



# NEWSLETTER



## From the Director's Desk

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it carries an acknowledgement of meaning, reflection, and quiet transformation. Nestled between the New Year's resolutions and the early hope of spring, February invites us to slow down, reconnect, and choose positivity in small but powerful ways.

I find February is a month of transition. It bridges together winter and spring, even though with our recent snow and cold air, spring still feels far away! This in-between space mirrors life itself—periods when results aren't yet visible, but change is happening beneath the surface. Living positively means trusting the process, even when progress feels nonexistent or, at best, subtle. It means showing up daily, even when motivation dips, and believing that small efforts add up.

Cold weather, shorter days, and gray skies can drain motivation and energy. February teaches us that not every season is about blooming. Sometimes positivity looks like rest, patience, and endurance. It's okay to move more slowly, to simplify routines, and to focus on what's essential. Just like nature conserves energy in winter, we can use this time to recharge our mind, body and soul.

No doubt February is known for is love. Valentine's Day often takes center stage, with hearts in shop windows and reminders to express affection. Beyond the reds and pinks seen throughout, this month offers a wider opportunity: love for family, friends, community, and ourselves. can look like checking in on people we care about, offering kindness without expectation, or simply practicing better self-talk. Love doesn't have to be grand or expensive—it can be found in consistency, honesty, and presence.

When talking about love, we must also recognize February as American Heart Month. American Heart Month is designed to encourage healthy hearts. By making healthier food choices, managing your cholesterol and blood pressure, and refraining from excessive alcohol use and smoking, you can lead a healthier life. The idea is to inspire you to reduce your risk of heart disease, the leading cause of death in the U.S. Heart health doesn't have to be fast and furious; it's about consistency, mindfulness, and awareness.

Black History Month is also recognized, making it a time for learning, reflection, and appreciation. Celebrating history, resilience, and cultural contributions reminds us that progress is built through perseverance, and it's about recognizing strength, honoring stories, and committing to growth. A positive life is rooted in awareness and empathy

Even though February is the shortest month, but it teaches us that a positive life isn't built only in bright, exciting moments. It's shaped in quieter seasons, through reflection, compassion, and resilience. Like the month itself, positivity doesn't have to be loud to be meaningful. Sometimes, the smallest moments carry the deepest impact.

~Charlene

Kansas State University is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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# Upcoming Events

<i>February</i>						
① 4-H Volunteer Registration Deadline	②	③ Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	④ Garden Hour 12 p.m.	⑤	⑥	⑦
⑧	⑨	⑩ 4-H Council Meeting	⑪ Lunch & Learn @ Andover Library 12:15 Class @ Benton community building @ 5:30	⑫ Women Grow the Farm - Manhattan	⑬ Women Grow the Farm - Manhattan	⑭ <b>HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY</b> ♥
⑮ Walk Kansas Registration 4-H Citizenship in Action - Topeka	⑯ 4-H Citizenship in Action - Topeka <b>HAPPY Presidents Day</b>	⑰ 4-H/FFA YQCA Training	⑱	⑲	⑳	㉑ 4-H Horse Panorama - Rock Springs 4-H/FFA Market Beef Weigh-In & Tagging
㉒ 4-H Horse Panorama - Rock Springs	㉓	㉔	㉕	㉖	㉗	㉘

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.

## 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



<i>March</i>						
① County 4-H Day 1:00-4:00	② Ag Herbeside Program 5:30 @ Extension Office	③	④ Extension Board Meeting 6:30	⑤	⑥	⑦ Junior Beef Producer Day
⑧	⑨	⑩	⑪ Lunch & Learn in Andover @12:15 Lunch & Learn in Benton @5:30	⑫	⑬	⑭
⑮	⑯ Lunch & Learn in Augusta @ 12:15	⑰ <b>HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b>	⑱	⑲	⑳	㉑
㉒ Regional Walk Kansas @ Mulvaney 1:00-4:00	㉓	㉔ Master Garder	㉕ YQCA 6:00-8:00	㉖ Greenery Classes	㉗	㉘ Rain Barrel Clinic
㉙	㉚	㉛				

# Upcoming Events



## Butler County YEC 2026

Through this contest, youth enrolled in grades 6-12 can showcase their entrepreneurial spirit by developing an executive summary and delivering a formal presentation to business leaders from their community.

### COMPETITION DATES:

Executive Summary Submission Deadline: February 13, 2026  
Trade Show & Final Presentation: March 4, 2026

#### Register

Register for FREE to participate in the Butler County YEC 2026 [https://goventuredash.com/competitions/797] DEADLINE: Feb 13, 2026

#### Prepare

Contact your local host to get connected with a mentor. Local Trade Show: March 4, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. El Dorado Civic Center 201 E Central Ave.

