

NEWSLETTER



April
2025

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From the Director's Desk

We are officially 1/3 of the way through the new year. The rate this wind is blowing, it's going to push us through 2025 in a rapid fashion! April is one of my favorite months. If you have been around here awhile, you too are probably familiar with "the smell of rain", "the feel of storms", "the sound of turkeys in the distance", all things that go along with being in the Midwest! Spring gives me a whole new light of freshness and all the good to come before the summer heat bears down!

Speaking of good, I want to highlight spotlight out Horticulture Agent Calla Edwards and the K-State Research and Extension Butler County Master Gardeners. Bo Bennett once said: "A dream becomes a goal when action is taken towards achievement." Butler County Horticulture Agent Calla Edwards, along with the Butler County Master Gardeners, set a goal to establish seed libraries in Butler County. They set out with the goal of making fruits and vegetables more accessible to citizens in Butler County and equipping them with the knowledge to help them succeed.






Calla and her team have spent a few hundred hours seeking donations, sponsorships, and connecting with communities to establish seed libraries. Additionally, sorting, counting, and dividing thousands of seeds into over 12,000 smaller packets, labeling, and establishing an addition to our Butler County [website](#). When citizens pick out their free seed packets at one of 10 community locations in Butler County, a QR code is available to scan, and it will take them to our website. They can gather information on planting, growing, and utilizing the produce there.

Calla and her team set a goal and took big-time action to achieve it. Together, they are working to make produce available to more citizens in Butler County and giving them the knowledge to succeed. They set a shining example of when you dream big, big things happen!

Conversely, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been detected in Butler County. This was a non-commercial, backyard flock. I have included an information flyer in this newsletter on Protecting Your Flock. More information on HPAI can be found the Kansas Department of Ag's [website](#).

As we embrace our fourth month, the days will get longer and the vibrant blooms of flowers will start to prevail. I challenge you to embrace this spring month and take moment to enjoy the beauty. Until next time, enjoy this stellar photo taken over the El Dorado Lake on March 25th, 2025 by Curtis Gauthier

Upcoming Events

<div>  <h2>April</h2>  </div>						
		① Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	② Garden Hour 12 p.m.	③ Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m.	④	⑤  Lawn & Garden Show 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
⑥  Lawn & Garden Show 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	⑦ Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m.	⑧ Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m. 4-H Council	⑨ Living Well Wednesday 12 p.m. Garden Basic Talk - Benton Community Building 5:30 p.m. 4-H/FFA YQCA	⑩ Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m.	⑪ Mug Mingle 7:45-9:00 a.m.	⑫
⑬	⑭ Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m. Story Hour - Rose Hill Library 10 a.m.	⑮ 4-H/FFA Fitting Clinic Bradford Library - Kids STEM Seed Planting 4 p.m.	⑯	⑰ Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m.	⑱	⑲
⑳ 	㉑ Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m. 4-H/FFA Small Animal Tagging 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	㉒ 	㉓	㉔ Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m.	㉕ Pollenator Talk - Douglass Sr. Center 10 a.m.	㉖
㉗	㉘ Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m.	㉙	㉚			

Butler County Extension Office
206 North Griffith
Suite A
El Dorado, Kansas 67042
(316)321-9660

Hours

Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday
7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Join Us For Our 2025 Quarterly Extension Connection

Mug Mingle



Grab a mug and mingle with your local
Butler County Extension Staff
Friday, April 11th from 7:45-9:00 a.m.
Save the dates: July 11th and October 19th

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

<div>  <h2>May</h2>  </div>						
				① Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m.	②	③
④	⑤  Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m.	⑥ Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	⑦ Garden Hour 12 p.m.	⑧ Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m. Plant Swap - Andover Library 5:30 p.m.	⑨	⑩
⑪  BlackGold Spring Livestock Show	⑫ Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m.	⑬	⑭ Pollenator Talk - Bradford Library 6 p.m.	⑮ Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m.	⑯	⑰
⑱	⑲ Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m.	⑳	㉑ Pollenator Talk - Benton Community Building 5:30 p.m.	㉒ Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m.	㉓	㉔ Walk Kansas Ends
㉕	㉖  CLOSED	㉗	㉘ 4-H/FFA YQCA	㉙	㉚	㉛

Upcoming Events



WALK WITH EASE

April 3rd - May 22nd

*Every Thursday
for 8 weeks*

9:00-10:00 a.m. @ Douglass Senior Center
124 W 4th St, Douglass, KS 67039

- Meeting at the Senior Center to walk around Douglass
- Gathering in the Senior Center for educational information:
 - Understand the many benefits of walking
 - Learn how to exercise safely and comfortably

No Registration Required



K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Bonnie Brewer - two weeks prior to the start of the event at 316-321-9660 or e-mail bjbrewer@ksu.edu.



WALK ANDOVER

AT THE ANDOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
MONDAYS @ 1PM
MARCH 31ST-MAY 19TH

The Andover Public Library is partnering with K-State Research and Extension to bring you a new program! Starting March 31st, we'll kick off the program by meeting up at the Andover Public Library and take a walk around Andover Central Park. On **March 31st** and **May 5th**, we'll have special educational sessions. This program is geared towards adults, but all ages are welcome to attend. There is no cost, and no registration required!

