



February 2023

Agriculture

K-State Research and Extension has released a public survey to ask current and prospective users about their information needs. Gregg Hadley, director of extension, said the brief survey will inform the organization's efforts to provide education and information in every Kansas county.

"The services we provide are designed to improve Kansans' lives and communities through education and engagement," Hadley said. "The results of this survey will help our dedicated extension specialists, agents and researchers provide information and assistance that best meet the needs of our K-State Research and Extension users."

Any Kansas resident over age 18 is eligible to take the survey
in English (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ST2ZLM5>)
or Spanish (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SRH9W59>).

4-H & Youth Development

Butler County's annual 4-H Day will be held on February 26 beginning at 1 PM at Butler Community College.

What is 4-H Day? It's an opportunity for our 4-H members to practice their public speaking skills, talents, and parliamentary procedure and to learn about different project areas as they participate in judging contests and critical thinking exercises.

4-Hers will receive ribbons and judge feedback in the Public Presentations, Talent and Gavel Games divisions.

Public Presentations consist of Project Talks, in which a younger member talks about their learning and experiences in a particular 4-H project, Illustrated Talks, which can be about any topic and include prepared visual aids, Demonstrations, which show by doing, as well as Multimedia and Public Speaking presentations.

Talent categories include vocal, instrumental, reading, dance and drama.

Gavel Games is a model meeting parliamentary procedure competition. It's an impressive event, and prepares our youth to hold meetings that would not, in fact, be better as emails!

Between events, all 4-Hers are welcome to participate in a Livestock Skillathon and Horticulture judging contest as well as Crunch Time, an exercise in which a 4-Her is presented with a problem requiring critical thinking skills and then given time to develop and deliver an answer.

4-H Day, as with all 4-H events, offers Butler County youth a means to practice and improve skills that will prepare them for success and leadership across a broad spectrum of life experiences!

Horticulture

Gardening season is not limited to just the growing season. One of the most important steps you can take to have a productive garden can be done right now, as long as the soil isn't frozen. It is recommended to do a soil test on a vegetable garden every 3 to 5 years at the minimum to ensure you aren't over or under fertilizing your plants. Unfortunately, too much fertilizer can be just as detrimental to plant growth as too little.

To test your soil, take six to eight samples approximately six inches deep scattered around your lawn, garden or flowerbed. Mix these samples together in a bucket and then take approximately a quart-sized baggie of soil out for testing. Taking samples from multiple locations is vital to getting a good result. Bring your bag into our office and we can send it to the lab for results, usually within two to three weeks. From those results, we can make recommendations to help improve your soil. Happy Growing.

Family Consumer Sciences

January is Kansas Radon Action Month!

It is important that you know your risks when it comes to radon.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil and water that can build up to dangerous levels inside any home; this means new and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, and homes with or without a basement.

Breathing radon can increase your risk of lung cancer and is the number one cause of lung cancer among people who do not smoke. Homes with high levels of radon have been found in every state. In fact, radon levels can vary greatly from home to home--even levels next door can be very different.

Radon gas is odorless and invisible and the only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test for it. Take action today by visiting the Butler County Extension Office to purchase your radon test, and encourage your friends and family members to do the same!

Contact us:

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Web: Butler.K-State.Edu

Twitter: @ButlerExtension

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

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