#### Compete

Cash prizes for the top 3 finishers!  
\*1st place winner secures a spot at YEC State

#### Connect

Madeline Wallace, 4-H Youth Development Agent  
mgwallac@ksu.edu | 316-321-9660



SPONSORED BY



POWERED BY



## Grant Writing Basics

In Person Workshop

Newton Public Library  
223 E 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Newton, KS 67114

Join Us February 25, 2026  
9:30 am - 3:30pm  
Cost: \$60 (includes lunch)

Register Today

<https://bit.ly/NewtonGrantWksp>



KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

## Grant Writing Basics

Online Workshop

Grants are a vital piece in your community's funding... and you can do it.

Join Us February 17 & 19, 2026  
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm  
Cost: \$60

Register Today

<https://ksre-learn.com/grant-writing-basics>



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# Upcoming Events

## 2026 K-STATE JUNIOR BEEF PRODUCER DAY

### Program

Join us on March 7, 2026, for the biennial K-State Junior Beef Producer Day! This event is a fun-filled educational day for youth, parents, beef project leaders, ag teachers, and extension agents to expand their knowledge of youth beef projects. Presentations by K-State faculty, staff, K-State livestock judging team members, students, and guest speakers will cover topics that may include selection, nutrition, daily care, meat science, reproduction, health, grooming, and showmanship. An optional YQCA certification class will be offered at the end of the day. A complimentary lunch and t-shirt will also be provided for those who register by the deadline. The registration fee is \$20 per person for those who sign up by February 13. The fee will increase to \$30 per person for those who register after the deadline. Only those who register by February 13 will receive a t-shirt. This is a family event! Anyone attending the event must register, including youth and adults.



### Tentative Schedule

- 8:00AM Check-in
- 9:00AM Welcome
- 9:15AM Project Selection
- 10:00AM Morning Breakout Sessions  
-Nutrition, Meat Science, Daily Care, Grooming & Fitting
- Noon Lunch
- 1:00PM Afternoon Breakout Sessions  
-Health, Reproduction, Showmanship
- 3:15PM Dismissal
- 3:30PM Optional YQCA Class

### Registration



Scan Me!

Deadline: February 13  
 Fee: \$20/person  
 Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/BeefJrProducer>  
 Late Registration: \$30/person (after February 13)  
 \*All attendees must register, including youth & adults.  
 \*\*Late registrants will not receive a t-shirt.

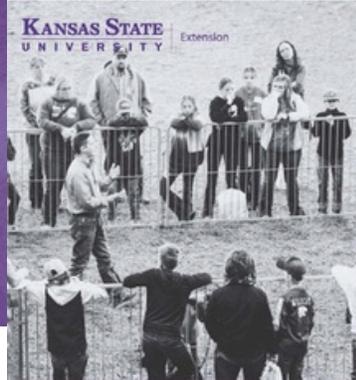
Registration Due  
February 13

Questions?  
Lexie Hayes

785.532.1264 | [adhayes@ksu.edu](mailto:adhayes@ksu.edu)



K-State, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.



## 2026 K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day

<b>Date</b>	<b>Registration</b>	<b>Questions</b>
4.11.2026	Due: 3.20.2026	Lexie Hayes
Manhattan, KS	Cost: \$20/person	785.532.1264
Scan Me!	<a href="https://bit.ly/SheepJrProducer">https://bit.ly/SheepJrProducer</a> *All adults & youth must register to attend. **Only those registered by 3/20/26 will receive a t-shirt. ***Late registration is \$30/person.	<a href="mailto:adhayes@ksu.edu">adhayes@ksu.edu</a>

<b>Program</b>	<b>Tentative Schedule</b>
Join us for the biennial K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Presentations will be provided by featured guests, as well as K-State faculty, staff, and students. This event will be an educational day of activities in which youth, parents, extension agents, ag teachers, and sheep project leaders can increase their knowledge of youth sheep project selection and management. A variety of topics will be shared, including an optional YQCA certification at the end of the day. All ages and skill levels are invited! Lunch and a t-shirt are included. The registration fee is \$20/person for those who sign up by March 20 or \$30/person for those who register after that date. Only those who register by the deadline will receive a t-shirt. This is a family event! Anyone attending, including both youth and adults, must register. There will be an optional tour of the sheep and meat goat center offered on Friday evening and Saturday after jr. day.	<b>Friday, April 10</b> 5:00-7:00PM Optional Tour of Sheep & Goat Center <b>Saturday, April 11</b> 8:00AM Check-in 9:00AM Welcome 9:15AM Selection 10:00AM Nutrition 10:45AM Morning Breakout Sessions -facilities & equipment, reproduction, project management purchase to show Lunch Health NOON 1:00PM Afternoon Breakout Sessions 1:45PM -wool, showmanship, clipping & grooming Dismissal 3:45PM 4:00PM Optional YQCA Class 4:00-6:00PM Optional Sheep & Goat Center Tour

K-State, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

# Upcoming Events

## BUTLER COUNTY 4-H DAY

March 1st 2026

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension



### BUTLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

901 S. Haverhill Rd.  
El Dorado, KS  
Buildings 700 & 1500

**1:00 P.M.**

4-H Day is an opportunity for all Butler County 4-H members to share their speaking skills, knowledge, talents, and creativity before a larger audience. This is a qualifying event for Regional 4-H Day and the Kansas State Fair.