At the end of the program, on May 19th, we will have an end of program celebration!

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact Bonnie Brewer four weeks prior to the start of the event (February 26th) at (316) 321-9660 OR bjbrewer@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request. **Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service** K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



#KSTATEGARDENHOUR

K-STATE GARDEN HOUR

Heat Loving Perennials for Kansas

Wednesday, May 7th 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

Discover the beauty and resilience of heat-loving perennials that thrive in Kansas' climate. Join Jason Graves, Central Kansas Extension District Horticulture Agent, for tips on selecting and caring for low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, plants that add color and texture to your landscape. This session will provide practical advice for creating a thriving garden in even the harshest of Kansas environments.



Register Here!

Please register for this free Zoom Webinar at:
ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour



#KSTATEGARDENHOUR

K-STATE GARDEN HOUR

Methods to Increasing Vegetable Yield

Wednesday, April 2nd 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

Maximize your garden's productivity! Join Abbey Draut, Sedgwick County Food Crops Horticulture Agent, as she shares proven methods for increasing vegetable yields. Learn how to optimize soil health, select high-performing varieties, and implement effective care techniques to boost your harvest. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced gardener, these practical tips will help you grow more food in your garden this season.



Register Here!

Please register for this free Zoom Webinar at:
ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour



Garden Hour Webinars:

These class are offered online via Zoom at Noon. For more information on the Garden Hour series or to register visit here:
<https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/>

Upcoming Events



EAST PARK, EL DORADO, KS
FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025
3-6 pm

BUTLER COUNTY CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH DAY!

Join us in celebrating the youth of Butler County and bringing awareness to children's mental health in this **FREE** family fun event!

Food • Live Music • Kid and Teen Activities
 Community Booths • Prizes • and MORE!



Follow Us On
 Facebook for Updates!



Hosted by:
 South Central Mental Health Counseling Center

Money Habitudes

Wed. April 9th
12:10 - 1 PM CST



Joy Miller
 KSRE Extension
 Agent, Johnson
 County



Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena
 KSRE Extension Agent
 Sedgwick County

A Habitude combines habits and attitudes, reflecting ingrained thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that influence decisions and actions – regarding money, in this case. Six Money Habitudes will be explored, which can help individuals, couples, or families build self-awareness and understanding about their financial perspectives.



Scan the QR code or use
 the link below to register:
bit.ly/3zvWWGQ

**LIVING WELL
 WEDNESDAY**

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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Fitting Clinic

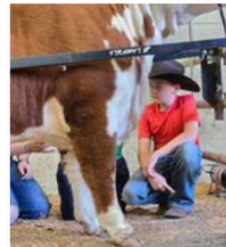
Butler County 4-H and the Butler Community College Livestock Judging Team are coming together to provide a Livestock Fitting Clinic. Hands on experience makes this a great learning opportunity.

You are welcome to bring a sack dinner to eat during the classroom presentation.



Tuesday, April 15, 2025
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Butler Community College
Agriculture Complex
2510 SW 20th, El Dorado, KS



RSVP Here: <https://forms.gle/DdFEbwUpLgqgDEA28>



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BUTLER COMMUNITY/4-H BUILDING

200 N. GRIFFITH
EL DORADO

Ambassador
 Sponsored
 Clover Clink
 (bring your
 quarters!)

Event Highlights

**SHOW AND TELL, CLUB BOOTHS,
 FAVORITE FOODS CONTEST, LIVESTOCK
 SKILL-A-THON, HORTICULTURE
 JUDGING, FACS JUDGING
 SET-UP BEGINS AT 5:30 P.M.**

Grab your friend
 and join the water
 balloon toss. Test
 your skills and win
 a cash prize!

REGISTER HERE FOR PRE-ENTRIES AND CLUB BOOTHS: [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/DLCQDTQGMDUIA5147](https://forms.gle/DLCQDTQGMDUIA5147)

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact Madeline Wallace four weeks prior to the start of the event May 1, 2025, at 316-321-9660 or mgwallace@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Upcoming Events



The Strong Couples Project

- ✓ **Participate in a 6-session online program** scientifically shown to strengthen relationships
- ✓ **Video calls with trained coach** to help maximize program impact
- ✓ **No cost to enroll** and chance to win \$25 Amazon gift card for completing program surveys

To learn more and enroll, please visit go.illinois.edu/StrongCouples



Butler County
H.E.A.L.
Health. Education. Action. Lifestyle.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO LIVE A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE THROUGH EDUCATION AND ACTION

PROMOTING HOLISTIC HEALTH BY INCORPORATING RESEARCH BASED EDUCATION INTO PRACTICAL DAILY LIVING.

