



August 2025

### Horticulture

#### **Aphid Populations on the Rise**

Calla Edwards – Horticulture Agent

With the hot weather, aphid populations are on the rise across Butler County. Monitoring your vegetables for aphids a couple of times a week is important. Often aphid infestations start with just a few scattered colonies throughout the field, so be sure to check everywhere, not just around the edges. If you find a few aphids on your plants, it's best to wait to treat till you reach the thresholds listed below. A few aphids can help support the beneficial insects that feed on aphids, which will keep your numbers in check. On small plants, when the aphid population is increasing, a general threshold level is found when aphids are found on 50-60% of the leaves or if aphid populations remain at 8 to 10 or more per leaf for two or more weeks. For tomato or pepper plants, treat if 20% of the branch ends are infested or 5 aphids per leaf. If you see just a few aphids, you can spray the plant down with a strong stream of water, which washes the aphids off and kills them. Other control options, such as insecticidal soap and horticultural oils, are labeled to treat aphids before the populations reach high levels. Once populations reach higher levels, products containing malathion, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, or pyrethrin can be used to control the insects. Be sure to thoroughly cover all parts of the plant and all sides of the leaf. Read the label and make sure it lists the vegetable you are treating along with the number of days after spraying before you can harvest the produce.

### 4-H & Youth Development

Madeline Wallace – 4-H & Youth Development Agent

The 2025 Butler County Fair was full of hard work, learning, and celebration, with 4-H members showcasing their talents across a wide range of projects. Youth demonstrated responsibility, teamwork, and growth both in and out of the show ring, making us proud of their efforts and character. Thank you to everyone who helped make this fair a success—we're excited to carry this energy into the next 4-H year!

#### Contact us:

**Phone:** (316) 321-9660

**Web:** Butler.K-State.Edu

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

**Facebook:** @ksrebutlerco

**Twitter:** @ButlerExtension

See our full Newsletter at <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/newsletter.html>

For KSRE publications and information,  
visit [www.ksre.ksu.edu](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu)

### Family Consumer Sciences

#### **Safety First: Be Smart About Home Canning**

Bonnie Brewer – FCS Extension Agent

Canning, as a method of preserving food by placing foods in jars or cans and heating them to a temperature that destroys microorganisms that could be a health hazard or cause the food to spoil, has been around for more than two centuries. Today's methods have often been passed down and evolved through generations, but they all have one thing in common: Preparation. There's a lot of work and time invested in home preservation, and the last thing you want is spoiled food in the end.

#### **Preparation tips:**

- Inspect equipment for parts that need replacing, such as rubber seals on pressure canners. Many parts can be ordered from the canner manufacturer.
- Get your pressure gauge checked. Contact your local extension office for a free pressure gauge check.
- Canning jars can be reused, so check for cracks or scratches that could lead to broken or unsealed jars.
- Canning rings can be reused, but once they get rusty or corroded, they should be replaced.
- Canning lids can be used only once. Buy lids now.
- Many online recipes are not safe or accurate. They increase the risk of foodborne illness, particularly botulism. Safe resources include those from Kansas State Extension and Ball Mason Canning.

If you need access to classes, have canning questions, or want to learn more about the "So Easy to Preserve" canning resource, contact your local extension office. Butler County Extension Office (316) 321-9660 or [bjbrewer@ksu.edu](mailto:bjbrewer@ksu.edu).

### Agriculture

#### **Aquatic Plants and Their Control**

Charlene Miller – Agriculture Agent/Extension Director

I can't remember a time in recent years when we have met August 1st head-on with this green of grass, ponds full, frequent rains, and high cattle markets. With the continued rain, hay season has been strung out. Some farmers are still trying to put up brome hay, while others are just getting started with native grass. Traditionally, brome should be cut and baled in June, while native grass is done in July. Typically, it's hot and dry by now and grass is burning up. However, with temperatures having not been summer-like until recently and the rain continuing to fall, brome and native grass have continued to grow. I encourage producers and purchasers to forage test their hay. This will allow you to know exactly what quality you have and what adjustments to your livestock feed you may or may not need to make. It will be interesting to see what the forage values you look like considering the conditions we have had.



