K-STATE Research and Extension | Butler County

June 2024

NEWSLETTER

Inside this Edition:

From the Director's Desk

May has been active on the weather front and some less fortunate than others. We can stop natural disasters from happening. We can, however, arm ourselves with knowledge and resources to help us prepare for disasters before, during and after. I've seen words used to describe hail such as gorilla, grapefruit and dvd. Words that would make anyone cringe! There are acts of Mother Nature, no matter what we do, we can't avoid. However, arming yourself with those knowledge and resources are crucial. We have a wealth resources and contacts to help you prepare for and recover from disasters and are happy to help you!

I am excited to share we have 2 interns working for us this summer through a grant program! Jillian Foes and Cally Miller will be traveling the county this summer offering hands on programs for youth Kindergarten through Middle School age. There programming is funded through the grant. There is no cost to the groups who wish to hold a summer program. Programs available include: Reading Makes Cents, a financial literacy program, Food & Nutrition, STEM and Agriculture. If your youth group could benefit from some hands-on learning and programming, give our office a call today to schedule a program. We will have programming available through the end of July! They have a wealth of tools available at their finger tips to make programming fun and educational!

Recently, I had the opportunity to partner with K-State Research and Extension/Cowley County on a series of meeting called "Delivering the Promise". We had round table discussions with participates and gathered information that will help shape action items for Kansas State University's strategic plan "Next Gen K-Sate" https://www.k-state.edu/next-gen/ There are a lot of needs to be met for our communities now and in the future. These meetings helped identify those needs and gave us ideas and goals to work towards. I encourage you to visit the website and see how K-State is leading the nation as a next-generation land grant university.

Speaking of land grant university. One take away for me was not everyone knows what a land grant university is. This is a goo snap shot taken from the KSU 2021 Ag Report: The land-grant university system began in 1862, a year into the Civil War, when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Land-grant Acts, which were written by U.S. Rep. Justin Smith Morrill, the self-taught son of a blacksmith. The acts gave 30,000 acres of land per congressman to help endow a college in every state with stipulations:

• Admission decisions could not be based on race. It took until 1890 for that part of the agreement to be made into law.

• The schools were also required to focus on agriculture and mechanical arts (mainly engineering) to prepare students with the skills and knowledge needed to advance the work of farmers and ranchers and prepare our country for the burgeoning Industrial Age. Lincoln and Morrill believed the colleges at the time were not capable of meeting the "practical" needs to advance the war-torn country.

*Continued on page 3

Upcoming Events

June

						1 4-H/FFA Butler County Fair Pre-Entries Open
2	3 Learn about Houseplants- Augusta Library 6:00 p.m.	4 Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	5 Garden Hour Zoom 12 p.m. 4-H Ambassador and Council Meetings	6	7	8
9	10 Herb Night 6:00 p.m.	11 Animal Health Workshop	12	13	14	15
16	17 Preservation Workshop - Eureka	18 Stress Management Program - Grace Hill Church, Whitewater 10:00 a.m. 4-H Ambassador Day Camp	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 4-H/FFA Butler County Fair Pre-Entries CLOSE	25	26	27	28 Mug Mingle 7:45 a.m.	29

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.

***During the weeks of July 14th-27th Office Hours will be 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Join Us For Our 2024 Quarterly Extension Connection

Mug Mingle

Grab a mug and mingle with your local Butler County Extension Staff
Friday, June 28th from 7:45-9:00 a.m.
Save the Dates : October 11th

July

	1	2 Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	3	4 CLOSED	5	6 Butler County Fair Public Fashion Revue- Hope Church, Andover 1:30 p.m.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Butler County Fair Horse Show - 3 Wooden Crosses, Augusta 6:00 p.m.
14	15	16	17	18 Projects Begin to Arrive	19	20 4-H Council Food Auction 6:00 p.m.
21 Church Service 8:15 a.m.	22 Butler County Fair Project Auction 7:00 p.m.	23 Butler County Fair Clean-Up	24	25 CLOSED	26 CLOSED	27
28	29	30	31			

Butler County Fair

Butler County Fair

Upcoming Events

***From the Director's Desk Cont.**

In 1863, Kansas State Agricultural College (now Kansas State University) became the nation's first operational land-grant college and the first to admit women. Today, there are 112 of these institutions, 19 are historically Black colleges and universities, and 33 are tribal colleges and universities.

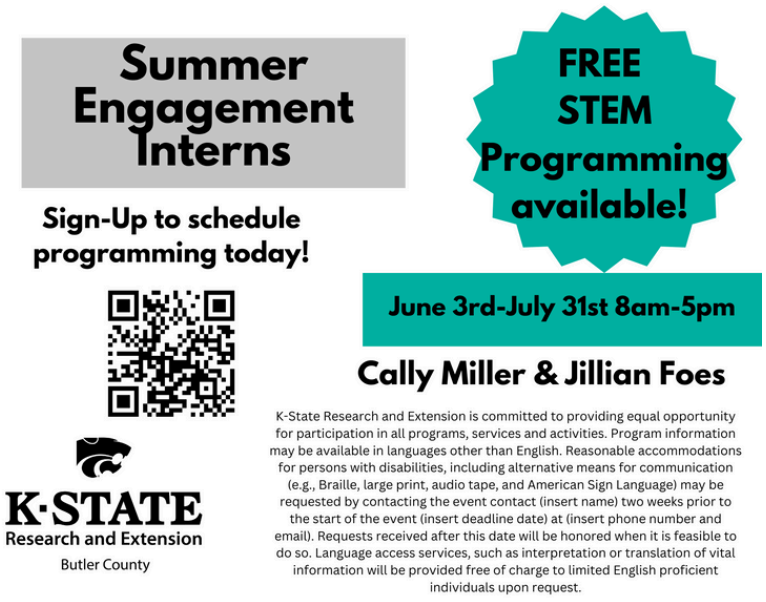
Later, the Hatch Act of 1887 established federal funding of research via agricultural experiment stations at land-grant institutions, according to a formula based on the number of small farms in each state. Then in 1914, the Smith-Lever Act created the Cooperative Extension Service as part of each land-grant school, which literally extends the reach of those institutions by empowering them to make knowledge freely available to everyone in their respective state, not just those attending that school.