K-STATE Research and Extension
Butler County

South Central Mental Health
HELPING TO SHAPE PROMISING FUTURES

206 N Griffith, Suite A
El Dorado, KS 67042
(316) 321-9660

221 King St, Andover, KS 67002
524 N Main St, El Dorado, KS 67042
2821 N Brookside Dr, Augusta, KS 67010
(316) 733-5047 ext 515 OR 528

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Living Well Wednesday Webinars:

Webinars will be offered the second Wednesday of each month, from 12:10-1 pm. There is no charge to participate, however, registration is required. All webinars will be recorded and posted below along with supporting resources.

Register for all webinars in this series here: <https://tinyurl.com/4hed9rfz>

Available Services

Bad Odor?

We have a breath of fresh air for you! K-State Research and Extension - Butler County offers Nilodor cotton balls to help eliminate the odor in your most desperate areas. Just 1 drop can neutralize the air in a 10'x10' room. Costing only \$0.10 per cotton ball, this is an extremely cost effective solution to your most smelly situations.



Soil Testing

Whether you are preparing your garden for spring planting or wanting to make sure your fields are ready to produce a bumper crop, we can help.

Bring your soil into the K-State Research and Extension - Butler County Office today and we will ship it to K-State Soil Labs for testing. Each test comes with personal recommendations put together by our Agriculture and Horticulture Professionals. Cost will vary depending on tests requested.

For more information on Horticulture Soil Testing, visit our website here: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/horticulture/Soil%20Tests.html>

For more information on Agriculture Soil Testing, visit our website here: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/soiltest/untitled.html>

Coffee Mugs Now Available!

Get yours today at the K-State Research and Extension - Butler County Office
206 North Griffith, Suite A
El Dorado, KS 67042



Ag Talk

Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

cmmiller1@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/>

Be Prepared for Prescribed Burning Season

Prescribed burning is upon us. While we had an excellent, well-attended workshop the end of February, we know many were unable to attend due to work schedules. The Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition has an excellent set of videos for viewing if you missed the workshop. You can view the videos on their website: <https://www.kglc.org/prescribed-burning-video-series.cfm>. Be prepared this season and if you have questions, reach out.

Prescribed Burning – Know the Regulations!



It is the time of year when we start planning for native pasture prescribed burning. Here are a few things you can do to help prepare and reduce the risk of unintended outcomes.

- 1) Know the Butler County Burn Regulations! You can find those at: <https://www.bucoks.com/203/Controlled-Burning>. You are required to make notifications and that contact information is found in this link. I also recommend notifying your neighbors.
- 2) The Kansas Smoke Management Plan goes into effect on April 1 – know the plan! www.ksfire.org
- 3) Develop a burn plan; identify your goals, know the weather and wind forecast (www.weather.gov/ict/fire), review safety requirement, determine equipment and manpower needs and know your emergency contacts. Also be aware of roads and major highways and use caution not to lay smoke across them. Evaluate the ground to make sure it's solid enough to hold a pickup and sprayer. If the ground is not solid, think of what will happen when you put fire trucks on there if the fire should escape. Good planning is critical when planning and executing a controlled burn.
- 4) A great series of Burn Videos can be found at <https://www.kglc.org/prescribed-burning-video-series.cfm>

April Burning Restrictions – Know the Facts

April has arrived and many are hearing of the “burn ban” in effect. Butler County has not issued a county-wide burn ban, however, as part of the Kansas Smoke Management Plan, there are burning restrictions that are in place. The Kansas Flint Hills Smoke Management website (www.ksfire.org) has a list of FAQ’s that highlights the restrictions in place for the month of April. Please keep in mind that Butler County is included as one of the 13 counties in the Flint Hills that are required to follow this plan.

Q: Is crop residue burning restricted in April?

A: Yes, crop residue burning is restricted for the 16 counties specified in the April Burning Restrictions of K.A.R. 28-19-645a (13 in Flint Hills + Johnson, Sedgwick & Wyandotte). Burning of the tall grass prairie is not considered crop residue burning.

Q: Is burning yard waste allowed at an individual residence during April?

A: Yes, unless restricted by a local ordinance.

Q: Are residential trash burn barrels permitted?

A: Yes, unless restricted by a local ordinance.

Q: Can a local fire chief override the April Burning Restrictions of K.A.R. 28-19-645a if requested by a local resident or business?

A: Yes, if local ordinance is more stringent. No, when the purpose of the override is to allow something prohibited under state regulation.

Q: Are firefighter training burns permitted?

A: Yes, with approval from KDHE. However, it is appropriate to request fire training be scheduled outside of the month of April in the affected counties.

Q: Is open burning for land clearing and construction projects allowed in April?

A: Not in the 13 Flint Hills Counties unless approved by KDHE unless local ordinance is more stringent. It is our intent to discourage nonagricultural burning during the month of April.

Q: Are air curtain destructors / incinerators allowed to operate in April?

A: Yes. ACDs are permitted by KDHE as a special type of incinerator.



April Burning Restrictions – Know the Facts Cont.

Q: What is an example of open burning that might be “deemed to be necessary and in the public interest”?

A: Fires set to remove dangerous or hazardous liquid materials, debris from an ice storm or a tornado (where landfilling is not feasible) or storage capacity after ice storms or tornados is not sufficient to wait until May or later.

