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GARFIELD COUNTY
EXTENSION

AG NEWS



Bull Breeding Soundness Exams Can Put More Profit In Your Pocket

A bull can appear and act like he's primed to produce offspring, but the question is can he deliver? Data show that 1 of every 5 bulls tested will fail a breeding soundness exam, according to the Society of Theriogenology, an organization dedicated to animal reproduction. That's why a thorough breeding soundness examination prior to the start of the breeding season – along with frequent monitoring of health, soundness of feet and legs, and continued desire and ability of bulls to mate throughout the breeding season – are critically important in order to ensure a bull's high reproductive success.

Breeding soundness examinations are to ensure adult as well as yearling bulls are ready for this year's breeding season.

I. The benefits producers realize from conducting BSEs:

- The overall effect of breeding soundness examinations is to eliminate subfertile bulls and to improve the genetic base for fertility within the herd and respective breed.

- Fertile, sound bulls help ensure the highest number of cows/heifers within the herd are bred and deliver healthy, robust calves – key to producer profitability.

2. The components that need to be addressed during BSEs: a complete physical examination, scrotal measurement, semen evaluation, leg conformation, general body condition, teeth and eye quality.

3. Common problems that can cause a bull to fail a BSE: various sperm abnormalities, poor sperm morphology, ocular cancer, scarred preputial lesions, penile warts, and other physical issues.



First Hollow Stem Update – 2/26/2021

by Amanda De Oliveira Silva

First hollow stem (FHS) is the optimal time to remove cattle from wheat pasture. This occurs when there is 1.5 cm (5/8" or the diameter of dime) of stem below the developing grain head ([full explanation](#)). To give you a point of reference, the average FHS date over the past 20 years at Stillwater is March 6.

The latest FHS results from our forage trials in Chickasha (Table 1) and Stillwater (Table 2) are listed below. A few more wheat varieties in Stillwater have reached or passed the 1.5 cm threshold.

The [Mesonet First Hollow Stem Advisor](#) and the updates we provide give an indication of the FHS stem conditions in a particular area. However, because of the number of factors that can influence when FHS occurs, **it is extremely important to check for FHS on a field-by-field basis.**

Table 1. First hollow stem (FHS) results for each variety collected at Chickasha. Plots were planted on 09/29/2020. The threshold target for FHS is 1.5 cm (5/8" or the diameter of a dime). The value of hollow stem for each variety represents the average of ten measurements from non-grazed plots. Varieties that have reached FHS are highlighted in red.

Varieties	Date of measurement		
	2/5/2021	2/24/2021	2/26/2021
	---- cm ----		
Gallagher	0.20	0.34	0.89
Doublestop CL+	0.00	0.00	0.00
Strad CL +	0.00	0.00	0.03
Smith's Gold	0.09	0.13	0.16
Showdown	0.00	0.06	0.09
Green Hammer	0.11	0.67	0.67
Baker's Ann	0.04	0.06	0.07
Skydance	0.14	0.20	0.20
OK Corral	0.05	0.13	0.22
Big Country	0.03	0.10	0.25
Uncharted	0.05	0.11	0.43
WB4269	0.15	0.37	0.51
WB4401	0.14	0.34	0.49
WB4792	0.04	0.12	0.27
Bob Dole	0.14	0.37	0.55
SY Rugged	0.06	0.10	0.17
KS Dallas	0.00	0.00	0.00
KS Western Star	0.00	0.00	0.09
KS Silverado	0.00	0.00	0.02
LCS Photon AX	0.00	0.00	0.00
LCS Chrome	0.00	0.00	0.02
AG Icon	0.00	0.00	0.00
OK12716W	0.00	0.00	0.00
OCW03S580S-8WF	0.19	0.32	0.47
OK15MASBx7 ARS 8-29	0.04	0.08	0.12
OK15DMASBx7 ARS 6-8	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average	0.06	0.13	0.22

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Table 2. First hollow stem (FHS) results for each variety collected at Stillwater. Plots were planted on 09/21/2020. The threshold target for FHS is 1.5 cm (5/8" or the diameter of a dime). The value of hollow stem for each variety represents the average of ten measurements from non-grazed plots. Varieties that have reached FHS are highlighted in red.

Varieties	Date of measurement		
	2/6/2021	2/23/2021	2/25/2021
	---- cm ----		
Duster	0.12	0.00	0.33
Gallagher	0.25	1.14	1.52
Iba	0.15	0.25	0.27
Doublestop CL+	0.00	0.04	0.06
Strad CL+	0.11	0.20	0.49
Bentley	0.08	0.26	0.52
Smith's Gold	0.20	0.34	0.47
Lonerider	0.04	0.14	0.31
Showdown	0.02	0.21	0.20
Green Hammer	0.23	0.69	1.00
Baker's Ann	0.37	0.49	0.66
Skydance	0.91	1.42	1.66
OK Corral	0.20	0.31	0.49
Big Country	0.26	0.25	0.25
Breakthrough	0.06	0.13	0.33
Uncharted	0.07	0.27	0.93
WB4269	1.49	>FHS	>FHS
WB4401	0.34	1.01	1.12
WB4699	0.07	0.69	0.70
WB4792	0.08	0.25	0.25
Bob Dole	1.07	0.92	1.60
SY Rugged	0.01	0.05	0.07
AP EverRock	0.31	0.26	0.51
SY Achieve CL2	1.71	>FHS	>FHS
AP Roadrunner	1.00	1.13	1.56
10BC329-17-5	0.00	0.16	0.18
AP18 AX	0.49	0.71	1.07
KS Dallas	0.03	0.07	0.09
KS Western Star	0.05	0.15	0.25
KS Silverado	0.00	0.00	0.12
Zenda	1.49	>FHS	>FHS
KS Hamilton	0.00	0.00	0.06
KS Hatchett	0.00	0.04	0.12
KS12DH0156-88	0.00	0.18	0.24
LCS Photon AX	0.03	0.08	0.28
LCS Chrome	0.05	0.08	0.19
LCS Atomic AX	0.07	0.12	0.18
LCS Helix AX	0.03	0.08	0.13
LCS Fusion AX	0.00	0.01	0.15
LCS Julep	0.00	0.50	0.61
LCS Revere	0.00	0.07	0.15
LCS Valiant	0.15	0.40	0.58
Buckhorn AX	0.11	0.94	1.46
AG Icon	0.04	0.05	0.28
AG Radical	0.63	0.68	1.10
Canvas	0.18	0.19	0.46
Crescent AX	0.73	0.85	0.86
Guardian	0.00	0.00	0.04
AM Cartwright	0.15	0.46	0.51
CP7909	0.18	0.18	0.32
CP7017AX	0.08	0.25	0.26
CP7050AX	0.05	0.17	0.23
Allegiant 3063	0.08	0.28	0.40
OK12716W	0.00	0.00	0.00
OCW03S580S-8WF	1.45	>FHS	>FHS
OK15MASBx7 ARS 8-29	0.16	0.16	0.25
OK15DMASBx7 ARS 6-8	0.19	0.21	0.23
Butler's Gold	0.16	0.49	0.59
Average	0.27	0.33	0.49