It resulted in the three-part mission of every land-grant institution – education, research and extension. The research and education provided by these schools have revolutionized agriculture in every area, including plant and animal genetics; food and feed safety; nutrition; plant and animal disease monitoring and detection; soil health; sustainable farming and development; and increased profitability and efficiencies for ag producers, businesses and industries.

The work of these land-grant universities made the U.S. the world leader in agriculture, ensuring a more abundant, safe and nutritious food supply across the globe and a stronger economy for Kansas and our nation.

As we look ahead to tomorrow, next week, the next month, the future; what do you need to do to prepare? What resources are you missing to help you prepare? What does your family and community need? How can we better meet the needs of the changing society? Not only do we all need to work to meet the "now" needs, but we should be futuristic and looking ahead. Let us know how we can help.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer! ~Charlene



Garden Hour Webinars

- ***June 5th- Growing Cut Flowers for Home & Farmer's Markets***
- ***July 3rd- Success with Cacti and Succulents***
- ***August 7th- Establishing a more Environmentally Friendly Yard***
- ***September 4th- Season Extension in the Vegetable Garden***

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

Upcoming Events

The Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Health is hosting multiple informational discussions around the state. Each location will have two sessions. Please register for the location and session you'd like to attend. This is a free event and dinner will be served.

SESSIONS

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT / COUNTY OFFICIALS

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Discussion Topics:

- Role of the county in a disease response
- Livestock truck rollover
- Disposal
- Sheltering

Registration: CLICK HERE FOR AFTERNOON SESSION to register or call 785-564-6608

NETWORKING DINNER @ 5:00 p.m.

PRODUCERS/ VETERINARIANS

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Discussion Topics:

- Animal health updates
- Animal disease traceability updates
- Secure food supply
- Disease response plans

