

NEWSLETTER



From the Director's Desk

The time to start is now!

Zig Ziglar once quipped: "You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great." Happy May everyone! May brings us May Day and Memorial Day, and a great reminder of the value of doing. Life has been filled with a roller coaster ride for nearly everyone that I have visited with recently. I cherish the month of May and all that it brings with it! Flowers blooming, sun shining, crops and garden growing, the smell of fresh cut grass, warmer days, perfect fishing weather and the list goes on. For all the joy that comes with each of these items, they, too, have to start!

We all have reasons why we can't do something. I firmly believe in the brain's power and the willpower of making yourself do something. In 31 short days, we will be halfway through the year. CRAZY! Whether you have goals of keeping better records, exercising, keeping your house cleaner, preparing meals, or working with your 4-H projects, you must start. Time, school, family, etc., can bog us down. You don't have to do big things all at once, but you have to start somewhere. Baby steps lead to big steps. Set your alarm 5 minutes earlier, take a 10-minute break, pencil out time for yourself. Trust me, I know how tough it can be!

As we roll into May, I challenge you to take that first step, no matter how small, and work towards your goals and dreams! Tomorrow will not always be there. Embrace the beauty of the days and find your how to get started. The rewards are worth every small step forward! Wishing you a wonderful May!

~ Charlene

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Upcoming Events

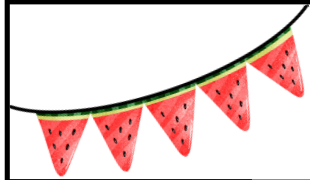
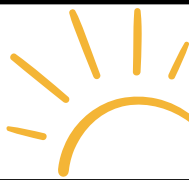
 May 						
				① Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m.	②	③
④	⑤  Walk Andover - Andover Library 1 p.m.	⑥ Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	⑦ Garden Hour 12 p.m.	⑧ Walk with Ease - Douglass Sr. Center 9 a.m. Plant Swap - Andover Library 5:30 p.m.	⑨	⑩
⑪  BlackGold Spring Livestock Show	⑫ Walk 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 4-H Mini Fair 6-8 p.m.	㉚	㉛

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.

 June 						
① Butler County Fair Pre-Entries Open	②	③ Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	④ Garden Hour 12 p.m.	⑤	⑥	⑦
⑧	⑨ Cool Art with Math & Science - Whitewater Library 2-3 p.m.	⑩ Summer Robotics/STEM - Leon Library 11 a.m.-12p.m. Reading Makes Cents - Bradford Library 2 p.m. 4-H Council	⑪	⑫	⑬	⑭
⑮	⑯ Cool Art with Math & Science - Whitewater Library 2-3 p.m.	⑰ Summer Robotics/STEM - Leon Library 11 a.m.-12p.m. Ambassador Day Camp 1-5 p.m. Reading Makes Cents - Bradford Library 2 p.m.	⑱ Parts of a Plant - Douglass Library 10:30 a.m.	⑲	⑳	㉑
㉒	㉓ Cool Art with Math & Science - Whitewater Library 2-3 p.m. Butler County Fair Pre-Entries Close	㉔ Summer Robotics/STEM - Leon Library 11 a.m.-12p.m.	㉕ Douglass Library 10:30 a.m.	㉖ Choose Health, Food, Fun, & Fitness - Augusta Library 10 a.m.	㉗ Butler County Children's Mental Health Day 3-6 p.m.	㉘
㉙	㉚ Cool Art with Math & Science - Whitewater Library 2-3 p.m.					



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



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

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.

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Research and Extension

Butler County

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

south central mental health
HELPING TO SHAPE PROMISING FUTURES

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

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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



Upcoming Events

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Cool Art with Math & Science

JUNE 9 JUNE 23 JULY 7
JUNE 16 JUNE 30

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

**Whitewater Memorial
Library**
Origami, Tessellations, String Art,
Optical Illusions, and Structures

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JOIN US FOR

CHOOSE HEALTH: FOOD, FUN, & FITNESS



July 1 - Replace Sugary Drinks
July 8 - Color Your Plate
July 29 - Power Up Your Day



TUESDAYS, JULY 1ST, 8TH, & 29TH, 2025
11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
AGES 8-18 YEARS OLD

LEON PUBLIC LIBRARY
703 N. WEST ST.
LEON, KS 67074

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SUMMER ROBOTICS/STEM PROGRAM

June 10 - Create PhysBots
June 17 - Build a Mars Rover and take it
through an obstacle course
June 24 - Junk Drawer Robots

Tuesdays, June 10, 17, & 24, 2025
11:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Ages 8-18 years old

Leon Public Library
703 N. West St.
Leon, KS 67074

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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



\$10.00 Each

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Butler County

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Ag Talk

Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

cmmiller1@ksu.edu

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

Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis, or Redbud, is native to the eastern third of Kansas.