Q: What agencies and offices are involved in regulating open burning?

A: a. Local fire, emergency response and law enforcement, depending on local ordinance. b. The six KDHE District Offices. c. The Compliance Section of the Bureau of Air at KDHE in Topeka.

Q: Where is the first place a person should call with questions concerning open burning?

A: The local fire department or law enforcement authority. Next, our KDHE District Office.



Q: Which agency has the final authority on regulating open burning?

A: In most cases, the local fire department if they are more stringent. If local requirements are less stringent than KDHE, the state agency has authority.

Q: Are camp fires and bonfires allowed in April?

A: Yes, open burning for cooking or ceremonial purposes, on public or private lands regularly used for recreational purposes.

Q: Is the local permitted open burn site allowed to burn in April?

A: No, unless KDHE issues a special circumstances or emergency approval specifically for April. Otherwise, all local permitted open burn sites are discouraged from open burning during the month of April, even if a permit had been previously issued.

The success of the Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan is contingent on all parties cooperating to reduce smoke impacts

Ag Talk



HPAI: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, is a rapidly spreading viral disease that can infect many types of birds. Avian influenza, often called avian flu or bird flu, can be common, but some strains are highly pathogenic, which means they are more deadly. Introduced by migrating wild birds, HPAI can spread through spring migration and affect **all** domestic poultry — small and backyard flocks as well as commercial industries.

Poultry with HPAI **do not** survive the illness. Vaccines for HPAI are not readily available.

Signs of Avian Influenza

- Coughing and sneezing
- Difficulty breathing
- Extreme depression
- Lack of energy
- Decrease in feed or water intake
- Swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, wattle and legs
- Decrease in egg production
- Sudden unexplained death

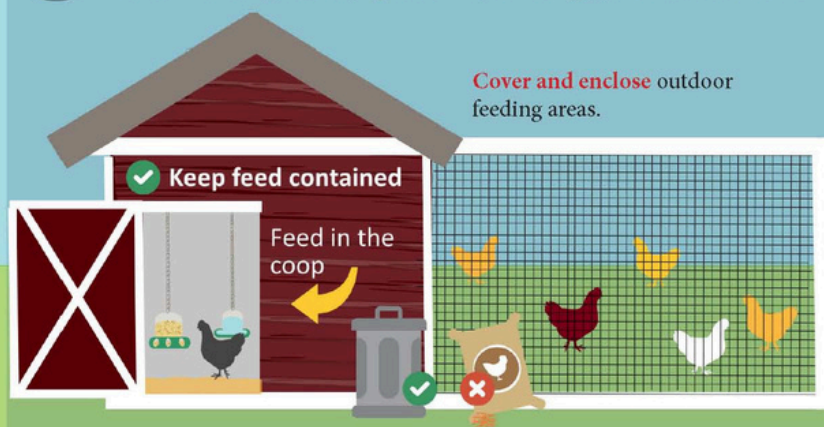
Biosecurity is your best option to prevent HPAI from entering your small or backyard poultry flock.

Here is what you can do:

Protect Your Small Flock from Avian Influenza

1

Avoid attracting wild birds and waterfowl to your home or farm. Song birds, sparrows, starlings, etc. are **low risk**.



- **Clean up** feed spills.
- **Reduce** puddles and standing water.
- **Avoid** visiting ponds and streams, especially with pets.
- **Do not** move birds from farm to farm.
- **Isolate** new birds.

2

Limit or halt travel with your birds to sales, shows and swaps.

Ensure you have clean hands, clothes, and footwear before handling your birds if you attend events. **Do not** allow others to handle your birds.



3

Limit your birds' visitors.

If someone must visit your birds: discuss where they have been. Have them wash their hands and wear clean clothes and footwear.



Call your veterinarian if your flock shows signs of influenza or you suspect exposure. No veterinarian? Call the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Health at 785-564-6601.



Ag Talk

Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

cmmiller1@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/>

K-State Agricultural Economics presents

Finances and the Farm: An online class to enhance your farm management skills

An applied approach to developing and using farm financial statements
for management decision-making for farmers and ranchers of all types

**This is a self-paced course you can take when
it is convenient for you!**

This course can be taken for education only or to fulfill FSA borrower's requirements.

**Seven Lessons: Recordkeeping, Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Enterprise
Budgets, Cash Flow, Goal Setting and Managing Family Living Expenses**

Participants will:

- Understand the structure of a balance sheet, income statement, enterprise budgets, and cash flow
- Choose either Cattle & Crops or CSA & Farmers Market case farm to complete quizzes to check understanding and practice using these financial statements in a real-world setting
- Be prepared to use financial management techniques for their own operation
- Set goals for their operation

- Learn how to make changes to avoid financial difficulties

Registration Fee:

- \$300 for FSA credit class
- \$100 for education only



**Approved for FSA Borrower's Training
Credits in Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas,
Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota,
Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wyoming**

Taught by Robin Reid, K-State Extension Farm Economist, and LaVell Winsor, K-State Farm Analyst

**Register online for FSA Credit or Education Only:
www.AgManager.info/Events**

KANSAS STATE
Agricultural Economics

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Funding for this project was provided in 2017 by the North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture under Award Number 2017-29027-34604.
Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs available to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, visual, or hearing disability, contact Robin Reid, (785) 532-0964 or Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, (785) 532-4802. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Act of May 8 and June 30, 1914, as amended. Kansas State University, County Extension Council, Extension Districts, and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating. L. Ernie Masten, Director.

