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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Tragedy Strikes Quickly

While we do not have any pipelines that I know of going through Adams County, we do have other utilities. The call before you dig notices have been seen and heard often within the local media. This is just another one of those incidents that might make you think before you dig.

According to the article, "[Tragedy Strikes Quickly](#)," from the PASA Farm & Ranch Excavation Safety Guide, a major incident can result from a small pipeline scratch or a tiny nick to the outer protective pipeline coating. These scratches may not seem like a big deal, but without proper repair and inspection by the pipeline operator, they can result in severe consequences years after the initial incident.

When a high pressure natural gas line is punctured during a routine project, the results are immediate and unforgiving. One such incident occurred near Hinton, IA where a massive fireball was released into the air after a natural gas line ruptured and ignited. Thankfully those involved escaped with minor injuries. The equipment, however, was still running and continued to move forward, on fire, until it finally came to a halt.

Days after the initial incident, the same workers were involved in another high pressure gas line strike, launching a 200 foot fireball in the air. If a call to 811 had been made, the incident could have been avoided. Never assume you know the location or depth of a buried utility. Always make the call to 811 to help avoid situations like this.

With farmers struggling, can we afford cuts to Extension?

I recently found this article and thought it was worth reading. It was written by Bill Spiegel and yes it is talking about Kansas, but it relates to anywhere in the USA, including Southern Ohio. With the recent closing of the two power plants, funding is going to continue to be an issue. With limited funding comes cuts. This article discusses some of the unfortunate cuts that appear to be happening in Kansas. Hopefully it doesn't come to that here in Ohio.

Last week, Curtis Thompson retired from a distinguished career as an Extension weed specialist at Kansas State University. Thompson specialized in weed control in grain sorghum and corn, and had spent much of the latter part of his career working on herbicide-resistant kochia and palmer amaranth. He'd spent a total of 25 years in Kansas, the last 10 at the main campus in Manhattan. His position is not expected to be filled.

A month ago, southeast area Extension agronomist Doug Shoup resigned his position to pursue a farming and consulting career. Shoup spent a decade at his job, and his position is not expected to be filled.



Last month, Bill Reid—who led K-State’s Research and Extension efforts in pecan production, retired. His position will not be filled; in fact, the Pecan Experiment Field near Chetopa will be sold, most likely to a private owner.

In June, Kansas State University announced its intent to close the John C. Pair Horticulture Center in Haysville, as part of \$3.5 million in cuts to the College of Agriculture’s Research and Extension budget. Tight budgets have many casualties, and these are just a few.

In the last 10 years, the K-State Research and Extension budget has been slashed 16 percent, from \$55.1 million to \$46.4 million. That budget includes all county Extension offices, 4-H programs, area Extension and Research programs and all the work on campus. Reduced allocations from the Kansas Legislature are largely to blame for the budget cuts. Federal funds also are drying up.

A century of progress

President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Land-Grant Act into law in 1862. It established land-grant universities, the purpose of which was to teach information related to agriculture and the mechanical arts. K-State was the first university created under the land-grant program, opening on Sept. 2, 1863.

In 1887, Congress created the framework for agriculture experiment stations nationwide; in 1914 the Cooperative Extension program was started, delivering education to nearly every county across the nation.

The foresight shown by Congress more than a century ago in establishing these programs is one big reason why America became a superpower. In September 2013, “The Economist” had this to say about Extension: From the start the plan was to convert Old World homesteaders to the scientific ways of the New World. As the system developed, Congress sent county agents from universities to teach menfolk modern farming and their wives such skills as tomato canning. In the 1920s educational trains trundled through the prairies, pulling boxcars of animals and demonstration crops. At each stop, hundreds would gather for public lectures. Older folk resisted such newfangled ideas as planting hybrid corn bought from merchants rather than seed corn from their own harvests. Enter the 4-H movement, which gave youngsters hybrid seeds to plant, then waited for the shock as children’s corn outgrew their parents’. Later, youngsters promoted such innovations as computers.

Consequences of cuts

Which brings us to the shrinking budgets of today’s Extension service, which for years have endured cuts. Any fat in the budget was trimmed long ago; these cuts are well into the muscle that’s made K-State a premier land-grant university.

The folks and programs mentioned at the beginning of this column have done great work, dealing with weeds that are becoming an overwhelming challenge, helping farmers develop profitable crop rotations, add value with orchard crops and improve value of homes and businesses with landscaping and horticulture. They are joined by hundreds of people who endeavor to research new and improved methodology, the results of which are shared with all Kansans. It is the source of a tremendous amount of non-biased data that supports the agriculture industry. Is Research and Extension perfect? No. But it’s a darn site better than the alternative, which is no Research and Extension at all.

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Tire Collection Day in Adams Co.

Don't miss the opportunity to clean out some old tires. Adams Co. Tire Collection Day is August 15. You can bring 10 tires for free. There will be a charge for additional tires.

Dates to Remember

- August 9-12 Ohio Valley Antique Machinery Show in Georgetown. More info at www.ovams.com
- August 9 Adams County Farm Bureau/Adams Soil & Water annual meeting. Must register by July 26. Meeting on August 9 is at the Ohio Valley CTC on Lloyd Road beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- August 13 Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Pre-register at 800-282-1955 or <http://pested.osu.edu>
- August 14 Beef Quality Assurance Training at the Union Stockyards in Hillsboro at noon.
- August 23 Beef and Forage Field Night in Jackson at the OARDC Research Facility on SR 93 about a mile south of SR 32, small charge for the meal that begins around 5:00 p.m. Please call in advance if you wish to attend. More details in next week's column.
- August 28 Beef Quality Assurance Training at the Union Stockyards in Hillsboro at 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 13 Beef Quality Assurance Training at the United Producers Stockyards in Hillsboro at 6:30 p.m.
- October 25 Beef Quality Assurance Training at the United Producers Stockyards in Hillsboro at 6:30 p.m.