Continuing Education Opportunity

Registration: CLICK HERE FOR EVENING SESSION to register or call 785-564-6608

EVENT SCHEDULE

MAY

30 THU — Manhattan — Agronomy Education Center, Kansas State University

JUNE

11 TUE — El Dorado — Butler County Community (4-H) Building

12 WED — Fort Scott — Cleaver/Boileau/Burris Agriculture Hall at Fort Scott Community College

18 TUE — Hutchinson — Kansas State Fairgrounds – Lake Talbott East Building

26 WED — Scott City — Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center

27 THU — Dodge City — Ford County 4-H Building

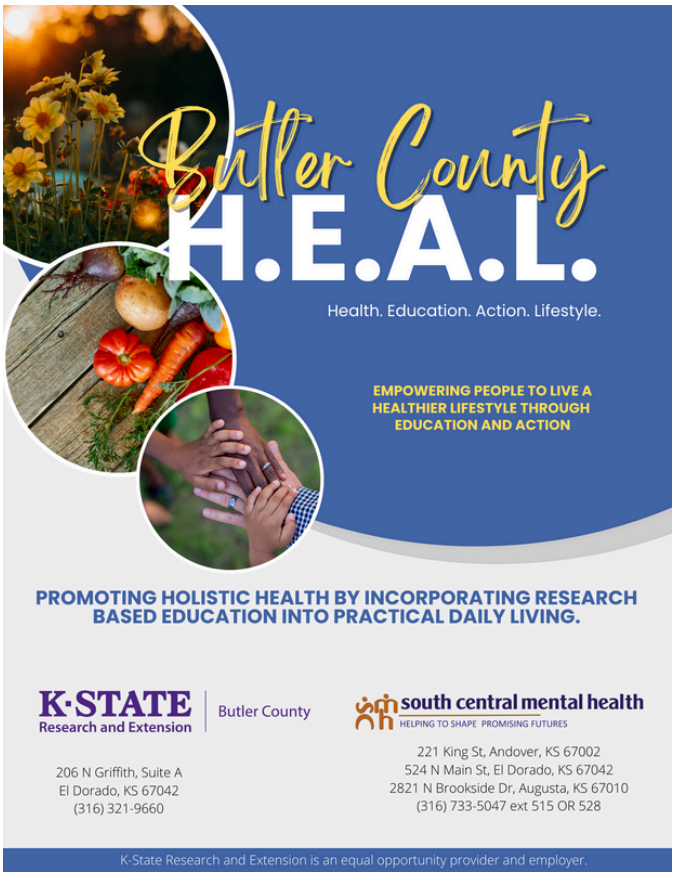
JULY

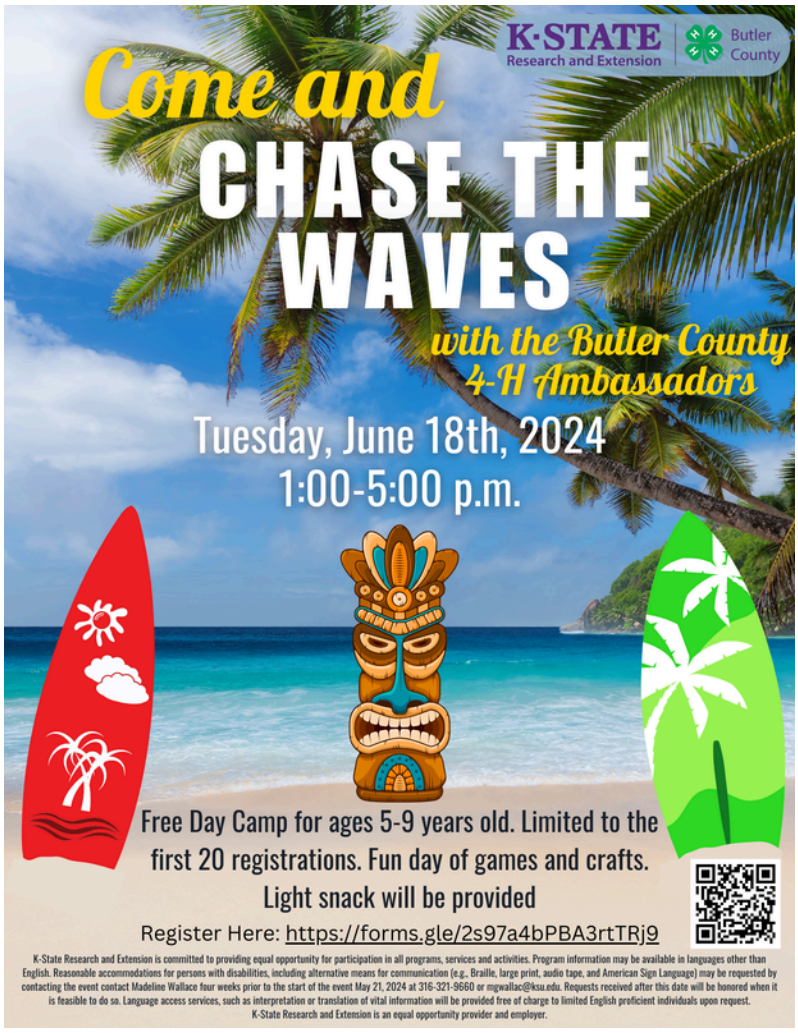
10 WED — Colby — City Limits Convention Center

11 THU — Hays — Ellis County Emergency Management Office

Addresses are provided upon registration.

Upcoming Events



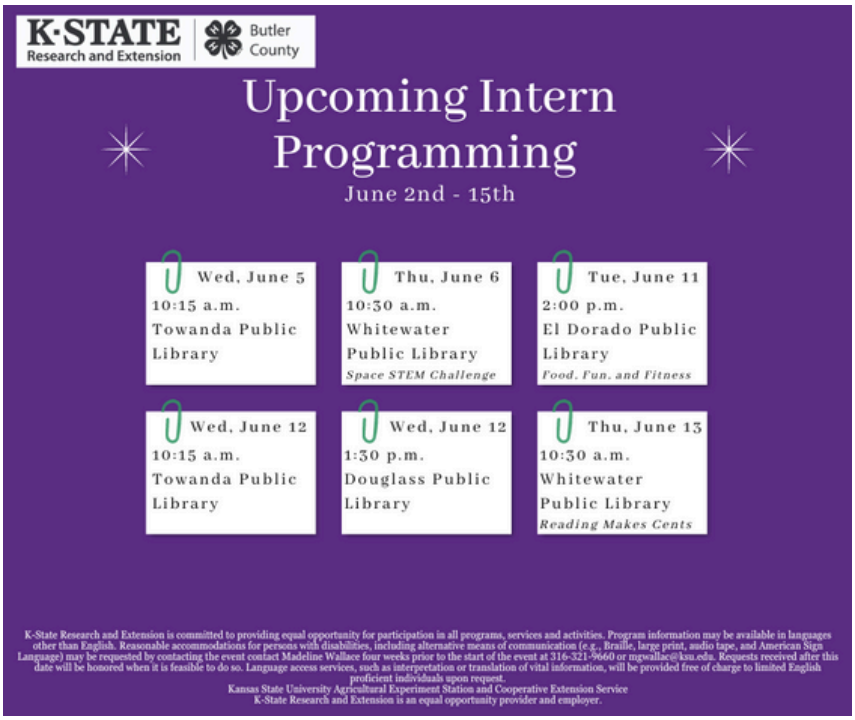


The Strong Couples Project

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

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

Illinois Extension
K-STATE Research and Extension



Ag Talk

Charlene Miller
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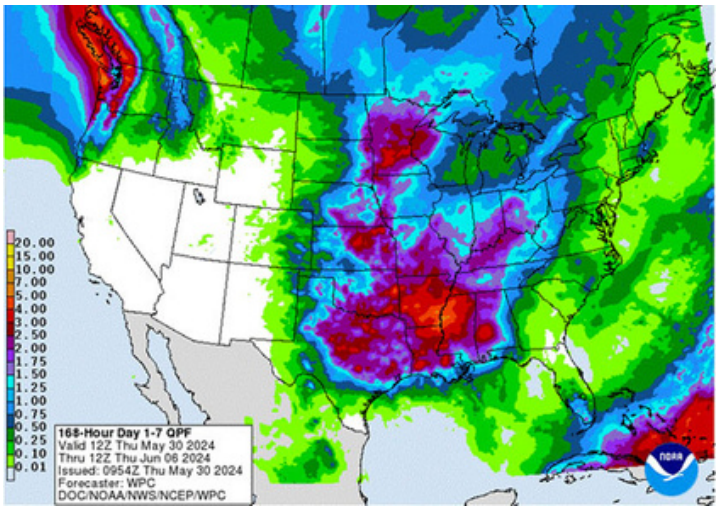
https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/

