

# KC CONNECTION

EDUCATOR EDITION  
Farm Credit Knowledge Center eNewsletter

October 2024

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HELLO,

If you are a new subscriber, we welcome you! If you missed past editions, scroll down to the bottom of this newsletter for the link to access the newsletter archive page!

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## Just Released! - Youth Travel Kit

The Youth Travel Kit is designed for day trips, overnight stays and even week-long excursions. Explore a range of resources to help with packing, tips for being away from home, and games to keep you entertained on your journey. Whether you're traveling by car or plane, the Youth Travel Kit has got you covered.

Additionally, for youth attending formal events such as conferences, we have included resources on dress codes and proper business handshakes. These resources are sure to help youth make the most of their travels for events and activities.

# Visit the Youth Travel Kit Webpage

## Life Cycle Update

**Life Cycle HONEY BEE**  
The honey bee life cycle consists of four stages: egg, larvae, pupae and adult.

**Queen**  
Egglayer  
• One per colony.  
• Can lay up to 2,000 eggs per day.

**Worker**  
Infertile female  
• Gathers nectar, pollen, water and propolis.  
• Maintain and clean the hive, build and repair honeycomb.  
• Defends the hive.

**Drone**  
Male  
• Mates with queen outside of hive then dies.

**Time (Days)**

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**Life Cycle: Honey Bee**  
Check out our expanded Life Cycle series featuring an infographic for the honey bee, a 24x36 poster file, crossword and key.

# Visit the Life Cycle Series Webpage

## Resource Connection

It's harvest time! Browse our More Than Just a... series of infographics and resources.

New crosswords are available for From Seed to Feed Corn and Soybean!

**FROM SEED TO FEED THE PLANTING AND HARVESTING OF CORN**  
Spring is a season of fresh beginnings, particularly on the farm. Corn farming entails multiple processes - from planting to growing to harvesting - to produce a secure, nutritious, and cost-effective crop that can be utilized for various purposes.

**April** **May** **June** **July** **August** **September** **October** **November**

**Planting**  
Planting time can vary depending on the climate and the weather, but generally will begin in early to mid-April and will continue through mid to late May.

**Pest Control and Fertilizing**  
Farmers inspect their fields for weed or insect problems before planting. To avoid insect infestation, they may treat their seeds with insecticides and may use herbicides to manage weed growth as the corn begins to grow. This helps the corn thrive by reducing competition for nutrients. Farmers may also irrigate during planting and apply it again after the corn has emerged to ensure healthy growth.

**Plant Emergence**  
This seed will germinate and emerge from the ground in approximately seven to ten days (weather permitting).

**Plant Growth**  
After the plant emerges, it goes through a period of growth, adding leaves and growing taller.

**Moisture**  
Corn needs adequate moisture during this time to help with growth and pollination.

**Tasselling and Silking**  
During the tasselling and silking phase, the tassels will form and pollen will be released. Afterward, the tassels will shed and the silks will emerge. The silks will continue to grow and eventually, the grain will fill out.

**Plant Maturity**  
Once the grain has filled, the plant and ear are ready to harvest. The kernels will be soft and plump to dent, where soft kernels have a higher moisture level and are not yet ready for harvest.

**Fall Fertilizer Application**  
Once the corn is harvested, a fall application of lime may be applied to the field.

**Harvesting**  
Harvest time will vary based on the variety of the corn and its intended use. Some corn used for silage may be harvested towards the end of August, while corn planted for animal feed needs to be "dry down" before being harvested. This corn can be harvested and placed in a dryer or it can be left in the field until it reaches approximately 15% moisture.

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**FROM SEED TO FEED THE PLANTING AND HARVESTING OF SOYBEANS**  
Spring is a season of fresh beginnings, particularly on the farm. Soybean farming entails multiple processes - from planting to growing to harvesting - to produce a secure, nutritious, and cost-effective crop that can be utilized for various purposes.

**May** **June** **July** **August** **September** **October** **November** **December**

**Planting**  
Planting time can vary depending on the climate and the weather, but generally will begin in early to mid-May and will continue through early July.

**Pest Control and Fertilizing**  
Even before planting, farmers will check for potential weed and insect problems. In many cases, seeds are coated with an insecticide and fungicide to prevent insects from eating the seed before it has a chance to sprout and to help prevent fungal infection. Herbicides may also be applied to help with weed control during emergence to reduce competition for nutrients.

