



NEWSLETTER



From the Director's Desk

November, a month to take extra time to give Thanks. While we should take time to reflect and be thankful regularly, November is a great time to pause a little longer and make time to give thanks. The week of October 20th served as our annual Extension and Engagement Conference, which our Extension Agents attend in Manhattan, Kansas. One program highlighted is worth shining a little extra light on and giving thanks for.

Kansas is a GREAT state to live in. From sunsets and sunrises to all the corners of the State and everything else in between, I am truly thankful to live in a great state. Are there challenges? Absolutely! There are challenges no matter where you live. However, there are a lot of really great things happening in our Sunflower state.

A new website has rolled out that highlights each county here in Kansas. This free-interactive website has data-driven maps, reports, and insights through 30,000+ data layers and 120+ state and national resources. This website is truly a one-stop shop. Whether you are looking for information on agriculture, broadband access, business, child care and youth, economy, education, environment, food and food systems, health and health care, housing, population trends and profiles, water, or other topics, you are likely to find it on the All Things Kansas [website](#). This is a great opportunity to find the information you are looking for and more!

With only a couple of months left in the year, I challenge you to find your reasons for thanks and use the month of November to capitalize on them. Elevate the time you set aside to reflect. Whether it is your family, friends, job, coworkers, church, school, or anything in between, make sure and express your gratitude!

I will leave you with this quote from William Arthur Ward - "Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings."

Wishing you all a wonderful and thanks filled November! ~Charlene

Inside this Edition:

- 1 From the Director's Desk
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 6 Available Services
- 7 Congratulations!
- 8 Outreach
 - Christmas Donation Drive
 - All Things Kansas
- 10 Ag Talk
 - Looking Ahead
- 11 Ag Talk
 - HPAI Information
- 12 Ag Talk
 - Be Aware of Slow-Moving Vehicles
- 13 Ag Talk
 - Learning Opportunities
- 15 Find Your Balance
 - The Science of Family Meal Time
- 16 Find Your Balance
 - Home Food Preservation Resources
- 17 Find Your Balance
 - Fried Turkey? Tips For A Safe Feast
- 18 Garden Gossip
 - Why Chemical Applications Fail
 - Fall Vegetable Garden Care
- 19 Garden Gossip
 - Need a Speaker?
- 20 Garden Gossip
 - What To Do With Fall Leaves
- 21 Garden Gossip
 - November Gardening Calendar
- 23 4-H
 - A Season of Gratitude in 4-H
- 24 4-H
 - 4-H Enrollment Now Open!

Upcoming Events

November						
						①
②	③	④ Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	⑤ Garden Hour 12 p.m.	⑥	⑦	⑧ 4-H Achievement Celebration 4-H Officer Training
⑨	⑩	⑪ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ VETERANS DAY CLOSED	⑫ Lunch & Learn - Andover Public Library 12:15 p.m.	⑬ 4-H Volunteer Training 6:00 p.m.	⑭	⑮
⑯	⑰ Lunch & Learn - Lori's EMPORIUM!, Augusta 12:15 p.m.	⑱ Beginning Rancher Series 6:00 p.m.	⑲ Living Well Wednesday 12:10 p.m.	⑳	㉑	㉒
㉓	㉔	㉕	㉖	㉗	㉘ Happy Thanksgiving CLOSED	㉙
㉚					CLOSED	

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.

December						
	①	② Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	③ Garden Hour 12 p.m.	④	⑤	⑥
⑦	⑧	⑨ Beginning Rancher Series 6:00 p.m.	⑩	⑪	⑫ Christmas Donation Drive Drop-Off	⑬
⑭	⑮	⑯	⑰ Living Well Wednesday 12:10 p.m.	⑱	⑲	⑳
㉑	㉒	㉓	㉔	㉕ Merry Christmas CLOSED	㉖	㉗
㉘	㉙	㉚	㉛			

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



Upcoming Events



LUNCH & LEARN

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

November 12th
12:15-12:45 p.m.

Andover Public Library
1511 E Central Ave
Andover, KS

November Topic:
Houseplants-Basics and Beyond

Over 66% of U.S. households have at least one houseplant, but often the terms used to describe their care can be confusing. Decode common houseplant terms related to light, water, and other plant needs. Learn about some unique houseplants and the best practices to keep them thriving.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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#KSTATEGARDENHOUR

K-STATE GARDEN HOUR

Climate Resilient Gardens

Wednesday, November 5th 12:00PM - 1:00PM CST

Gardening in a changing climate can be a challenge. Join Pam Paulsen, Reno County Horticulture Agent, to explore practical methods to grow gardens that are resilient to tough growing conditions. Some of these methods include native and adapted plants, soil improvement, efficient use of water and nutrients, and attracting beneficial insects.