K-State Agricultural Economics Presents:

Risk Management on the Farm

Online, on-demand course to take when it is convenient for you.

Taught by Robin Reid, Extension Farm Economist, and LaVell Winsor, K-State Farm Analyst

**Five Lessons: Determining Cost of Production, Crop
Insurance, Crop Marketing, Farm Programs (ARC/PLC), and
Beef Cow/Calf Risk Management**

Register online by using the link below:

www.AgManager.info/Events

Course Description:

- Learn principles of determining cost of production, developing a marketing plan, evaluating crop insurance options, and participating in farm programs (ARC/PLC)
- Participants will work with a case farm to apply these topics to a real-world farming operation through hands-on activities.
- The goal of this class is to acquire risk management skills that can be applied directly to a farming operation.
- The bulk of the course focuses on risk management for row-crop farming operations but also includes principles for beef cow/calf operations.

Special Topics:

- Managing stress and being resilient in tough times
- Communicating effectively with family members

Registration Fees:

- \$100 education only

Other information:

- Have 6 months from registration to complete
- This course is a replica of the 5-part Risk Management Series delivered by KSRE in 28 locations across the state from January-February 2022 in which 340 producers participated in-person

KANSAS STATE
Agricultural Economics

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Find Your Balance

WITH BONNIE BREWER
FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT
K-STATE RESEARCH & EXTENSION



FAMILY LIFE - MENTAL WELLNESS - NUTRITION - RELATIONSHIPS - SELF-CARE

bjbrewer@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/fcs/>



Get into Nature



Spring is nearly here, and the call to the wild is strong in my heart! My inner child longs to play in mud puddles, explore the flowers, and go on long walks. Trees are growing, plants are no longer dormant, there are insects everywhere, and other parts of the natural environment are starting to emerge! Did you know that being outside is not only great for physical activity, but also very valuable for our minds? Outdoor time is especially crucial for the development of a child's mind. Here are some reasons why:

- It promotes physical health – improving motor skills, lowering obesity rates and myopia risk
- Allows for vitamin D absorption (as well as absorption of other vitamins and minerals for better health and immunity)
- Promotes curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking
- Promotes better sleep
- Gives an opportunity to learn self-determination and self-efficacy, in turn building self-esteem
- Anchors children to the real world
- Promotes mental health

Going outside is its own reward. So put the screen down, tie on some sneakers, and get into nature!

Find Your Balance



AN 8-WEEK HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHALLENGE!

March 30 - May 24, 2025

Gather your team of six or go solo this year.

Register online at WalkKansas.org or by contacting your local K-State Research and Extension office.

Registration open March 3!

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Walk Kansas

Butler County
Bonnie Brewer, Family & Consumer Science
Extension Agent
206 North Griffith, Suite A
El Dorado, KS 67042
316-321-9660

Kansas State University Agriculture Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Garden Gossip

Calla Edwards

Horticulture Agent

callae@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/horticulture/>



Pesticide Safety



Spring is a time when homeowners start waging a war on insects and weeds around their homes, usually using chemical products. Whether you are using organic or synthetic chemicals, using them correctly is vital to your health and how well the product works. Pesticides can be an important tool in your gardening toolbox, but only if they are used properly. Here are some tips to use pesticides safely around your home this year.

- Correctly identify what you want to control: Before applying any chemical, the first step is to figure out what you are trying to control in the first place, whether it's a weed, an insect, or a disease. If you apply the wrong product, your issue could get worse. Contact me if you can't figure out what is happening, and I will help you. In some cases, pesticides might not be needed at all.
- Choose the right pesticide: Once you know what you are trying to control, then you can figure out what product to use. There are thousands of products on the market, so your first step when shopping for a product is to read the label to see if the pest, disease, or issue you need to control is listed. Some other factors to consider when picking a chemical include environmental safety, ease of use, cost, and application equipment needed. Choose the pesticide with the lowest environmental impact or danger rating possible if possible.
- Read the Label!!!! The label will give you all the information needed to safely apply that chemical, including the clothes to wear, the rate to apply, the weather to apply in, how long till it is rain fast, and how to clean up after the chemical is applied. Be sure to **read the label** before mixing or applying any chemical.



Garden Gossip

Pesticide Safety Cont.



