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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Learn about Houseplants at Augusta Library 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Garden Hour Zoom 12 p.m.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>4-H Ambassador and Council Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>4-H/FFA Butler County Fair Pre-Entries Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Herb Night 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Animal Health Workshop</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Preservation Workshop - Eureka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Stress Management Program - Grace Hill Church, Whitewater 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4-H Ambassador Day Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4-H/FFA Butler County Fair Pre-Entries CLOSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Mug Mingle 7:45 a.m.</td>
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July

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Butler County Fair Public Fashion Review - Hope Church, Andover 1:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Butler County Fair Horse Show - 3 Wooden Crosses, Augusta 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Projects Begin to Arrive</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Butler County Fair Clean-Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Butler County Fair 4-H Council Food Auction 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Church Service 8:15 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Butler County Fair Project Auction 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
**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

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**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 classes 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/](https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/)
Upcoming Events

EVENT SCHEDULE

MAY
30
THU
Manhattan
Agromy Education Center, Kansas State University

JUNE
11
Morn
Oxford
Butler County Community 4-H Building

12
Verona
Scott/Clinch/Barns Agriculture Hall at Scott Community College

18
Cand
Salina
Central Kansas District 4-H Building

26
Fort
Wichita
Kansas Child Advocacy Center

27
Ox
People's
Cowley County 4-H Building

JULY
10
Bur
Topeka
Lincoln County Conservation

11
Morn
Wichita
Emergency Management Office

Registration: Click here for evening sessions to register or call 785-634-6108

 preschool/intermediates:

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Discussion Topics:

• Animal health updates
• Animal behavior and training updates
• Secure feed supply
• Disease response plans
• Continuing education opportunities

K-State Research and Extension's K-State Research and Extension "preserve it fresh, preserve it safe" program provides hands-on workshops to learn about pressure canning, water bath canning, dehydrating and freezing your food harvest.

Instructor: Karen Blakeslee, M.S., rapid response center coordinator

K-State research and extension is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special needs, requirements due to a physical, visual, or hearing disability, contact the Maint. Rep. at 620-583-7455.

Herb Day

When: Wednesday, June 19 (9 am - 4 pm)

Where: Eureka United Methodist Church

521 N Main St.

RSVP by June 10th to the Extension office at 620-583-7455 or by emailing benjam63@ksu.edu

Cost to attend is $30. A meal will be provided.

Take home what you make!

What You Will Learn:

• What herbs grow well in the area
• How to grow herbs
• How to preserve herbs
• How herbs can spice up your meals
• What health benefits herbs offer

Mark Your Calendars For:

Monday, June 10th, 2024
6:00 P.M.
Butler County Community 4-H Building
200 N Griffin

Eldorado, KS 67042

For More Information:

$5/person fee participation is required. Call 316-521-9600

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

K-State Research and Extension

Research and Extension
Butler County

K-State Research and Extension

Butler County
Upcoming Events

Butler County H.E.A.L.

Empowering People to Live a Healthier Lifestyle Through Education and Action

Promoting Holistic Health by Incorporating Research Based Education into Practical Daily Living.

Butler County

K-State Research and Extension
200 N Griffith, Suite A
El Dorado, KS 67042
(316) 321-9660

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

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

Come and Chase the Waves with the Butler County 4-H Ambassadors

Tuesday, June 18th, 2024
1:00-5:00 p.m.

Free Day Camp for ages 5-9 years old. Limited to the first 20 registrations. Fun day of games and crafts. Light snack will be provided.

Register Here: https://forms.gle/2s974hPRA3ctTB9

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 modes for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact. Follow fair weather prior to the event at flx.1397358292@listserv.unl.edu. Deposits received after this date will be invoiced directly to the registrant.

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

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 gaullinois.edu/StrongCouples

June 2024
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/
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.
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
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.
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 on the 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 operations
- Set goals for their operation
- Learn how to make changes to avoid financial difficulties

**Registration Fee:**
- $100 for FSA credit class
- $160 for education only

Approved for FSA Borrower’s Training Financial & Production Credits

Taught by Robin Reid, K-State Extension Farm Economist, and LaVell Winsor, K-State Farm Economist

Register online for FSA Credit or Education Only:
www.AgManager.info/Events

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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 Economist

**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

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**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 bulk of the course focuses on risk management for farmer-owned farming operations, but it also includes principles for beef cow/calf operations.

**Special Topics:**
- Managing stress and being resilient in tough times
- Communicating effectively with family members

**Registration Fee:**
- $100 education only

**Other Information:**
- Have 6 months from registration to complete
- This course is a part of the 5-part Risk Management Series delivered by KSE in 24 locations across the state from January to February 2022, in which 340 producers participated in person
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.
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 to schedule programming with Bonnie, please call the Butler County Extension Office at 316-321-9660.
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 Bacillus subtilis, chlorothalonil, copper and maneb.
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.”
“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.
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
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!
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.
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!