**WHAT IS 4-H DAY?**

### EVENTS

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS TALENT SHOWCASE**  
**FAVORITE FOODS CAMEL GAMES**  
**INDIVIDUAL, GROUP, AND CLUB DIVISIONS**

\*\*Treat for all participants!\*\*\*

**REGISTRATION CLOSES FEBRUARY 15TH, 2026**

<https://forms.gle/5gLYUV72D6BT4QrUA>

\*Late registrations will NOT be accepted.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**GUIDELINES:** [HTTPS://WWW.BUTLER.K-STATE.EDU/4-H/4HDAY.HTML](https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-H/4HDAY.HTML)

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, Madeline Wallace, four weeks prior to the start of the event (February 1, 2026) 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.

## RAIN BARREL CLINIC

Whitewater Library  
118 E Topeka, Whitewater, KS  
Clinic is free!  
Make your own rain barrel for \$50!

**SATURDAY,  
MARCH  
28TH AT  
9:30 A.M.**



- How to make a rain barrel
- How to care for a rain barrel
- Plants for a Resilient Landscape
- How to reduce water use in the garden and landscape

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Extension  
Butler County

**RSVP FOR A RAIN BARREL BY  
MARCH 13TH  
CALL (316) 321-9660**

K-STATE 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, AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE) MAY BE REQUESTED BY CONTACTING THE EVENT CONTACT TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE EVENT OR BY EMAIL AT 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. A STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

# Upcoming Events

## COME AND TREAT YOURSELF TO A CLASS OF GREENERY

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Extension  
Butler County

You can create a wall-mounted piece of art or learn how to make a Kokedama, which means "moss ball" in Japanese. Walk away with your own garden art creation that will make for a unique personalized gift or addition to your home and garden décor.

**\*\* NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED \*\***

- Classes are limited to the first 25 individuals who sign up!
  - Classes appropriate for ages 7+.
  - Pre-registration with payment is required.
  - Use code EARLYBIRD07 to get \$5 off (Valid Through 03/18).
- \*\* Attention \*\* YOU MAY/WILL GET MESSY AND DIRTY, BUT TOTALLY WORTH IT!**

**TAUGHT BY:  
SIMPLE  
MOREA**



**BUTLER COUNTY COMMUNITY BUILDING  
200 N. GRIFFITH ST. EL DORADO KS**

**WORKSHOP #1 – WALL MOUNTED ART.**  
THESE SIMPLE, ELEGANT PLAQUES FEATURE A BEAUTIFUL PLANT MOUNTED TO A CEDAR BOARD WITH SPHAGNUM MOSS.  
TIME: THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH AT 5:30 PM



**WORKSHOP #2 – KOKEDAMA.**  
KOKEDAMA IS THE JAPANESE ART OF GROWING PLANTS IN A MOSS-COVERED BALL OF SOIL WRAPPED WITH STRING, TRANSFORMING ORDINARY HOUSEPLANTS INTO ELEGANT LIVING SCULPTURES.  
TIME: THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH AT 7 PM

"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 BUTLER COUNTY EXT. OFFICE FOUR WEEKS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE EVENT, FEBRUARY 26TH, AT 316-321-9660. 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."

### **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/>

January 2026

# Upcoming Events

Are YOU interested in plants, livestock or wildlife?

## KANSAS YOUTH RANGE CAMP

Upcoming High School Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors

Learn about range plant identification, plant growth, stocking rates, livestock nutrition, and rangeland wildlife management

Enjoy field trips, hands on learning, a steak dinner, swimming, fishing, and hiking!

June 9-12, 2026 COST: \$300

Contact your local Conservation District for scholarship opportunities!



Contact:  
**Ethan Walker**  
KS Youth Range Camp Chair  
620-451-1011  
ethan.walker@usda.gov

Sponsored by:  
Kansas Section, Society for Range Management



### TWO LOCATIONS. ONE PURPOSE. EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THE CATTLE INDUSTRY.

A no-pressure, practical skills camp for women ready to grow their knowledge—and their role—in beef cattle management.