Register Here!

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



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Living Well Wednesday Fall 2025 Series

September 17

One Pill Can Kill: Opioid Crisis in Our Communities

October 15

Scam Smarts: Staying Safe in a Scamming World

November 19

The Buzz on Energy Drinks: Unpacking the Truth

All sessions start at 12:10pm CST.
Sessions will be recorded for later viewing.
Sign up at bit.ly/41E7kqJ

**LIVING WELL
WEDNESDAY**
#KStateResearchandExtensionWebinarSeries

K-STATE
Research and Extension | Family and Consumer
Sciences



LUNCH & LEARN

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

November 17th
12:15-12:45 p.m.

Lori's EMPORIUM!
1604 Custer Lane
Augusta, KS

November Topic:
Companion Planting

Many gardeners have heard that marigolds repel pests in vegetable gardens, or that beans dislike fennel. These sentiments are often attributed to a practice called "companion planting." But does companion planting really work? Join Horticulture agent Calla Edwards for a discussion on the research behind companion planting as we dispel common myths and talk about what benefits companion planting can offer your garden.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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Living Well Wednesday Webinars:

Living Well Wednesday is a virtual learning series hosted by K-State Research and Extension, Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) professionals from across the state of Kansas. 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: bit.ly/41E7kqJ

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/>

November 2025

Page 3

Upcoming Events

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Research and Extension

Sedgwick County

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Cowley County

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Butler County

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Harvey County



BEGINNING RANCHER SERIES

November 18th, 2025

December 9th, 2025

Light Dinner Served at 6:00 p.m.
Program 6:30-8:30 p.m.



November 18th

Guest Speaker: Jason Warner,
K-State Extension Cow-Calf Specialist
Topic: Body Condition Scoring &
Vaccine Storage



December 9th

Guest Speaker: Jaymelynn Farney,
K-State Beef Systems Extension Specialist
Topic: Land Use, Stocking Rate, &
Plant Identification



Butler County Community/4-H Building

200 N. Griffith
El Dorado, KS



Register
Today!

<https://forms.gle/2D18uAjC2iwfGLke8>



This institution 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, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact Charlene Miller four weeks prior to the start of the event at 316-323-9850 or csmiller@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 is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Save the Date

