Spring is just around the corner and pasture burning season will be starting soon. Fires are required to be called in prior to burning and permission obtained. You can call the Butler County Dispatch center at (316) 320-1294. To request a controlled burn in the Andover area, call their non-emergency number at 316-733-5177. Augusta’s non-emergency number is 316-775-4500. When you call in, a permit number will be issued. Fire departments are then notified of the location of controlled burns in their area. There are several resources available to help you determine the winds and predict your burning conditions. https://mesonet.k-state.edu provides current and historical weather conditions. US National Weather Service, Wichita Office fire weather – www.weather.gov/ict/fire - they have a plethora of information here where you can get a wealth of information to help you plan your fire. Additional information can be found on our website at: https://www.butler-k-state.edu/agriculture/ag_info.html.

**Family Consumer Sciences**

**Coronavirus and Food Safety**

Can a person become sick with COVID-19 from food? According to the CDC and Prevention “We are not aware of any reports at this time of human illnesses that suggest COVID-19 can be transmitted by food or food packaging. However, it is always important to follow good hygiene practices (i.e., wash hands and surfaces often, separate raw meat from other foods, cook to the right temperature, and refrigerate foods promptly) when handling or preparing foods.”

Sound like something that you are already doing each day? Then pat yourself on the back and breathe a sigh of relief! If you need to put these practices into place, you CAN do it! Then... Handwashing is important in everyday life. This includes:

- Food preparation and eating
- Caring for someone who is sick
- After using the bathroom or changing a diaper
- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- Touching animals, pet waste, pet food
- After handling garbage.


**Agents & Staff:**

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**Brown Coloration on Junipers**

Certain eastern red cedar and various other junipers are showing a brownish cast when viewed from a distance. This may be the male flowers. Male flowers are on the tips of the leaves and look somewhat like a cross between a miniature hand grenade and a pinecone. Shaking the branches on dry days will often result in a cloud of pollen being released. Most junipers are dioecious, meaning they have both male and female plants. About half the junipers (the males) will have this coloration. The female flowers are much less obvious. If you are concerned about this brown coloration, check the plants to ensure the male flowers are the cause. If they are, this is normal and will fade with time.

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**4-H & Youth Development**

**Camp is Where It’s At!**

Do you know a young person who would love the opportunity to meet other people, explore the outdoors and grow their own strengths all while having fun? Then Butler County 4-H Camp is where to be this summer!

The 2020 Butler County 4-H Camp is June 16-19 at beautiful Rock Springs 4-H Center near Junction City, KS. The camp is open to all youth participants ages 7-12, you do not have to be a 4-H member to attend. There are many activities like swimming, hiking, nature exploration, archery, biking and horseback riding that are available to the participants during the engaging 4-day camp. Campers age 7-8 can attend Rookie Camp which is a shorter 1 ½ day camp to expose them to the camping experience.

Registration is open now until May 10, 2020. Information can be found on our website at: https://www.butler-k-state.edu/4-h/camp.html. If you have questions regarding this great opportunity for the youth in our community, please feel free to call McKenzie Smithson, 4-H/Youth Development Agent at 316-321-9660 or email at msmithson@ksu.edu.