**Plant Emergence**  
The seed will germinate and emerge from the ground in approximately seven to ten days (weather permitting).

**Plant Growth**  
After the plant emerges, it goes through a period of growth, adding leaves and growing taller.

**Pest Control**  
Pest planting herbicide can be applied once the plants have emerged. Help control weeds if needed. Farmers will also scout for possible fungal issues, and may apply a fungicide if needed.

**Flowering and Pod Development**  
Once the plants have developed leaves they will flower and then develop pods for the beans. Once the pods have formed, seed development will begin.

**Plant Maturity**  
Once the seeds have fully formed the plant will reach maturity and the leaves will begin to turn yellow. Harvest will begin when 90% of the leaves are yellow and the leaves begin to drop, and the plants reach the correct level.

**Harvesting**  
Harvest time will vary based on the variety of the soybeans, weather, and if they were single or double crop soybeans. Single crop beans (which are planted earlier) can begin to be harvested in late September, while some double crop beans may not be harvested until late November or early December, when they reach approximately 20% moisture.

**Fall Fertilizer Application**  
Once the crop has been harvested, a fall application of lime may be applied to the field.

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**MORE THAN JUST THE KERNEL** **Corn**

**MORE THAN JUST THE KERNEL** **Wheat**

**MORE THAN JUST THE BEAN** **Soybean**

**MORE THAN JUST THE SEED** **Cotton**

**More Than Just the...products from plants**

- Corn
- Wheat
- Soybean
- Cotton

# Browse the More Than Just the...

# We added to our AgBite Series!

Check out our latest additions, Acorn Squash and Leek.

**AgBite**  
A series of commodity insights

**Did you know?**  
Even though it's called "winter squash," acorn squash is actually harvested in the summer and fall.

**Overview**

- Acorn squash is nutrient-rich, packed with fiber, potassium and magnesium.
- One cup of acorn squash contains only 115 calories.
- Acorn squash can be roasted, stuffed, poored or even used in soups and stews.
- Acorn squash is slightly sweet and nutty.
- When stored in a cool, dry place, acorn squash can last for up to three months.

**Production**

Depending on the variety, it requires about 80-100 days to reach maturity.

Michigan is the top producer, reaching 100 million pounds of squash annually.

A single acre can yield around 10,000-20,000 pounds under good growing conditions.

Acorn squash relies heavily on bees for pollination.

**Acorn Squash Anatomy**

**Nutritional Information** (cup (100g))

Calories 56	Fat 0.5 g
Carbs 19 g	Saturated 0 g
Sugar 4 g	Potassium 145 DV
Fiber 2 g	Calcium 25 DV
	Sodium 4 mg

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**AgBite**  
A series of commodity insights

**Did you know?**  
Leeks are the national symbol of Wales even by children during the battle against the Saxons.

**Overview**

- Leeks have a more mild flavor profile compared to onions.
- Only the white and light green parts are used in soups, stews and sautes.
- Leeks are low in calories and rich in Vitamin A, C and K.
- Leeks are usually grown as a cool-season vegetable.
- Leeks are frost tolerant.

**Production**

Depending on the variety, leeks require about 120-150 days to reach maturity.

California is the top producer, but most leeks available are imported from Mexico.

Leeks thrive in fertile soil with a pH of 6.0 to 6.8.

Farmers "blanch" leeks in slry grow, mounding soil around the base to keep it white.

**Leek Anatomy**

**Leek**

**Kingdom:** Plantae  
**Order:** Asparagales  
**Family:** Amaryllidaceae  
**Genus:** Allium

**Nutritional Information** (cup cooked (89g))

Calories 32	Fat 0.2 g
Protein 1 g	Saturated 0 g
Carbs 8 g	Potassium 100 mg
Fiber 1.2 g	Calcium 15 DV
Sugar 3.5 g	Sodium 18 mg

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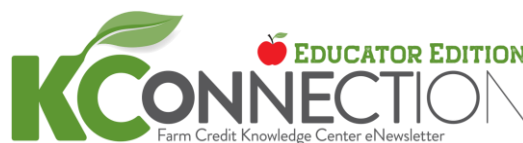
AgBite - [Acorn Squash](#)  
[Crossword](#) [Key](#)

AgBite - [Leek](#)  
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