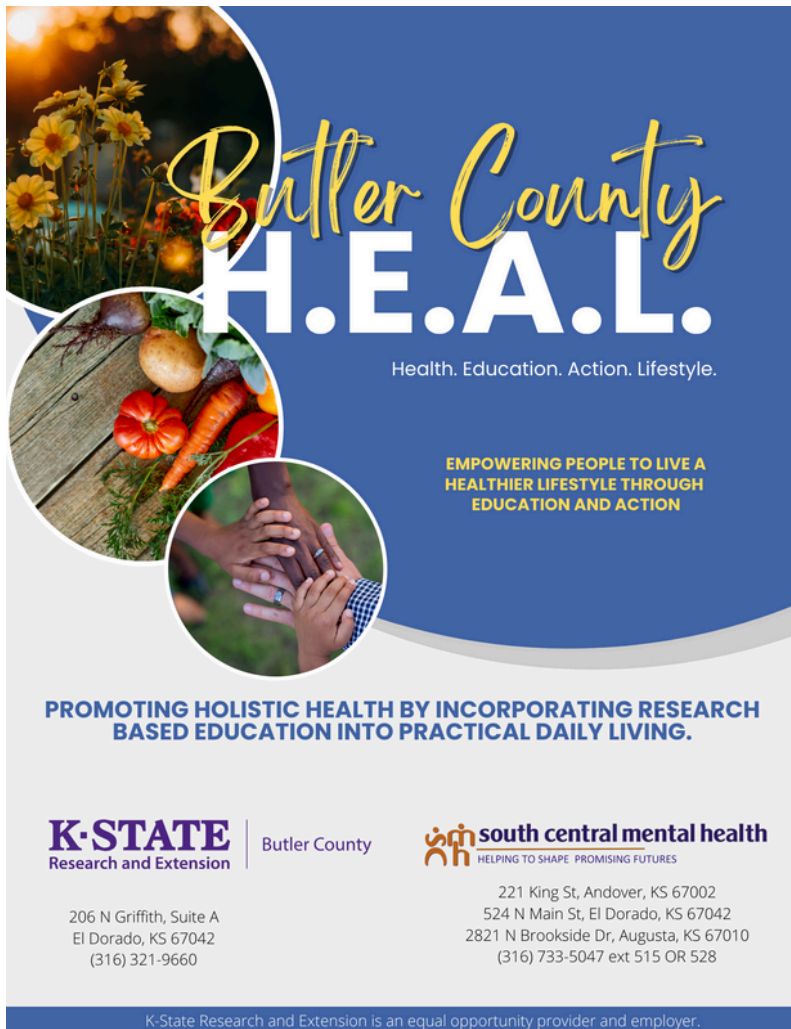
2026 K-STATE JUNIOR PRODUCER DAYS



K-STATE
Research and Extension



Upcoming Events



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

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

scmh 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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for more happily, ever afters...



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

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>

Free Testing for PRESSURE GAUGES

Do you can?
It is recommended you test
your pressure gauge for
accuracy each year.

Drop your lid off at our office
to get yours tested for FREE!



K-STATE
Research and Extension
Butler County

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Horticulture Agent, Calla Edwards, who was awarded for 10 years of Extension service at the Annual Conference last week! You have done so much for Butler County and K-State.

Outreach



2025 CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Winter wear & School Supplies

K-State Extension – Butler County is partnering with a local school district to provide new winter clothing—coats, scarves, hats, and gloves—as well as essential school supplies to support the youth of Butler County.

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED UNTIL

12 DEC . 11:30 AM .

K-STATE EXTENSION - BUTLER COUNTY, 206 N. GRIFFITH, EL DORADO

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Outreach

All Things Kansas

Your guide to understanding all 105 counties of the Sunflower State.

k-state.edu/allthingskansas



Access free interactive tools with
data-driven mapping, reports and insights through
30,000+ data layers and **120+ national and state sources.**

Your one-stop shop for Kansas data about:

- Agriculture
- Broadband access
- Business
- Child care and youth
- Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Food and food systems
- Health and health care
- Housing
- Population trends and profiles
- Water
- Many more topics

How All Things Kansas can help:

- Save time by accessing multiple data sources in one place
- Visualize and map data
- Build geography-based reports
- Identify opportunities across Kansas
- Understand communities and market demands
- Analyze workforce strengths and industry gaps
- Research information to help with grant writing
- Make data-informed decisions

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

LEARN MORE
Scan the QR code or visit
k-state.edu/allthingskansas



Ag Talk

Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

cmmiller1@ksu.edu

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

Looking Ahead

Fall is upon us, and harvest is in full swing. The weather played a factor during the spring planting season and will also affect the length of the harvest. Please be respectful of the farm machinery traveling down the road, slow down and take your time to pass with care.

Recently, I listened in on an ag call where they talked about the weather. The million-dollar question was when we would have our first freeze. Traditionally, our area experiences its first freeze around Halloween. However, in order for that to happen, some weather systems will need to change. Our weather speaker also noted that January and February look to be colder than last year! Brrrr! Moisture remains in question, but cooler does look to be the going trend for that timeframe of 2026.

Wishing you all a safe and thanks-filled Thanksgiving!



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

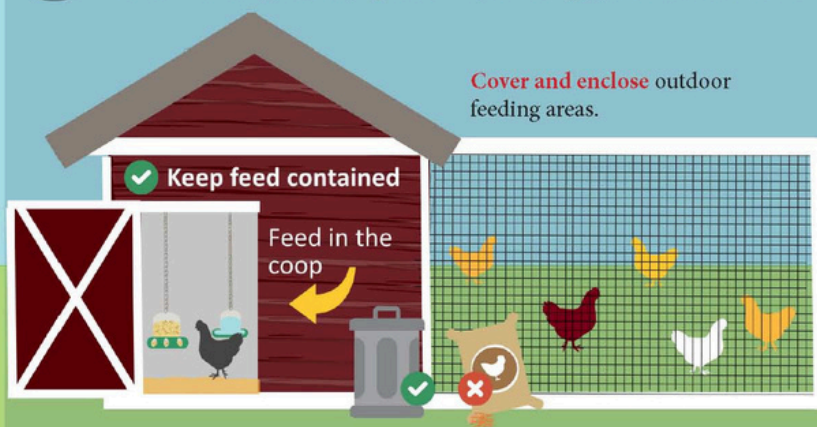
Biosecurity is your best option to prevent HPAI from entering your small or backyard poultry flock.