**WESTERN KANSAS, HAYS WKREC**  
SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2026  
**EASTERN KANSAS, PARSONS SEREC**  
MAY 5-6, 2026

#### Contact Us

Western: Dr. Emma Briggs  
785-625-3425

Eastern: Dr. Jaymelynn Farney  
620-820-6125

#### LEARN MORE AT:

[https://www.wkrec.org/events/cow\\_camp/](https://www.wkrec.org/events/cow_camp/)



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, vision, or hearing disability, contact Logan Simon SWREC. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# 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>



# Outreach

## All Things Kansas

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

[k-state.edu/allthingskansas](https://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

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LEARN MORE  
Scan the QR code or visit  
[k-state.edu/allthingskansas](https://k-state.edu/allthingskansas)



# Ag Talk

## Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

[cmmiller1@ksu.edu](mailto:cmmiller1@ksu.edu)

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

### Pasture Rental Rates and Leasing Considerations

The time of year has arrived when we start receiving the hot topic question, “What is the current pasture rental rates.” Every lease and every pasture is different so given a one size price fits all just is not possible.

However, I can provide you with some guidelines and survey results that will provide you with a place to start negotiations between a landlord and tenant. The latest 2025 Bluestem Pasture report is one I like to reference and is updated every 2 years. The sources for survey results are the Kansas Ag Statistics site on Kansas Land Values and Cash Rents. Another source is the County level land values and rents, found at the KSRE Ag Econ (Agmanager.info) site. When working on agreements you should consider the averages and the local markets as the place to start negotiations, but don't forget there are many other considerations to keep in mind.

**Type and condition of the grass:** The cool season grasses such as smooth brome or fescue may have an increased value because of the higher carrying capacity, but that is often offset by the cost of the fertilizer that is necessary to get the increased forage production. The arrangements for fertilization and the cost are usually the responsibility of the tenant. The condition of the pasture is a major factor in determining the carrying capacity and corresponding value of the pasture. While every land owner wants to believe that their grass is above average or better, an honest evaluation needs to be made by the landowner and tenant when negotiating the price. If the condition is below average and needs to have a light stocking rate to enhance improvement, the landowner must be willing to discuss a less than average price. Both parties need to take responsibility for good stewardship of the grassland. Weather also plays a major factor.

**Fencing, brush and weed control:** Fencing materials are normally provided by the landowner and normal repairs by the tenant. If there are extensive repairs needed and provided by the tenant, compensation may be provided in the form of a lowered rent price. The same considerations need to be made with brush and weed control. The bottom line is that if the tenant is doing things to increase the long term value of the grass and property, that needs to be considered in the price negotiations.

**Length and time of grazing season and types and size of cattle:** The cattle being grazed on a summer ½ season/double stock, full season/normal stock, winter graze, or some variation will all have different values. Price will be negotiated accordingly. All of these factors need to be considered when setting stocking rates. Pasture condition can be decreased if the number of animals or pounds of beef exceeds the recommended stocking rates.

**Who is providing the care of the animals:** While the resources will often list a price difference for “with care” and “without care” on a per head basis, it is seldom listed for a per acre basis.

**Compare apples to apples:** Landowners may be approached with an offer that is higher than they are currently receiving. If there is a good relationship with the current tenant and the pasture is in good condition, make sure the better offer is with the same stocking rate and considerations as the current one.

**The best lease:** is the one that both parties discuss all conditions, put it in WRITING, and sign it.

# K-State Cattleman's Day

**Charlene Miller**

Director/Agriculture Agent

[cmmiller1@ksu.edu](mailto:cmmiller1@ksu.edu)

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

## K-State Cattleman's Day

The 113th annual Cattlemen's Day in Manhattan, Kansas is scheduled for Friday, March 6th. Early registration for this year's event is \$20 if paid by Feb. 25, or \$35 after that date and at the door. Online registration is available at the KSU Cattleman's Day website, or interested persons may register by contacting event coordinator Katie Smith at 785-532-1267 or [katiesmith@ksu.edu](mailto:katiesmith@ksu.edu).



# 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

**KANSAS STATE**  
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Butler County

## POND MANAGEMENT



**FREE TO ATTEND**



RSVP

316-321-9660

<https://forms.gle/uX4Putpp8ao5Gbyq6>



GUEST SPEAKER:

**DR. JOE GERKEN**

K-State Extension  
Fisheries & Aquatic Specialist



**TUESDAY,  
MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**



**6:30 P.M.**



**BUTLER COUNTY COMMUNITY/4-H BUILDING**  
200 N. Griffith  
El Dorado, KS 67042

### COVERED TOPICS



**Managing Ponds**



**Aquatic Plant Control**



**Stocking Fish**

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 [cmmiller@ksu.edu](mailto:cmmiller@ksu.edu) or 316-321-9660. 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.