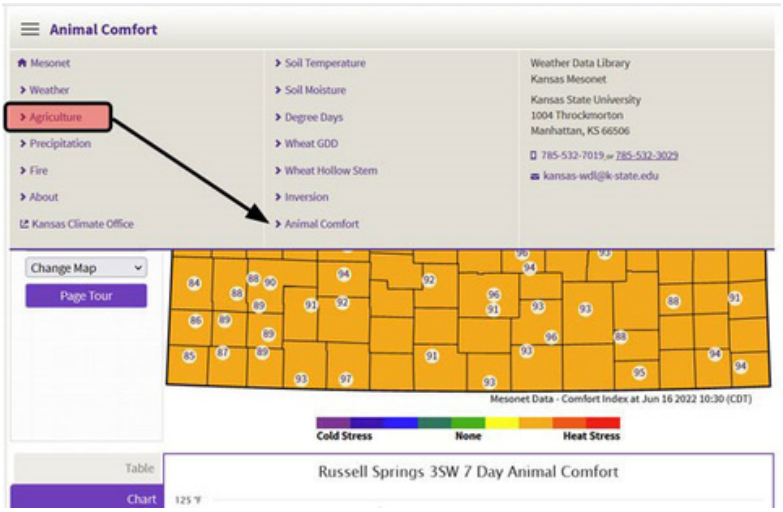
Kansas Mesonet Animal Comfort Tool Monitors Current and Forecasted Livestock Conditions



Summer brings heat, often amplified by humidity. Recent rains across the state and more in the short-term forecast (Figure 1), much of it in drought-stricken regions, have increased atmospheric and surface moisture. When we factor in warmer-than-normal temperatures, especially at night, heat stress can rapidly develop in humans and animals alike. It's been nearly two years since a major cattle loss event occurred in southwest Kansas. This marked a time when producers were caught off guard by a sudden transition from cool/wet to hot conditions.

When heat stress develops with hot, sunny, and humid conditions, increased proactive steps are required to avoid potential illness. This is compounded when heat stress values remain elevated for long periods of time. Of special importance is the animal's ability to recover at night. High temperatures overnight prevent the body from recovering from the previous day's heat and can compound the next day's stress if not mitigated.

The Kansas Mesonet has an Animal Comfort Tool that tracks current heat stress values with real-time data and looks ahead at the 7-day forecast, helping farmers stay one step ahead of potential issues. Users can access this tool from the main Mesonet page (https://mesonet.k-state.edu/) by selecting "Agriculture" from the drop-down menu on the top left of every page and then "Comfort Index" (Figure 2). Also, users can access the tool directly from this link: http://mesonet.k-state.edu/agriculture/animal/

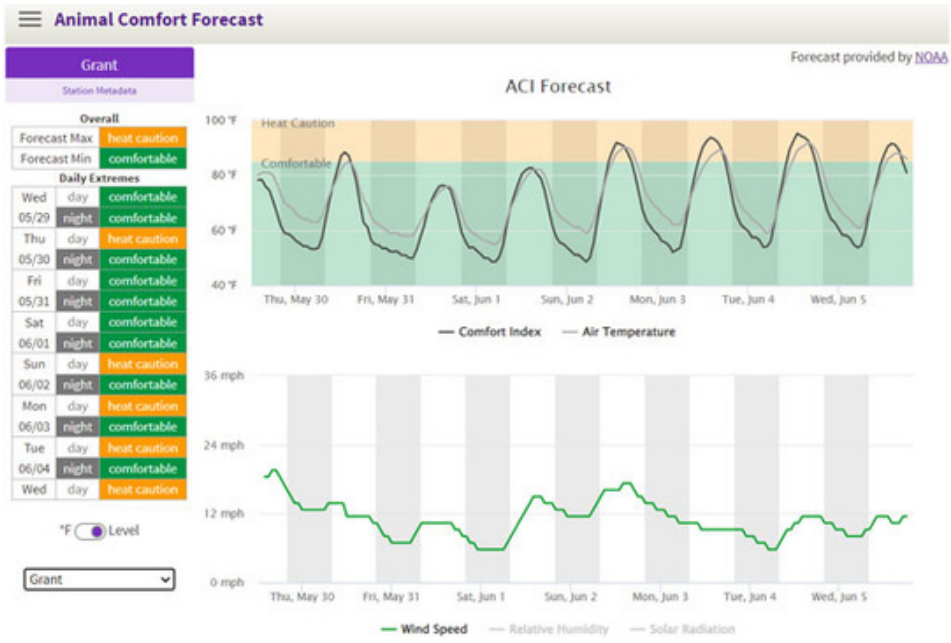


Animal Comfort Tool Cont.

Utilizing the Forecast Animal Comfort Index

This product utilizes the National Weather Service hourly forecast (averaged over the hour, meaning extremes could be slightly more) for the next seven days. This data consisting of solar, wind, temperature, and humidity is utilized in the Comprehensive Comfort Index equation from the University of Nebraska. The ability to handle both hot and cold extremes provides a year-round product to increase producer awareness in advance of critical weather. Data is displayed on a graph and a summarized table (Figure 3), allowing quick analysis of conditions on desktop and mobile browsers in an easy-to-read format.

It is important to note that the forecast is only a guidance product. Forecasts are subject to change, and conditions could vary significantly based on numerous external factors. Actual animal response to temperature stress will depend on several factors not accounted for in the index. Those include but are not limited to age, hair coat (winter vs. summer; wet vs. dry), health, body condition, micro-environment, and acclimatization. Additionally, recent moisture can result in mud, increasing livestock stress levels.

