June 2021

**Agriculture**

Wildflowers and Weeds!

The beautiful wild flowers are blooming and so are some of the unwanted weeds! If you are curious what the pretty wildflowers are in the pastures and along the roads, visit www.kswildflower.org and/or checkout the Virtual Wildflower Tour created last year (INSERT LINK HERE).

The weeds offer a less aesthetic look and create greater issues. The 2021 Chemical Weed Control guidebook is available to help you know which chemicals work best to treat weeds in pastures and fields. It can be picked up in our office or found online at: https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/CHEMWEEDGUIDE.pdf.

Restricted use chemicals require a private pesticide application license. If you are interested in learning more about getting your license, contact our office at (316) 321-9660.

**Family Consumer Sciences**

Growing a big garden this year? Or maybe you're going to visit the local Farmer's Market or you have a neighbor who likes to share extra produce? If you're interested in doing food preservation, remember: use up-to-date resources, know what kind of equipment to use, and how to properly and safely use it. If you need an online course or a refresher, here are some options for you!

K-State’s Rapid Response Center: https://www.rrc.ks-state.edu/preservation/index.html

You'll find Home Canning Videos that you can watch at your convenience. This website also includes How To Guides on canning different types of produce, where to go for canner replacement parts, how to calculate elevation to can safely, use of up-to-date recipes that are tasty AND safe for you to use and share with family and friends.

Universities who offer online Food Preservation courses (very small fee):

- Michigan State University
- University of Nebraska
- University of Missouri
- Iowa State University

**4-H & Youth Development**

As we all know, this is the busiest time of year for many of us. With children’s activities, vacations, and summer fun we are running here, there and everywhere! 4-H is right there in the mix as youth now have more time as school is out for the summer to focus on those projects they are passionate about. It’s an exciting time to watch our young people stretch and grow in their abilities.

The County Fair is the highlight of the summer and a chance to show the community what our youth are able to do! I encourage you to visit the upcoming Fair to see all the great projects that our youth have to exhibit. The Butler County Fair will July 15th-19th. Find the schedule here: https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4hfair/docs/2021fairschedulefinal.pdf

But while we are gearing up for the Fair, we also have great activities like 4-H Camp, Campfire, Discovery Days, Ambassador Day Camp, and the Favorite Foods contest that provide yet another avenue for 4-H youth to engage and learn. If you are interested in 4-H, reach out to our office at 316-321-9660 to learn more!

**Horticulture**

We are starting to see anthracnose on maples and sycamore. Anthracnose is a fungal disease favored by cool, wet weather. Young leaves may wither and turn black. On older leaves, look for brown areas that follow the major veins of the leaves. In some cases, the petiole (leaf stem) is infected, which causes leaf drop. The leaf may look perfectly fine, so look for browned areas on the petiole. In severe cases, the tree drops heavily infected leaves and may be completely defoliated. We have had people cut down sycamore trees that have lost all their leaves.

DO NOT DO THIS. Healthy trees will releaf in a few weeks. Defoliation this early in the year does not affect overall tree health. Trees have plenty of time to produce new leaves and make the energy reserves needed to survive the winter.

Other types of trees that are affected by anthracnose include birch, elm, walnut, oak and especially ash. Anthracnose seldom causes significant damage to trees in Kansas, so chemical controls are usually unnecessary. Also, fungicides do not cure infected leaves. Applying fungicides after symptoms are seen will not help. (Ward Upham)