#KSTATEGARDENHOUR

# K-STATE GARDEN HOUR

## **Innovations in Horticulture Research at Kansas State University**

Wednesday, August 6th 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

As a land-grant university, Kansas State University's core missions are Teaching, Research, and Extension. This session will share recent and emerging horticultural research across the state and beyond. Join Dr. Cheryl Boyer, Professor and Extension Specialist, as she highlights research projects addressing horticultural specialty crops such as ornamentals, fruits and vegetables, and turfgrass.



Register Here!



Please register for this free Zoom Webinar at:  
[ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour](https://ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour)



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Butler County

# LUNCH & LEARN

Bring your lunch and join Horticulture Agent, Calla Edwards, over the lunch hour during our monthly Lunch & Learn Program. This will be held over the lunch hour and will cover a variety of horticulture topics.

**August 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**12:15-12:45 p.m.**

**Lori's EmporiYum Lab!**  
1604 Custer Ln.  
Augusta, KS

**August Topic: Squash &  
How to Use It**

Squash is a very fragile vegetable in the garden. Learn tips on preventing insect issues & recipes to use your surplus of squash this season.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service  
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.





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**August 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**12:15-12:45 p.m.**

**Andover Public Library**  
1511 E Central Ave  
Andover, KS

**August Topic: Cut Flowers**

Start your own cut flower garden to bring the beauty of flowers indoors! This session covers the basics of establishing a cut flower garden. Learn ideas for preparing soil, seed starting, flower varieties, irrigation set-up, maintenance, and even marketing tips for your floriferous crops.

# 2025 Hunter Education Course

The Hunter Education courses are open to anyone. No fee is required. No one under the age of 11 will be certified in Hunter Education. Those under age 11 may take the course with special permission from the instructor. Anyone taking the Hunter Education courses prior to age 11, will be required to take the course again for certification after turning 11. All courses are being held at the Butler County 4- H Community Building located at 200 N. Griffith in El Dorado. Call the Butler County Extension Office at 316-321-9660 to pre-enroll! Enrollment is limited, so call early! No Drop-Ins Will Be Accepted.

**\*\*Pre-enrollment is required for all courses\*\***



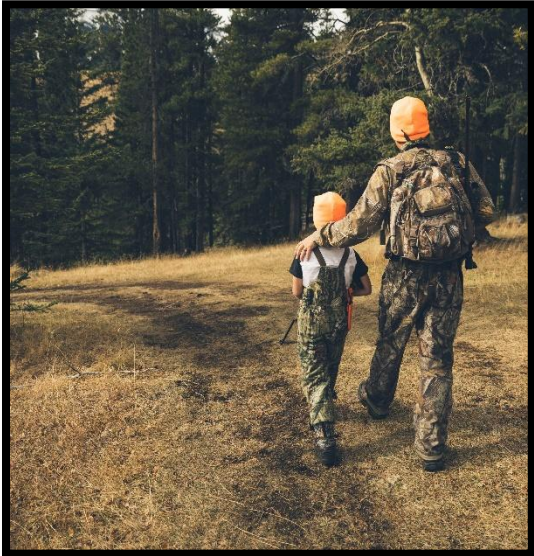
**Internet Assisted Course #1:** September 27, 2025

**Check-in:** 7:30-8:00 AM

**Field Day:** Saturday, Sept 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Lunch:** 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**Pre-enroll between June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**



**Internet Assisted Course #2:** October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Check-in:** 7:30-8:00 AM

**Field Day:** Saturday, Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Lunch:** 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Pre-enroll between June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

You will need to have access to a computer and a printer in order to complete the online portion of an Internet-Assisted course. This independent study method requires pre-registration in an Internet-assisted Field Day and Testing Session and completion of the Kansas online hunter education course. **DO NOT TAKE THE ONLINE COURSE UNTIL YOU HAVE PRE-REGISTERED FOR THE INTERNET-ASSISTED HUNTER EDUCATION FIELD DAY AND TESTING SESSION OF YOUR CHOICE.**

**Pre-Enroll at Butler County Extension Office or call 316-321-9660**

## **Field Day Instructions:**

1. Pre enroll for the field day at the Butler County Extension Office
2. Go to the Kansas Wildlife, Parks & Tourism website at [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com)
3. Follow the prompts to access the on-line test and complete it. Education - Hunter Education - Internet Assisted Course - Free Kansas Internet Assisted Course (Yellow box at the bottom of the page) - take the test.
4. After completing the test, print the completion certificate and bring it with you to the field day.

