to protect their walnut trees. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture has issued restrictions on movement of walnut wood originating outside of the state into or through Nebraska as a way to help prevent the spread of Thousand Cankers Disease into the state's walnut population — both wild and planted. Diseased wood is highly infectious. Literally, thousands of the Walnut Twig Beetle can be found in even small logs.

"Thousand Cankers Disease has the potential to devastate Black Walnut just as Dutch Elm Disease nearly wiped out American Elm and Chestnut Blight eliminated American Chestnut," said Whitney Cranshaw, an entomologist at Colorado State University. "All it would take is one careless individual moving a walnut log with the beetles, and we could have an outbreak that could quickly spiral out of control."

Walnut logs, firewood, green lumber, woodchips, and nursery trees are all included in the quarantine. What are not included are nuts, processed lumber, and finished wood products without bark. The most likely pathway for movement is raw wood, such as firewood, and the natural spread of disease among wild populations, such as riparian areas where there is little to no monitoring.

Any signs of Thousand Cankers Disease should be reported to the state forest service in Nebraska or South Dakota. Basically, if a Black Walnut tree is dying back at the top, plant pathologist Andrew Graves of the University of California-Davis advises tree owners to look for small pinprick holes in the bark. If these are found, and if peeling the bark away reveals tunnels in the wood, a call to a tree professional is in order.

For more information, visit www.thousandcankers.com produced by the Walnut Council, Purdue University, and the USDA.

2012 National Sheep Symposium Set For Spencer, Iowa, July 28

BROOKINGS — The National Sheep Symposium will bring top sheep production experts from across the United States to the Clay County Fairgrounds in Spencer, Iowa, on July 27-28.

The Symposium, titled "Using Technology to Attack the Let's Grow with twoPLUS Initiative," joins the campaign to encourage current producers to expand their sheep numbers by 2014.

The program has a full slate of

speakers who will address the issues of long-term economic outlook for the U.S. sheep industry, increasing flock numbers using a variety of breeding resources and flock management ideas — topics of concern to sheep producers and those interested in U.S. sheep production.

The Symposium will be held at the Clay County Regional Events Center on the Clay County Fairgrounds in Spencer, Iowa and is

being held in conjunction with the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP)Center of the Nation Sale, which will follow the symposium on Saturday, July 28, in the swine barn of the Clay County Fairgrounds, adjacent to the Regional Events Center.

Registration for the symposium is \$50 before July 19. From July 20 on registration is \$100. Registration includes program materials, breaks and lamb dinner on Friday

evening. Registration may be completed online at <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/sheep/homepage.html> or print a registration form and fax to (515) 294-1311 using VISA or MasterCard or mail to ANR Program Services, 2101 Agronomy Hall, Ames, IA 50011-1010.

For more information contact Jeff Held, SDSU Extension Sheep Specialist at 605-688-5433 or Jeffrey.held@sdstate.edu.



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