Mature Size

It is a small flat-topped tree reaching a height of 10 to 20 feet with a crown of 15 to 20 feet. Redbud can grow about 12 to 18 inches per year.

Growth Rate

Moderate

Leaves, Stems and Fruit

Redbud is easily recognized in the spring by its profusion of bright pink flowers. The dark green, heart-shaped leaves are simple and borne alternately on the stem. They range from 2 1/2 to 5 inches in length and width and have smooth edges. The bark on young trees is reddish but turns darker with age and forms loose thin scales. Both male and female flowers are borne on the same tree. The fruit is a 2 1/4 inch long bean-like pod.

Uses

- *Windbreaks* -Redbud may be used as exterior rows in a multi-row windbreak especially on the leeward side.
- It adds spring color as well as low level wind protection.

Adaptation and Soil

Eastern two-thirds of Kansas. It is a member of the legume family and is often found growing along streams on rich soil or on rocky hillsides bordering streams. It can tolerate a moderate amount of shade. Redbud has the ability to grow in a wide variety of soil conditions, but like most plants, will grow best on good fertile soils.



Eastern Redbud Cont.

Spacing

In row spacing in windbreak plantings varies from 8 to 12 feet and between row spacing is 12 to 18 feet.

Culture

One year old, bare-root seedlings, 12 to 18 inches tall are used in plantings. Good initial survival and growth can be expected with proper weed control.

Pests

A variety of leaf feeding insects may attack redbud but generally do not cause major problems. Borers may attack older trees. Diseases normally are not a problem. Redbud is quick to show cupping or distortion of leaves when exposed to even low levels of phenoxy herbicides, but they don't usually suffer serious damage to such exposure.

Soil Information

Average Height in 20 Yrs:

- Eastern 14-18 ft.
- Central 10-14 ft.
- Western 7-10 ft.

Growth Rate:	Medium
Native Species:	Native to Kansas
Windbreak Value:	Medium
Wildlife Value:	Medium
Lumber Products:	No
Fuelwood Products:	No
Drought Tolerance:	Medium
Texture:	1,2
Soil Saturation:	No Tolerance
Salinity Tolerance:	No Tolerance
pH Range:	4.5-7.5



Ag Talk

Weather Forecast Vital to Farming

K-STATE
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Butler County

**KNOW YOUR WEATHER
SPECIFIC TO YOUR LOCATION!**

Learn how to navigate the FREE National Service Office, Wichita (NWS, ICT) website and get specific information as opposed to the nearest site that may be several miles away. Whether you are conducting a prescribed burn, going hunting, or simply enjoying Mother Nature, plan to join us!

**FREE ZOOM
6:30 P.M.**

**WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 16, 2025**

**REGISTER HERE:
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/SIUSY
C8QPS3BHTV17](https://forms.gle/sIUSYc8QPS3BHTV17)**

**QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION TO
FOLLOW PRESENTATION**

FARMERS/RANCHERS **EMERGENCY SERVICES**
WILDLIFE/HUNTERS **WEATHER ENTHUSIASTS**

**FOR MOR INFORMATION CONTACT
CHARLENE MILLER
316-321-9660 OR CMMILLER1@KSU.EDU**

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Mother Nature hasn't slowed down on what trick she pulls out of her sleeve next. Nonetheless, farming and ranching must go on. Several websites and apps are available, free and paid, for producers to help navigate the ever-changing weather. One of the free weather sites I browse is the National Weather Service Office, Wichita. Recently, I held an online training session with meteorologist Chris Jakub, who taught attendees how to navigate the NWS, Wichita website. I encourage you to watch the recording at: https://youtu.be/W3gHY1L_sZQ?si=K9Hh8RSDcvV4n863 or find us on YouTube at Butler County Extension.