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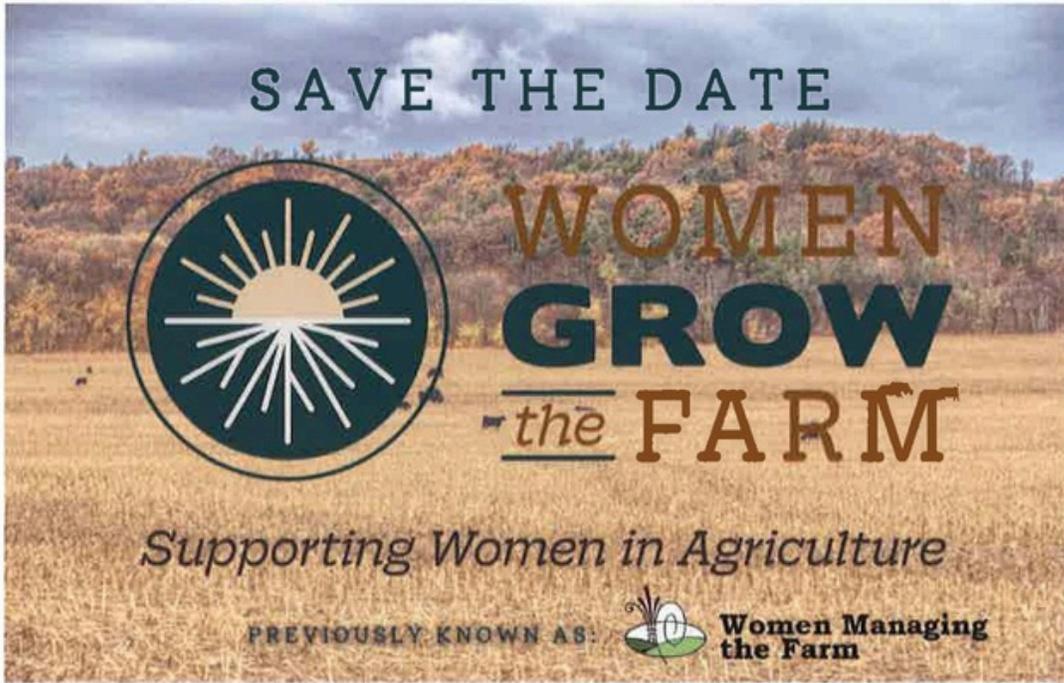
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[cmmiller1@ksu.edu](mailto:cmmiller1@ksu.edu)

<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](http://womengrowthefarm.com)

# Ag Talk

## Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

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

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Extension  
Butler County

## ASIAN LONGHORNED TICK AND RANGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.  
Butler County 4-H/Community Bldg.  
El Dorado, KS 67042

### TOPICS

- Understanding Asian Longhorned ticks and management
- Pasture management for tick control

### SPEAKERS

- Dr. A.J. Tarpoff, K-State Beef Extension Veterinarian
- Dr. Molly Reichenborn, K-State Range Management Extension Specialist
- Charlene Miller, Director/Ag Agent K-State Extension Butler County

Prepare for spring grazing and make sure your cattle are ready to go to pasture



"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 Butler County Ext. Office four weeks prior to the start of the event, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at 316-321-9660. 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."

RSVP TO:

 316-321-9660

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZqk2ir1j5x84yWZWsJZsTgao0KWHZcNvqCKWkh1PuaA/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

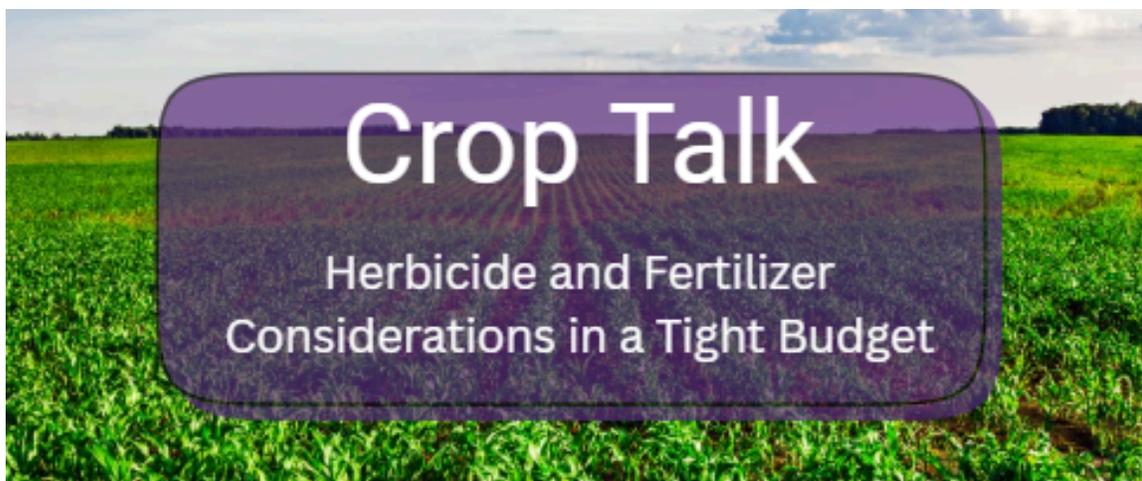
# Ag Talk

**Charlene Miller**

Director/Agriculture Agent

[cmmiller1@ksu.edu](mailto:cmmiller1@ksu.edu)