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



Phones Down and Eyes Up!

Scan the road ahead of you and be watching for indicators of -

1. Flashing Lights 🚧
2. Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem



Slow Down and Watch For Oncoming Traffic Before Attempting to Pass!

Do not pass illegally, on hills, curves or near intersections.



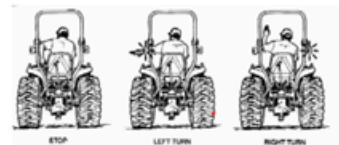
Watch For Hand Signals!

Farmers may use hand signals to alert you to their direction of travel/turns



Beware of Wide Loads!

Some equipment moving down the road will be wide. Share the road and drive carefully and respectfully



Butler County

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Changing seasons also bring a change in traffic, especially this time of year. Fall is here, and while the rain keeps falling, harvest will be starting soon! That means, more slow-moving vehicles (tractors, combines, etc) are on the road. Please drive carefully this Harvest season to protect your vehicle occupants and the farmers on the road.

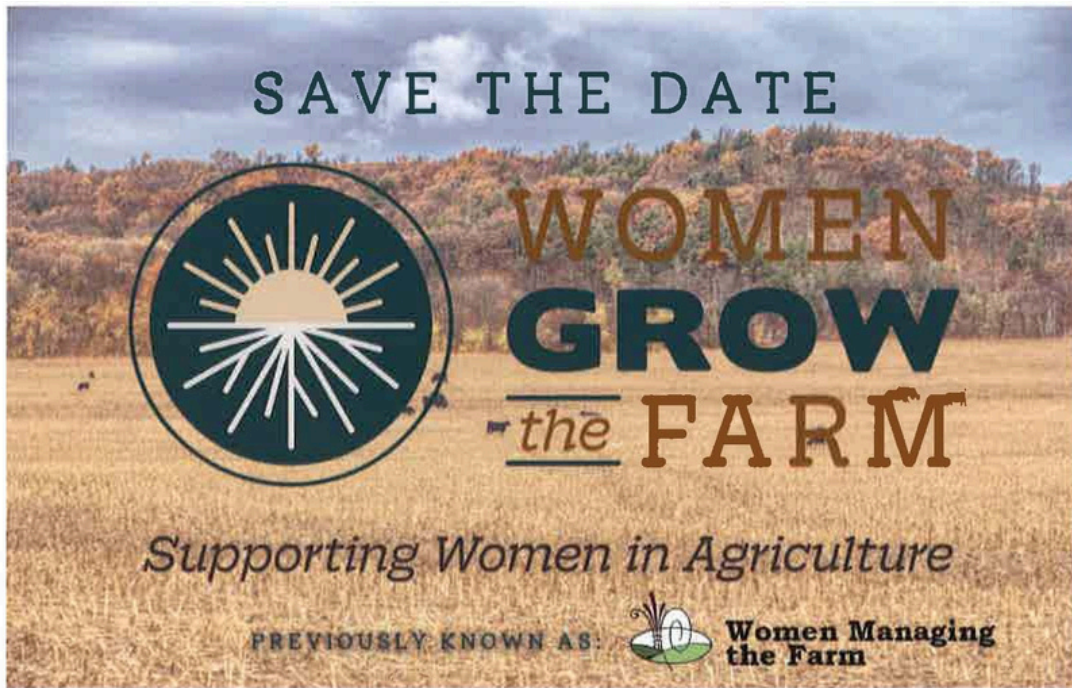
Ag Talk

Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

cmmiller1@ksu.edu

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



MANHATTAN, KS | FEBRUARY 12TH & 13TH



**WOMEN
GROW
the FARM**

Women don't just manage the farm—we grow it.

Join us **February 12–13, 2026** in **Manhattan, KS** at the Hilton Garden Inn for the Women Grow the Farm Conference.

Two days of keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and powerful connections with women shaping the future of agriculture.



Use this QR Code to learn more
and register to secure your spot!

womengrowthefarm.com

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 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/>

The Science of Family Meal Time

Why focus on family meal time? There are multiple reasons to focus on family meals!