World of Weeds - Waterpod

A photo was recently submitted of an “unfamiliar” weed that was found while scouting a field. The weed was identified as waterpod (*Ellisia nyctelea*). Waterpod is a member of the same botanical family a corn gromwell and is also called Aunt Lucy.

Ecology

Waterpod is an annual weed that is native to North America. It can be found throughout Kansas across a range of soils, often in the shaded, moist soils of open forests. It is also found in shady lawns that are poorly maintained.

Identification

Waterpod emerges in early spring with oblong cotyledons. The first leaves are opposite, but leaves become alternately arranged along the stem. They are oblong, about 1 to 3 inches long, with deep lobes that create 5 to 13 segments (Figure 1). Both leaf surfaces are covered in bristly hairs. Stems reach approximately 4 to 20 inches long and are bristly and angled, with many branches. Waterpod has a weak taproot.



Waterpod growing in wheat stubble. Note the many branches and deeply lobed leaves. Photo by Sarah Lancaster, K-State Research and Extension.



Waterpod flower with purple spots on petals. Photo by Sarah Lancaster, K-State Research and Extension.

Single bell-shaped flowers, approximately 3/8 inch long, are produced opposite leaves or at the branches along the stem. Flowers have 5 white to lavender petals with dark purple spots and purple veins. Beneath each flower is a leaf-like calyx with 5 pointed lobes covered in bristly hairs. Four dark brown, spherical seeds approximately 1/10 inch long are contained in round capsules that are about 1/4 inch long and covered in bristly hairs.

Management

Waterpod is generally not competitive with crops. Prior to summer crops, it is controlled by field preparation such as tillage or burndown applications that include herbicides like glyphosate and 2,4-D.

The use of trade names is for clarity to readers and does not imply endorsement of a particular product, nor does exclusion imply non-approval. Always consult the herbicide label for the most current use requirements.

Sarah Lancaster, Extension Weed Management Specialist, Manhattan
slancaster@ksu.edu

Jeanne Falk Jones, Multi-County Agronomist
jfalkjones@ksu.edu



Waterpod capsule and calyx. Photo by Sarah Lancaster, K-State Research and Extension.

Managing Native Grass

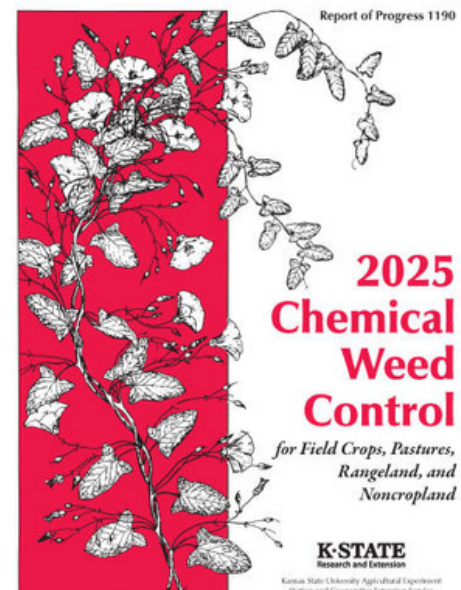
This time of year I am fielding several calls on Native Grass. From re-establishment and over-seeding to weed identification and native grass seed mixtures, a wide array of information is being sought. A great wealth of information can be found in these documents:



1) Managing and Establishing Native Grasses –
https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/item/establishing-and-managing-native-prairie-plants-in-small-areas_MF3233

2) Establishing Native Grass -
https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/establishing-native-grasses_MF2291.pdf

Weed control information can be found in the 2025 Chemical Weed Control Guidebook. You can pick up a free copy in our office or find the document online at
https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/2025-chemical-weed-control-for-field-crops-pastures-rangeland-and-noncropland_CHEMWEEDGUIDE.pdf