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



**Come Join us March 3rd**

**5:30-7:30pm**



**Butler County Community  
Building**

**200 N. Griffith El Dorado**

**Please Register by: March 1st  
316-321-9660 or by filling out  
this [form](#) or scan our QR code**



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# Ag Talk

## Charlene Miller

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# CROPtalk

Broadcast Live from 12:00 – 1:00 pm CT  
via Zoom and YouTube

## February 10

Understanding Flex Leases

*Robin Reid, K-State Extension Ag Economist*

## February 17

Available Soil Water At Planting and Related Management

*John Holman, K-State Extension Cropping Systems Agronomist*

*Augustine Obour, K-State Professor of Soil Science*

## February 24

Wheat Conditions & Breeding Efforts on Mosaic Viruses

*Allen Fritz, K-State Wheat Breeder*

## March 3

Fungicide Applications in Corn and Sorghum

*Rodrigo Onofre, K-State Extension Plant Pathologist*

## March 10

What's Bugging You? Insects to Watch for in the Field

*Anthony Zukoff, K-State Entomologist*



Scan me!

Register to attend at  
[www.bit.ly/KSUCropTalk](http://www.bit.ly/KSUCropTalk)

Links for joining will be sent after registration.  
One Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Credit per session has been applied for.

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If you have questions, please contact your local Extension agent or the K-State Northwest Research and Extension Center at 785-462-6281.

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# Family & Consumer Science

## February is Eating Disorders Awareness Month

**Eating Disorders Awareness Month**

Eating disorders have the second-highest mortality rate of any psychiatric illness.

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 Awareness and early support matter.

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**Eating disorders are among the most serious mental health conditions.**

**Eating disorders have the second-highest mortality rate of any psychiatric illness, surpassed only by opioid addiction.**

**Awareness can save lives.**

**Visit [https://hsph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/State-Report\\_Kansas\\_updated.pdf](https://hsph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/State-Report_Kansas_updated.pdf) to learn more**

# Family & Consumer Science

Recognizing the warning signs and symptoms of an eating disorder—and seeking help early—can greatly improve the chances of recovery.

Knowing what to look for can help individuals, families, and communities respond with care and compassion. Warning signs may include changes in eating behaviors, thoughts about food or body image, or shifts in mood and social engagement. Learning the signs is an important first step toward support and healing.

Learn more about warning signs and symptoms:

<https://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org/warning-signs-and-symptoms/>

**Eating Disorders Awareness Month**

The graphic features three white rounded rectangular boxes on a purple background. The first box contains a warning sign icon and the text 'Know the Warning Signs'. The second box contains an icon of a person with a warning sign and the text 'Awareness Leads to Action'. The third box contains an icon of hands holding a heart and the text 'Early Support Improves Recovery'. At the bottom, the Kansas State University logo and 'Extension' are displayed, along with a statement of equal opportunity.

**Know the Warning Signs**

**Awareness Leads to Action**

**Early Support Improves Recovery**

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**For more information please check out our facebook posts throughout the month!**

# Garden Gossip

**Calla Edwards**

Horticulture Agent

[callae@ksu.edu](mailto:callae@ksu.edu)

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

## Fire Resilient Landscape

Grassfire season is approaching, and with the fires that have happened around the state over the last few years, it's a season of concern for many. Up to 90% of home ignitions are caused by burning embers landing on vegetation and combustible materials near a home or by embers entering the house through openings, according to the International Journal of Wildland Fire. If you live in areas prone to grass fires or wildfires, it's essential to adopt landscaping practices that reduce the risk of your home burning. Some of these practices may seem counterintuitive to general landscaping principles, but if fire is a concern in your area, I highly recommend considering them.

As we consider landscaping around the home, we must create defensible space to reduce the risk of fire reaching your house. This area is a buffer zone that you make between your property and the surrounding wildland area. It is the key to stopping or slowing the spread of wildfires and also provides firefighters with a safe space to defend your property.

This area is divided into three zones. Zone 0 is the first 5 feet around your home, focusing on aggressive fuel reduction to protect against embers. Zone 1 is the area 5 to 30 feet from your home or the property boundary, and Zone 2 is 30 to 100 feet beyond your home or to the property line boundary. These zones feature different vegetation management to reduce fire spread. In every zone, it is recommended to cut back all perennial plants and remove any dead plant material every fall. Always remove any leaves from your roof, yard, or gutters.

