February 2020

**K-STATE Research and Extension**

Butler County

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For KSRE publications and information, go to www.ksre.ksu.edu

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**Agriculture**

At the joint January Extension Board meeting held in January, the 2019 Board concluded their business and the 2020 Extension Board started the new year. The Extension Council is comprised of 24 members; specifically, 6 members for each respective PDC - Agriculture, Community Development, 4-H & Youth Development, and Family Consumer Sciences. Extension Council members are responsible for meeting with the Extension Agent in their respective areas and helping plan and conduct educational opportunities. The 24 members then elect 9 members to serve on the Extension Council Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is responsible for conducting monthly meetings and all business associated within the meetings. **2020 Executive Committee Members are:**

- Becky Walters – Chairperson  
- Joe Leibbrandt – Vice Chairperson  
- Oleta McKinney – Secretary  
- April Harter – Treasurer  
- Carla Varner  
- Julie Cleveland  
- Les Stalnaker  
- John Ramsey  
- Kris Goossen

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**Horticulture**

February brings the 11th Annual Vegetable and Market Growers Workshop to the Sedgwick County Extension office on Saturday, February 8th. Call the Sedgwick County Extension office at (316) 660-0100 to register for this workshop.

February also finds us firming up plans on the educational programs being offered this spring and summer.

A quick reminder that February is a great time to do any soil testing that you need so preparations can be made prior to the growing season. For information on how to go about getting your soil tested call the Butler County Research & Extension office at (316) 321-9660.

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**Family Consumer Sciences**

In January Barb and McKenzie have visited all of the second grade classes in USD 490 to visit with students about eating a rainbow of fruits and vegetables and the color power of fruits and vegetables; they talked about how we can use this Color Power to help us make choices that will supercharge us with energy, health, nutrition.

- Strengthen your vision by eating yellow/orange and green fruits and veggies each day.
- Fight off disease by eating green fruits and veggies.
- Boost your brain power by eating blue/purple and red fruits and veggies.
- Keep our hearts healthy by eating red fruits and veggies.

They read the book “Handa’s Surprise”. “Handa is from Africa and she wants to share a basket of fruits with her friends, fruits that can be grown in Africa.” After reading the book, they worked on naming the colorful fruits in the book. Just like Handa shared fruit with her friends, each child received an apple from Barb and McKenzie before they left.

**Agents & Staff:**

Charlene Miller, Director/Ag Agent - cmmiller1@ksu.edu  
Larry Crouse, Horticulture Agent - lcrouse@ksu.edu  
McKenzie Smithson, 4-H & Youth Agent - msmithson@ksu.edu  
Barb Roth, FCS Agent - broth@ksu.edu  
Andrea Perry, Office Professional - aperry1@ksu.edu  
Darla Deaton, Financial Secretary - ddeaton@ksu.edu  

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**4-H & Youth Development**

Butler County 4-H members are busy preparing for our annual 4-H Day festival. At the 4-H Day festival, youth perform musical pieces as individuals or in groups, and/or give a demonstration or illustrated talk about a project they are interested in! The public is welcome to come out to watch the youth perform on Sunday, January 26 from 1-5:30 at Butler Community College 1500 and 700 buildings.

Another focus this time of year is to support our school district staff with KSRE research based curriculum activities. FCS agent, Barbara Roths, and I enjoy visiting our local elementary schools to teach lessons revolving around healthy living. We also have school programs for STEM activities and Student/Community Interaction. We have programming available to go out to any educational institution in the county that meets the educational needs of many age groups! If you have any questions about programming or activities related to Butler County 4-H/Youth Development, please feel free to contact 4-H/Youth Development Agent McKenzie Smithson at msmithson@ksu.edu or call at 316-321-9660.