- Clothing counts: Most of the time, exposure to chemicals can be prevented by wearing the proper clothing, including closed-toed rubber shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and the correct gloves. It's important to wear the right clothing. After you finish your application, wash your clothes using powder laundry detergent on the washing machine's hottest and deepest water setting. Be sure to wash those clothes separately from all other clothing to prevent chemicals from getting on your family's clothes. To clean the washer, run it one cycle after you wash the spray clothes.
- Don't forget the Shoes: Be sure to remove any shoes you used spraying outside the house and triple rinse them off to make sure the chemical has been removed. If possible, leave them in a garage and use them only outside.
- Always use the original container: No matter what chemical you use, keep it in the original container. If a neighbor asks to borrow some chemical, always send the main bottle; never give them some in a pop or other bottle. There have been too many cases where someone accidentally drinks chemicals because they weren't stored properly. If you must transfer it to another container, clearly label that product and include the label when possible.
- Storage and Disposal: Make sure to store all chemicals away from children, preferably in a locked cabinet. Chemicals also should not be allowed to freeze in the winter as this impacts their effectiveness. If you have extra chemicals that you won't use, be sure to dispose of them properly at a hazardous waste collection site. Never dump chemicals down the drain or pour them out onto the ground. Once a bottle is empty, be sure to triple-rinse it before disposing of it.



Pesticide safety is an important aspect of working in a lawn or garden. Even organic chemicals can be harmful if you are exposed to them. Chemicals themselves are not bad; they are simply tools in a gardener's toolbox when used correctly. The issues happen when you don't read the label and don't follow the instructions. Remember to be safe, read the label, and have a wonderful gardening season.

Garden Gossip

Chiggers in Kansas

Warmer days may lead many to itch for spring and summer, but a Kansas State University entomologist cautions against a small mite that is likely to give you a less-pleasing seasonal itch. Chiggers are active beginning in April, says K-State's Raymond Cloyd, and are usually found in areas with unmanaged vegetation, as well as parks, golf courses, sports fields, and other grassy areas. The larvae attach themselves to humans, pets and other animals. "Chiggers do not suck blood," Cloyd said. "Rather, chiggers burrow and feed on dissolved skin. The larvae inject saliva that causes the skin tissue to dissolve, and that is what the chigger larvae feed on."



According to Cloyd, the larvae are difficult to see with the human eye. Humans often notice the presence of chiggers by a reddish-rash and itchy skin. Cloyd cautions humans to resist the urge to scratch. "You want to avoid scratching too often because you can promote a bacterial infection by opening wounds," he said. "I've been bitten by chiggers many times, and I know it's very tempting to scratch, but you don't want to create a bigger problem."

Cloyd said some topical ointments may help with the itch, and a dermatologist may be able to provide recommendations. Once attached, larvae feed for "a few days," according to Cloyd, and then they fall off the host. The larvae become nymphs and then adults that reside in the soil. The nymphs and adults do not feed on humans or

other animals. Instead, they feed on insects, mites, and their eggs in the soil.

According to Cloyd, the best advice is to avoid getting bit in the first place. "If you're going to go into an area where chiggers are likely to be, use DEET or other repellants, and then when you come back inside, immediately take a shower to help reduce the itchiness caused by chiggers," he said.

Chiggers are usually active from Spring (late April) until Fall or until the first frost. The species of chiggers found in Kansas do not transmit disease, Cloyd said. Cloyd has written a publication titled *Chiggers in Kansas*, with additional tips for protecting yourself from chiggers, including:

- Avoid walking into areas with tall grass and weeds.
- Do not sit, lie down or walk barefoot in areas that may harbor chiggers.
- Insert pant legs underneath socks.
- Mow turfgrass regularly and remove extensive vegetation, such as brush, shrubs, grass, and weeds).
- Wash clothes using a hot water wash and rinse to kill chiggers that may be attached to clothing.
- Consult a physician about products that can be used to relieve discomfort and itching.

Garden Gossip

Calla Edwards

Horticulture Agent

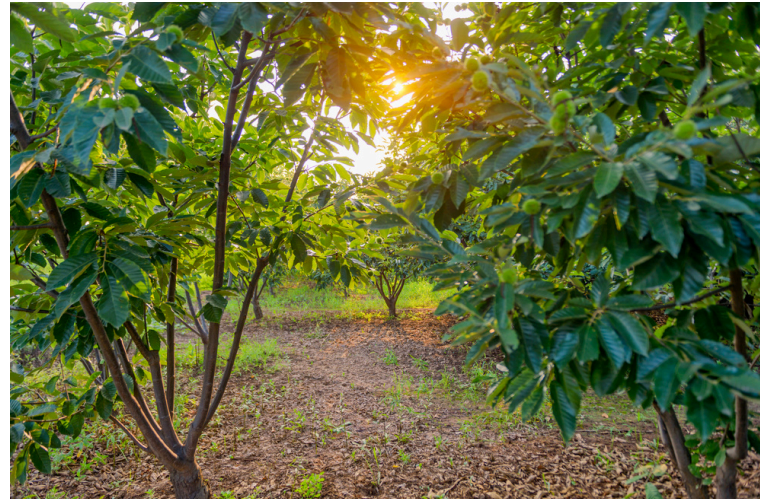
callae@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/horticulture/>