The ember-resistant zone, also known as zone zero, is the area closest to the house. During a wildfire, especially one with strong winds, embers can be blown ahead of the fire and create new fires where they land. In this area, it's essential to clear all combustible materials from the first five feet of your house. This includes plants, furniture, wooden patios, and organic mulches. In areas where fire is a concern, use gravel, pavers, or concrete instead of combustible mulch around the home. If you do have plants near the house, trim them back every fall before fire season. While this may contradict most landscaping principles and recommendations for beneficial insects, you can still create a beautiful and functional area around your home without using plants. If you must have plants near your home, consider using planters with low-growing plants or annuals that can be removed at the end of the season, as shown in the photo to the right. Succulents are also a suitable option for use near the home, as they are relatively resistant to ignition. Patios or hardscape areas can be incorporated near the house, featuring plants in zone 2, to enhance the home's beauty. Clear any overhanging tree limbs from the home at least 10 feet from the chimney to prevent embers from getting into the chimney.

# Garden Gossip

Zone 1 and Zone 2 extend from 5 to 100 feet from the home or to the edge of your property. In this area are your flowerbeds, lawn areas, and vegetable garden. In typical landscape design, we aim to avoid multiple small beds with breaks in the lawn between them; however, when considering fire safety, we plan slightly differently. As you plan your flower beds, consider planting them to interrupt the path fire can take to reach your house. Rather than planting one big flowerbed that leads to the house, create smaller island plantings surrounded by grass to reduce the pathway fire could take. It's also important to consider the spacing of plants

in those flowerbeds. Part of this is to space plants far enough apart to prevent the fire from spreading from one to the other. Leave a space around individual trees and shrubs that is at least two to three times their mature width. In areas with uphill slopes, you will need to increase this distance to four or even six times their width, as fire travels faster uphill and can spread further. Be sure to limb up trees, especially evergreens, to reduce the chances a fire can get into the tree and use it to create an ember storm. When planting trees and shrubs in flower beds, we also want to avoid making a "fire ladder." A fire ladder is created when an ember lands on a bush, ignites it, and the flames reach up to the tree's lowest branch, igniting it and allowing the fire to travel up the tree. A general rule of thumb is that fire can reach three times the height of the bush. For example, a 5-foot shrub near a tree needs 15 feet of clearance to the tree's lowest branch. The minimum height of tree branches from the ground, even if there are no plants around the tree, is six feet, including trees in shelter belts. It does reduce the effectiveness of the shelterbelt, but it reduces the risk of your trees catching fire.

Once you have considered the defensible zones, plant material, and mulch, use non-combustible materials such as gravel, rock, or pavers near the house. In zones 1 and 2, you can use wood mulch in your flowerbeds instead of rock. Of the wooden mulches, cedar and redwood are highly combustible and shouldn't be used in areas where fire is a concern. Some of the most flammable plants include juniper and pampas grasses. When selecting plant materials, opt for drought-resistant, native, open-structured, and pollinator-friendly options.

It's important to note that the risk of plants burning can vary significantly depending on care and environmental conditions. Under extreme conditions, any plant will burn. When selecting plants, look for those that retain moisture, even during dry periods, and choose varieties that are lower in oils, waxes, and resins. Also, consider plants with an open growth structure that are slower-growing. Avoid plants with shedding bark, that produce a lot of dead plant material, and that have dense growth habits.

Here are some final tips to reduce your fire risk now without altering your landscaping. During dry, warm winter periods, be sure to water plants, especially evergreens, before a high fire risk period to reduce their chances of burning. Keep your plants trimmed and clean up any plant residue each fall. Remove any dead thatch or plant material from around plants regularly, as material can easily catch fire. Always clean out your gutters, including the downspouts, and remove any leaves that may have accumulated on your roof. It's also best to use metal fencing close to the house rather than a wooden privacy fence, which could catch fire.

While fire season is always a time of concern, there are steps you can take around your home and with your landscape to help reduce the chances that a grass fire will damage your home. For more information on fire landscaping, check out the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention's website or Marin

# Garden Gossip

**Calla Edwards**

Horticulture Agent

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

**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:



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

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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](mailto:callae@ksu.edu) or 316-321-9660**

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## Winter Care of Tools



Winter, with its cold, dreary days, is the perfect time to prepare your garden tools for the growing season. If taken care of properly, tools can last for years and make your job easier. If you don't take care of your tools they can quickly rust, become dull, and make gardening harder. Here are a few tips to help keep your tools in top shape for this gardening season.

The first step with your tools is always to get them cleaned up. It's best to remove the soil from your tools right after you are finished using them, but that isn't always possible. Soap and water are an easy way to remove dirt from any tool. Use a wire brush or steel wool for stubborn dirt or small creases. If the tool is covered in sap you can use rubbing alcohol, mineral spirits, or a foaming bathroom cleanser.