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

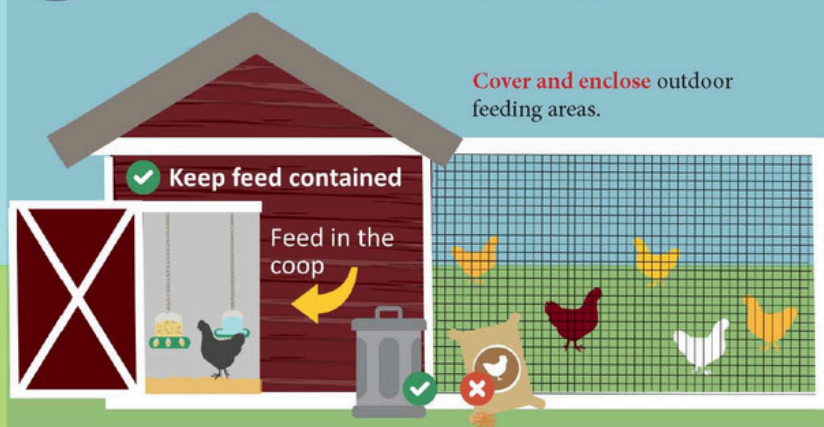
Biosecurity is your best option to prevent HPAI from entering your small or backyard poultry flock.

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 accessible 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 Councils, 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/>

Power Out?

Here's How to Keep Foods Safe

Electricity outages are a real concern as storm systems move through Kansas this season. Keeping food safe during a power outage begins well before storms hit. Remember the following tips:

- Keep an appliance thermometer in the refrigerator and freezer. According to guidelines from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the temperature inside the refrigerator should be 40 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, and the freezer at 0 F or below. Having a thermometer in place before the power goes out helps to assure the appliance temperature does not stray outside the recommended range.
- Stock up on canned and non-perishable goods. Dried foods, such as fruit, jerky and crackers, are great for snacks. Keep foods that family members enjoy, but also healthful foods to provide nutrient-dense nourishment. Other options include high energy foods such as nut butter, snack bars or trail mix, ready-to-eat canned foods such as fruit, vegetables or meat, and food for infants, elderly persons or those with special diets.
- When power is first lost, leave the door of the refrigerator and freezer closed to preserve cold temperatures as long as possible.



Find Your Balance

Power Out?

Here's How to Keep Foods Safe Cont.

- If the power stays out for a longer period of time and the refrigerator is not staying cold, put food in a cooler full of ice. For food in the freezer, dry ice can be used if available – but thick gloves should always be worn when handling dry ice to prevent skin damage. Dry ice should then be kept in a ventilated area.



- If the power outage is lengthy, you may not be able to avoid spoiled food. Some signs that may indicate foodborne bacteria include: color changes, unusual odors, and exture changes. The most susceptible foods are meat, dairy, eggs and cut fruits and vegetables. Extra care should be taken when examining these food items.
- DO NOT taste any questionable food that has thawed out! When in doubt, throw it out. Also, don't feed pets or other animals spoiled food
- If a power outage lasts more than four hours at temperatures greater than 40 F, refrigerated or frozen food kept without another cold source should be thrown out.

For other questions and to help determine what foods can be saved or what should be tossed, see Food Safety During Power Outage from [FoodSafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov), or call our office.

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/>

Side Dressing Vegetables and Flowers

Nitrogen is an important plant nutrient in the metabolism of vegetable crops and annual flowers. Most annuals and vegetables are fast-growing plants with lush vegetation and high nitrogen needs. Home gardens can be a hodgepodge of soil fertility depending on previous fertilization, the type of the soil, and what was grown there in the past. A few gardeners will over-fertilize their gardens, a few get it about right, and most actually under-fertilize their gardens. They may put a good general fertilizer down at planting time and



never fertilize the garden again which can compromise the growth and productivity of their plants. Coupled with the fast growth of the plants with the extreme mobility of nitrogen, it is necessary to split applications of the nutrients on most vegetable crops. This is known as side-dressing because we apply a nitrogen fertilizer alongside the row. In the absence of a recent soil test, we generally recommend a fertilizer application 3 to 4 four weeks into the growing season. That is 3 to 4 weeks after seeded crops emerge for transplants or that can also be 3 to 4 weeks after transplanting. This is a general rule of thumb however, there are some vegetables that we need to be careful about when we apply the next round of nitrogen. Below are more specific recommendations.

Garden Gossip

Side Dressing Vegetables and Flowers Cont.



- Bell peppers and eggplants – at first fruit set.
- Tomatoes (two side dressings) – at first fruit set and every three to four weeks after.
- Cucumbers, cantaloupes, watermelons, and squash – when vines begin to run then every three to four weeks after.
- Okra– at first fruit set and every four to six weeks after.
- Sweet corn – when corn is 1 foot tall and again when it is 3 feet tall.