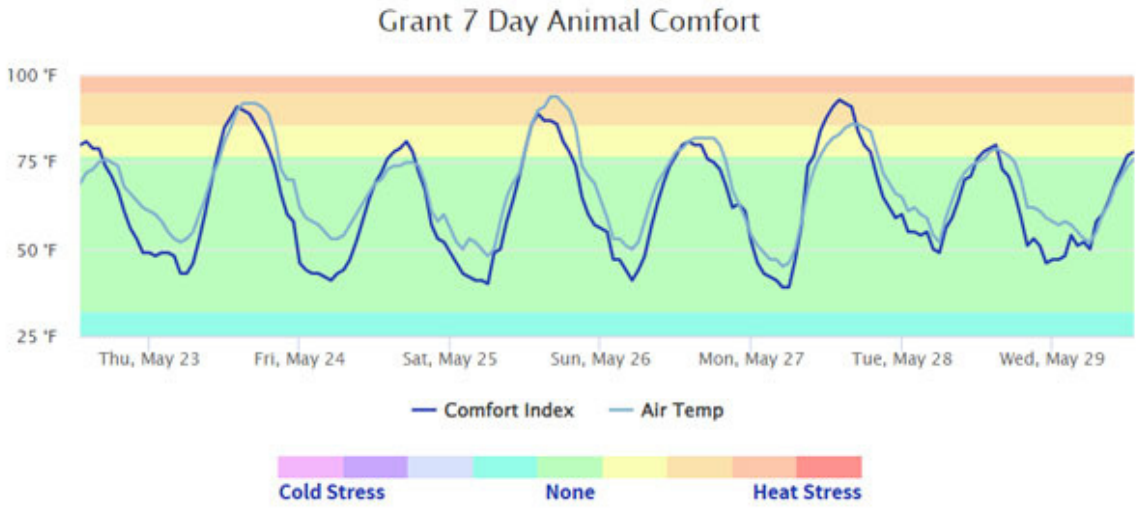


Important note: The National Weather Service forecasts hourly average values rather than extremes. In addition, fluctuations in cloud cover (which affects solar radiation) and wind speed have a large effect on comfort levels. Producers should recognize that localized conditions may be significantly warmer/cooler than the predicted comfort index.

Animal Comfort Tool Cont.

Tracking conditions with current data

One of the most basic ways to verify a forecast is to look at current conditions. The original Animal Comfort product remains to allow producers to see the real-time weather stress at the nearest Mesonet location. This displays both the current data up to (fifteen-minute intervals). Users can scroll down the page and view the previous seven days' hourly data on the “Chart” (Figure 4). This is particularly useful for producers that suffered loss and want to capture the conditions that took place in the previous week. You can also download the data in a comma-delimited form for use in Excel or similar software. This can be found under the “Download” tab.
No historical data download is available beyond the last seven days, so this information must be captured quickly.



The displayed data does not consider conditions compared to “normal.” Solar radiation, wind, and humidity data are hard to put into a climatological (or long-term) perspective since recorded data is relatively new (only about 15 years of data at most stations). Thus, climatological data is limited for the animal comfort index. If you need historical data, please contact our staff at Kansas-wdl@ksu.edu, and we’d be glad to pull older data that may exist. If you want to read more about the Forecast or Current Conditions pages, please visit https://mesonet.ksu.edu/agriculture/animal and scroll down to the “Resources” tab.

Article Published by Kansas State University Agronomy eUpdates:
https://eupdate.agronomy.ksu.edu/article/kansas-mesonet-animal-comfort-tool-monitors-current-and-forecasted-livestock-conditions-594-2

Ag Talk

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The K-State Beef Extension Team is excited to announce that Cattle U will be held again this year in Manhattan on June 25th at the Hilton Garden Inn. This is a one-day, producer-oriented event that is focused on education in practical aspects of beef cattle production that attendees from all regions can benefit from. Unique to this year is that KSRE is partnering with High Plains Journal in hosting this event which will include a BQA training and certification session, a market outlook update, and a producer panel.

Additional details including information for businesses and organizations interested in sponsorship opportunities is also available at: https://cattleu.net/

Complete program details will be shared as they are finalized.

Ag Talk

Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

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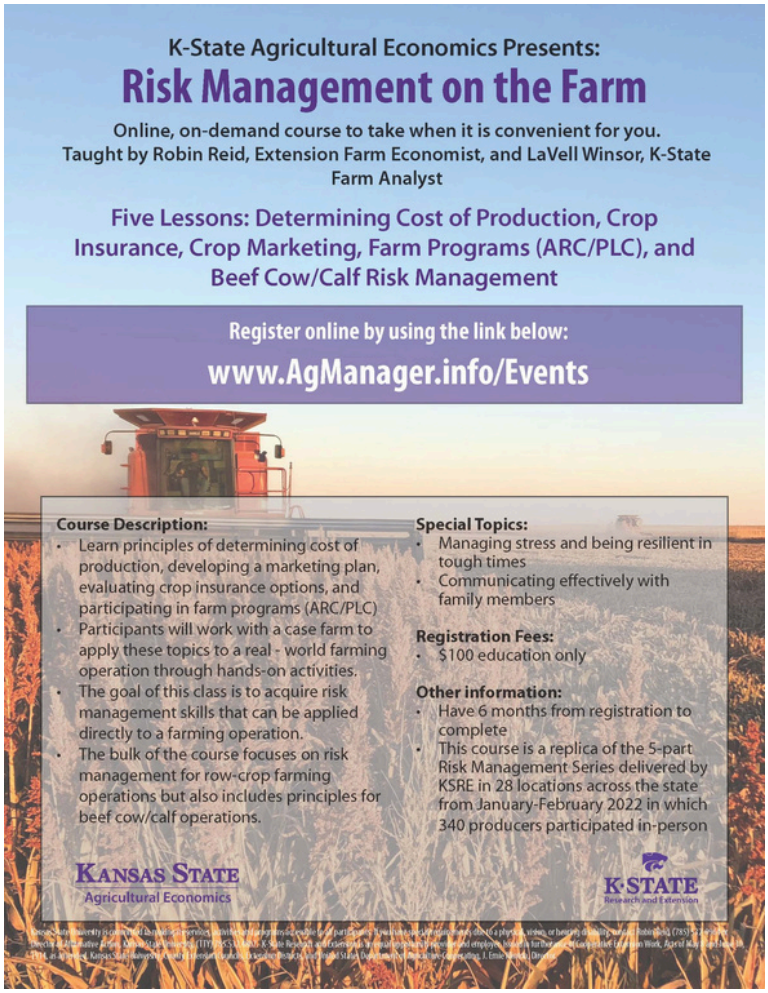

Just the FCS

Bonnie Brewer
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What Chemicals are in My Food?

