Agriculture

Rangeland and Pasture Brush Control

The main objective of brush control is to obtain an acceptable population of woody plants on rangeland to increase or maintain an optimum amount of area available for livestock grazing.

Prescribed burning can oftentimes keep rangeland almost free of unwanted brush. And, it can also be a low-cost way to control many woody species after establishment. Burning in late spring for 3 or more consecutive years is required to control species that re-sprout. However, sumac can be enhanced by a late spring burn because the plant may be dormant when the prescribed burn occurs. Cool season grass should not be burned except to eliminate red cedar. That prescribed burn should occur in mid-late February. Annual burning will harm brome and fescue.

All chemicals must be applied according to the directions on the label. Be sure to read all label information including safety issues. Most woody plants are susceptible to herbicides when applied properly. After heavy stands are reduced to a manageable level, spot treatment rather than broadcast treatment is best. The application of herbicides can be done by one of several methods. Be sure method of application is approved on herbicide label. The 2021 Chemical Weed Control book is available from our office and is a great resource. If you have any questions, please call our office at (316) 321-9660.

Family Consumer Sciences

Wallet Wisdom –Sharpen Your Money Skills: K-State Research and Extension is offering the Wallet Wisdom program, which includes six free Zoom webinars in April and May.

Topics include:

- Financial Check-Up
- Emotions and Money
- Spending Plans
- Ways to Save
- Manage Debt
- Handle Credit

The webinars will be presented each Thursday, from noon to 1 p.m. CDT via Zoom, beginning April 22 through May 27. With one registration, you can access just one or all six webinars. Time is allowed for questions and answers. For privacy reasons, only the host will be able to see who is asking the questions. For your convenience, ALL sessions will be recorded for you to view at any time.

Register at this link: https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cD9prK0uabDkW4S

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4-H & Youth Development

Service helps youth learn more about the towns in which they live

Across Kansas, 4-H members are gearing up to do something good for their communities. In addition to the community service aspect, we have a real opportunity in 4-H to move toward service learning.

What that means is that in addition to the service, we can help youth understand what’s happened in the community to make that service needed. So it becomes a learning experience for the youth at the same time. Part of our 4-H pledge is that we pledge our hands to larger service in our community. This is a great way to not just say the pledge but for people to see how that is happening.

Club members often decide what projects their group will take on, but there is a planning process they typically follow:

- Pick a project by determining the needs in your community. 4-Her’s brainstorm about what they’re seeing that needs to be done.
- Plan your project, including determining if there are partners, such as local organizations and businesses, or neighboring 4-H clubs.
- Take time to reflect on the service project. What was learned?
- Celebrate. Take time to enjoy what you accomplished.

Among other benefits, youth often learn new things about their community while doing service projects, such as what it means to be a city or county commissioner, or to work in a given profession. Older youth often build their leadership skills by leading a group of younger 4-Her’s through some part of the activity. For more information about community service opportunities through 4-H contact us at 316-321-9660

Horticulture

Storm Damage and the Garden: We are entering storm season where we see a lot of high winds, excessive rainfall and hail. How can we help our gardens recover?

- Heavy rain: The force of rainfall pounding on the soil can result in a thick crust that prevents seed emergence and partially blocks oxygen from reaching roots. A light scraping after the surface has dried is all that is needed to correct these problems. Be careful not to damage young, tender roots with deep tilling.
- Standing water: Standing water cuts off oxygen to the roots. Most plants can withstand 24 hours of standing water. Hot weather can worsen the situation by the water becoming hot enough to “cook” the plants. There isn’t much that can be done, unless a channel can be cut to allow water to drain.
- Hail damage: Plants should recover quickly as long as only the leaves were damaged by the hail. The situation becomes more serious if the stems & fruit were damaged. The plant can recover from a few bruises but if it looks like the plants were mowed down, replanting is in order.
- Leaning plants: They should start to straighten after a few days. Don’t try to bend them back as they often break easily.

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For KSRE publications and information, go to www.ksre.ksu.edu