- Family meals are linked to children having better eating habits across their lifespans.
- Family meals occurring more often (more than five times per week) are linked to better mood and better mental health from ages 6 to 10.
- Teens who regularly have meals with their families are less likely to get into fights, think about suicide, smoke, drink, and use drugs. They are also more likely to delay sexual activity and have higher academic achievement than adolescents who do not.
- For teens, frequent family meals predict lower substance use rates, fewer depressive symptoms, fewer suicidal thoughts, and better grades.
- Children under 13 also have fewer behavioral problems, and fewer emotional outbursts when they have more frequent family meals.
- Adolescents — especially girls — who had frequent and structured family meals and a positive atmosphere at family meals were shown to be less likely to have disordered eating.
- Adults engaged in the family meal times also receive the benefits in terms of social and emotional well-being.

In short, there is a tremendous and wide-ranging body of knowledge supporting the importance of family meal times as beneficial for all involved.



Find Your Balance

Home Food Preservation Resources

Check out the Home Food Preservation Resources web page here:
<https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/program-areas/food-preparation-processing-and-safety/food-preservation.html>



K-STATE
Research and Extension

PRESERVE IT FRESH, PRESERVE IT SAFE

JUST BECAUSE THE LID SEALS DOES NOT MEAN IT IS SAFE!

- 1 Adjust processing for altitude of residence**

- 2 Use researched/ tested recipes**

- 3 Fight Bac with Pressure Canning and Boiling Water Canning**

- 4 Acidify tomatoes**

- 5 Follow canning instructions for proper headspace**


Grow a garden? Buy produce at your local farmers market? Put away old recipes and methods. Respect the past and use up-to-date recipes and methods to preserve these fresh foods safely. For questions, information, and recipes, contact your local county/district extension office or go to www.rrc.ksu.edu and click on "Food Preservation."

Find Your Balance

Fried Turkey? Tips For A Safe Feast

Mashed potatoes, homemade rolls, pumpkin pie, vegetables of every shape and size...smells and thoughts that make your mouth water! Yet, there's something missing from this list...the turkey! It is almost time for turkey, and according to Kansas State University food scientist Karen Blakeslee preparing for the food-filled season should start early. If you are considering frying a turkey this year, this article is crucial in helping keep your feast safe.

Fried turkey has become popular with reviews raving that "it tastes better than roast turkey, the white meat is moister, the dark meat is even more flavorful, and the skin, while not always totally crispy, is never slimy and gross." This popular method of cooking is thought to have started in the late 1970's as part of the Cajun cooking craze. When celebrity chef Justin Wilson deep-fried a whole turkey on his PBS show in 1986, minds were blown and frying the holiday turkey was embraced as a new cooking method.

Though this cooking method can produce a delectable turkey, it can also lead to complications when not done properly. Kansas State University food scientist Karen Blakeslee advises the following steps to keep your feast safe.



- **Having a completely thawed turkey is crucial when frying to prevent hot oil splattering.** Purchase a fresh turkey 1-2 days before you plan to fry it, then refrigerate. If you have purchased and frozen the turkey ahead of time, make sure you know how long it will take to thaw. It takes at least 24 hours to thaw 4-5 pounds of frozen turkey in the refrigerator before starting the cooking process. Plan an extra 24 hours to be sure it is completely thawed. Leave the turkey in the wrapping and place on a tray to catch any drips from thawing.
- **Make sure the turkey fits in your fryer.** Blakeslee recommends testing that the turkey fits in the fryer by placing it in the fryer and adding enough water to cover the turkey. If the bird is too big, cut it into smaller pieces.
- **Check temperatures.** To begin frying, heat oil to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and continuously monitor the oil's temperature with a thermometer. Plan to fry the turkey 3-5 minutes per pound. "Use a food thermometer to ensure it is cooked to an internal temperature of 165 degrees F," Blakeslee says. The internal temperature of the turkey should be measured in the innermost part of the thigh and wing and the thickest part of the breast. For reasons of personal preference, consumers may choose to cook poultry to higher temperatures.
- **Let the turkey rest.** Once the turkey has met the correct internal temperature, remove the turkey from the oil and let rest for about 20 minutes before carving.

Other common food safety issues when preparing a turkey include: not washing hands properly; not thawing the frozen turkey in a safe manner (such as on the counter at room temperature); rinsing the turkey with water before cooking (leading to cross-contamination); and letting cooked turkey set for more than two hours at room temperature.