The second step is to disinfect any tools to prevent the spread of diseases among your plants. Ideally, this step should be done after every use but that can be hard on tools. One of the easiest ways to clean your tools is by soaking them for 30 minutes in a diluted bleach solution containing 9 parts of water to 1 part of bleach. You can also wipe tools using 70 to 100% rubbing alcohol. Once the tools are clean and disinfected you can sharpen your shovels and pruning tools. Sharp tools make any task easier, especially pruning or digging with a shovel.

The final step with tools is to inspect the handles and sand down any rough spots to prevent splinters. Treat the wooden handles with linseed or mineral oil to keep the wood strong and help the tools last longer. If you do have tools that need replacing, now is the time to do it before the growing season starts.



# Garden Gossip

**Calla Edwards**

Horticulture Agent

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## February Gardening Calendar

### February Gardening Calendar

#### Vegetables and Fruits

- Draw garden layouts to assist with the planning process
- Review garden notes about successes and failures in the garden
  - Order seeds for spring planting
- Select varieties and order new fruit trees
- Take a soil test if one has not been done in the last five years
- Start broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage transplants
  - Prune:
    - o Fruit trees like apples, pears and cherries
    - o Peaches and nectarines just prior to bloom time
    - o Grapes, raspberries and blackberries
- Incorporate manure or compost into the garden areas for soil improvement
  - Avoid working the soil when it is wet
- Check dates on stored seed packets. Sprout a few from each packet in a moist paper towel to check germination rates. Discard packets with poor results.



# Garden Gossip

## February Gardening Calendar Cont.

### Flowers

- Start seeds for transplanting in the spring
- Check fall-planted perennials and water if needed
- Watch for frost heaving of tender perennials and cover if needed
- Replenish winter mulch around roses and other plants
  - Check bulbs in storage and discard if rotted
  - Prepare catalog orders



### Lawns

- To prevent lawn suffocation, rake fallen leaves
- Review lawn service contracts and make changes
- Tune-up and repair the mower to get a jump on the season
- Avoid injury to the lawn when soil is frozen by keeping foot traffic to a minimum

### Trees and Shrubs

- Check for rabbit damage on young trees and shrubs
- Water fall planted trees, shrubs, and evergreens if the soil is dry and not frozen
  - Apply dormant oil for control of scale and mites
  - Prune:
    - o Begin spring pruning. Do not prune spring flowering trees and shrubs until after bloom
    - o Cut twigs and branches of spring shrubs to bring indoors and force for a splash of spring color
  - Carefully remove snow from limbs with a broom
  - On warm days, prepare garden soil for early planting

### Miscellaneous

- Check plants for insects, mites, or other problems and treat as needed
  - Withhold fertilization until spring arrives
- Remove dust build-up on plants by placing them in the shower and washing them off or use a soft cloth to wipe off the leaves
  - Water as needed, avoid letting roots set in water
  - Keep plants out of hot or cold drafts

# 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

### Practicing Self-Love This Valentine's Season

When we think about Valentine's Day, our minds often go straight to cards, candy, and showing appreciation for others. While celebrating friendships and relationships is important, this time of year is also a great opportunity to focus on something just as meaningful: self-love.

Self-love is not about being selfish or putting yourself above others. Instead, it means recognizing your own worth, taking care of your well-being, and giving yourself the same kindness and encouragement you would offer a friend. For youth and adults alike, practicing self-love can build confidence, resilience, and a healthy mindset; all are skills that align closely with the values of 4-H.

One simple way to practice self-love is by acknowledging effort, not just outcomes. In 4-H projects, competitions, and leadership roles, it is easy to focus on ribbons, scores, or results. While those accomplishments are worth celebrating, it is just as important to recognize the hard work, learning, and growth that happen along the way. Taking pride in trying something new, improving a skill, or stepping outside your comfort zone is a powerful form of self-respect.

Another key part of self-love is taking care of your physical and mental health. This can look different for everyone. It might mean getting enough rest, eating nourishing foods, staying active, or setting aside time to relax and recharge. It can also mean knowing when to ask a parent, 4-H volunteer, teacher, or friend for help when things feel overwhelming. Taking care of yourself allows you to show up more fully for your projects, your club, and your community.

Positive self-talk is another area where small changes can make a big difference. Pay attention to how you speak to yourself when things don't go as planned. Would you say those same words to a fellow 4-H member? Practicing encouragement, patience, and grace toward yourself helps build confidence and perseverance, especially when facing challenges.

Finally, self-love includes celebrating who you are as an individual. Each Butler County 4-H member brings unique talents, interests, and perspectives to their club. Embracing those differences and recognizing your own strengths, whether in leadership, creativity, service, or teamwork, helps create a stronger, more inclusive 4-H community.

As we approach Valentine's Day, consider taking a moment to show yourself a little appreciation.

Reflect on what you've learned, how you've grown, and what you are proud of this year. By practicing self-love, we strengthen our ability to care for others and live out the 4-H pledge in meaningful ways, today and throughout the year.