All food, like most everything else in the world, is made of chemicals. Kansas State University food scientist Karen Blakeslee said what matters is how much a person eats or drinks.

"Bottom line, it's the amount that counts," Blakeslee said. "Foods contain nutrients, which are chemicals and are important for a healthy, balanced diet."

Reading or hearing about chemicals in food, when combined with words like 'toxic,' 'extremely dangerous' and 'cancer-causing' may be scary, especially if you aren't getting all the facts.

Here are a few points to help navigate information about chemicals in food:

- Complete information from a credible medical or scientific source would likely explain how much of the chemical is in the food, how much of a food someone actually eats or drinks and whether the chemical is present at a level that is harmful to people.
- Chemical names may sound complicated, but that does not mean they are unsafe; some ingredients may be familiar. For example, tocopherols are vitamin E; sodium chloride is salt; and dihydrogen monoxide is water.
- Some chemicals safely used in food may have other non-food uses. For example, vinegar is used as a household cleaner, but also is used in small amounts in food. If used in food, a chemical must meet the FDA's safety standard.

You have choices to make. Eat a variety of nutrient-dense foods to have a well-balanced diet.

Just the FCS

Bonnie Brewer

Family & Consumer Sciences Agent

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

The Women's Health Panel held by FCS Agent, Bonnie Brewer on May 7th was a great success. Thank you to all of our panel members along with those that joined. If you would like schedule programming with Bonnie, please call the Butler County Extension Office at 316-321-9660

Women's Health Panel

TUESDAY, MAY 7TH, 2024
STARTING AT 2 PM
DOUGLASS SENIOR CENTER
124 W 4TH ST, DOUGLASS, KS

Anne Clark, DPT

Anne is a Doctor of Physical Therapy with advanced training in Women's Health providing therapy for women. Anne has a certification in Vestibular and Concussion for American Institute of Balance. She has experience with a aquatics, manual therapy techniques, outpatient orthopedics, balance and gait deficits, and pre and post-surgical treatments..

Mindy Hill, OTR

Mindy has been an Occupational Therapist for 28 years and lived her whole life in Butler County. She has worked in primarily small rural hospitals, enabling her to gain a wide range of experience and knowledge while working with patients in all stages of life; from pediatrics to geriatrics, and in acute care, geriatric psych, outpatient, ergonomics, and home health. In more recent years, she has been working for Parkinson's Connect and Club Parkinson's. She has advanced training for Parkinson's Disease and is certified in LSVT BIG, PWR, Urban Poling, Bal-A-Vis-X. She enjoys the opportunity to share about how Occupational Therapy can help people in many aspects of their lives in order for them to "live life to its fullest".

Connie Howard, MPT, COMT, CLT

Connie Howard is a dedicated and multifaceted professional who excels at treating a diverse and challenging patient population. Connie treats patients from pediatrics to geriatrics. Connie has multiple certifications to her credit including lymphedema, vestibular, and aquatic therapy; and she is proficient in a myriad of land and water-based rehabilitation techniques. She is an expert in manual therapy and exercise prescription and has earned the designation of Certified Orthopedic Manual Therapist.

Amy Saye, MPT, COMT

Amy Saye, MPT, COMT has experience in multiple levels of care, including pre-operative, post-operative, acute care, orthopedics, cancer rehabilitation, and workers' compensation. She enjoys working with a variety of diagnoses and getting to know people from different backgrounds.
She has a personal passion for working with oncology patients and is certified through ReVital Cancer Rehabilitation to address the specific needs of cancer survivors. As a cancer survivor herself, Amy understands the unique concerns that accompany cancer treatments.

Bonnie Brewer, MS

Bonnie Brewer is the Family and Consumer Sciences agent for K-State Research and Extension - Butler County. Receiving her bachelors in Human Ecology and Secondary Education, and Master's in Family Studies, her career has always included public education. As an extension agent, she especially enjoys providing educational programming in the area of self-care, including relational, mental, emotional, nutritional, and physical wellness across the lifespan.

K-STATE Research and Extension | Butler County

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN ALL PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES. PROGRAM INFORMATION MAY BE AVAILABLE IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH. REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION (E.G., BRAILLE, LARGE PRINT, AUDIO TAPE, AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE) MAY BE REQUESTED BY CONTACTING THE EVENT CONTACT BONNIE BREWER TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE EVENT APRIL 23, 2024 AT 316-321-9440 OR BJBREWER@KSU.EDU. REQUESTS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HONORED WHEN IT IS FEASIBLE TO DO SO. LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES, SUCH AS INTERPRETATION OR TRANSLATION OF VITAL INFORMATION, WILL BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE TO LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT INDIVIDUALS UPON REQUEST. KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

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Diseases in the Garden

Weather conditions over the last couple of years have not favored having many disease issues in the garden. In general, diseases need three things, called the disease triangle, to infect plants. The three requirements necessary are a pathogen, a susceptible host, and favorable environmental conditions. With the increased humidity and moisture this spring across the county we need to be on the lookout for fungal diseases in our flowerbeds and gardens. Let's look at some of the most common fungal diseases you might encounter.

Septoria Leaf Spot- This fungal disease is common of tomato plants during wet weather. The disease starts on the lower leaves as small, circular gray lesions with dark borders. The lesions enlarge and cause leaves to turn yellow and eventually die. The disease slowly moves up the plant and can defoliate it. To reduce the chances of having this disease provide adequate spacing between plants and increase air circulation to dry the foliage off as quickly as possible. Remove the lower leaves of the tomato plant as it grows so the fungal spores can't be splashed onto the lower leaves. If you see signs of the disease, remove the infected leaves (at the end of the season remove the entire plant and throw it away) and apply a synthetic or cooper fungicide according to the directions to slow the spread of the disease.