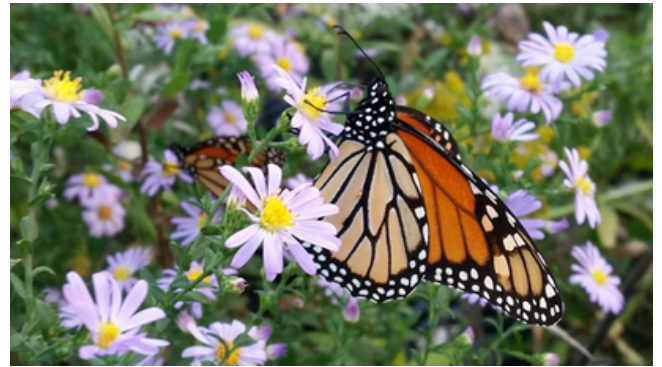
Peas, green beans, and butter beans should not be side-dressed since these plants can produce their own nitrogen – they belong to the legume family. Additional nitrogen will stimulate the vegetative stage of the plant and reduce yields. Annual flowers should be fertilized approximately once a month to encourage blooming and growth throughout the season. Some good nitrogen-only fertilizers to use for side dressing include ammonium sulfate, nitrate of soda, blood meal, and calcium nitrate. The last one, calcium nitrate is my preference for tomato fertilization



Gardening for Pollinators

The flash of a colorful butterfly and the buzz of a bumble bee traveling between flowers bring extra beauty and enjoyment to our gardens. Pollinators serve an important role in our ecosystem, but they also bring beauty to our lives, and a pollinator garden can easily become a focal point of any landscape. Planning your garden or landscape to include plants that attract and sustain butterflies, bees, and other beneficial insects can increase the populations of these desired insects and increase the diversity you can observe and enjoy. Let's walk through planning a pollinator garden that can attract a variety of beneficial insects to your yard this year.

Location, location, location. One of the first steps to planning your pollinator garden is to pick the location. The best location is one that receives as much light as possible. Butterflies and other pollinators are cold-blooded and need sunshine to warm up their bodies. Butterflies, in fact, cannot fly until their body temperatures are 86 degrees or warmer, so they are most active when the sun shines. Most of the plants that pollinators love also need at least six hours of sunlight to thrive, so location is vital. Try to pick a location that is out of the harsh winds as much as possible. This helps both the plants and the butterflies survive and prevents damage to both.



Pick your plants. When we think of plants for pollinators, we typically think of the flowers the plants provide, but it is important to provide food sources for all stages of a pollinator's life cycle. Simply providing nectar sources for the adults is not enough to attract and keep pollinators in your backyard; you must also provide host plants for larvae. Many plants can pull double duty



and serve both purposes, but not all. If you want specific butterflies to come to your backyard, be sure to pick host plants that those butterflies specifically like. We all know that monarch caterpillars need milkweed, but did you know that black swallowtails are the only ones that feed on dill, while Zebra swallowtail caterpillars only feed on pawpaw trees? As you choose plants, be sure to use a mix of plants so you have blooms throughout the growing season. Herbs are also attractive to many pollinators, and mixing them with other plants can provide a pleasing aesthetic. When you are making your design, place the plants in blocks rather than individually, as the blocks of color are easier for the pollinators to see. There is a big push for using native plants in pollinator gardens, and while that is a great idea, pollinators will also use non-native plants in addition to natives.

Garden Gossip

Gardening for Pollinators Cont.

Provide the extras. While food sources are important for pollinators, they aren't the only items we should incorporate into our pollinator garden. As was mentioned before, insects are cold-blooded and need the sunlight to warm up so they can fly. Be sure to add areas such as stones or bricks that will be in the sun early in the day for the insects to bask on so they can warm up. Don't forget to provide a water source for the insects. Mud puddles are a wonderful and inexpensive option, but you can also use shallow dishes or birdbaths with rocks in them to give the insects a place to perch while they are drinking.



Planning a garden for pollinators doesn't have to be rocket science, but it can provide years of enjoyment for you and your family watching the butterflies, bees, and other pollinators fly around your backyard. There are many resources available to help you plan your garden. Check out some of those resources, or if you live in Butler County, check out the pollinator garden at the Ranger Station at the El Dorado State Park for some ideas of things you can do in your backyard. Be sure to check out the additional resources included with this publication. may be able to provide recommendations.