In conclusion, as you prepare for the holiday seasons don't forget to plan in advance! If you have other questions about ways to keep your feast safe, reach out to your local extension office.



Garden Gossip

Calla Edwards

Horticulture Agent

callae@ksu.edu

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

Why Chemical Applications Fail

I routinely visit with homeowners about issues with their lawns, gardens, and other plants. Sometimes I have people who say that the product they used to control insects, weeds, or diseases didn't work. The issue either comes back or never goes away. There are several reasons why herbicides, insecticides, or fungicides might not work. The first reason that the application wasn't successful was that the wrong product was used. It's vital to correctly identify the issue before making an application. If you use an insecticide to treat a fungal problem or a broadleaf herbicide to control a grass you will not be successful. The second reason a homeowner might have issues with a product is when they don't follow the label. If you use the wrong rate of application or don't reapply the product at the recommended interval (especially for insects that multiply quickly) you won't get effective control of the problem you are having. One of the final reasons a herbicide might not be effective is the weather when it is applied. If the temperature is too cool, it gets rained on before the rain fast time that product may not be effective. Always read the label and apply the product based on the recommendations. The label is your friend and it is also the law. The label is a valuable resource and will help any gardener be successful. Be sure to use it to your advantage during the growing season. Happy Growing.



Fall Vegetable Garden Care

Fall is an excellent time to start some gardening projects that are often hard to do in the spring. Once you pull your vegetables out of the garden for the year, incorporate some organic material into the soil. It's common to add organic material in the spring; however, a fall application has several benefits. With the leaves falling from the trees, we have a ready supply of organic material to add to the garden, and the second benefit is that winter will give the organic material time to break down in the soil. Hence, the nutrients are ready for your garden to use next year.

It's also a great idea to till your garden or work it up in the fall or early winter instead of tilling in the spring. Most years, fall weather is drier than early spring, plus you aren't on a time crunch trying to get your garden ready before you plant vegetables in



the spring. Soil that is worked up when it is dry or just slightly damp is easier to till and is less likely to have large clods, which can easily happen when the soil is wet. If you decide to plant a cover crop, be sure to wait to work the soil till the cover crop has been killed by a frost for the season to get the most significant impact on your soil health.

Another task that can easily happen in the fall is to do a soil test in your garden, lawn, or flower beds, as this allows you to add any necessary nutrients or soil amendments before you plant in the garden in the spring. Typically, the soil lab is less busy in the fall, so the results return faster. Plus, you aren't impatiently waiting for your results, so you can start planting.

Fall is an often-forgotten time of the gardening year as many of us are ready to be done with the work by the time late fall or early winter shows up, but it can also be an extremely valuable time to get a head start on next year's garden.

Garden Gossip

Calla Edwards

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**NEED A
SPEAKER?**



CALLA EDWARDS

K-State Extension is your number one source of reliable, research-based information in Butler County. If you are looking for a speaker for any of your programs or meetings, Horticulture Agent, Calla Edwards, has vast expertise in all areas of horticulture! Some of her programs include:



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Butterfly Gardening
Feeding the Birds
Houseplants

Organic Gardening and Insect Management
Vegetable Gardening from Start to Finish

Contact Calla at callae@ksu.edu or 316-321-9660

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Garden Gossip

What To Do With Fall Leaves

Leaves have been falling over the last couple of weeks due to cooler weather, the time of year, and the wind. Even if you don't have trees in your yard there will likely be some leaves that are blown in from your neighbors. There are many benefits to utilizing the leaves in your landscape however too many can and will kill the lawn or desirable plants. Before the leaves fall is a good time to plan for what to do with your leaves.



Falling leaves are an excellent source of organic matter to replenish nutrients in soil and improve the soil structure but in a lawn setting, they can quickly create a mat that will kill the grass underneath. One of the best ways to utilize leaves in your lawn is to use a method called mulch mowing. As you get a thin layer of leaves on top of your grass, one to two inches not 6-8" of leaves, mow your lawn with the bagger off. The mower will chop the leaves into small bits that can fall through the grass to land on the soil surface. These pieces will break down over the winter and add to the soil. You can tell you have been successful with mulch mowing when you look behind you and see mostly grass with a few leaves. If you see mostly leaves you probably waited too long. If you have lots of trees in your yard this may have to be done multiple times a week when the leaves are falling the most.