Early Blight- This fungal disease is one of the most common of tomatoes and can completely defoliate a plant. The infection starts as small brown spots on older leaves that quickly enlarge and develop a yellow halo. The lesions also develop a "bulls-eye" pattern of concentric rings that can be seen with a hand lens. Early blight can also infect the stems and fruits of tomatoes. This disease overwinters in the soil and on leaf debris in the garden. Early Blight can spread during wet or dry weather but is favored by rainfall or heavy dews and the spores can be spread from one garden to the next via wind. Treatment for Early blight is the same as Septoria Leaf Spot.

Diseases in the Garden Cont.

Powdery Mildew- This fungal disease is common on cucumbers, squash, and several flowers including peonies and lilac bushes. Powdery mildew grows as a white, powdery coating over the surfaces of the leaves. This disease is favored by warm weather and can be destructive in dry as well as hot seasons. It can grow rapidly, with high humidity, but unlike many other plant pathogens, wet foliage does not encourage it. The best management for this disease is to select resistant cultivars whenever possible and remove all plant debris at the end of the growing season. There are horticultural oils labeled for powdery mildew on cucurbits.

Anthracnose- This disease is a frequent problem in the latter part of the growing season on ripening tomato fruit and reduces the quality and yield of tomatoes. Symptoms first appear as small circular, slightly sunken lesions on the surface of ripening fruits. These spots quickly enlarge, become bruiselike depressions, and develop a water-soaked appearance directly beneath the skin of the fruit. Black, concentric rings will then form in the center of the lesions. Anthracnose is caused by several fungal species and can survive on infected plant debris and in the soil. During rainy weather, the fungal spores are splashed onto the fruit. Control for this disease is similar to Septoria Leaf spot including mulching around the plants, avoiding overhead watering and increasing air movement around plants. You can also spray with fungicide products that contain the active ingredients Bacillis subtilis, chlorothalonil, copper and maneb.

Garden Gossip

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Scout for Bagworms

State forestry and horticulture experts are urging patience and persistence when trying to manage bagworms, noting that caterpillars may emerge from eggs from late spring through early summer, depending on weather conditions. Ryan Armbrust, forest health coordinator with the Kansas Forest Service, and Raymond Cloyd, extension specialist in horticultural entomology with K-State Research and Extension, advise that homeowners scout for bagworms from early- to mid-May and apply insecticides when young bagworms are present.

Once bagworms are detected, they said, homeowners might need to treat with an insecticide weekly for up to 5 weeks. Cloyd said that in addition to emergence over time, young bagworms can 'blow in' - called 'ballooning' - from neighboring plants on silken threads, thus increasing the importance of treating multiple times during the growing season. "Once the caterpillars emerge from eggs, they begin feeding on the host tree or shrub, creating a protective bag, hence the common name," Armbrust said. "The plant material fed upon is used to build a protective covering that provides protection from predators and insecticide treatments, which can influence the effectiveness of insecticide applications."

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Scout for Bagworms Cont.

Armbrust said bagworms feed on both conifers and deciduous trees and shrubs. Although defoliation of deciduous trees and shrubs does not typically affect long-term health of trees and shrubs, extreme defoliation of conifers can cause stress or kill conifers outright. He said insecticides can be effective in mitigating damage to trees and shrubs. However, bagworm infestations are often cyclical; consequently, bagworm infestations may be low enough that spraying an insecticide may not be needed. Armbrust advises treating windbreaks, Christmas trees, and ornamental landscape trees as soon as bagworms are present to prevent bagworms from causing substantial plant damage.

"Thorough coverage is important when treating for bagworms, including penetration into the interior plant canopy and upper branches," he said. "Commercial treatments may be more effective for large trees or established windbreaks where applications from common household sprayers cannot reach the upper canopy of trees." Many insecticides are labeled for bagworms, but timing of application and thorough coverage will ensure the effectiveness of insecticides in managing bagworms. When bagworm caterpillars are small (1/8 to 1/4 of an inch long), products containing Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies kurstaki (Btk) or spinosad as the active ingredient can be effective in managing bagworms.

Armbrust said the above insecticides have minimal direct impact on beneficial insects compared to broad-spectrum insecticides, which could lead to outbreaks of spider mites or scale insects that can cause damage to treated trees and shrubs. If insecticides are not applied when bagworm caterpillars are small (1/8 to 1/4 of an inch in length) then broad-spectrum insecticides, including those containing malathion, acephate, or cyfluthrin as the active ingredients can be applied. Be sure to read the product label and follow directions. Hand removing and destroying bagworm bags is an option for smaller infestations. For more information on controlling bagworms, reference the publication, Bagworm: Insect Pest of Trees and Shrubs, written by Cloyd.

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June Gardening Calendar

Vegetables and Fruits

- Renovate June bearing strawberry beds
- Fertilize strawberries and water regularly to promote new growth
- Plant another crop of sweet corn and green beans
- Watch tomatoes for foliar leaf disease development and treat
- Mulch crops for moisture conservation and weed control
- Continue a regular fruit tree disease and insect control program
- Treat peach trees for trunk borers
- Remove sucker growth from the base of trees and along branches
- Pinch herbs to keep bushy and fresh with new growth
- Turn the compost pile and keep moist for quicker breakdown

Flowers

- Pinch chrysanthemums for development of a bushy plant
- Deadhead spent flower blossoms to keep plant flowering
- Remove flower stalks from peonies and Iris
- Mulch flower gardens to conserve moisture, control weeds and cool the soil
- Fertilize roses with about 1 cup of low-analysis fertilizer per plant
- Trim spent rose blossoms and check plants for insects
- Water and fertilize container plantings regularly to encourage flowering

June Gardening Calendar Cont.

