



September 2023

Agriculture Water Testing

Drought causes problems with not only soil, but water as well. This summer, parts of Butler County saw an increase in salt in their well water. Sodium is going to be very detrimental to our soils. It breaks down our soil quality and takes the place of organic matter and clay particles in the soil. Sodium can also affect plants and you may see leaf burn if using sprinklers.

While we do not test drinking water (we can provide testing recommendations), we can test irrigation water (or well water used to water the garden). If you want to test your well (irrigation) water, you will need to bring a plastic water bottle (16.9 oz) full of the water to our office. We will send it off for testing and that will cost you approximately \$20.

If you want to test your soil (agriculture or garden) we can help with that too! Give our office a call for guidance!

4-H & Youth Development New 4-H Year Begins October 1st

The new 4-H year will begin on October 1st, 2023. Enrollment for Butler County 4-H will be coming up soon. From hands-on exploration to project-based skill building young people thrive through 4-H participation, finding their way to success in life and career. We are excited to offer over 35 projects ranging from Foods and Nutrition, to Robotics and Geology to livestock. There truly is something for everyone! We focus on exploration, learning, and experiencing the world around us through hands-on activities lead by our qualified volunteers and mentors. Any Butler County youth ages 7-18 is eligible to join 4-H! Our learning pathways support 21st Century learning skills to help our youth grow and develop into productive citizens within their community! I encourage you to visit our website: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/> to learn how to enroll in 4-H!

Horticulture

How do you know when to pick apples?

Several varieties of apples are ripe and ready to pick but how do you know when they are ready to harvest? There are a couple factors for apples:

- Days from bloom - Most varieties have a number of days from bloom until fruit is ripe. Weather does play a role.
- Flesh Color- Turns from light green to white when ripe.
- Seed Color- Changes from green to brown.
- Color Change around stem- Turns from green to red.
- Flavor- Apples change flavor when ripe.

Use a combination of the above to help determine when your apples are ripe and ready to pick. Store apples in a cool location or process them for use later!!

Family Consumer Sciences

Being Present with Children Promotes Success

Remembering how to multiply fractions and diagram sentences doesn't hurt when it comes to helping a child be successful in school. Yet, according to child development experts there is a more basic way a child's success can be spurred – by being present.

Being present with children means not only being in the same room with them, but being emotionally with them, too. Putting the phone down, shutting other distraction off and being intentional.

When parents are communicating with their children they need to establish a “family culture” that centers around two things: (1) my child is important and (2) what they're learning is important for their future. Even if during that time of conversation, the child shares that they are doing things they shouldn't be doing, that is not the time to be upset, angry or disappointed. The important thing is to let them know they are cared for and you're grateful they shared. Once you've had a chance to process what they've said, you can figure out what needs to change.

Being grateful and encouraging your child to share with you is the foundation of a really solid adult-child relationship through late childhood, early adolescence and all the way through to emerging adulthood. Remember, “Your child needs your presence, not your presents.”

Contact us:

Phone: (316) 321-9660

Facebook: @ksrebutlerco

Web: Butler.K-State.Edu

Twitter: @ButlerExtension

Address: 206 N Griffith St, Ste. El Dorado, KS 67042

*For KSRE publications and information,
visit www.ksre.ksu.edu*



4-H Online Enrollment Opens October 1st!

4-H's Long-reaching Effects

Compared to other youth, 4-Her's are:

4x more likely to contribute
to their communities

2x more likely to be
civically active

2x more likely to make
healthier lifestyle choices



The Top 5 Project Areas in Butler County:

1. Photography
2. Visual Arts
3. Foods & Nutrition
4. Clothing & Textiles
5. Floriculture & Horticulture

Find more information here:



What does Butler County 4-H have to offer?

- 9 Community 4-H Clubs across the County
- Butler County 4-H Shooting Sports
- Over 70 Projects
- Cloverbud Program for ages 5-6 yrs.

Visit Our Website

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/>

Call Us

316-321-9660



Plant Swap

October 15th

Noon to 4 pm

4-H/Community Building
200 N Griffith St
El Dorado, KS

Have your houseplants grown like crazy this summer? Did you divide your perennials and now have more than you need? Bring your cuttings, rooted plants or perennial plant divisions to trade for a new plant!

What is a Plant Swap?

A plant swap is an opportunity to connect with like-minded plant lovers from the area and share plants and knowledge. This event is free, just bring a plant or gardening related item to trade. Be sure to bring a box to take home all your plants!!

Register for a table:

<https://forms.gle/DNt9s3h4pv5oKvyg9>

Guidelines

- Plants must be labeled with the name and care instructions
- Plants must be disease and pest free
- Any type of legal plant is allowed
- All seeds must be labeled for 2022 or after
- Other plant related items are allowed
- Ask before taking a plant
- Bring a plant to share

Contact:

If you have any questions please contact Calla Edwards for more information at callae@ksu.edu or 316-321-9660

for more happily, ever afters...



The Strong Couples Project

- ✓ **Participate in a 6-session online program scientifically shown to strengthen relationships**
- ✓ **Video calls with trained coach to help maximize program impact**
- ✓ **No cost to enroll and chance to win \$25 Amazon gift card for completing program surveys**

To learn more and enroll, please visit go.illinois.edu/StrongCouples



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