April Gardening Calendar

Vegetables and Fruits

- Start fruit tree spray schedule when growth begins
- Plant carrots, onions, beets, and other salad crops in early April
- Thin radishes, beets, and carrots as needed
- Harvest asparagus until spear size decreases.
- Prune fruit trees. Plant new fruit trees.
- Plant asparagus and rhubarb
- Remove mulch from strawberry bed
- Prune raspberry and blackberry plantings
- Do not spray insecticides while fruits flower in order to protect the honeybees
- Plant beans, corn, and vine crops in late April
- Cultivate to control seedling weed growth
- Turn the compost pile after a long winter rest
- Transplant broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage in the garden
- Fertilize the vegetable garden before planting and incorporate



Flowers

- Remove winter mulch from perennial garden
- Cut back last year's growth from perennials
- Remove seed heads from spring bulbs
- Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs
- Fertilize spring flowering bulbs
- Add organic matter such as compost before planting new flowers
- Divide perennials
- Plant new roses, prune rose bushes and fertilize for spring growth
- Plant annuals from seed and transplants



Garden Gossip

April Gardening Calendar Cont.

Lawns

- Apply crabgrass control by mid-month
- Mow lawn as needed, bluegrass 2", tall fescue 3"
- Fertilize cool-season lawns with slow-release nitrogen fertilizer
- Do not fertilize zoysia this early in spring. Nutrients go to weeds, not dormant grass
- Spot treat broadleaf weeds such as dandelions, henbit, and chickweed
- Check the mower and make needed repairs before the season begins
- Sharpen mower blade
- No need to catch grass clippings if mowing frequently
- Do not water unless extremely dry; early irrigation sets turf up as high water user in summer



Trees and Shrubs

- Prune spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia and lilac after flowering
- Prune trees as needed and repair winter storm damage. Never top a tree
- Plant new trees and shrubs
- Remove grass from the base of young trees and shrubs to prevent lawn mower and line trimmer damage
- Apply mulch layer around plants
- Keep new trees and shrubs watered
- Fertilize young trees to promote growth



House Plants

- Remove winter dust from leaves by gently rinsing with room-temperature water
- Repot as needed, increase the pot size by 1"
- Leach excess fertilizers from the soil with water
- Begin summer fertilization of plants
- Do not move plants outside until night temperatures remain over 60 degrees
- Propagate house plants by cuttings or divisions
- Fertilize amaryllis and keep in bright light to encourage new leaves



Garden Gossip

ANNUAL BUTLER COUNTY
Lawn & Garden Show

**GROW & BLOOM
IN BUTLER**



Master Gardeners of Butler Co., KS

FREE
Admission

- Children's Activities
- Concessions
- Exhibits & Vendors
- Plants for sale!
- Professional Presentations
- Seed Swap
- Soil test service available!
- & More!

**DOOR
PRIZES!**

Saturday, April 5th, 2025
Sunday, April 6th, 2025

Butler County Community/4-H Building
206 N. Griffith, El Dorado

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact Calla Edwards two weeks prior to the start of the event March 13th, 2025 at 316-321-9660 or callae@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Butler County

4-H

Madeline Wallace

4-H Youth and Development Agent

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<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/>

A Minute with Madeline

Celebrating Our 4-H Volunteers During National Volunteer Week

April is the perfect time to recognize the incredible contributions of our 4-H volunteers during National Volunteer Week, which takes place from April 20th to 26th this year. Volunteers play a vital role in the success of our 4-H program, and National Volunteer Week provides an opportunity to celebrate their dedication, time, and impact on the lives of young people in our county.



Why Volunteers Matter to 4-H

4-H volunteers are the backbone of our program. From leading projects and clubs to organizing events and mentoring youth, volunteers help shape the experiences that our members cherish. Their support fosters an environment where youth can learn new skills, develop leadership qualities, and become engaged citizens in their communities.

How to Celebrate Our Volunteers

- 1. Nominate a Volunteer for Recognition** Take a moment to nominate a volunteer who has gone above and beyond in their service to 4-H using the form at the end of this article. Whether they've helped with fundraising, taught a skill-building workshop, or guided members in their personal growth, this is a great time to highlight their contributions.
- 2. Thank You Notes and Cards** Encourage 4-H members to write thank you notes to their volunteers, sharing how their guidance and support have made a difference. A handwritten card can go a long way in showing appreciation!

4-H

Celebrating Our 4-H Volunteers During National Volunteer Week Cont.

3. **Host a Volunteer Appreciation Event** Plan a small event or reception to honor volunteers in your community. Whether it's a casual gathering or a more formal affair, an appreciation event provides a great opportunity to publicly thank volunteers for their hard work and commitment.
4. **Share Volunteer Stories** Share stories of volunteers and the positive impacts they've made. Spotlighting their work not only recognizes their efforts but also inspires others to get involved.