Garden Gossip

Calla Edwards

Horticulture Agent

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May Gardening Calendar

Vegetables and Fruits

- Plant tomato, pepper, and eggplant transplants in early May
- Seed sweet corn, cucumbers, squash, beans, and other warm-season vegetables
- Mound soil around potato plants to encourage tuber formation
- Harvest fresh asparagus until the spear size decreases
- Remove rhubarb seed stalks to encourage leaf growth
- Plant kitchen herbs for summer use in dishes or food preservation
- Treat fruit trees with needed chemicals to control insects and disease
- Thin heavy fruit set on apples to increase fruit size and next year's crop



Flowers

- Plant annual flowers for summer color
- Continue to plant and divide perennials
- Mulch perennial and annual gardens for weed control and moisture retention
- Begin pinching chrysanthemums for bushier plants
- Do not remove foliage from spring bulbs till it dies naturally, as this develops stronger blooms for next year
- Plant container gardens and hanging baskets



Garden Gossip

May Gardening Calendar Cont.

Lawns

- Reduce thatch layer from zoysia by verticutting or core aerating
- Sod or spring zoysia lawns to fill in bare areas
- Fertilize zoysia lawns with a high nitrogen fertilizer to promote green-up and summer growth
- Apply a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer to tall fescue to promote summer growth if desired. Lower-maintenance lawns should skip this application
- Mow tall fescue at 3 inches tall
- Spot treat broadleaf weeds
- Withhold early summer watering until needed to promote a drought-tolerant lawn
- Sharpen mower blades as needed



Trees and Shrubs

- Plant new trees and shrubs
- Prune spring flowering shrubs after bloom to shape plants and encourage flowers next year
- Mulch around young trees and shrubs to conserve moisture and control weed growth
- Water young ornamentals as needed
- Remove tree wraps for summer growth
- Fertilize trees to help increase growth rates
- Be cautious using line trimmers and mowers around trees and shrubs to avoid damaging the bark aka "mower blight"



House Plants

- Move plants outdoors for summer by gradually increasing their exposure to light
- Fertilize plants to promote summer development
- Rotate plants to develop a well-rounded plant
- Wash dusty leaves in the shower or using a hose
- Repot plants into a one-inch larger pot
- Check for insects



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

Start Your Summer at Rock Springs Ranch

Kick off your summer at Rock Springs Ranch—a fun and meaningful way to spend time outdoors and create friendships that last a lifetime! Set in the heart of the beautiful Flint Hills, Rock Springs Ranch offers a perfect escape for families and youth to connect with nature and each other.

About Rock Springs Ranch

Founded in 1946, Rock Springs Ranch has been home to Kansas 4-H camp experiences for generations. Spanning over 700 acres, the ranch features miles of trails, streams, lodges, cabins, a swimming pool, riding arenas, and more.

It's operated by the Kansas 4-H Foundation and welcomes thousands of campers each year—from first-time Cloverbuds to teens and entire families. The facility has recently undergone upgrades, offering a modern camp experience while maintaining its rustic charm and strong 4-H roots.

Activities Include:

- Archery 🎯
- Swimming 🏊
- Hiking 🌿
- Campfire storytelling 🔥
- Stargazing 🌌



4-H

Start Your Summer at Rock Springs Ranch Cont.

Why Attend Camp?

Beyond just fun, camp offers powerful growth opportunities for youth and families alike:

- **Life Skills Development:** Campers build confidence, independence, and teamwork through hands-on activities and shared experiences.
- **Unplug & Reconnect:** With limited screen time, kids and adults alike can focus on quality time, reflection, and forming real-life connections.
- **Lifelong Friendships:** Camp encourages meeting new people from across the state, expanding horizons and forming strong bonds.
- **Supportive Environment:** Guided by trained 4-H staff and counselors, youth are encouraged to try new things in a safe, encouraging space.
- **Connection to Nature:** Whether it's a morning hike or a night under the stars, campers deepen their appreciation for the outdoors.



Contact & Registration

Website: www.rockspringsranch.org

Phone: (785) 257-3221

Email: info@rockspringsranch.org

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

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

4-H

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Butler
County

Join Us

MINI FAIR

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025
6:00 - 8:00 PM

BUTLER COMMUNITY/4-H BUILDING

**200 N. GRIFFITH
EL DORADO**

Ambassador
Sponsored
Clover Click
(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 for 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 mgwallac@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.