Leaves are an excellent addition to any compost pile. For the best results, mulch or shred the leaves so they are in smaller pieces before putting them in the compost pile. This allows them to break down faster. You can also add mulched leaves directly to the garden and either leave them on the surface or till them into the soil to break down for next year. Most of my leaves, and some of my neighbors, end up as mulch over the top of my garden. This helps prevent winter annual weeds from germinating and makes a great cover for my soil in the spring.

Leaves can be an excellent mulch around perennials and other flowers in your flower beds. They help insulate the soil and keep the delicate crowns of tender plants protected from the freeze/thaw cycles we see in the spring. I tend to leave the leaves around my perennial beds to clean up in the spring for this reason. There is such a thing as too many leaves in a perennial bed. Just a few inches of leaves is enough for insulation, if you get over 6" you could damage the plants underneath by keeping them too wet.

If possible leave some leaves sitting for native pollinators and other beneficial insects to overwinter in. Many of our good bugs utilize leaves and standing plant material to survive till next spring. No matter how you use your leaves, make a plan on what to do with them so you can avoid sending them to the landfill this fall.

Garden Gossip

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November Gardening Calendar

Vegetables and Fruits

- Sort apples in storage and remove spoiled fruit
- Clean and remove fallen fruit from around trees to reduce insects and disease for next year
- Protect trunks of fruit trees from damage with tree wraps
- Take a soil test and make needed adjustments in the fall
- Till garden soil and add organic matter



Flowers

- Clean the rose bed to reduce disease next season.
- Cut back tall rose canes to 24 inches to prevent winter breakage
- Remove frost-killed annuals
- Till annual flower beds and add organic matter to improve soil
- Continue planting spring flowering bulbs
- Depending on your gardening style, leave or cut back perennial stalks to 4 to 6 inches
- Apply a winter mulch to perennials and roses after several hard freezes



Garden Gossip

November Gardening Calendar Cont.

Lawns

- Rake fallen leaves from the lawn to prevent winter suffocation
- Fertilize cool-season lawns, with a quick-release high-nitrogen fertilizer to promote root development and early spring green up
- If needed, water turf so it starts winter with ample moisture
- Control dandelions, henbit, and chickweed before spring green up
- Continue to mow into the fall at 2 to 3 inches



Trees and Shrubs

- Water newly planted trees and shrubs
- Plant new trees and shrubs
- Rake leaves and place them in the compost pile
- Check mulch layers and replenish
- Prune dead or hazardous limbs
- Wait to prune spring flowering trees and shrubs until after bloom



Miscellaneous

- Clean and oil garden tools, sprayers, and other equipment to store for winter
- Drain garden hoses and sprinklers then store them indoors for increased life
- If fuel is to remain in power equipment, add fuel stabilizer, otherwise drain gas
- Protect ornamental and fruit trees and young plants from rabbit damage by wrapping or enclosing them in wire screen
- Start a compost pile with fall leaves
- Turn compost pile to hasten breakdown
- Start planning for 2026



