

August 2026

4-H Youth Development

Madeline Adams – 4-H Youth Development Agent

Butler County Fair Recap!

The 2026 Butler County Fair was full of hard work, learning, and celebration, with 4-H members showcasing their talents across a wide range of projects. Over 2,100 exhibits were pre-entered in this year's fair! Our youth members 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!

Horticulture

Calla Edwards – Horticulture Agent

Aphid Population on the Rise

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.

Agriculture

Charlene Miller – Agriculture Agent/Extension Director

Animal Comfort Tool

Summer has officially arrived, and so has the heat. With high temperatures, elevated humidity, and little wind, conditions have become challenging not only for people but also for livestock. These weather conditions can quickly increase the risk of heat stress, making it important for producers to monitor animal comfort and take steps to reduce heat-related impacts.

One valuable resource available to livestock producers is the Kansas State University Mesonet Animal Comfort Index. This tool uses the four primary factors that contribute to heat stress in livestock: air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and solar radiation. Together, these factors provide a more accurate representation of how environmental conditions actually feel to cattle.

The interactive Mesonet map displays the current "feels like" temperature for livestock across Kansas, along with a seven-day forecast that highlights when conditions may reach dangerous levels. Monitoring these forecasts can help producers make timely management decisions to protect their animals.

The K-State Mesonet Animal Comfort Index is available online at: <https://mesonet.k-state.edu/agriculture/animal/>

Family Consumer Sciences

Summer brings laughter at the pool, busy gardens, and long days spent enjoying the outdoors. While soaking up the sunshine, remember to protect your skin. **One in five Americans will develop skin cancer**, and too much exposure to the sun's UV rays can also cause premature skin aging.

Protect yourself by wearing sunscreen, seeking shade, and wearing protective clothing. Learn more by reading the K-State Extension fact sheet, "**Protect Your Skin from the Sun**," at: https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/download/protect-your-skin-from-the-sun-fact-sheet_MF3663.

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