Lawns

- Raise mowing height on tall fescue to 3” or 3 ½” for summer heat
- Fertilize zoysia lawns with a high-nitrogen fertilizer
- Sod or plug bare areas in zoysia lawns
- Spot treat for broadleaf weeds
- Core aerate zoysia lawns for removal of thatch and overall vigor
- Water turf sparingly to increase drought tolerance
- Let grass clippings fall for nutrient recycling
- Check mower blades for sharpness and sharpen as needed

Trees and Shrubs

- Check for bagworms and control as needed
- Mulch around base of trees and shrubs
- Prune pines and spruce trees to shape and control size
- Prune spring flowering shrubs
- Water newly planted trees and shrubs as needed
- Check for spider mite damage on various shrubs

Houseplants

- Fertilize throughout summer months to encourage growth
- Take cuttings to start new plants
- Repot plants as needed in 1” larger containers
- Check for insect problems

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Summer Full of Service

Summer is a great time to get outside, go on vacation, and prepare for the fair! Summer is also a great time to get out in your community to help neighbors in need. We all know the part of the 4-H pledge "I pledge my hands to greater service." Living out this part of the 4-H pledge doesn't stop just because the fun of summer begins.

More youth (59%) than adults (49%) are volunteering in their communities annually, according to University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension. These numbers show just how important the service hours of our youth are to communities around the country. According to University of Nevada, Reno Extension, the benefits of volunteering to youth include: "Learning to respect others; learning to be helpful and kind; learning to understand people who are different; developing leadership skills, becoming more patient, and better understanding of citizenship."

Here is a list of places to consider serving this summer:

- Meals on Wheels
- Senior centers
- Local hospitals
- Concession stands at local events
- Red Cross
- Local museums
- And so many more!

Summer Full of Service Cont.

If you are someone with youth in your life and want to encourage them to volunteer in their community this summer, follow these tips from University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension!

1. *Provide youth with information about volunteer opportunities.* One of the top reasons that youth do not volunteer is very simple — they do not have the information about opportunities. Parents and involved adults should help youth find opportunities in their own communities, schools, local organizations and churches. It might just take a few phone calls, visits to volunteer sites, or even searches on the internet to receive more information. Adults should also help youth consider their choices. This includes studying available information to make sure that the activities are safe, lead by competent people, that experiences offered are engaging, and that activities are well organized.

2. *Invite/Ask/Encourage youth to volunteer.* After finding information about volunteer opportunities, it is also important to invite the youth to volunteer, or to directly communicate expectations for service to others. Many youth report that they did not think of volunteering because nobody ever asked them.

3. *Help youth work through practical barriers.* Go through the practical issues and logistics of how the child/youth could actually volunteer. Help them think about and work through issues such as scheduling, transportation, how to put in an application (if there is one), and other steps entailed in volunteering. For instance, the top reason youth do not volunteer is lack of time. Parents can help youth structure their time better, and consider the amount of time they might want to commit to volunteer work.

Summer Full of Service Cont.

4. *Help youth find an opportunity that fits his or her interest/skills.* Many youth drop out of volunteering because the activity is too hard, too easy or simply uninteresting. There are a host of opportunities that can match each person's interests and skills. Consider whether the potential volunteer enjoys face-to-face interactions (e.g., mentoring) or solitary activities (e.g., community gardening). Also, try to help youth find volunteer opportunities that are age-appropriate.

5. *Alert youth to the rewards of volunteering.* While the essence of volunteering is really to provide service without rewards, there are some tangible benefits that youth can get out of volunteering. Alert youth to these practical benefits. For instance, point out to youth that they can gain skills that might improve their marketability, and that volunteer activities enhance their resume. These benefits might make them more attractive to future employers or colleges. Many schools also have service learning components, so youth might actually get school credit for their services.

6. *Be a role model.* It goes without saying that parents and other adults can encourage youth to volunteer by being volunteers themselves. Getting youth to volunteer is more effective if the person asking sets a good example. If the person asking is a volunteer or volunteered in the past, youth are more encouraged to volunteer.

7. *Make it a family event.* Parents are always looking for ways to have family time, and to find activities that the whole family can do together. Finding a volunteer activity, or even starting their own, could be a great opportunity for a family to be involved in something together. Perhaps a family can think of something to do each month to help others.

4-H

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Meet the Interns

We are so excited to welcome two interns to our Butler County Extension Office for the summer! This opportunity to have the interns is possible because of the Summer Engagement Grant through Kansas 4-H and the Kansas Department of Education. Jillian and Cally will be providing STEM, financial literacy, health and fitness, and other programs to youth aged 5 years old to 18 years old throughout Butler County. Contact the Extension Office if you are interested in their summer programs!

Jillian Foes

Hello, my name is Jillian Foes! This is my second year as a Summer Engagement Intern! This past May, I graduated from Emporia State and in the fall I will begin my teaching career in Maize. I am very excited to begin programming around the county this summer! We have the opportunity to utilize some awesome curriculum this summer, and I cannot wait to see all the kids that we'll be able to reach!

Cally Miller

Hi, my name is Cally Miller! I was born and raised in Northern Butler County. I am a proud graduate of the Circle High School class of 2023. This fall, I will be a sophomore Butler Community College where I am a member of the Livestock Judging Team. I have also been a part of Butler County 4-H for the past 12 years! In my spare time, I enjoy showing Hereford Cattle at the local, state and national level. Fishing is also a favorite of mine! I am excited to be a summer intern this year! I am looking forward to going to the different programming activities throughout Butler County and getting to meet everyone!