4-H

Madeline Wallace

4-H Youth and Development Agent

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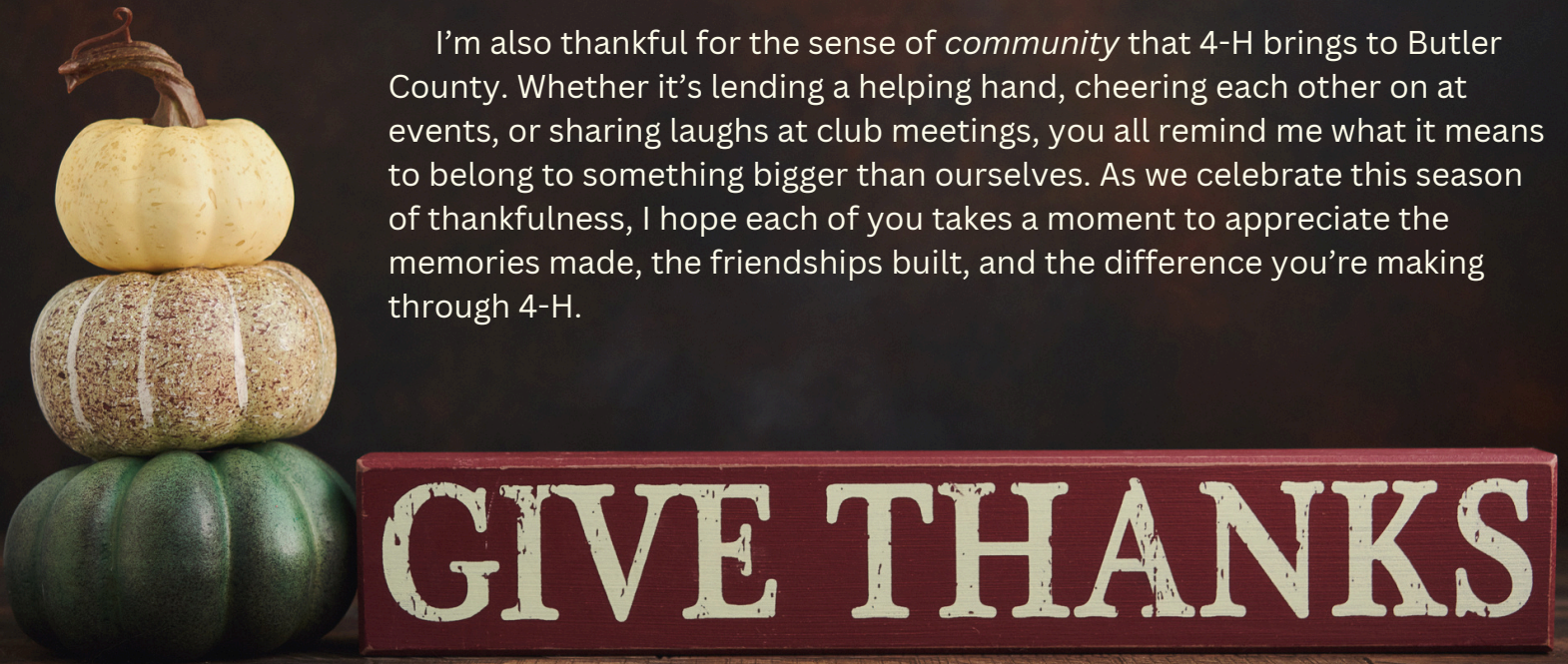
<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/>

A Minute with Madeline

A Season of Gratitude in 4-H

November is the perfect time to pause and reflect on what makes our 4-H program so special – and there's *a lot* to be thankful for! I'm grateful every day for our amazing 4-H members who bring energy, creativity, and heart to everything they do. From record books to service projects, you all continue to impress me with your hard work and dedication. A big thank-you also goes out to our incredible parents and volunteers who make the magic happen behind the scenes. Your support, encouragement, and countless volunteer hours are what keep 4-H strong!

I'm also thankful for the sense of *community* that 4-H brings to Butler County. Whether it's lending a helping hand, cheering each other on at events, or sharing laughs at club meetings, you all remind me what it means to belong to something bigger than ourselves. As we celebrate this season of thankfulness, I hope each of you takes a moment to appreciate the memories made, the friendships built, and the difference you're making through 4-H.



4-H

Madeline Wallace

4-H Youth and Development Agent

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The new 4-H year began on October 1st, 2025! From hands-on exploration to project-based skill building, young people thrive through participation in 4-H and find their way to success in life and future careers. We are excited to offer over 35 projects, ranging from Foods and Nutrition, to Robotics and Geology, to Livestock. There truly is something for everyone! We focus on exploration, learning, and experiencing the world around us through hands-on activities lead by our qualified volunteers and mentors. Any Butler County youth ages 7 to 18 is eligible to join 4-H! Our learning pathways support 21st century learning skills to help our youth grow and develop into productive citizens within their community! I encourage you to visit our website: <https://www.butler.kstate.edu/4-h/> to learn how to enroll in 4-H!

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4-H Online Enrollment Opens October 1st!

4-H's Long-reaching Effects

Compared to other youth, 4-Hers are:

4x more likely to contribute
to their communities



2x more likely to be
civically active

2x more likely to make
healthier lifestyle choices



The Top 5 Project Areas in Butler County:

1. Visual Arts
2. Foods & Nutrition
3. Photography
4. Woodworking
5. Fiber Arts (Includes 9 Projects)

Find more information here:



What does Butler County 4-H have to offer?

- 9 Community 4-H Clubs across the County
- Butler County 4-H Shooting Sports
- Over 70 Projects
- Cloverbud Program for ages 5-6 yrs.

Visit Our Website

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

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