Join Us in Saying 'Thank You'

This National Volunteer Week, let's come together to show our gratitude for the remarkable volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to making 4-H a positive and enriching experience for the youth of Butler County! From all of us at the office, we extend our heartfelt thanks to every volunteer who makes a difference, no matter how big or small.

Get Involved

If you are inspired by the impact of our volunteers and would like to contribute to 4-H in a meaningful way, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. Contact the K-State Research and Extension – Butler County office today to learn more about volunteer opportunities and how you can make a lasting impact on the next generation of leaders!

Nominate a Volunteer: <https://forms.gle/Wat7nv9YsFURhjfs7>

4-H

INSECT ART CONTEST 2025



By the Light of the Moon: Insects at Night

The K-State Research and Extension Pesticide Safety and IPM Program is hosting its annual insect-themed art contest, open to all ages and skill levels in Kansas. This year, the theme is *"By the Light of the Moon: Insects at Night."* The goal is to explore which insects are active or inactive at night and why, then create artwork that fits the contest theme.

AGE GROUPS

- Kindergarten - 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade - 5th Grade
- 6th Grade - 8th Grade
- High School
- Adults

CATEGORIES

- Traditional Illustration (drawing or painting)
- Digital Artwork
- 3-D Creation (painting on canvas, collage, sculpture, or other media)

AWARDS

Certificates and prizes will be awarded for each art category in each age group for 1st through 3rd place.

HOW TO ENTER



Submit your entry by April 15, 2025. See full rules and details by visiting <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/pesticides-ipm> or by scanning the QR code.

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Integrated Pest Management
and Pesticide Safety Education

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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4-H

BUTLER COUNTY BLACK GOLD SPRING SHOW

May 11th, 2025

Butler County Fairgrounds located at 200 N Griffith Street.
El Dorado, KS, 67042

Follow us on Facebook
@BlackGoldShow

Entry Details

- ❖ **ONLINE ENTRY ONLY – even day of the show! Pre-Entry NOT required but you will have to enter and pay on-line at the show.**
- ❖ Everyone must check-in at the registration table upon arrival to receive cards and finalize weights.
- ❖ Enter online starting March 1 @ <https://showman.app/shows#/black-gold-spring-show>
- ❖ Entry Fees: \$25 per head (No late Entry Fee)
- ❖ Showmanship: \$5/species – pay at the gate!!
 - Grand wins 60%
 - Res. Grand wins 40%
 - **NEW** - Banners for Champion and Reserve
- ❖ \$50 deposit for pen use. Deposit will be returned upon inspection at conclusion of show.
 - No pens allowed to be used without deposit.
- ❖ Butler County Youth - \$15/hd/species
 - Only 1 Butler County Class/species
- ❖ \$200 cash prize for Grand Champion Market and \$100 cash prize for Reserve Grand Champion Market.
- ❖ \$100 cash prize for Champion Breeding Doe and Ewe. \$50 cash prize for Reserve Grand Breeding Goat and Ewe
- ❖ Cash prizes for each class
- ❖ Banners for Grand and Reserve Grand Market and Breeding Animals.
- ❖ **NEW** – gift certificates to Supply Trailer for all (Dependent on Supply Trailer availability)

Check-In Information

- ❖ Trailers may arrive beginning at Noon Saturday
- ❖ Registration opens at 6:00 a.m. Sunday
- ❖ Swine checked-in by 8:00 a.m. (Show at 9:00 a.m.)
- ❖ Sheep & Goats checked-in by 10:30 a.m. (Sheep show 11 am or 30 min after swine show. Goat show 15 min after completion of sheep show)

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Butler County Black Gold Committee, Butler County 4-H, Butler County Extension Council, and the Butler County Fair Board are not responsible for any accidents.
2. Open to all current 4-H/FFA members 18 years and younger as of January 1, 2025. Out of State exhibitors are welcome!
3. All males must be castrated.
4. All animals must be owned and shown by the exhibitor & free of clinical signs of infestations or contagious diseases, infections and sickness.
5. Only one animal per exhibitor in Butler County classes.
6. **NO** bedding allowed in the barns.
7. Show from your trailer. A \$50 deposit/pen will be required the day of the show if you wish to stall in the barn. The deposit will be returned upon inspection of the designated pen being cleaned.
8. Watch Facebook for updates.
9. Declare your own weight by respective registration close times.
10. The show committee reserves the right to resolve all questions not covered in the rules, request to see registration papers, a weigh back, etc. and their decision is final.
11. Full fit for show for anyone who wants to fit!

PROSPECT SWINE

1. Prospect market animals may be either sex. Barrows and Gilts will show together.
2. Prospect market animals will show by breed but must have a minimum of 5 to make a breed class or will show as AOB.

PROSPECT SHEEP & MEAT GOATS

1. **NEW** - Does and ewes must be less than 2 years of age.
2. Prospect market animals may be either sex. Must have milk teeth.
3. Exhibitors may brace animals, but all four feet must be on the ground. Show director has the right to disqualify any violators.
4. All market and breeding animals will be shown by weight. There will be no breed classes
5. Market may not be shown in breeding and vice versa

Sponsored by:



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